



GENDER DISPARITY

Actor Anushka Sharma says women have to go that extra mile to earn their place in this patriarchal society

LEISURE P2



SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT

South Korea becomes world's 10th nation to place a satellite into space with its own home-grown technology

INTERNATIONAL P10



ADVANTAGE DJOKOVIC

Novak Djokovic has been given top billing in Wimbledon with World No. 1 Russian Daniil Medvedev banned

SPORTS P12

MAHA CRISIS LOOMS LARGE

AGENCIES

Mumbai/Surat, June 21: Maharashtra Cabinet Minister and Shiv Sena strongman Eknath Shinde plunged the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance in the state into a political crisis Tuesday as he rebelled against his party and landed in a Surat hotel along with some Sena MLAs. Shinde's move put a huge question mark on the stability of the two-and-a-half-years old MVA dispensation.

The dramatic turn of events came hours after results of polls to the state Legislative Council Monday night, which saw the Shiv Sena-led MVA losing one of the



Eknath Shinde

six seats it contested, to the opposition BJP which got all its five nominees elected to the Upper House. Sena MP Sanjay Raut said 14 to 15 party MLAs are with Shinde in Surat in BJP-ruled Gujarat.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party swiftly moved against Shinde (58), an MLA from Thane district, and removed him as the party's group leader in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Shinde, who holds Urban Development and PWD portfolios, has been removed as the Shiv Sena group leader in the Assembly and replaced with Ajay Choudhury, Raut told reporters.

With no sign of any let-up in the crisis, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat are expected to meet Tuesday night to find a solution. The Shiv Sena has also deputed its leaders Milind Narvekar and Ravindra Phatak to hold talks with Shinde.

As Shinde is yet to spell out his stand, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil ruled out any link of his party to the ongoing political turmoil.

MORE P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Do not step out! Opposition might catch you and declare you its presidential candidate



PAYING HOMAGE

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik started his tour of Rome Tuesday by paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi in the Italian capital. Officials of the Indian Embassy and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion

PHOTO TWITTER

Droupadi NDA's Prez candidate

18-PARTY OPPOSITION PICKS YASHWANT SINHA AS ITS NOMINEE FOR TOP POST

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: Battle lines were drawn Tuesday for the July 18 presidential election with the BJP-led NDA naming Droupadi Murmu, a tribal leader from Odisha, as its candidate while former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha was declared as a joint nominee by major Opposition parties, including the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Trinamool Congress.

BJP president JP Nadda announced the candidature of 64-year-old Murmu, former Jharkhand governor, following a meeting of the party's parliamentary board. The announcement came hours after opposition parties in a joint statement named Sinha, who was earlier with the BJP but fell out with the Modi-Shah leadership and joined the Trinamool Congress in March 2021.

Murmu (64) will be the first tribal woman to occupy the top constitutional post if she is elected, a strong possibility as numbers are stacked in favour of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also congratulated Murmu



after she was nominated for the post. "Congratulations Smt Droupadi Murmu on being announced as candidate of NDA for the country's highest office. I was delighted when Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi ji discussed this with me. It is indeed a proud moment for people of Odisha," Patnaik tweeted.

Prime Minister Modi said Murmu has devoted her life to serving society and expressed confidence that she will be a 'great President'.

"Droupadi Murmu Ji has devoted her life to serving society and empowering the poor; down-



trodden as well as the marginalised. She has rich administrative experience and had an outstanding gubernatorial tenure. I am confident she will be a great President of our nation," Modi said. "Her understanding of policy matters and compassionate nature will greatly benefit our country," Modi added.

As a tribal woman candidate of the ruling combine, Murmu's candidature may persuade many regional parties, not aligned to either the NDA or the Opposition, to back her, BJP sources said. Even some Opposition parties will not be seen to be opposing her; they added.

Murmu optimistic

Rairangpur (Odisha): The ruling NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu said Tuesday she was optimistic of getting the support of all the MLAs and MPs from Odisha cutting across party lines as the daughter of the soil. "I am daughter of the soil. I have the rights to request all members to support me as an Odia. I am optimistic of support from all MLAs and MPs," Murmu stated." She said she was both surprised and delighted on learning on television that she had been nominated for the top job by the NDA.

Meanwhile Sinha was the Opposition's unanimous choice in the meeting convened by NCP chief Sharad Pawar. "He (Sinha) is eminently qualified to uphold the secular and democratic character of the Indian Republic and its Constitutional values," the joint statement said.

"We are happy to announce that we have unanimously chosen Yashwant Sinha as the common candidate of the Opposition parties for the presidential election, which will take place on July 18, 2022," Ramesh informed.

MORE P3

Maoists kill 3 CRPF jawans



■ The Red Rebels had earlier warned of retaliation after a camp of the security forces had been set up at Patadhara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 21: Three CRPF personnel were killed in a Maoist attack in Nuapada district Tuesday, police informed. The incident happened in Patadhara Reserve Forest in Boden block when the CRPF personnel were going from one camp to another along with heavy equipment. Sources said several other CRPF personnel were also injured in the attack and the condition of two are stated to be critical.

"Unfortunately, three jawans have attended martyrdom in Nuapada. Our senior officers have already reached the site," Director-General of Police SK Bansal informed.

It is suspected that the Maoists had prior information regarding the movement of the forces, another top police officer said. "All of a sudden, they opened fire on the forces taking the CRPF personnel by surprise," he informed. "Even before the jawans could retaliate, they were at the receiving end. However, they fought on despite being injured and outnumbered," the official added.

Several officials also said that since the ambush took place close to the border with Chhattisgarh, the involvement of the Red Rebels from the

SOME MAJOR MAOIST ATTACKS IN ODISHA

- **FEB 5, 2022:** Dharitri journalist Rohit Kumar Biswal killed in explosion triggered by Maoists in Kalahandi district
- **FEB 2, 2017:** Seven Odisha police personnel killed when their vehicle was blown up, in a landmine blast on NH-26 near Sunki in Koraput district.
- **AUG 26, 2015:** Landmine blast kills three BSF personnel and six seriously injured in Malkangiri district.

neighbouring state cannot also be ruled out.

According to a preliminary report, seven jawans were on the move when the incident took place, he added. The deceased include a constable and two assistant sub-inspector-rank personnel of the CRPF, officials said. They have been identified as were ASI Shishupal Singh from Uttar Pradesh, ASI Shivlal and Constable Dharmendra Singh from Haryana. The three martyred Jawans were deployed with the G/19 battalion of the CRPF.

Combing operations have been intensified in the area, and more teams of the Special Operations Group (SOG) and CRPF are moving to the site, informed officials. The operations would continue till the Maoists are flushed out, the DGP said.

Contd...P4

| MARKET WATCH | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION |
| SENSEX | 52532.07 ↑ 934.23 |
| NIFTY | 15638.80 ↑ 288.65 |
| DOLLAR | 78.07 ↑ ₹0.10 |
| EURO | 82.41 ↑ ₹0.55 |
| GOLD | ₹50,845 ↑ ₹110 |
| SILVER | ₹61,453 ↑ ₹709 |

| WEATHER | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| | BHUB CTK |
| TEMP | 34.1°C 35.4°C |
| MAX | 23.3°C 23.5°C |
| MIN | |
| Humidity | 86% 83% |
| Rainfall | Nil Nil |
| Forecast | |
| Light to Moderate Rain | |

Nobel sold for Ukrainian kids gets record \$103.5mn

■ Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov does his bit for war-hit Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, June 21: The Nobel Peace Prize auctioned off by Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov to raise money for Ukrainian child refugees sold Monday night for \$103.5 million, shattering the old record for a Nobel prize.

A spokesperson for Heritage Auctions, which handled the sale, could not confirm the identity of the buyer but said the winning bid was made by proxy.



"I was hoping that there was going to be an enormous amount of solidarity, but I was not expecting this to be such a huge amount," Muratov said after the auction ended on World Refugee Day.

Previously, the most ever paid for a Nobel Prize medal was \$4.76 million in 2014, when James Watson, whose co-discovery of the structure of DNA

earned him a Nobel Prize in 1962, sold his.

Muratov, who was awarded the gold medal in October 2021, helped found the independent Russian newspaper 'Novaya Gazeta' and was the publication's editor-in-chief when it shut down in March amid the Kremlin's clampdown on journalists and public dissent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was Muratov's idea to auction off his prize, having already announced he was donating the accompanying \$500,000 cash award to charity. Muratov has said the proceeds will go directly to UNICEF in its efforts to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Police jobs for retiring Agniveers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 21: While Central government is making efforts to prevent nationwide protests over implementation of Agnipath, the Odisha Government is contemplating on providing 'reservation' for Agniveers in State Police Service, according to officials.

"No such policy has been framed so far. The Odisha government however, is contemplating such a moveit," Home Minister (MoS) Tusharkanti Behera informed here Tuesday.

"Usually preference is given to NCC certificate holders in the recruitment to the police. Therefore, I hope that a similar policy will be made for Agniveers after their retirement from service under the Agnipath scheme," Behera said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES

Curl, massage, clip, tweeze, polish, gloss, condition... today, will you attempt to shed your old skin. A dream date may have you in jitters but Ganesha suggests that you take it easy. True relationships are not sealed by glossy kisses alone!

TAURUS

Your business is going to thrive this day, says Ganesha. Your plans, projections, speculations and gambles are likely to pay off and give you good dividends. You will be admired and respected in the business world for your honesty and integrity. You will be in the right frame of mind to think about expanding your business.

GEMINI

Your long-term goals seem to be shaping up well. You may also expect some good news, which will change the course of your life. Play a waiting game in matters of auctions and sealed tenders. And memorise these words: Prevention is better than cure.

CANCER

Not a good day for you in terms of fortune and opportunities. You will constantly find yourself in unwanted tricky situations without any fault of yours. You, however, are likely to know what to do in such situations by now, for you have been in too many of those in the past. The best course of action will be to stay out of arguments.

LEO

The friends we make go a long way in making us who we are, says Ganesha. Over the years, with your natural instinct to be a social charmer, you have built a fine circle of dedicated friends on whom you can bank with confidence under any circumstance. Today might be a day when you get the opportunity to make use of such friendship. Rest assured, says Ganesha, as your friends stand you in good stead today.

VIRGO

An easy-going day full of fun and light moments will help you vent all that pressure built up inside you. Ganesha predicts a progressive and profitable day for you. Expect to honour invitations to social events or even parties.

LIBRA

It is more than likely, and possible indeed, that you will surpass your own past performances today. All this is on the cards, despite the fact that your peers at work will try to outwit you. But it is your consummate set of skills that shall help you pre-empt all such attempts, says Ganesha. If it is some peace that you are looking for today, expect to find it in meditation.

SCORPIO

Don't put off cultivating healthy eating habits, says Ganesha. You should do better to control over-indulging in food as it may lead to obesity. Ganesha advises you to stick to a healthy lifestyle, especially when it comes to meals.

SAGITTARIUS

Life is bubbling within you and you shall be in a hyper-elevated state of bliss today. Your high-spirits and energy will inspire you to perform at your best. Moreover, your inner voice will be loud and bellowing. Make the most of this superb day, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Planning strategic moves will be done with, and all that will remain is execution. But Ganesha says there may be delays in implementing ideas that are crucial to the success of your project, and this may leave you disappointed and dismayed. But the problem will be short-lived and you will have nothing to worry about as you have all it takes to be a winner. So, just sit back and wait for the rewards to come.

AQUARIUS

You need to think dispassionately and with clarity, says Ganesha. As always, sentiments may come in the way of your success today. Be careful, especially while taking decisions that will impact your future. You don't want to study law, just because your friends are doing it!

PISCES

Now is the time when the inner circle of friends that you have nurtured over the years will prove their worth, says Ganesha. It is good to know that in times of need you can bank on their support and count on their cooperation. You will be able to luxuriate in the benefits of their friendship today.



GERARD PIQUE 'SUFFERING' FOLLOWING SHAKIRA SPLIT

Gerard Pique, the 35-year-old soccer star, recently announced he and the *Hips Don't Lie* hitmaker have separated after 11 years together. And now Joan Laporta, the president of his club, FC Barcelona, has urged fans to show sympathy for the star as he is suffering following the split.

MUSK'S DAUGHTER CHANGES NAME TO CUT TIES WITH DAD

The Tesla boss' 18-year-old girl's birth name was Xavier Alexander Musk. However, she now identifies as Vivian Jenna Wilson, a trans woman. Earlier she had filed a petition in a court that read: "I no longer live with or wish to be related to my biological father in any way."



When Aparshakti couldn't sell washing machines on TV

Mumbai: Actor-singer Aparshakti Khurana has talked about when he first faced rejection and it was related to selling washing machines on television.

Aparshakti opened up recently on a podcast of a funny incident. One of the times he was rejected was when he went to audition for a tele shopping network.

He said, "Not even my parents know this. But I was rejected by a television shopping network due to

high pitch and over the top energy. I had to sell a washing machine! I guess I wasn't cut out for that".

On the work front, Aparshakti will next be seen in Berlin, a crime thriller. He will be seen playing a deaf and mute interpreter.

The action thriller has been produced by Zee Studios, Atul Sabharwal and Manav Shrivastav under the banner of Yippee Ki Yay Motion Pictures.

IANS

Are you an alien? asks Varun to Anil

Mumbai: On International Yoga Day 2022, 65-year-old Anil Kapoor joined the league of many celebrities by posting photos of himself doing difficult asanas and promoting a healthy lifestyle. In a series of images shared on Instagram, the veteran star is exercising in his gym which has various fitness equipment. In the caption, he gave a piece of advice about yoga helping one's mind and body to stay healthy and happy. He wrote, "Celebrating World Yoga Day! For a happy & healthy mind & body everyone should do some form of yoga every-day! This is my advice so you can also..." and added the hashtag Jugjugg Jeeyo, which is the title of his upcoming film.

Speaking for everyone, Varun Dhawan commented on the post and gave a shoutout to Anil Kapoor for doing intense yoga poses. He wrote, "Sir are you an alien please be honest how can you be 65 my god this man #inspirational."

Anil Kapoor has often left the internet in awe with his fitness routine. From taking a run on the beach to doing intense strength training at the gym, he has inspired millions with his Instagram posts. He had once shared a video of himself running on the beach after Covid-19 lockdown in 2020.

AGENCIES



'We have to go extra mile to earn our place'

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sharma returns to the movies after three years with *Chakda Xpress*, inspired by the life and times of women cricket's all-time greatest fast bowler Jhulan Goswami.

She says, "It feels like my first film again and I'm really excited to start this journey with *Chakda Xpress*, a film that I truly believe in. The pandemic unfortunately kept me away from returning to the movies despite me itching to start filming quickly. I would have loved to entertain and engage with fans and audiences way, way earlier."

Jhulan Goswami succeeded in her goal and went on to captain the Indian women's national cricket team and is a role model for aspiring cricketers in the country. Jhulan Goswami holds the world record for the highest number of wickets taken by a woman in an international career.

Anushka says, "It is a fact that women have to go that extra mile to earn their place in this patriarchal world. Jhulan Goswami's life is testimony to the fact that she carved her own destiny and fought for every inch of spotlight and recognition."

She adds, "I hope that I can do justice to this incredible script that is inspired by Jhulan's life and times. I'm excited to challenge myself and push myself every single day at shoot with *Chakda Xpress* and I hope that I can deliver my best with this film."

IANS

Colourful musical show by Stewart School students



Cuttack: Students of Stewart School, Cuttack presented a colourful musical show here at School's auditorium, Monday, on the eve of World Music Day, June 21.

Titled *The Musical Extravaganza*, the event was aimed to offer a platform to the students with the right aptitude to showcase their talents which otherwise would have remained untapped, said school's principal Farley North.

Needless to say, the students won hearts performing wonderfully despite the brief training they had during the summer vacation.

For the unversed, in 1908, Trinity College of Music, London had accepted Stewart School as the recognised music centre in Cuttack. But owing to the lack of desired attitude and aptitude, with gradual passage of time, it was left in a state of dormancy. After decades,

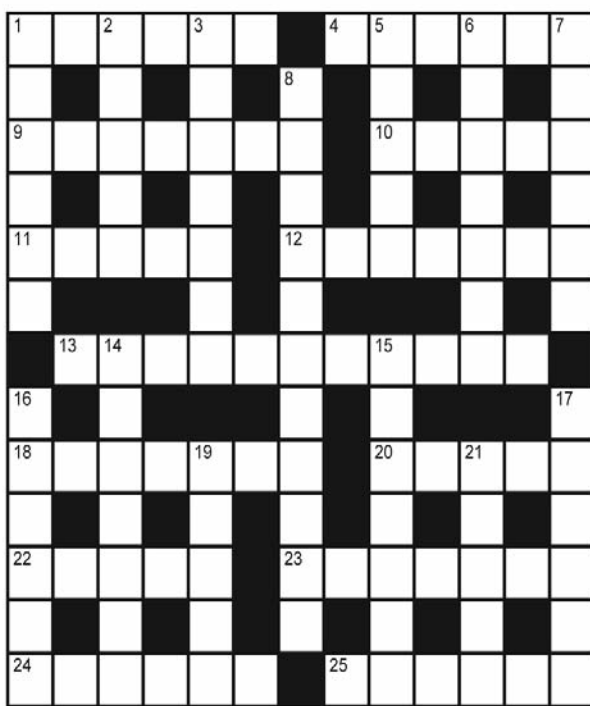
the school management wisely decided to revive this alliance to groom the students for their all round personality development and that's how the collaboration between Synergy Institute of Music and Stewart School, Cuttack came into existence to impart music lessons to the students and to harness their hidden talents and help them explore their innate skills.

Synergy Institute of Music offers varied courses from Trinity College of London and Wirth Music Academy, Austria.

PNN

FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Charge
- 4 Sharpshooter
- 9 Set apart
- 10 Craze
- 11 Lock site
- 12 Auto output
- 13 Disposition
- 18 Eyelet
- 20 African equine

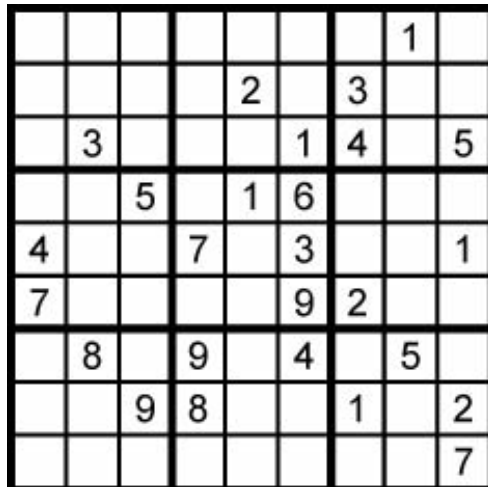
Down

- 1 Pricing word
- 2 Circus sight
- 3 Edible marine bivalve
- 5 Echo, for one

- 6 Batman villain
- 7 Dinner choices
- 8 Whooping it up
- 14 Love, e.g.
- 15 Polish folk dance
- 16 Large lizard
- 17 Sword knot
- 19 Squalid
- 21 Swell

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Naveen pays tribute to Mahatma in Rome

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 21: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Statue at the Piazza Gandhi, a statement issued by the state government said.

After offering his tribute, Patnaik said he was inspired by the ideals and principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

Patnaik is known for spreading the messages of the Mahatma in the state and the country.

During the first meeting of the National Committee for the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2018, he had proposed that the greatest tribute India could pay Gandhiji was to include the uniquely Indian ideal of “Ahimsa”, or non-violence, in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Patnaik had said that there can be no progress without peace.

In 2019, Patnaik unveiled the Gandhiji Talisman at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

“This will inspire all to work selflessly for the cause of the poorest of the poor,” he had said at that time.

During his second official foreign tour in his 22-year-reign, the Chief



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays floral tributes to Gandhiji in Rome, Tuesday

Minister will also visit Vatican City and Dubai.

He met India's Ambassador to Italy, Neena Malhotra, after reaching Rome as part of his 11-day foreign trip Monday.



DEMOLITION DRIVE

Civic authorities demolish a temple illegally built at Rasulgarh Industrial Estate in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

| COVID-19 TRACKER | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
| World | 54,52,21,827 | 52,03,87,057 | 63,42,385 |
| India | 4,33,19,396 | 4,27,15,193 | 5,24,890 |
| Odisha | 12,88,950 | 12,79,499 | 9,126 |

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



If elected, Murmu will be India's first tribal Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: From a junior assistant in the irrigation and power department in Odisha to the presidential candidature of the BJP-led NDA, it has been a long and arduous journey for tribal leader Droupadi Murmu.

If elected, Murmu will be India's first tribal President.

The announcement of Murmu's candidature by BJP president J P Nadda came a day after she celebrated her 64th birthday.

Born in the Santhal community, Murmu began her political career as a councillor in Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997 and rose through the ranks to become a minister in the Odisha government in 2000 and later the Governor of Jharkhand in 2015.

A two-term former MLA from Rairangpur, Murmu held on to her assembly seat in 2009 when the BJD had snapped ties with the BJP weeks ahead of the state elections which were swept by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Born on June 20, 1958 in Mayurbhang district of Odisha, Murmu also holds the distinction of becoming the first woman Governor of Jharkhand. If elected, Murmu will also be the first president to be born after Independence. Murmu took her baby steps struggling with poverty in one of the most remote and underdeveloped districts of the country.

Overcoming all odds, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Arts from Ramadevi Women's College in Bhubaneswar and served as a junior



Born in Santhal community, Murmu began her political career as a councillor in Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat in 1997

merce, fisheries and animal husbandry in the Odisha government.

In the BJP, Murmu was the vice president and later president of the Scheduled Tribe Morcha in Odisha. She was elected as the district president of Mayurbhanj (West) unit of the BJP in 2010 and re-elected in 2013. She was also named as member of the BJP National Executive (ST Morcha) the same year. She held the post of district president till April 2015 when she was appointed as the Governor of Jharkhand.

Murmu was married to Shyam Charan Murmu and they had two sons and a daughter. Her life has been marked with personal tragedies as she lost her husband and two sons. Murmu's daughter Itishree is married to Ganesh Hembran.

Skill India organises job fair in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, June 21: The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Tuesday organised the Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela across 10 districts in the state in order to provide opportunities for apprenticeship training in more than 500 trades across 36 sectors to the participants.

The programme, aimed at improving job opportunities and providing practical training to participants, was organised in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Angul and Dhenkanal districts.

The Union ministry said that over 100 companies participated in the fair to provide employment opportunities to individuals who had 5th-12th-grade pass certificates, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree. “This programme aims to encourage employers to hire apprentices from these targeted districts and assist them in identifying the right job roles while building their potential through robust skill training. A credit bank concept will also be introduced soon, with a repository of various credits accumulated by students that can be used for future academic pathways,” the ministry said.

Cong MLAs called to New Delhi for meeting



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 21: All nine Congress MLAs from Odisha have been asked to reach the national capital to attend a meeting with senior leaders of the party Wednesday. The MLAs have been asked to reach Delhi by Tuesday night, senior Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati said.

Asked about the agenda of the meeting, Bahinipati, who is also the Jeypore MLA, said the party's election strategy for 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the issue relating to the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi in a money laundering case involving the National Herald newspaper could figure during the discussions.

Party's strategy for 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the issue relating to the ED's questioning of party leader Rahul Gandhi in a money laundering case could figure during the discussions

“The AICC secretary asked me to inform all legislators to reach Delhi by 6 pm Tuesday. The ED summons served on Congress president Sonia Gandhi and party leader Rahul Gandhi are an attempt to create fear among Congress activists and supporters,” Bahinipati said.

The Congress had earlier called senior party leaders of the state to Delhi where newly appointed OPEC president Sarat Pattnayak and others are participating in the agitation protesting the alleged misuse of ED and CBI by the BJP-led central government.

The party has already launched agitation on the issue in Odisha and other places across the country. Rahul Gandhi is being questioned by the probe agency for the fifth day Tuesday.

SUV torched over road mishap; 4 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 21: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested four persons for setting ablaze an SUV following an altercation with the driver of the vehicle over a road mishap at Delta Square under Khandagiri police limits here Monday night. Based on the complaint lodged by the owner of the vehicle, Khandagiri police registered a case and arrested four persons in this connection, Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as Susil Kumar Barik, Biswajit Rout, Raja Pradhan, Sudhir Barik, all from a slum in Baramunda area.

As per a complaint lodged by Akshaya Nayak, the owner of the vehicle of Patrapada area, while his vehicle was on the way to Rajmahal Square, it hit a scooter at Delta square Monday night. Soon after, the accused persons rushed to the spot and started attacking the driver, who fled the scene while the accused set the vehicle on fire. Traffic at the spot came to a standstill for around an hour following the violence.

Upon being informed, fire officials reached the spot and doused the blaze. The vehicle was seized by Khandagiri police who also collected the CCTV footage of the incident to arrest the other persons involved in the incident.

Weaver knits 12 poses of yoga on Bandha saree



POST NEWS NETWORK

Amarpalli, June 21: Renowned weaver Tripurari Meher of Kendupalli village under Birmaharajpur block of Subarnapur district has carved 12 poses of Yogasanas on a traditional Bandha saree woven by him on the occasion of International Yoga Day, Tuesday.

Tripurari has woven the saree in traditional Bandha designs under the supervision of his father fa-

mous weaver Jagannath Meher. The work took him more than three months for completion.

He has also carved a message ‘Yoga is Life’ in 10 different indigenous and foreign languages Odia, Hindi, English, Bengali, Telugu on the Sambalpur Pata (Silk) woven by him.

He said his attempt is aimed at spreading awareness regarding the importance of yoga which helps in curing various diseases and in maintaining

Tripurari Meher has woven the saree in traditional Bandha designs under the supervision of his father famous weaver Jagannath Meher

good health on the occasion of International Yoga Day.

Meher is a state award winning weaver in Subarnapur district. The state government has awarded him in 2015-16 for his immense contribution to traditional designs.

His family comprises his wife Jayanti Meher, two daughters and a son. His wife and elder daughter assist him in his work. He said that people nowadays have become dependent on medicines for any kind of ailment. However, yoga is the best solution to all kinds of diseases, he said.

He said that to spread the message of benefits of yoga on International Yoga Day, he has depicted 12 poses of ‘Yogasanas’ on a Sambalpur Pata. He said he could make better contribution if the state government provides him with some assistance for promotion of Bandha designs.

CAR FEST AHEAD



Servitors busy constructing chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Health dept feted for outstanding response during Covid-19 pandemic



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 21: The surveillance unit of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department in Odisha was felicitated at a review meeting of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) at New Delhi, Tuesday, for outstanding response during Covid-19 pandemic.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in a tweet, congratulated the H&FW department for being felicitated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) at the IDSP review meeting.

Among others, MoHFW secretary Rajesh Bhushan, Additional Secretary Luv Agarwal and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Director S Gopalakrishnan were present at the felicitation ceremony, sources said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Angul, I Rasmita Parida, W/o- Ranjan Kumar Parida, Vill./P.O.- Sakosingha, Dist.- Angul declare that after marriage I have changed my name from Rasmita Manjari Rout to Rasmita Parida for all purposes. That above both the names relates to one and same person.

LOST

I, Mr Susanta Ku Panda, Son of Kasinath Panda would like to inform you that, the original sale deed with reference to Document No-4816, dated 26/04/2005, executed by Tarun Kumar Mohanty in favour of Simanchal Nanda of Khata No-544/518, Plot No-113/2745. Mouza-Bhimpur, PS- Air Field no-22, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, Sub Registrar-Khandagiri, Area-Ac0.033Dec, Kisam-Gharabari and Document No-11131306183, dated 17/04/2013, executed by Nirupama Das W/o Prakash kumar Das bearing Khata No-512/378, Plot No-622/2117. Mouza-Ghangapatna, PS-Chandaka no. 46, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, Sub Registrar-Khandagiri, Area-Ac0.740Dec, Kisam-Gharabari has been lost by me at unit 2 market on dated 20-06-2022 on the way while coming from my residence. Hence I request you to handover to me, if found ensuring that it was not misused.

State records 53 new Covid cases

Odisha recorded 53 new Covid-19 cases Tuesday, nine more than the previous day, taking the tally to 12,88,950, the Health Department said. The toll remained at 9,126 as there were no new deaths in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far. There are 292 active Covid-19 cases, while 28 more people have recuperated from the disease, taking the recoveries to 12,79,479, it said. The daily positivity rate stood at 0.45 per cent as the new infections were detected from 11,749 sample tests, it added.

case of Covid-19 by then. Control rooms were made operational in Odisha immediate after the state reported its first case March 15, 2020.

The state government also arranged healthcare infrastructure at the district level and launched an awareness campaign on various precautionary measures to check the virus spread.

The state government laid down a strong governance framework by constituting an Empowered Group of Ministers for quick decision making on issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, dedicated teams were formed for isolation and treatment of Covid-19 patients. The state was the first to establish one of the country's biggest dedicated Covid hospitals in a record time of just one week. Besides, dedicated Covid hospitals were set up in all 30 districts, sources said.

Continued from P1

MAOISTS KILL 3 CRPF JAWANS

Bansal also expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. He asserted that operations would continue in the area to track down the Maoists and the supreme sacrifice of the Martyrs would not go in vain. The ultras had earlier warned against the newly set up CRPF camp at Patadhara by posting banners and posters in the area.

Announcing an ex-gratia of `20

lakh to each of the families of the deceased, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is currently on a tour to Rome, expressed deep anguish over the horrific ambush. "Shocked at the unfortunate incident in Nuapada district where 3 CRPF jawans laid down their lives fighting the Maoists valiantly. My condolences to the families of the brave hearts," Naveen said in a tweet.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT KONARK, RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRONICS & IT MINISTER VAISHNAW SAID REGULAR YOGA PRACTICE HELPS TO STAY ENERGETIC AND HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 21: Three Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Mahendra Nath Pandey and Bishweswar Tudu led the celebrations of 8th International Yoga Day at Konark, Puri and Khiching respectively June 21.

The ministers led the grand celebrations in the state with mass demonstration of yoga following the common yoga protocol.

Addressing the gathering at Konark, Railways, Communications, Electronics & IT Minister Vaishnaw said that yoga is celebrated across the world from Tokyo to America due to the efforts of Prime Minister Modi and it has already become a part of the life of Indians.

Vaishnaw further said that regular yoga practice helps to stay energetic and have a strong immune system. Yoga is an ancient



high ascetic practice that originated in India and combines physical, mental and spiritual pursuits to achieve harmony of the body and mind. There are numerous benefits of practicing yoga which leads to humanity, he added.

On this occasion, officials from East Coast Railway Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Ayush, Central Reserve Police Force, Para Military Forces and other Central government institutions were present in the mega event. More than 2,500 people participated in this programme organised on the Sun Temple premises at Konark.

In his address at Puri, Heavy Industries Minister Pandey said that yoga is the embodiment of unity of mind and body, thought and action, restraint and achievement, and harmony between man and nature.

Stating that yoga is a holistic approach to health and wellness, Pandey added that yoga is not a

FAREWELL CEREMONY



Cuttack Mayor Subhas Singh and Deputy Mayor Damayanti Majhi felicitated outgoing CMC Commissioner Ananya Das, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Continued from P1

Maharashtra crisis looms large

Without naming the CM, Shinde took to Twitter, his only comment so far since the crisis broke Tuesday morning, and said he will never 'cheat for power' and abandon the teachings of party founder late Bal Thackeray. "We are staunch Shiv Sainiks of Balasaheb who gave us lessons on Hindutva. We will never cheat for power and will never abandon the teachings of Balasaheb and Anand Dighe for power," Shinde tweeted in Marathi.

Pawar meanwhile reacting to situation said in Delhi that this is the third attempt to pull the MVA government down, but it will prove 'futile'. He also said that Thackeray will handle the political crisis.

In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, Shiv Sena has 55 MLAs, NCP (53), Congress (44), Bahujan Vikas Agahdi (three), Samajwadi Party, AIMIM and Prahar Janshakti Party two each. MNS, CPI-M, PWP, Swabhimani Paksha, Rashtriya Samaj Party, Jansurajya Shakti Party and Krantikari Shetkari Paksha have one MLA each. There are 13 independent MLAs. The opposition BJP has 106 MLAs.

STF seizes drug peddler's property worth ₹1.32 cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 21: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has seized properties worth more than Rs 1.32 crore belonging to notorious drug peddler Sheikh Jamsed alias Jamal, in Laxmisagar area of the city, officials said Tuesday.

The STF also seized a three-storey building of the peddler located in Jharpada area under Laxmisagar police limits. The property has been valued at more than Rs 1 crore. The STF has started the process to forfeiting the property as per the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

"A letter for the forfeiture of the said property acquired from the contraband drugs business was sent to the office of Competent Authority, Kolkata, which is a quasi-judicial authority under NDPS Act. The authority has been requested for forfeiture of the illegally acquired property as per provision of Section 68 (F) of NDPS Act,



1985," informed the STF.

The accused drug peddler was arrested from his residence at Haladipadia slum here April 22. He had earlier managed to give the STF a slip during a raid at Pahala while his accomplice Siba Prasad Das, was arrested February 20. The STF had seized brown sugar weighing 1.227 kg and a Pulsar motorcycle from his possession. Drug peddler Jamsed is also involved in two more cases registered at Baliaata and Lalbag police stations.

3 Union ministers join Yoga Day celebrations in state



mere exercise but a means of establishing identification with one-self and with the world and nature. At Kichakeswari Temple in Khiching of Mayurbhanj district, Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu performed different postures of yoga with the public.

Celebrations with mass demonstration of the age-old practice were organised at 75 locations across the country including three

the ancient practice of spiritual prowess that yoga has brought to the world.

Raghunath Mishra, chairman of the school, who was the chief guest of the programme, briefed about the essence of yogic exercises. Manager Pratap Kumar Jena opined that yoga brings together mind, body and breath to produce perfect balance within us in today's hectic lifestyle. Principal Sandhya Jena said yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice and it plays a vital role in relaxing the mind and body and boosts people's immune system.

Yoga teacher of the school Pushpanjali Senapati held a live session with demonstration on various Asanas in the school field where many students from NCC, Scouts & Guides and Youth Red Cross actively participated. The school also organised awareness rally, street play, live demo session and exhibition.

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Director Mukesh Tripathi during a programme on International Yoga Day said, "Yoga is one of the most precious gifts of India to the world. It has immense impact on human society. And the current pandemic has proved the importance of yoga on human society." AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been taking all steps to promote 'Ayush', a system of living and practice for attaining a healthy society among people. The institute has started a yoga workplace to reduce stress and workload.

The Central University of Odisha, Koraput also observed the day in its campus at Sunabeda. Live streaming of mass yoga demonstration and Prime Minister's address through videoconferencing was available from 5:30am. Modi said that yoga has become a global festival as there is widespread acceptance of the ancient Indian practice. The university community enthusiastically attended the live programme on DD national channel from their respective homes.

The yoga session was conducted by an expert Jay Kumar Pradhan from the Art of Living. He demonstrated various Yogaasanas such as Bhramari, Dhyana, Sitali, Kapala Bhati, Nadi Sodhan, Sabasana, Pawanuktasan, Ardha Halasana, Uttana Padasana, Setu Bandhasana, Salabhasana, Bhujangasana, Makarasana, Bakrasana, Uttana Mandukasana, Sasakasana, Ustrasana, Ardha Ustrasana, Bajrasana, Bhadrasana, Ardha Chakrasana, and Tadasana.

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Poacher gets 10-yr jail for shooting aide dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, June 21: A wildlife poacher accused of accidentally shooting his aide dead in 2016 in Gunupur area of Rayagada district was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment.

Adjudicating the case, the additional district judge court pronounced the verdict, Monday and also imposed a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict.

The court ruled that in default of paying the penalty, he would undergo an additional jail term for three months.

According to the case diary, Gopabandhu Sahu of Bhimpur village had gone to Phulputi forest along with his friend Nilakanth Sabar of the same village to hunt wild animals in the night of November 17, 2016. Nilakanth was leading the path ahead of Gopabandhu by showing torch.

Gopabandhu carrying a country gun accidentally stumbled on a stone and fell down. At this time, the trigger of the gun got pressed and Nilakanth was accidentally shot. He died not the spot.

Abandoned baby girl rescued

Anandapur: A baby girl was found abandoned on the bank of Baitarani river near Fakir Mohan bus stand at Anandapur in Keonjhar Tuesday morning. Some women passengers of a bus came to the river bank and heard the cry of a baby girl. Later, youths of a local voluntary organisation rescued the baby and admitted her to Anandapur hospital. The baby is believed to be three or four-day old. Members of the Anandapur Childline - Sasmita Mohanty and Bhagirathi Das - visited the hospital and contacted the Keonjhar Child Welfare Committee about the rescued baby. The condition of the baby is stable after preliminary treatment, said Childline member Das.

Ganja worth ₹30L seized; 3 arrested

Pottangi: During a raid, police seized a big cache of cannabis worth over ₹30 lakh in Pottangi area here of Koraput district. They also arrested three persons in this connection. Two of the arrestees are from Uttar Pradesh and one from Pottangi area. The police have also seized a container truck, a car, two mobile phones, and some cash from their possession. As per reports, the police intercepted a container truck suspecting foul play during a search.

Rainwater harvesting projects crumble

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, June 21: The state government has emphasised on rain water conservation as the water table has been plummeting alarmingly by the day in various parts of the state. Sadly, quality of water conservation projects built in Champua NAC has allegedly been compromised. Hardly a month has passed since their construction when many water conservation projects have started crumbling, a report said.

Local residents have raised question on the durability of these projects, saying that the purpose of these projects has been defeated.



Girls drew 'jhoti' during a district-level competition as part of Raja festival at Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

AP Dy CM breaches protocol

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, June 21: Andhra Pradesh has refused to abide by any restrictions imposed by the apex court on Kotia panchayat under Pottangi block in Koraput district and is repeatedly staking its claim on the area much to the chagrin of the state government.

In its latest offensive, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Peedika Rajanna Dora visited Kotia panchayat and attended various programmes organised by the government of the neighbouring state. Dora's visit started Sunday but it was kept under the wraps from the block administration and the mediapersons and was out in the public domain Tuesday.

Dora entered Tadibalsa village under Kotia panchayat and moved from door to door distributing a book describing the welfare and developmental works being undertaken for the people of bordering areas by the Andhra government. Dora was welcomed by Tadibalsa villagers to the playing of traditional musical instruments, song and dance.

During the visit, he was accompanied by the leaders and party



UNINVITED KOTIA VISIT

During the visit, the AP Deputy CM was accompanied by the leaders and party workers of ruling YSR Congress and Andhra police

Dora said that all those benefits are now available to the villagers have become possible only due to the Andhra CM

workers of ruling YSR Congress and Andhra police. He said that all those benefits are now available to the villagers have become possible only due to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister.

He said many more benefits await the villagers and the Andhra government is taking steps to implement them. He also assured to resolve

the mobile phone network problem and provide forest land pattas to all the families. Those accompanying Dora said this is not a government programme but is a programme of the ruling party. Pottangi MLA Pritam Padhi ruled out any impact of Dora's visit on Kotia residents. He expressed displeasure over the AP government's move and questioned that

23 nabbed for ransacking Chitrakonda police station

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chitrakonda, June 21: Police Tuesday arrested 23 persons on charge of ransacking Chitrakonda police station in Malkangiri district, Monday.

This was stated by Chitrakonda IIC Anil Parida Tuesday. Moreover, a probe is underway to trace the involvement of other persons or political workers in this incident, he said. Reports said Chitrakonda police recently raided RSC-13 village under Nuaguda panchayat and arrested two persons on charge of ganja smuggling and seized the con-

triband from their possession. The police action sparked tension in the area as locals alleged that police assaulted four women during the raid.

Over 5,000 tribals armed with traditional weapons and led by local Congress leaders took out a rally to the block office demanding the transfer of the SDPO. The Congress leaders were going to submit a memorandum to the block office after meeting when some tribals broke open the police station gate which was nearby and ransacked its premises. They also damaged an SUV, CCTVs, lights and furniture of the police station.

away from sugarcane cultivation. The sugar mill is also defunct following theft of various equipment and machineries of the mill.

The opposition Congress is only demanding for establishment of a new sugar mill while the ruling party and opposition BJP are silent on the issue.

Congress leader Manoj Sahu said that pulses and sugarcane research centres are lying abandoned and only visible from their signboards. He said these two centres should be revived and be given new shape.

When contacted, Bijay Kumar Pradhan, chief district agriculture officer (CDAO) said the pulses research centre has stopped conducting research while the post of pulse research specialists are lying vacant. The farmlands of the centre are being used for cultivation of green grams and paddy.

However, he denied shifting of the centre as they are yet to receive any formal order from IIPR authorities. Similarly, the sugarcane research centre is still functional where the scientists of Odisha University of Agriculture Technology (OUAT) are conducting research on new varieties of sugarcane.

Injured elephant stuck in slush dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, June 21: The ailing tusker that had been stuck in slush at Papalhara village under Padiabahal range in Sambalpur for the last five days died, Tuesday.

The tusker lost its life despite constant efforts to save it, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Sambalpur adding that the pachyderm was fished out of the pond Tuesday but it breathed its last thereafter.

Veterinary doctors and experts from OUAT, Bhubaneswar had been trying their best to save its life, but in vain. The jumbo was down with fever and its condition had been deteriorating. Its injuries had become septic and the pachyderm was not taking any food, sources said.

A team of doctors from Bhubaneswar had administered saline and medicines to keep it ac-



tive, but the treatment of the animal had become next to impossible as it was partially immersed inside the slush and couldn't be tranquilized in that condition.

As for the condition of the elephant, Prof Indramani Nath of OUAT, Bhubaneswar said, "The tusker was first provided treatment June 2 after it was tranquilised. Its condition was stable for three days. Later, it did not take food, banana leaves or medicines." He added that one of its legs had got sprained. It had been twisted and the jumbo was unable to stand up.

'Sunstroke' claims one in Balasore

Jaleswar: An elderly man died allegedly due to sunstroke and high humidity while he arrived at the bus stand here in a Chandaneswar-bound bus coming from Balasore, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Taimul Khan, 76, of Mahagab village under Kamarda police limits in Balasore. He was found writhing in pain and running with high temperature when the bus full with passengers arrived at the Jaleswar bus stand. The bus staffers gave him water to drink but he collapsed after some time. He was rushed in a 108-ambulance to the local hospital where the doctors pronounced him dead.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JAGATSINGHPUR

2nd Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice No. 03 of 2022-23

No.O-511:- As per instruction of Govt. in R.D. Deptt. & EIC, R.W. (O), BBSR the tender process is to be flow in e-Estimate system. Due to problem in preparation of e-Estimate in wamis, partial modifications are made in respect of the Tender Online No.03 of 2022-23 is as follows:-

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Revised date & time of availability of bid documents inthe portal: | 27.06.2022 at 11.00 hrs. |
| Revised last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal: | 08.07.2022 at 17.00 hrs. |
| Revised date of opening of technical bid: | 11.07.2022 at 11.00 hrs. |

All other terms and conditions are remain unchanged.

Sd./- Executive Engineer,

Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur

OIPR-25056/11/0010/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KENDRAPARA

No.O-514: eerw_kpd@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (SHORT NOTICE)

'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD/KPD-02 / 2022-23 DT. 18.06.2022

1. Name of work : Repair of Road work in the District of Kendrapara for the year 2022-23

2. Total No of work : 11 Numbers of Road work

3. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.35 Lac to Rs.13.39 Lac approximately

4. Period of Completion : As Specified in the Annexure

5. Class of contractors : As Specified in the Annexure

6. Cost of tender paper : Cost of tender paper is to be remitted ONLINE as specified in column-5 of the Annexure.

7. Detail projects : As Specified in the Annexure

Other details as follows:

a) Procurement officer : Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Kendrapara

b) Availability of tender online : 27.06.2022 at 11:00 AM to 07.07.2022 up to 5:00 PM

c) Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification : 08.07.2022 at 11:00 AM

d) Opening of Tender : 08.07.2022 at 11:00 AM

e) Decision to conduct Lottery : If required, to decide the agency, transparent Lottery shall be conducted on at 16.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M in Office Chamber of the undersigned.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./-Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division,Kendrapara

OIPR-25064/11/0006/2223

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, DELHI BENCH -III

FORM NO. NCLT. 3A

Advertisement detailing petition

[Pursuant to Rule 35 of National Company Law Tribunal Rules, 2016]

COMPANY PETITION No. CA (CAA)- 68/ND/ 2022

Connected with

COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA (CAA)- 57/ND/2022

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 230-232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

AND

IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF AMALGAMATION BY AND BETWEEN

MADHIAPLI SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED

Plot No.47, Tikrapara, Bikram Chowk, Balangir, Orissa, 767001

CIN: U74999OR2017PTC028049

...PETITIONER COMPANY NO.1 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO.1

AND

CHINCHED SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED

Plot No.47, Tikrapara, Bikram Chowk, Balangir, Orissa, 767001

CIN: U74999OR2017PTC028029

... PETITIONER COMPANY NO.2 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO.2

AND

BADBAHAL SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED

Plot No.47, Tikrapara, Bikram Chowk, Balangir, Orissa, 767001

CIN: U74999OR2017PTC028025

... PETITIONER COMPANY NO.3 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO.3

AND

CHANDANPALI SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED

Plot No.47, Tikrapara, Bikram Chowk, Balangir, Orissa, 767001

CIN: U74994OR2017PTC028077

... PETITIONER COMPANY NO.4 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO.4

AND

KHAPSIKANA SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED

Plot No.47, Tikrapara, Bikram Chowk, Balangir, Orissa, 767001

CIN: U74994OR2017PTC028083

... PETITIONER COMPANY NO.5/ TRANSFEROR COMPANY NO.5

WITH

VENTO POWER PRIVATE LIMITED

Essel House B-10, Lawrence Road, New Delhi-110035.

CIN: U40106DL2013PTC257690

... PETITIONER COMPANY NO.6/ TRANSFEREE COMPANY

NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition under sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for obtaining sanction of the Scheme of Amalgamation was presented by MADHIAPLI SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.1), CHINCHED SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.2), BADBAHAL SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.3), CHANDANPALI SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.4), KHAPSIKANA SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.5) and VENTO POWER PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor Company No.6) on 9th June, 2022 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before the Delhi Bench-III of the National Company Law Tribunal on 22nd August, 2022.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition should send to the petitioner's authorized representative, notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's authorized representative not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition. Where he seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Sd/- (Abhishek Nahta)

Practising Chartered Accountant

Authorised Representative for the Petitioners

Address: 902 & 906, 27 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

Date: 21/06/2022

Sugarcane research centre at Panipoila is also lying abandoned after closure of the sugar mill

of understanding (MoU) with the state government to conduct research for a period of 50 years. The Khurda-based centre is conducting research to find out new varieties of pulses of green gram, black grams and horse grams. The centre is engaged in research to find out the pulses varieties that could grow in different types of climates.

Reports said a pulses research centre was established at Nayagarh to conduct research on the Nayagarh moong dal or green gram which is known for its distinctive taste, aroma and quality. The centre was established over 36 acre of land in the district headquarters of Nayagarh. The centre soon rose to such a height that it even started conducting trial on chickpea seeds sent by the Indian Institute of Pulses Research in Kanpur. The centre soon invented two high quality green gram seeds which received good re-



sponse from the farmers in the state and in other parts of the country. However, it started losing its prominence after the posts of researchers and research specialists fell vacant. Moreover, no appointment was made for which IIPR stopped sending chickpea seeds for trial to the centre. The chickpea seeds are now being sent for trial to the Khurda centre.

Meanwhile, the demand for GI tag to Nayagarh's green gram has

gained momentum. Observers said that it is absurd to talk about GI tag when the pulses research centre is lying abandoned and inching towards closure.

Similarly, the sugarcane research centre, which is credited with the invention of six varieties of sugarcane seeds, is also lying defunct and is on verge of closure. The cultivation of cash crops is declining in the district as farmers are turning



Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress.

THE MOTHER

Fractured France

French politics is thrown into turmoil after President Emmanuel Macron lost control of the National Assembly in legislative elections in which a newly formed Left-wing alliance made significant gains and the Far-right registered a record victory. The result, announced in the early hours of June 20, clearly indicates there could be a governance paralysis unless Macron finds ways and means to appease rival groups and negotiate alliances with other parties.

The irony for the President's Centrist Ensemble coalition is that it still continues to be the biggest party with 245 seats, but it is well short of the 289-mark needed for attaining a majority in the 577-member chamber. A broad Left-wing alliance, NUPES, forged by the veteran Left politician Jean-Luc Melenchon, is well set to be the most prominent opposition group with 131 seats. The Far-right leader Marine Le Pen's National Rally party scored a ten-fold increase bagging a historic 89 seats.

One positive development is that the National Assembly has been catapulted to a position from being a mere sideshow rubber-stamping the Élysée's decisions to an institution that matters. Because of its earlier position, Macron had grown aloof, hardly caring to reach out to the people and explain his policies. This led to a decline in his popularity during his last term which was reflected in the reduced margin of his victory. The results of the election to the National Assembly augur well for French democracy, though the fractured mandate may cause policy paralysis. It is what France can ill-afford at this juncture when urgent challenges need to be addressed on issues including the cost of living, war in Ukraine and the climate emergency. A bumpy road is ahead for a subdued Macron.

It may also affect Macron's image as a key pan-European leader as he would have to spend more time on fixing domestic problems since his wings have been clipped by the voters in the National Assembly. He has played a prominent role among European Union leaders in attempts to end the crisis resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. No wonder Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne has sought to equate the electoral reverses with a national catastrophe of sorts. At the same time, the ruling coalition has no option but to build a working majority.

The result has taken off the sheen from Macron's April presidential election victory when he defeated the Far-right to become the first French president to win a second term in more than two decades. It also gives rise to questions over Macron's ability to deliver on his second-term agenda, including tax cuts, welfare reforms and raising the retirement age. Analysts say the only option for Macron now is to try to form a coalition government. This means he may have to compromise his ambitious agenda. There is no ready-made script in France for how things are going to unfold. The last time a newly elected President failed to get an outright majority in parliamentary elections was in 1988.

The best course left for Macron is either to find allies from the conservatives or the Left or seek issue-based support from disparate groups.

WISDOM CORNER

- If you want something you have never had, you must be willing to do something you have never done.

THOMAS JEFFERSON
- Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway.

EARL NIGHTINGALE
- A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.

JIM WATKINS

WORDSWORTH

■ Toast

There are several stories that attempt to explain how the word for browned bread led to a vinous wish for somebody's good health, but yours takes the biscuit, or even the toast. How you get from a piece of toast in the neck of a bottle to a public gesture of approbation? Though people have been drinking each others' health with wine since ancient times, toast turns up in this sense for the first time around 1700. To begin with, it was used in the specific sense of asking the company to praise the qualities of a lady who was the belle of the society season, this lady being called the toast. The usage puzzled the intellectuals of the day, who couldn't work out where it came from (so we shouldn't be too surprised that people are still having trouble with it). In 1708 Joseph Addison speculated on the matter in The Tatler. He connected the idea with an incident in the spa town of Bath in the time of Charles II: It happened that, on a public day, a celebrated beauty of those times was in the Cross Bath, and one of the crowd of her admirers took a glass of the water in which the fair one stood, and drank her health to the company. There was in the place a gay fellow, half fuddled, who offered to jump in, and swore, though he liked not the liquor, he would have the toast. He was opposed in his resolution; yet this whim gave foundation to the present honour which is done to the lady we mention in our liquor, who has ever since been called a toast. It would seem that the half-fuddled gay fellow (gay, of course, in the old sense of being merry) was thinking of the then common practice of floating a piece of toast steeped in spices in a glass of wine to give it a special piquancy. (Nutmeg and sugar were the usual flavourings.) To his thinking, the lady in the bath was like the spicy piece of toast in the wine. Nobody today believes the story of the gallant and the lady in the bath, which is even more exotic than the one about the wine lees, and which might have been invented by Addison with tongue in cheek. But this evolution of ideas is almost certain to be the origin of the noun and verb in the congratulatory sense. Incidentally, the tale you recount may be a muddled conflation of the true origin with some knowledge of the traditional method of making champagne, in which fermentation continued in the bottle to provide the sparkle. To remove the dead yeast after fermentation was complete, the bottle was inverted so that the lees accumulated in the neck, the neck was frozen and the bottle turned right way up again and uncorked. The pressure of the gas above the wine in the bottle blew out the ice plug together with the trapped lees. The bottle was then quickly recorked before any fizz was lost.

■ Toe the line

In this case, the association of ideas between tow and line (in the sense of a rope) is often too powerful to overcome, and the lack of any clear mental image of where it comes from is a contributing factor. It's often said, among other stories, that it comes from ancient practice in the House of Commons, the lower house of the British parliament. A pair of lines is painted on the floor that separates the two front benches, replicating ones in earlier chambers (the Commons is strong on tradition). The rule used to be that during debates members could step no nearer the opposing benches than the line on their side of the floor. This dates from a period when members habitually wore swords and the rule was designed to deter them from getting into potentially fatal confrontations (the lines are traditionally two sword lengths apart). So much is historical fact. But it is also said that if debate was getting too heated, the Speaker would demand that members "toe the line". Tourist guides and some books on word histories tell visitors that this is the source of the expression. It isn't. Toe the line is actually the survivor of a set of phrases that were common in the nineteenth century; others were toe the mark, toe the scratch, toe the crack, or toe the trig. In every case, the image was that of men lining up with the tips of their toes touching some line. They might be on parade, or preparing to undertake some task, or in readiness for a race or fight. The earliest recorded form is dated 1813, in a book by Hector Bull-Us (a pseudonym, you will not be surprised to hear, in this case of James Kirke Paulding) with the title The Diverting History of John Bull and Brother Jonathan.



Asad Mirza

PUTIN'S WAR IN UKRAINE HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE RESILIENCE AND ALSO THE LIMITATIONS OF SINO-RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP

Recent events in Ukraine and Taiwan are once again testing the Russia-China ties, as neither has commented upon or shown support to each other's actions in different theatres of action.

Two time-tested allies, though differing ideologically at present but firmly rooted in the same political ideology roots and having faced several crises together, supporting each other at regional and international levels through political brinkmanship are facing a new stress. Though each of them denies publicly of supporting each other, yet no one can discount the secret deals which help further cement their ties.

To boost the bilateral ties and trade, a new cross-border bridge between Russia and China was inaugurated June 10 in the Far East in a bid to further boost bilateral trade between traditional Communist friends, besides countering the rising US-led sanctions over Taiwan and Ukraine.

Kremlin's representative in the Russian Far East, Yuri Trutnev, described the bridge as carrying a special symbolic meaning in today's divided world. Russia's Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev said that the bridge would help increase bilateral annual trade between the two countries to more than 1 million tonnes of goods. Russian authorities claim that the bridge would bring Moscow and Beijing closer together by expanding trade. China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua also welcomed the development, saying that Beijing seeks to deepen practical cooperation with Russia in all areas. Russia announced in April it expected commodity flows with China to surge, and trade with Beijing to reach \$200 billion by 2024. China is a major purchaser of Russian natural resources and agricultural products.

The development comes amid Western criticism of Beijing's refusal to condemn Moscow's military operations in Ukraine while also censuring the US-led sanctions against Russia and acting arrogantly against Taiwan.

China-US Ties

It seems as if Chinese tensions with the US are taking a turn for the worse. June 10, the Chinese and the US defence ministers held a tense meeting, clashing over Taiwan.

Addressing the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, the US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin

IN JEST THIS



Melvin Durai

I'D RATHER FEEL TOO HOT THAN FEEL A FROG ON MY HEAD

There are cities in the world where the weather is superb throughout the year. Among them are Sao Paulo, Brazil; Loja, Ecuador; Mombasa, Kenya; Sydney, Australia; and Nice, France.

Unfortunately, I have no plans to visit any of these cities, and even if I did, it would be for a very short time. I would not be able to afford to stay for more than a week or two, and even if I could, the immigration authorities would send me on my way soon –back to a place with terrible weather.

Actually, most places in the world do not have terrible weather – they have less-than-ideal weather. In many cases, it's far-from-ideal weather; at least for a few months a year. During those months, it might be too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. In extreme circumstances, we may have to endure a tornado, hurricane or blizzard, perhaps even animals raining down on us.

Thankfully, it never rains cats and dogs, but it does rain fish and frogs.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

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

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FOCUS SINO-RUSSIAN TIES

XI'S BALANCING ACT



Xi Jinping has attempted to chart a "neutral" course that maintains the partnership with Russia but protects China's global interests. This balancing act might become harder to sustain if the Ukraine war drags on

asserted that Washington would do its part to manage tensions with China and prevent conflict.

US President Joe Biden declared last month that his country would get involved militarily should China attack Taiwan, although his administration has since claimed that the American policy on the issue has not changed.

On his part, Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe warned Austin that Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war" if Taiwan declares independence. The Chinese minister vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland," and also "stressed that Taiwan is China's Taiwan..." Using Taiwan to contain China will never prevail.

Russia-China Ties

The new bridge further underlines the growing strengthening of relations between China and Russia, albeit with some reservations from both sides. So far, China has not given any public expression of support for Putin's "special military operation." Xi himself has subsequently stated that China is "committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries." Though Russia has asked for military aid from China, no response has been forthcoming at least publicly, so far.

Neither does it seem that China wants to risk being involved in trade wars with the West. Chinese companies, particularly those established in the US, appear to be equally circumspect about breaking the US sanctions.

Putin's war in Ukraine has high-

lighted the resilience and also the limitations of Sino-Russian partnership. Far from being an "arc of autocracy," this could be described as an interests-based relationship between strategically autonomous powers. Also more rhetorical than time and action tested.

Foreign policy coordination between China and Russia is limited by their different views of global order. Beijing wants a stable international system, skewed in its favour, whereas Moscow thrives on disorder and uncertainty. Xi aims to preserve the Sino-Russian partnership while maintaining ties with the West. But Beijing's balancing act will become harder to sustain as the war continues. The balance of power within the bilateral relationship has tilted sharply towards Beijing. Russia is more reliant on China than ever. The long-term outlook for the relationship is unpromising.

At their Beijing summit in February 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin proclaimed a "friendship without limits." Yet Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and the Chinese response to it, has exposed the limitations of the Sino-Russian partnership. Far from being an "axis of authoritarians," as described by Western observers, this is a traditional great power relationship centred in strategic calculus. Chinese and Russian interests diverge in key respects, and the war has highlighted contrasting visions of the global order and disorder.

Xi Jinping has attempted to chart a "neutral" course that maintains the partnership with Russia

but protects China's global interests. This balancing act might become harder to sustain if the Ukraine war drags on. Both sides value the partnership as too important to fail. But over time, its strength may erode. As both pursue different global ambitions, the cohesions may become fewer. The relationship will become increasingly unequal and dysfunctional, and would be defined principally by its constraints.

China's regional ambitions

Meanwhile, Central Asia has become of increasing strategic importance to China as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has pinched direct supply chain routes between China and the European Union. It is just like how Russia views Ukraine and other former Soviet republics in its immediate neighbourhood.

...China has invested much in C+C5 alliance, supported by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in terms of security and trade. The trade aspect also includes the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Russia as well as C+C5 members Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, while Uzbekistan is an observer nation and expected to join the bloc soon. Interestingly, China has a Free Trade Agreement with the EAEU but has not yet agreed tariff reductions. When it does, regional China-Central Asian trade will increase significantly.

While at its core is the issue of Afghanistan, the C+C5 is intent on becoming an institutionalised regional voice. While the C5 already have their own dialogue arrangements with Russia, which also includes infrastructure development and trade, the China format allows them some ability to compare as well as cooperate. Given the issues between Russia and the European Union right now winners will be China and the C5 states.

Thus, though for the time being China will continue to support Russia, and may not give-up the ideological common ground militarily but economic factors may impel it to overlook Russian interests in certain matters, as it continues to consolidate its global power and also in the Central Asian region guided by its economic goals.

The writer is a political commentator based in New Delhi.
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Thank god it isn't raining animals

This rare weather phenomenon occurs when frogs or fish are swept up in tornadic waterspouts or when flocks of birds are killed during storms, causing them to rain down on unsuspecting people.

In December 2021, for example, the US city of Texarkana, Texas, experienced a shower of fish – they were falling everywhere. Unfortunately, my wife, Malathi, who loves to cook fish, was nowhere near Texarkana. We could have had fish for weeks. Fried fish, baked fish, grilled fish, blackened fish. (Here's my wife's simple recipe for blackened fish: 1. Put fish on stove. 2. Put movie on TV.)

I'm not as fond of fish as my wife (that's what a husband is supposed to say), but I certainly prefer fish to frogs. I'm glad I wasn't in the town of Odzaci, Serbia, in June 2005, when thousands of tiny frogs fell from the sky. I would have thought the world was coming to an end. But that's partly because I don't eat frogs – or any other amphibian, for that matter. Frog legs are a delicacy in at least a dozen countries, but not in Serbia. Residents of Odzaci were not quick enough to ship the frogs to France and give a boost to Serbia's GDP.

They would have had to catch the frogs first. According to a report from the Belgrade newspaper Blic, "the frogs, different from those usually seen in the area, survived the fall and hopped around in search of water." This is how new species are sometimes introduced to foreign lands and may explain the recent kangaroo sightings in West Bengal.

Climate change is certainly affecting the Earth's weather patterns, but I don't think animal rain is becoming more common. If it does become a common occurrence, I would probably get used to it, as long as I could rely on meteorologists to give me accurate forecasts. I would stay indoors if they said something like this: "Take your umbrella with you tomorrow, as we expect a deluge of toads and

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frogs." And I would be outdoors with a large bucket if they said this: "It will be cloudy tomorrow, with intermittent showers of fish."

I would expect them to eventually get better at their forecasts, telling me exactly what kind of fish to expect: "Tomorrow we'll have a downpour of pomfret and on Friday we'll have a sprinkle of sardines. Better stay indoors this week-end, as we expect showers of piranha."

But if animal rain were more common, most people would consider it far-from-ideal weather. After all, the windshield wipers of most cars are not designed to handle fish. And it would be quite challenging to play football during a downpour of frogs. Kick a hopping frog and animal activists will be hopping mad.

So perhaps we shouldn't complain too much when our normal weather seems slightly abnormal. I'd rather feel too hot than feel a frog on my head.

Monsoon & farming

Sir, This refers to "Monsoon covers half of India," Orissa POST, June 21. We are still at an early stage and July, which accounts for almost one-third of the southwest monsoon, is the crucial month. IMD makes two forecasts on southwest monsoon. The first take is in April and the next one on the eve of monsoon. The update for the 2022 monsoon indicated that the current year is expected to be a normal one. From the standpoint of agriculture, the monsoon core zone which covers a large swathe of rainfed agricultural regions in central India is expected to receive above normal rainfall. This is reassuring as the wheat harvest was adversely affected by a heatwave. However, the recurring anxiety over the progress of the monsoon is pointer to the structural problems in Indian agriculture that need to be addressed at all levels of policy. India's a water-stressed country. It supports about 17% of the world's population with 4% of freshwater. About half of India's gross cropped area is irrigated. However, access to irrigation is uneven.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Reconsider Agnipath

Sir, Two days after the government unveiled its Agnipath scheme for recruiting soldiers across the three services, protests raged in several cities with aspirants raising job security and post-service benefits as their major concerns. The Agnipath scheme is the government's defence recruitment reform under which around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave service in just four years. Of the total annual recruits, only 25 per cent will be allowed to continue for another 15 years under permanent commission. The new system is only for personnel below officer ranks. The scheme is not optional as all personnel below officer rank will be hired only through this route from now on. Under the Agnipath scheme, aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 21 years will be eligible to apply. From 2014 to 2022, 44,000 jobs were created every year but it was 80,000 in 2000, which means the number of jobs are declining every year. The three conditions of the government's Agnipath are clear - firstly - for children, who are dreaming of joining the army in life, the job is only four years for them and no pension. Second, the government wants to get rid of pensions. Third, the government is considering how to modernise the military and build technology that will gradually separate the soldiers from defence. This is the preparation of the government to privatise defence sector. The government should reconsider Agnipath

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

For a Samruddh Bharat (prosperous India), we need a Swasthya Bharat (healthy India) and for a Swasthya Bharat, we need Swasthya Nagrik (healthy national). Only a healthy national can build a developed nation

MANSUKH MANDAVIA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

We realised the importance of having a disciplined life and yoga teaches it

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

In our culture, we have a tradition of wishing for the well-being of the enemy also but Congress leaders have forgotten to maintain dignity in their words while speaking publicly and are giving non-sensical statements

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

UP: Five killed in car-truck collision

Bareilly (UP): Five people were killed on spot in a car-truck collision on the Lucknow-Delhi Highway here early Tuesday, police said. The victims were travelling from their native Ramnagar in Uttarakhand to Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh. Around 3:30 am, one of the car's tyres burst and the driver lost control of the vehicle. It moved to the other side of the road and collided with a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction near Lalpur outpost in Ahladpur, Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said.

Heavy rains lash coastal districts

Mangalore (Karnataka): Heavy rains lashed the two coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada (DK) and Udupi, affecting normal life in several parts of the region. Low lying areas were inundated and traffic was disrupted at many places in the districts Monday. Meteorological department Tuesday predicted heavy rains in the region for the next four days. As per the IMD forecast, heavy rains, accompanied by strong winds will occur in the region June 23 and 24.

Thane Police summons Jindal

New Delhi: Fresh trouble seems to be brewing for former BJP leader Naveen Kumar Jindal as the Thane police Tuesday served a notice to him in connection with a new case over the controversial remarks he made against Prophet Muhammad. Jindal has been asked to join the probe June 25. The case has been lodged against him by Mumbra Police Station on the complaint of one Mohammed Gufran Akmal Khan.

Anant Singh gets 10 years in jail

Patna: A special court here Tuesday sentenced Bahubali RJD MLA Anant Singh to 10 years imprisonment in the AK-47 recovery case. In 2019, an AK-47 rifle, two hand grenades and 26 live cartridges were recovered from Anant Singh's house in his native village and the MP-MLA court June 14 held him guilty of the offence.

Landslide snaps road connectivity

Itanagar: A massive landslide blocked an arterial road in Itanagar Tuesday, causing a major traffic jam with hundreds of vehicles stranded for hours, officials said. The landslide happened on Itanagar-Hollongi road near Chimphu around 10.30 am, they said.



We are a hardcore honest government and we are not scared of any investigation. The BJP is filing such complaints to stop the work being carried out by the Delhi government in various sectors

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

5 houses in Srinagar attached for harbouring militants

AGENCIES

Srinagar, June 21: J&K Police Tuesday attached five houses in Srinagar district as they were reportedly being used for the purpose of militancy and that many attacks on civilians and security forces were conspired and planned by militants while using these houses as hideouts.

“On June 21, 2022, five residential houses of wilful harbourers of militants were attached as per section

2(g) and section 25 of UAP Act. These are the houses where it has been proved beyond doubt that these houses were used for the purpose of militancy and shelter and harbour was voluntarily, knowingly given by the member(s) of these houses.”

“Many attacks on civilians, security forces were conspired and planned by militants while using these houses as hideouts,” a police statement said. Two houses have been attached in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of



Police Station Parimpora, while one house each has been attached in the jurisdictions of Panthachowk, Nowhatta and Zakoora Police stations. “Some more such houses have been identified and any wilful harbouring will be dealt with

Assam flood situation critical

The flood situation in Assam worsened further Tuesday with the death of seven more persons, taking the death toll to 88 while around 55.42 lakh people having been affected in the states 32 of the 34 districts.

AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 21: The flood situation in Assam worsened Tuesday, affecting 55 lakh people across 32 districts and claiming seven more lives, officials said. Rivers Brahmaputra and Barak along with their tributaries are in spate, they said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who visited relief camps in flood-hit Nalbari and Kamrup districts, said that a package will be announced soon. “Our government will soon launch a portal for the affected people to register their live-stock loss and other damages caused by floods. A flood relief package too will be announced soon,” he said.

Karimganj and Cachar have been severely affected by the rising waters of the Barak and Kushiya. In Cachar, 2.16 lakh people across 506 villages are suffering, while in Karimganj, 1.47 lakh people have been affected in 454 villages, officials said.

Several areas in Silchar were under water. Total 425 people were rescued and 10,468 people were lodged in 57 relief camps, they said. Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya reviewed the situation with the local MLAs, deputy commissioners and senior district officials of both Cachar and Karimganj. He said the deputy commissioners have been asked to chalk out a plan for the strategic deployment of NDRF units in the flood-affected areas.

As per the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 55,42,053 people have been affected in 32 of the state's 36 districts.

Three of the latest deaths were reported from Kamrup, and one each from Darrang, Karimganj, Tamulpur and Udalguri. One per-



Villagers use a boat to commute at flood-hit at Raha village, in Nagaon district

son was also missing from Kamrup. The latest deaths took this year's toll to 88. BARPETA is the worst-affected district with 12.51 lakh people affected, followed by Dhubri where 5.94 lakh people have been hit and Darrang with 5.47 lakh people affected.

In all, 2.62 lakh people have taken shelter in 862 relief camps. Landslides were also reported from Kamrup and Karimganj during the day. Seven embankments were breached, 316 roads, and 20 bridges were damaged by the floods, the ASDMA said. In the Kaziranga National Park, 42 of the total 233 camps have been inundated by flood waters with eight animals dying. Large-scale erosion of river banks was reported from districts such as Baksa, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Hailakandi, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, South Salmara, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts, it added.

Northeast Frontier Railways has cancelled, short terminated or diverted several trains following damages in railway tracks due to flood induced breaches at Chaparmukh – Kamrup and Chaparmukh - Senchoa sections of Lumding and Harisinga - Tangla section of Rangiya divisions in the state Tuesday, NFR official said.

Pak's role under scanner in Moosewala killing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 21: The investigation and interrogation of the accused in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case has indicated the role of some elements across the border in providing arms and ammunition to the shooters, official sources said here Tuesday.

The Special Cell of Delhi Police had arrested two main shooters – Priyavrat alias Fauji and Kashish alias Kuldeep – who were involved in the killing of the Punjabi singer.



The accused Priyavrat was the head of the module of the gangsters and led the team of shooters and was in direct touch with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar at the time of the incident. In the preliminary in-

terrogation of the accused Priyavrat, it was revealed that he got the consignment of weapons from Pakistan. "Usage of drones in dropping the weapons have come to the fore," sources told IANS.

Notably, Pakistan's ISI has been time and again found responsible in supplying drugs, arms and ammunition to Punjab-based criminals and gangsters. The SIT, which was set up by Punjab DGP V.K. Bhavra, was also asked to look into this aspect of the alliance of terrorists and gangsters.

TREMOR NEAR STATUE OF UNITY

A tremor of 3.1 magnitude was recorded near Kevadia village in Gujarat's Narmada district, but there was no report of any casualty or property damage, officials said Tuesday. The 182-meter tall Statue of Unity is located near the Kevadia village. The tremor was recorded Monday night



PLEAS AGAINST AGNIPATH SCHEME

CENTRE FILES CAVEAT IN SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: The Centre has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court and urged that it be heard before the court passes any order on petitions against the Agnipath scheme.

The Agnipath scheme, announced June 14, provides for the recruitment of youths between the age bracket of 17.5 to 21 for four years with the provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years. Protests have erupted in several states against the scheme. Later, the government extended the upper age limit to 23 years for recruitment in 2022.

Meanwhile, a fresh petition was filed in the apex court Monday, seeking a direction to the Centre for reconsideration of the Agnipath scheme. The plea, filed by Harsh Ajay Singh who is an advocate, has sought a direction for the constitution of a committee for providing inputs to the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and also to invite suggestions, including from retired Army officers, for amendments to the scheme for providing job opportunities to 75 per cent Agniveers, post retirement. “It is respectfully submitted that the petitioner is genuinely concerned about maintenance of law and order in the country and for inviting the opinion of youths of the country whose future is at stake,” said the plea, filed through advocate Kumud Lata Das.

Biocon Biologics rejects bribe charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Biocon Biologics, an arm of Biocon Ltd, Tuesday denied allegations of bribery against the company and its officials regarding approval for one of its products in India, asserting that it follows the due process to get nod from regulators.

The CBI has arrested Joint Drugs Controller S Eswara Reddy, Associate Vice President of Biocon Biologics L Praveen Kumar and three others in a case of alleged bribery to waive Phase 3 clinical trials of 'Insulin Aspart' injection, a product developed by the company to manage Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

In a response filed by Biocon Ltd to stock exchanges, which sought clarification on the matter, the company said its seeking of waiver of Phase 3 clinical trials for Insulin Aspart in India was based on the Indian regulatory guidance.

“We strongly deny the allegations of bribery against the company and its officials associated with the approval process of one of our products in India,” Biocon Biologics said in the filing.

Explaining reasons behind seeking waiver of Phase 3 clinical trials for Insulin Aspart in India, Biocon Biologics said it was based on the Indian regulatory guidance – Similar Biologics Guidelines 2016 and New Drugs and Clinical Trials 2019.

‘FAKE ENCOUNTERS’

Assam Police killed 51 since May last year, govt tells HC

The affidavit said “as per records, there have been 51 numbers of death and 193 numbers of injuries caused due to police action or during police custody since May 2021 till May 31 this year.”



Jwadder in the PIL demanded monetary compensation for the families of the victims after due verification.

The PIL has sought the High Court's intervention to register FIRs on the alleged “fake encounters” and a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team or by a police team from another state under the supervision of the High Court.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after assuming office May 10 last year announced a crackdown on militants, drug dealers, smugglers, murderers, cattle lifters and those accused of rape and crimes against women. Of the 51 people, some were killed in custody, some while ‘trying to escape after snatching a policeman's firearm’ while several others were shot in the leg. A few accused died “after being hit by police vehicles” while going to verify their (accused) statement at the crime spot.

FUN IN WATER



Children play in a flooded area in Kamrup district, in Assam

YOGA DAY

From Delhi to Beijing, thousands begin day with yoga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Yoga has become an international festival, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday as tens of thousands of people, including ministers and commoners, across the world performed asanas and breathing exercises on the occasion of the eighth International Day of Yoga.

Yoga sessions were held in Parliament complex, stadiums, beaches, local parks and outside temples. Rains failed to dampen the spirit of those who gathered for a yoga session at Mumbai's Marine Drive.

Until a few years ago, pictures of yoga were limited to homes and spiritual centres but today they are coming from every cor-

ner of the world, Modi said, adding that this shows the excitement for International Day of Yoga among people.

President Ram Nath Kovind also practised yoga at Rashtrapati Bhavan here and described the ancient wellness discipline as India's gift to humanity.

In Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal led the celebrations from the Thyagaraj Stadium. Addressing participants at the event, the chief minister said he learnt yoga free of cost in Class 8 and it will be free for Delhiites too.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman joined a yoga session at the iconic Jantar Mantar in the national capital.

In Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan, Lieutenant Governor



Manoj Sinha and Governor Kalraj Mishra respectively led the celebrations.

In Nagaland, Union Minister

YOGA IN HIJAB

Vijayapura, (Karnataka): On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, Muslim girls performed yoga wearing hijab at the Gol Gumbaz in Karnataka's Vijayapura Tuesday. A video of Muslim girls performing yoga in traditional attire has gone viral on social media. The girls attended the Yoga Day celebrations along with hundreds of people and performed yoga wearing burqa and hijab. People appreciated the initiative by the Muslim girls to participate in the event amid the ongoing social unrest in the state.

reacrats, security personnel and school and college students participated in the celebrations.

Describing yoga as insurance,

Kishore said it helps fight various diseases including asthma, blood pressure and blood sugar, etc.

Billionaire Gautam Adani and his wife Priti took part in an hour-long yoga session at a football ground at Adani Shantigram in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, according to a statement issued by the Adani Group. Several other business leaders took to Twitter to share pictures of their yoga sessions.

The Indian High Commission in London culminated its week-long International Day of Yoga celebrations with an event at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, known as Neasden Temple. Similarly, Indian consulates across the UK organised open-air yoga sessions. The Indian Embassy in China's Beijing organised a yoga session.

Purvanchal Expressway gets only half of expected traffic

With an estimated cost of ₹22,500 crore, the Purvanchal Expressway is built to benefit the eastern part of UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 21: The 341-km-long Purvanchal Expressway, a flagship project of the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, is facing teething troubles and is not attracting even half the traffic that was estimated.

The tolling agency, Prakash Asphaltings and Toll Highways (India) Ltd, has quit the contract citing collection of only 45 per cent of the targeted toll.

Between May 1 and 26, the agency collected less than ₹7.5 crore against the target of ₹17 crore.

According to sources, the recent board meeting of UP Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), zeroed in on three reasons for low toll collection.

Three reasons are the non-completion of the Lucknow Outer Ring Road, the incomplete bridge on Ganga at Buxar Bihar, and the high toll for heavy vehicles.

These three reasons are limiting the traffic from using the new expressway.

According to UPEIDA sources,



The tolling agency has quit the contract citing collection of only 45 per cent of the targeted toll

Three reasons are the non-completion of the Lucknow Outer Ring Road, the incomplete bridge on Ganga at Buxar Bihar, and the high toll for heavy vehicles

the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has informed that the Lucknow Ring Road and the bridge near Buxar will be ready by December 2022.

The UPEIDA is also considering reducing the toll price on heavy vehicles as it is almost 20 per cent more than the toll levied by NHAI on the National Highways.

Light motor vehicles such as cars pay ₹675 as toll tax on the

Purvanchal Expressway, light commercial vehicles pay ₹1,065, while heavy vehicles have to pay ₹2,145 as toll tax on the road.

The Purvanchal Expressway was inaugurated in November 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The expressway starts from village Chaudsarai in Lucknow, located on Lucknow-Sultanpur Road (NH-731) and ends at village Hydaria situated on National Highway No 31, near the Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border. The expressway is six-lane wide and can be expanded to eight-lane in future.

Constructed at an estimated cost of ₹22,500 crore, the Purvanchal Expressway is designed to benefit the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, especially Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur districts.

Hazards galore for pilots at Patna airport: Experts

Nearly 200 people on board a Delhi-bound aircraft recently had a close shave, as the plane caught fire due to suspected bird hit soon after take-off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, June 21: Pilots frequently encounter hazards like bird hits, a short runway and tall trees while operating at the Patna airport, where nearly 200 people on board a Delhi-bound aircraft recently had a close shave, as the plane caught fire soon after take-off, experts said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has initiated a probe into the incident that took place June 19 at the Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport.

"We will be able to know the exact cause only after completion of the investigation. However, the Patna airport has remained a critical spot for pilots. On one side, there are tall trees that make landing or taking off a tricky affair," VK Bhalla, former chief of Air India Pilots Union, told PTI.

"The safe emergency landing of the SpiceJet flight was possible due to the cool and calm efforts of both pilots and crew members. But, I must say that when trees are not removed from one side of the runway, such incidents are bound to happen. Trees invite birds. The investigating team must look



into these aspects at the Patna airport," Bhalla added.

In a statement, SpiceJet had said on take-off, the cockpit crew suspected a bird hit on engine 1 during rotation of the aircraft, which was flying from Patna to Delhi. There were 185 passengers on board.

"As a precautionary measure and as per SOP (standard operating procedure), the captain shut down the affected engine and decided to return to Patna," it said.

Experts also believe that the Patna airport is marked as critical due to its short runway. Of its 2,286-metre runway, only 1,954 metres are actually available for use by pilots for take-off due to location constraints.

Experts also believe that the Patna airport is marked as critical due to its short runway

"Open abattoirs, meat shops and garbage dumps near the airport also invite birds. The waste dumps are kept clean by the authorities, but I am not aware about the measures taken by the district administration in view of the abattoirs and meat shops," Anchal Prakash, Director of Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport, told PTI.

According to DGCA data, in 2020, there were 1,152 bird strike and 15 animal strike incidents at Indian

airports. In 2019, there were 1,227 bird strike and 13 animal strike incidents, and in 2018, the figure was 1,214 and 19, respectively, it said.

The DGCA, in a 2018 circular, had said that the presence of wildlife on and in the vicinity of an airport poses a "serious threat" to aircraft operational safety.

On July 17, 2000, the Patna airport had hit the headlines when a Delhi-bound Boeing 737 aircraft, coming from Kolkata, ploughed through a residential colony soon after take-off killing more than 60 people, including six local residents.

The court of inquiry, which was subsequently ordered, said in its report that the runway was too short.

AGNIPATH PROTESTS

Bulldozers make appearance during flag marches in Aligarh

Aligarh is one of the worst-hit districts where violence broke out over the Agnipath scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh (UP), June 21: In a controversial move, the district police here included bulldozers in some of the flag marches in the city after the violence over the Centre's Agnipath scheme.

Former Samajwadi Party MLA from Aligarh Zameer Ulla Khan criticised the move saying damaging anyone's property can't be justified. Bulldozers are being seen here as a possible deterrent against violent protests.

After damage to public property in protests following now-suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma's remarks against Prophet Mohammad, there have been cases where the au-

thorities allegedly used bulldozers to demolish houses of those involved in violence.

The authorities had, however, said action was taken according to the law as the structures were constructed without the approval of the building plan. The SC is also hearing petitions over the alleged demolition of houses using bulldozers following the violent protests.

Aligarh is one of the worst-hit districts where violence broke out over the Agnipath scheme. However, police said no untoward incident has taken place in the district since Friday evening.

Police patrolling has continued unabated in all affected areas under the Tappal, Khair and Lodha police stations.

SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said 30 protesters were arrested Monday in connection with the Friday's violence. So far, 67 people have been held, he said.



Terrorists behind Agnipath violence, says Bihar BJP Min

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, June 21: A day after BJP MLA Hari Bhushan Thakur likened the Agnipath protesters to 'Jehadis', another party MLA and cabinet minister Ram Suraj Rai Tuesday claimed the violence to be a handiwork of terrorists and political goons.

"Terrorists and political goons are behind the violence," Rai told the mediapersons.

"The opposition parties provoked students and anti-social elements and political goons were involved in the violence," Rai said.

"In the initial stage of the agitation, there were some students who protested against the government. They now understand the Agnipath scheme but the opposition parties hired some of them who indulged in violence. In the garb of the protest, the anti-social elements and political goons hijacked the protest and indulged in massive violence in the state," he said.

"Agitation and violence are not in the interest of the country. Opposition parties neither have sense nor vision to understand this scheme and they are blaming PM Narendra Modi. I strongly condemn it. The Congress leaders lack sense and indulge in cheap politics. The youth of the country are understanding now. Some of them did involve in violence but a large section of them have understood the concept," he said.

On Monday, BJP MLA Hari Bhushan Thakur said that those who are protesting against the Centre's Agnipath scheme are 'Jehadis', adding that they have nothing to do with patriotism.

"Those protesting against Agnipath scheme are 'Jehadis'. Youth who want to serve the nation are very happy with the scheme. This is not a job but this is a service to the nation. Patriotism is not a cheap thing, people have to sacrifice their lives for it," Thakur said.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performs yoga on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, Lucknow, Tuesday

Yogi leads UP's Yoga Day fete

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 21: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel led the 8th International Day of Yoga celebrations Tuesday by performing yoga in the sprawling lawns of the Raj Bhavan here.

A large number of state ministers, bureaucrats and eminent citizens were also in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that yoga was a perfect solution for a healthy body and mind, adding that this had been proved beyond doubt during

the Covid-19 pandemic. The state government has made special preparations for mass yoga practice at Kashi, Mathura, Gorakhpur, Naimish Dham, Chitrakoot, Bithoor, among others. Meanwhile, Ministers participated

in different programmes on the occasion in districts assigned to them.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak led the celebrations in Prayagraj, while his counterpart Keshav Maurya was in Ayodhya.

In addition, a large number of nodal officers will also participate in yoga sessions to be held across the state. Besides, several schools, private organisations, social groups and NGOs also organised events to mark the occasion.

According to a state government spokesman, nearly five crore people joined the celebrations across the state Tuesday.

Historians to decide when Agra was born!

A committee of nine 'jewels', comprising eminent historians, senior mediapersons, and academics, has been formed to decide on the date Agra city was born

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, June 21: The Agra Municipal Corporation wants to celebrate the birthday of this great historical city with half-a-dozen spectacular monuments that draw millions of tourists round the year.

Three Mughal structures are world heritage monuments -- Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal -- while two others, Etmauddaula and Sikandra, are in the pipeline.

The city of monuments is shortly to be declared a heritage city and a proposal is under consideration



of the Supreme Court.

Agra Mayor Navin Jain has constituted a committee of nine jewels to decide on the date Agra city was born. The committee includes eminent historians, senior mediapersons, and academics.

The task is not easy, as reliable historical documents give no clear

indication how and when the city came into existence, and how it got its name.

Jain said Agra is a very ancient city with more than 40 Shiva temples, some as old as the Mahabharat. Bateswar town, which has 101 Shiva temples in a row along the bend of river Yamuna, was the seat

of power during the reign of Vasudev, the father of Sri Krishna. If mythology is to be believed, Agra was 'Agravan' (frontier forest), one of the 12 forests of Braj Mandal, the 'leela bhoomi' of Sri Krishna.

Some historians say Agra was part of the Kannauj empire of the Chauhans, while another group

The city of monuments is shortly to be declared a heritage city and a proposal is under consideration of the Supreme Court

claims Agra was a 'pargana' of the Bayana Nawab. Archaeological findings suggest Agra was the extension of the Mathura empire.

In 2004, some heritage conservationists and local hotels along with tourism bodies had planned grand celebrations to commemorate 500 years of the founding of Agra by Sikander Lodi in 1504. But due to a controversy, the plan was put off.

Some Hindutva historians claim that Agra got its name from sage Angira, some 2,000 years ago.

Jain hopes that once the date is decided, big celebrations could be organised. The city folks must take pride in their history and heritage.

of the day quote

The Haryana government will provide guaranteed employment to 'Agniveers' after their four-year stint in the armed forces

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

More and more people have understood the importance of a healthy lifestyle based on yoga and 'pranayam' after the coronavirus outbreak

BHUPENDRA PATEL | GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER

We have understood very well, that soil conservation cannot be done, by focusing only on the soil. Therefore, we have tried to conserve, and increase all the other components related to it, such as afforestation, wildlife, wetlands, etc

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

3 killed, 3 injured in road accident

Dhanbad: Three persons, including a woman, were killed while three others injured when the car carrying them hit a truck at Barwa, near here, on GT Road (NH 2), police said. Barwadda police station officer in-charge Suman Kumar said that the car was going from Balia in Uttar Pradesh to Burdwan of West Bengal. Six persons were in the car at the time of the accident. Three persons died on the spot, the police officer said.

Bear caught in AP dies on way to zoo

Visakhapatnam: A bear, which was caught by forest officials in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district Tuesday, died while being shifted to the Visakhapatnam Zoo. The forest department caught the bear which had killed one person and injured six others during the last two days. Forest officials succeeded in catching the bear after sedating it by firing a tranquilizer shot at Kidisingi village under the Vajrapukotturu mandal.

Ker varsity gets A++ ranking from NAAC

Thiruvananthapuram: University of Kerala here has secured the highest NAAC grading of A++ with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.67, an achievement, which Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Tuesday termed as an inspiration to other universities and educational institutions in the state. Vijayan said the recognition received by the university was a giant leap for the educational sector in Kerala.

Man killed in bee attack

Karimnagar (Telangana): An elderly person was killed and 10 others were injured after a swarm of bees attacked them in Jagtial district near here Tuesday. According to police, about 20 families gathered on the outskirts of Rechpalli village under Sarangapur police limits to celebrate a traditional festival.

J&K: LeT terror module busted

Srinagar: A terror module of terrorist outfit LeT in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam has been busted with the arrest of three terrorist associates by a joint security force team on Tuesday. Police, along with army's 53 RR and the CRPF, arrested three terror associates, identified as Ashiq Hussain Hajam, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, both residents of Zuhama Chadoora, and Tahir Bin Ahmed, resident of Badipora Chadoora.



It is better to set an example than giving a lecture. The BJP should stop insulting the youth

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ APPOINTED AS INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN

Senior diplomat Ruchira Kamboj was Tuesday appointed India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Kamboj, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is presently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan. She will succeed T S Tirumurti as the Indian ambassador to the UN



AGNIPATH SCHEME

'No change in existing recruitment process'



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

New Delhi, June 21: The three military services Tuesday said the Agnipath scheme will not entail any change in the existing system of recruitment of soldiers and will not at all impact their combat capabilities and operational readiness. At a media briefing, additional secretary in the defence ministry's department of military affairs Lt Gen Anil Puri addressed various issues raised about the new scheme, asserting it has not been brought to "right-size" the armed forces but to lower their age-profile and enhance their overall capability.

"There will be no change in the recruitment process. What happened five years ago, what happened earlier, the same will continue," Lt Gen Puri said, adding those recruited under the scheme will be eligible for gallantry awards.

The scheme is being rolled out so that armed forces draw the best

talents, he said, adding that Agnipath would add strength to the armed forces. Top officials of the three services announced a detailed schedule of the recruitment process, asserting that there will be no compromise on the quality of the training to be imparted to the 'Agniveers', though its duration would be compressed.

"The combat capabilities and readiness of the Indian Air Force are non-negotiable. The Indian Air Force and the government will do everything that is required to keep us combat-worthy and combat-ready," Air Officer-in-Charge of Personnel Air Marshal S K Jha said.

He said there is "absolutely no change" in the IAF's process of induction, entry-level qualification, examination syllabus and medical standards for the recruits under the Agnipath scheme "All the enrollments in the Indian Air Force will take place only through Agniveer Vayu," he said.

Army's Adjutant General Lt Gen

Several parts of the country witnessed violent protests after the announcement of the new model that seeks to recruit youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years to 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years

For 2022, the upper age limit has been extended to 23 years

Under the scheme, the Army plans to recruit 40,000 soldiers this year and the number is going to increase in the coming years

Once 75 per cent of the recruits exit the force after the four-year tenure, around 10,000 Agniveers will continue to serve from the 2022 batch

Bansi Ponappa said the Army would induct women under the Agnipath scheme for induction as military police. He said the scheme will not dent but improve the Army's combat capabilities.

Releasing the recruitment schedule, Lt Gen Ponappa said the online registration of the aspirants and announcement of the schedule of the recruitment rallies will commence July 1.

He said the recruitment rallies will commence from the second week of August, the Combined Entrance Examination for the first batch of 'Agniveers' will be October 16 and November 13 and they will report at the training centres December 22. The first batch will join their respective units July 23.

66-yr-old man gets 81-yr imprisonment for raping minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Idukki, June 21: A fast track court in Kerala Tuesday sentenced a 66-year old man to 81 years imprisonment for repeatedly raping and impregnating a minor girl in Idukki district of the state.

Special Judge T G Varghese imposed a sentence of 20 years on the convict for each of the offences of penetrative sexual assault and repeated rape of the minor girl, 30 years for impregnating her and five years for aggravated sexual assault of a minor under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.



The court while imposing the sentence said the offences committed by the accused would leave "an everlasting, continuing, physical, emotional and traumatic impact on the future of PW2 (minor victim)".

The court also imposed on him a sentence of five years for the offence of kidnapping a woman to induce her to illicit intercourse and one year for molestation under the IPC. It also imposed upon him a fine of ₹2.2 lakh.

However, as the sentences have to be served by the convict concurrently, he would be serving the highest jail term of 30 years imposed on him for impregnating the girl, Special Public Prosecutor S S Saneesh said.

MAHA CRISIS

BJP keeping close eye, exploring all options

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 21: The Bhartiya Janata Party is keeping a close watch on political developments in Maharashtra and exploring all the options, but cautious in its approach keeping the past experience in the state.

A political crisis hit the Maha Vikas Agadhi government Tuesday morning when over 25 Shiv Sena MLAs, including Minister Eknath Shinde became 'unreachable'. Sources said that rebel Shiv Sena MLAs shifted to a hotel in Surat as they are dissatisfied and unhappy with the party and the MVA government.

A senior BJP functionary said that the party central leadership is closely monitoring the situation and will take the next step accordingly. "Before next move, we have to be sure that numbers are against the MVA government and more and more Shiv Sena MLAs join Shinde. Cracks have appeared in the MVA government and it will collapse due its own differences," he said.

It is learnt that the BJP central leadership is calculating the numbers and is hoping that Shinde will bring more MLAs in his camp. After being sure of numbers, the BJP will approach the Governor with a request to ask the MVA government to prove the majority on the floor of the Assembly.

"Instead of moving a no-confidence motion we will ask the MVA to prove majority on the floor of the house. With the rebellion by Shinde and other MLAs, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has lost the majority," a BJP leader said.

A BJP insider said that party is



treading cautiously amid the changing political situation in Maharashtra to avoid repeat of 2019 misadventure when Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra and later resigned due to lack of numbers. "We are cautiously moving ahead and do not want any misadventure similar to 2019. We are trying to form the government in Maharashtra but only when numbers are in our favour," he said.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah met BJP chief J P Nadda to discuss the developing political situation in Maharashtra. Sources in the BJP said that Nadda and Shah were discussing the changing political situation in the state and the party's future course of action.

The BJP gave a big jolt to the ruling MVA alliance this month by getting all its candidates elected in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council polls. In the Rajya Sabha polls, the BJP bagged three seats, while the ruling alliance secured three, with one each for Sena-NCP Congress, while the Sena's second candidate was defeated.

In legislative council polls, the BJP won five, Shiv Sena and NCP two each, and Congress one, while one Congress candidate lost the polls.

ED questions Rahul for 9 hours on day 5



AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for over nine hours Tuesday on the fifth day of his deposition in the National Herald money laundering case.

Gandhi, 52, took a half-hour break around 8 pm and re-joined the session. He left the ED headquarters on APJ Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi along with his security escort to go to his home on Tughlaq Lane. He reached the federal agency's office around 11.15 am and did not take any break post noon as he had done in

his previous appearances. The Congress MP from Wayanad has spent almost 50 hours at the ED office over five sittings with the investigators questioning him over multiple sessions and recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He was questioned for three consecutive days last week, and after Monday's questioning, he was asked to rejoin the session and complete the recording of his statement. Gandhi left the agency office after midnight Monday.

The probe relates to alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper. The ED is understood to be asking Gandhi about the incorporation of the Young Indian Private Limited, operations of the National Herald, the loan given by the party to the newspaper's publisher Associated Journals Limited (AJL), and the transfer of funds within the news media establishment.

STRICT VIGIL



Border Security Force (BSF) personnel stand guard at Suchetgarh border post, in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

13 held for abetting suicide of 9 members of family in Sangli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, June 21: Thirteen of the 25 accused have been arrested on charges of abetment of suicide of nine members of a family that had borrowed money from them in Maharashtra's Sangli district, an official said Tuesday.

According to a preliminary probe, the accused used to "harass and humiliate" the members of the Vanmore family as they were unable to repay the loans they had taken, apparently forcing them to take the extreme step, he added.

Some of the arrested accused already have cases related to money lending against them, the official said. Popat Vanmore (54), who worked as a teacher, his brother and veterinarian Dr Manik Vanmore (49), their 74-year-old mother, wives and four children were found dead at their houses in Mhaisal village of Sangli district Monday, police had said. Suicide notes were found from the two houses, located 1.5 km apart from each other and over 350 km from the state capital Mumbai, they had said.

Yashwant Sinha: From key Advani aide to Oppn Prez candidate

Former Union minister Sinha will be the consensus Presidential candidate of several opposition parties, including the Congress, the TMC and the Samajwadi Party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Yashwant Sinha's nearly four-decade-old political life has been marked by bureaucratic efficiency and close association with top leaders, ranging from socialist ideologue Chandra Shekhar to saffron stalwart L K Advani, earning the former IAS officer key party and government positions before his political stars waned in the last decade with the rise of a new BJP leadership. However, his sharp critique of the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in media over a host of issues running the gamut of policy to politics and tireless efforts to unite anti-BJP forces also ensured the octogenarian leader a space in the opposition camp which has now settled on him as its joint candidate for the presidential election, a high of his public life when it appeared all but over.

Sinha, who served as Finance Minister in the short-lived Chandra Shekhar government and also in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee dispensation, has always carried a rebel streak.

He boycotted the swearing-in ceremony of the V P Singh government in 1989 and then went all out against then BJP president Nitin Gadkari in 2013 over alleged corruption charges when the Maharashtra leader was set to get a second term.

Gadkari was forced to quit but Sinha's actions, which many believed had the blessings of Advani, further pushed him to the margins of the party whose rank and



file always nursed resentment over the rise of a leader not really dyed in the saffron wool.

When the BJP denied him a Lok

Sabha ticket in 2014 and instead fielded his son Jayant Sinha, it did little to placate him. He quit the BJP in 2018, alleging that democracy

was in danger and joined the Trinamool Congress in 2021.

Born in Bihar and a Bihar-cadre IAS officer, he quit the administrative service after 24 years in 1984 and joined the Janata Party whose leader Chandra Shekhar took a liking to him, considered competent, articulate and clear-headed. He had also served as a principal secretary to the then Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, also a socialist stalwart.

Sinha was soon entrusted with the key position of general secretary and made his debut in Rajya Sabha in 1988.

Various opposition leaders, including Chandra Shekhar, joined hands to form the Janata Dal to take on the Congress in the 1989 poll, and Sinha followed his mentor when he split the party to topple the V P Singh government.

As fortunes of Chandra Shekhar declined and the BJP emerged as the principal challenger to the Congress, Sinha joined the party under the influence of Advani, with whom he shared a good bond.

He was given key responsibilities, including the leader of opposition in Bihar, and later won Lok Sabha poll from Hazaribagh in 1998, the year Vajpayee led his party to form its first regular government after the 13-day stint in 1996 when he resigned after failing to put together a majority in the House. He remained Finance Minister till 2002 and then made External Affairs Minister.

It was during his term as Finance Minister that the colonial practice to present the Union Budget at 5 pm was junked. He has been credited with ushering in reforms and rationalisation of taxes during the Vajpayee era, though it did not make either him or the government a favourite with the RSS-backed 'Swadeshi' school of economic thought, seen to be a reason for his shift from the ministry.

With the BJP-led NDA having a distinct numerical advantage over the opposition, Sinha's prospects seem bleak in what appear to be largely a symbolic fight. But he can be counted to make the most of it.

international

of the day quote

For the first time in history, a Tribal leader and Native woman's name will be the signature on our currency. Chief Malerba will expand our unique relationship with Tribal nations, continuing our joint efforts to support the development of Tribal economies and economic opportunities for Tribal citizens

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, USA



The aim of our Yisrael Beytenu party in the upcoming elections is to prevent Benjamin Netanyahu from returning to power. Along with the bill to dissolve parliament, I will advance legislation on Wednesday to bar a lawmaker under indictment from assuming the premiership

AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN | FINANCE MINISTER, ISRAEL



The defence of NATO territory to the east is more central than at any other time in recent history. That is why we are extending the operational capacity of the F-16s while the new F-35 jets are being phased in

MORTEN BODSKOV | DEFENCE MINISTER, DENMARK



SHORT TAKES

Damaged Russian tanks to be displayed

Warsaw: Poland and Ukraine government officials say they plan to put on public display in Warsaw the damaged or burnt-out Russian tanks and armoured vehicles captured by Ukrainian forces during the war. The head of the Polish Prime Minister's Office Michal Dworczyk said the idea is to highlight Russian "atrocities" and the Ukrainian response. The ironically-named "Invincible Army" open-air exhibition will be staged in the Castle Square in Warsaw's Old Town, that was painstakingly rebuilt after being razed during fighting in World War II.

2 priests killed in northern Mexico

Mexico City: Two Jesuit priests have been killed inside a church in a remote mountainous area of northern Mexico, the religious order's Mexican branch announced Tuesday. Javier Campos Morales and Joaquin Cesar Mora Salazar were killed Monday inside the church in Cerocahui, Chihuahua. Violence has plagued the Tarahumara mountains for years. Cerocahui is near a point where Chihuahua state meets Sonora and Sinaloa, a major drug producing region. A statement from the Society of Jesus in Mexico demanded justice and the return of the men's bodies. It said gunmen had taken them from the church. The Chihuahua state prosecutor's office had not commented.

Russian copter enters Estonia

Helsinki: NATO member Estonia said Tuesday that a Russian border guard helicopter violated the airspace of the Baltic nation over the weekend, and Russia's ambassador was summoned and given a note over the incident. Estonia's military said in a statement that the Russian Mi-8 helicopter entered the country's airspace in southeastern Estonia in the Koitula area - not far from the Russian city of Pskov - without permission on Saturday evening. The helicopter was in Estonia's airspace for almost two minutes, Estonia's military said, adding that it hadn't presented a flight plan, had its transponder switched off and failed to maintain radio contact with Estonian Air Navigation Services.



Russia will certainly respond to Lithuania's hostile actions. Appropriate measures are being worked out in an interdepartmental format and will be taken in the near future

NIKOLAI PATRUSHEV | SECRETARY, SECURITY COUNCIL, RUSSIA

WORLD'S BIGGEST FRESHWATER FISH

A local fisherman caught the 300-kilogram stingray from the Mekong River in the Stung Treng province, Cambodia, which set the record for the world's largest known freshwater fish and earned him a \$600



Indian embassy's yoga event attacked in Maldives

SIX PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT

AGENCIES

Male, June 21: Police in the Maldives used tear gas and pepper spray to control a crowd of people who disrupted a yoga event organised by the Indian High Commission, or embassy, in the capital Male Tuesday morning, an organiser said.

The crowd stormed a stadium where more than 150 people, including diplomats and government

officers, were taking part in an event celebrating International Day of Yoga, attacking participants and vandalising the property, one of the organisers, who did not want to be named because he was not authorised to speak with the media, told Reuters.

Earlier, the protesters brandished placards proclaiming that yoga was against the tenets of Islam.

Islam is the state religion in the Maldives, a group of islands in the



Indian Ocean with a population of about half a million. Police responded with anti-riot

measures and later used pepper spray and tear gas to control the crowd and secure the area,

Britain sees biggest rail strike in 3 decades as Boris vows to stay firm



- MORE THAN 40,000 RAIL WORKERS WALK OUT
- GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE OVER COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS
- UNIONS SAY STRIKE MAY START 'SUMMER OF DISCONTENT'

REUTERS

London, June 21: Tens of thousands of workers walked out on the first day of Britain's biggest rail strike in 30 years Tuesday with passengers facing further chaos as both the unions and government vowed to stick to their guns in a row over pay.

Some of the more than 40,000 rail staff who are due to strike Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday gathered at picket lines from dawn, causing major disruption across the network and leaving major stations deserted. The London Underground metro was also mostly closed due to a separate strike.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, under pressure to do more to help Britons facing the toughest economic hit in decades, said the strike would harm businesses still recovering from Covid.

Unions have said the rail strikes could mark the start of a summer of discontent with teachers, medics, waste disposal workers and even barristers heading for industrial action as inflation pushes 10%.

The British worker needs a pay

rise, Mick Lynch, secretary-general of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers told Sky News. They need job security and decent conditions.

During the morning rush-hour, roads were busier than normal with cars, bikes and pedestrians. Hospital staff said some colleagues slept at work overnight to maintain care.

Johnson told his cabinet the strikes were wrong and unnecessary and said his message to the country was that they needed to be ready to stay the course as improvements to the way railways are run was in the public's interest.

A survey by pollsters YouGov earlier this month found public opinion divided, with around half of those questioned opposed to the action and just over a third saying they supported it.

Leo Rudolph, a 36-year-old lawyer who walked to work, said he would become more disgruntled the longer the dispute holds. This isn't going to be an isolated occurrence, right he told Reuters. Inflation has soared across Europe on the back of a major rise in energy costs and Britain is not alone in facing strikes.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, June 21: The heaviest rainfall in decades has triggered floods and landslides in southern China, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people, state media reported.

The downpours have dangerously swelled waterways in the low-lying Pearl River basin in recent days, threatening manufacturing, shipping and logistics operations at a time when supply chains are already stressed because of China's strict Covid-19 controls.

The average rainfall in Guangdong, Fujian and Guangxi provinces between early May and the middle of June reached 621 millimetres (24 inches), the highest since 1961, according to China's National Meteorological Center.

State media photos showed people huddled on camp beds in schools converted into temporary shelters in Guangdong's Shaoguan city, and hundreds of tents erected on a sports ground.

In neighbouring Guangxi region, muddy water was seen flooding urban areas and emergency rescuers were seen evacuating villagers on rubber dinghies, according to state media images.

FUEL CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 21: Sri Lanka's Parliament sessions will be restricted to two days this week instead of four days amid the current fuel supply crisis in the country, the leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena said Tuesday.

The island nation, home to around 22 million people, is currently facing its worst economic crisis in more than 70 years. Sri Lanka's economy is experiencing extreme fuel shortages, soaring food prices and a lack of medicines.

"In view of the current fuel supplies crisis we have decided to limit the parliamentary sessions for

today and tomorrow," he announced.

When Parliament met this morning, the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya party and the Marxist National People's Power party said they were boycotting the sessions to protest the government's inaction to tackle the current economic crisis.

SJB leader Sajith Premadasa said since the government lacked a strategy to tackle the crisis there was little use in spending time in Parliament. "We see no plan on the part of the government to solve the current economic and fuel shortages issue," Anura Kumara Dissanayake the NPP leader said.

He said the fuel queues have

Pak students land in China amid silence over Indians' return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, June 21: The first batch of Pakistani students, stuck back home for about two years due to China's strict visa restrictions aimed at containing the Covid-19 pandemic, has arrived in the Chinese city of Xian, even as Beijing is yet to announce plans to permit the return of Indian students de-

spite repeated assurances.

A plane carrying 90 Pakistani students arrived in Xian on Monday, Pakistan's state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported. After undergoing a 14-day quarantine, they will go to their respective universities in different cities.

China, after representations, agreed to allow 250 Pakistani stu-

dents to return. There are still 6,000 Pakistani students who intend to go back to China to pursue their studies, the report said.

According to estimates, about 28,000 Pakistani students study in China and most of them returned home at the height of the Covid-19 outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in 2020.

Since then, like most of the for-

eign students, they were stuck back home due to China's visa and flight bans. China, however, is yet to announce its plans to allow Indian students' return.

In April, after repeated representations from India, China agreed to permit the return of "some stranded Indian students and asked the Indian Embassy here to collect the details of those seeking to return.

S KOREA LAUNCHES 1ST SATELLITE WITH OWN ROCKET

THE LAUNCH MADE SOUTH KOREA THE WORLD'S 10TH NATION TO PLACE A SATELLITE INTO SPACE WITH ITS OWN TECHNOLOGY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, June 21: South Korea conducted its first successful satellite launch using a domestically developed rocket Tuesday, officials said, boosting its growing aerospace ambitions and demonstrating it has key technologies needed to launch spy satellites and build larger missiles amid tensions with rival North Korea.

The three-stage Nuri rocket placed a functioning "performance verification" satellite at a target altitude of 700 kilometers after its 4 pm liftoff from South Korea's space launch centre on a southern island, the Science

Ministry said.

The satellite transmitted signals about its status to an unmanned South Korean station in Antarctica. It is carrying four smaller satellites that will be released in coming days for Earth observation and other missions, ministry officials said.

"The science and technology of the Republic of Korea have made a great advance," Science Minister Lee Jong-Ho said in a televised news conference at the launch center. "The government will continue its audacious march toward becoming a space power together with the people."

In a video conference with sci-

entists and others involved in the launch, President Yoon Suk Yeol congratulated them for their achievement and vowed to keep his campaign promise to establish a state aerospace agency, according to his office.

Live TV video showed the 47-meter rocket rising into the air amid bright flames and thick white smoke.

The launch made South Korea the world's 10th nation to place a satellite into space with its own technology.

It was South Korea's second launch of a Nuri rocket. In the first attempt last October, the rocket's dummy payload reached the de-



sired altitude but didn't enter orbit because the engine of the rocket's third stage burned out earlier than planned.

South Korea, which has the world's 10th largest economy, is a major producer of semiconductors, automobiles and smartphones. But its space development programme lags behind that of Asian neighbours China, India and Japan.

North Korea placed Earth observation satellites into orbit in 2012 and 2016, though there is no proof that either one has ever transmitted spaced-based imagery and data back home. The North Korean launches resulted

Staff cut newborn's head, leave it inside pak woman's womb

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, June 21: In a case of gross medical negligence, the staff of a rural health centre in Pakistan's Sindh province severed the head of a newborn baby and left it inside the mother's womb, leaving the 32-year-old Hindu woman in a life-threatening situation.

The tragic incident prompted the Sindh government to form a medical inquiry board to get to the bottom of the incident and trace the culprits. The Bheel Hindu woman, who belongs to a far-flung village in Tharparkar district, had first gone to a Rural Health Centre (RHC) in her area but with no female gynaecologist available, the inexperienced staff caused her immense trauma, said Professor Raheel Sikander, who heads the gynaecology unit of the Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) in Jamshoro.

The RHC staff cut off the newborn baby's head in the mother's womb and left it inside her in a botched-up surgery conducted Sunday, he said.

When the woman faced a life-threatening situation, she was rushed to a nearby hospital in Mithi where there were no facilities to treat her. Eventually, her family brought her to the LUMHS where the rest of the body of the newborn was taken out of the mother's womb, saving her life, he said. Sikandar said the baby's head was entrapped inside and the mother's uterus had been ruptured and they had to open up her abdomen surgically and take out the head to save her life.

The horrifying blunder prompted Director General of Sindh Health Services Dr Juman Bahoto to order separate inquiries into the case.

He said the inquiry committees will find out what happened, especially the absence of a gynaecologist and female staffers at the RHC in Chachro.

The inquiry committees will also look into reports that the woman had to undergo the trauma of having her video taken while lying on a stretchers

Lanka curbs Parl sessions



lengthened since the new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed in mid-May.

At the start of today's session Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene said the main opposition's proposal on the 21st

Amendment to the Constitution has been deemed to require a national referendum for most of its provisions which are inconsistent with the Constitution.

The Speaker was reading the determination he received from the Supreme Court.

Sri Lankan Cabinet on Monday approved the 21st Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president. The 21st Amendment is expected to annul the 20A to the Constitution, which gives unfettered powers to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th Amendment that strengthened Parliament.

Musk's daughter files plea to change name

AGENCIES

Washington, June 21: Elon Musk's transgender daughter has filed a request to change her name in accordance with her new gender identity and because "I no longer live with or wish to be related to my biological father in any way, shape or form."

The petition for both a name change and a new birth certificate reflecting her new gender identity

was filed with the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Santa Monica in April. It came to light recently in some online media reports.

The former Xavier Alexander Musk, who recently turned 18, the age of consent in California, has asked the court to change her gender recognition from male to female and to register her new name, according to court documents available online through PlainSite.org.

of the day quote

As we enter into this year, we are seeing green offshoots and a rebound in the consumer sentiments. However, the global uncertainties and macroeconomic challenges remain

VISHAL BHOLA | MD, WHIRLPOOL OF INDIA

Venerate will augment our salesforce consulting practice with significant end-to-end capabilities in the areas of platform engineering, and cloud and managed services

SAJEEV KRISHAN | CHAIRMAN, PWC INDIA

The Indian ecosystem is now entering a new phase. To build world class companies, you have to have world class corporate governance.

RAJAN ANANDAN | MD, SEQUOIA CAPITAL AND SURGE

SHORT TAKES

Hindustan Motors to sell Contessa brand

New Delhi: CK Birla Group firm, Hindustan Motors Ltd Tuesday said it has agreed to sell its 'Contessa' brand to SG Corporate Mobility Pvt Ltd for an undisclosed sum. The company has executed a brand transfer agreement with SG Corporate Mobility Pvt Ltd on June 16, 2022 for the transfer of the Contessa brand, including the trademarks having application number and certain related rights of the brand, Hindustan Motors said in a regulatory filing. The transfer of the brand shall be effective upon fulfilment of the terms and conditions as prescribed in the agreement, it added. Contessa was a premium sedan sold in India by Hindustan Motors during the 1980s to early 2000s. It was positioned above the company's then popular model Ambassador.

Eureka Forbes MD & CEO to step down

New Delhi: Vacuum cleaner and water purifier maker Eureka Forbes has said its managing director and CEO Marzin R Shroff will step down, effectively from August. Shroff, who was leading the company for the last five years, will move to a new role as senior advisor to both Advent International and Eureka Forbes Ltd, said a company statement. "In his new role as senior advisor, Marzin will use his expansive industry knowledge to assist both Advent and Eureka Forbes with managing business risks, cultivating best-in-class talent and building strong leadership," it said. Earlier this year, Shapoorji Pallonji Group had sold its consumer durables business under the Eureka Forbes label to the American private equity fund Advent International.

Britannia to boost its cake portfolio

New Delhi: Bakery food company Britannia Industries will seek to tap opportunities in the cake category through the launch of innovative products at different price points and expansion in rural markets, according to the company's latest annual report. Britannia's strategy is to strengthen the cake portfolio by launching new products, premiumising and growing the base cake portfolio and creating new-to-market formats at affordable price points. "This category offers various opportunities for launch of innovative products at different price points and expansion in rural markets," it said. However, the category also faces a primary threat from inflation in commodity prices and the emergence of disruptive formats at entry-level price points, said Britannia.



All countries are eager to make friendship with India, as we offer huge opportunity and promise.

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

INDIA RANKS FOURTH IN GLOBAL GOLD RECYCLING

India has emerged as the fourth largest gold recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report. According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', China topped the global gold recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy in the second position with 80 tonnes and the US at the third rank with 78 tonnes in 2021.



RBI gives three more months for credit, debit card norms execution

One of the provisions on which more time has been given relates to activation of credit cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 21: The Reserve Bank Tuesday gave three more months to banks and NBFCs issuing credit and debit cards to comply with certain norms including activation of cards without consent of customers.

Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) were to implement the Master Direction on 'Credit Card and Debit Card - Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022' from July 1.

In view of various representations received from the industry stakeholders, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the timeline for implementation of certain provisions of the Master Direction to October 01, 2022, according to a circular issued by the central bank.

One of the provisions on which more time has been given relates to activation of credit card.

As per the Master Direction, card issuers must seek One Time Password (OTP) based consent



Banks and NBFCs were to implement the Master Direction on 'Credit Card and Debit Card - Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022' from July 1

from the cardholder for activating a credit card, if the same has not been activated by the customer for more than 30 days from the date of issuance.

If no consent is received for activating the card, card issuers should close the credit card account without any cost to the customer within seven working days from date of seeking confirmation

from the customer.

Further, card issuers were asked to ensure that the credit limit as sanctioned and advised to the cardholder is not breached at any point of time without seeking explicit consent from the cardholder by July 1. In this case also, they have now been given time till October 1.

The RBI has also postponed implementation of a norm related to unpaid charges and compounding of interest by three months.

As per the Master Directions, there should be no capitalisation of unpaid charges/levies/taxes for charging/compounding of interest.

However, the stipulated timeline of July 1 for implementation of rest of the provisions of the Master Direction remains unchanged, the central bank said.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

VEDANTA HOLDS CAMP



BHUBANESWAR: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, organized a yoga camp on the occasion of International Yoga Day in association with AMRI Hospital and Bhakti Vedanta Institute. A large number of officers, employees and members of Vedanta Aluminium, AMRI Hospital and Bhakti Vedanta Institute participated in the programme organized on AMRI Hospital premises. Rahul Sharma, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, Dr Tapan Kumar Chand, President, Business Development and Strategy, Vedanta Aluminium, and Nilanjana Mukherjee, Unit Head, AMRI Hospital, among others, took part in the event.

NALCO JOINS NATION



BHUBANESWAR: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, joined the nation in observing the 8th edition of International Day of Yoga. Employees along with their family members, school students, teachers and CISF personnel across the operating units and regional offices of the company took part in the exclusive yoga sessions organized on the occasion and participated in the Common Yoga Protocol, apart from witnessing the live telecast of the International Day of Yoga celebrations from Mysuru, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

1-DAY CAMP AT OHPC



BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Hydro Power Corporation celebrated the International Day of Yoga-2022 at its corporate office and units Tuesday. On the occasion, a one-day yoga training programme on the theme "Healthy Living Through Yoga & Pranayama" was conducted by Sri Sri University, Cuttack at the OHPC Training Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Crypto, blockchain, NFT jobs witness 804% rise in India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 21: Job postings for cryptocurrency, blockchain, NFTs have grown 804 per cent between April 2020 to April 2022, according to a report.

The report by global job portal Indeed also revealed an acceleration in the market's demand. In 2022, the increase was 315 per cent.

Job postings in April 2022 were 15 times more than in 2019, highlighting the role of the pandemic in this sustained growth.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fast tracked the adoption of technology across functions in India, hence technology professionals are more in demand than ever before, especially with expertise in newer areas like cryptocurrency, NFTs and blockchain, the report showed.

Application developer is the top job role across this field, followed by data engineer and full stack developer.

The data also shows that crypto roles appear to be one of the biggest share of hires in overall technol-



ogy job roles, increasing from 41.22 per cent in 2019 - 2020 to 67.48 per

Sebi allows MFs to resume investing in global stocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: Capital markets regulator Sebi has permitted mutual funds to again invest in foreign stocks within the aggregate mandated limit of USD 7 billion for the industry.

This came in the wake of a major correction in global markets that brought down the valuation of international stocks.

In January, Sebi had asked mutual fund houses to stop taking fresh subscriptions in schemes investing in overseas stocks. The directive to stop subscription was mainly on account of the mutual fund industry crossing the mandated limit of USD 7 billion for overseas investments.

The recent meltdown in global stocks reduced the cumulative value of investments made by all the mutual fund houses together.

"Mutual fund schemes may resume subscriptions and make investments in overseas funds/securities up to the headroom available without breaching the overseas investment limits as of end-of-day of February 1, 2022, at the mutual fund level," Sebi said in a communication sent to Amfi Friday. Also, the regulator has asked Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) to ensure that the total utilisation of the overseas limit by each AMC or mutual fund remains capped at the February level.



The regulator's approval came after Amfi made a request to Sebi for reviewing investment in overseas securities by mutual funds.

Meanwhile, Edelweiss Mutual Fund announced that it will be accepting inflows in its international schemes from Tuesday.

The schemes are -- ASEAN Equity Off-shore Fund, Greater China Equity Off-shore Fund, US Technology Equity Fund of Fund, Emerging Markets Opportunities Equity Offshore Fund, Europe Dynamic Equity Offshore Fund, US Value Equity Off-shore Fund and MSCI India Domestic & World Healthcare 45 Index Fund.

Following the Sebi's direction, several fund houses, including PPFS Mutual Fund, DSP Mutual Fund and Edelweiss Mutual Fund, had stopped accepting inflows into their certain schemes with international mandates.

Sebi has set an overall industry level limit of USD 7 billion for mutual funds to invest in overseas securities and funds and a separate limit of USD 1 billion for investment in overseas ETFs.

5G subscriptions seen at 500mn by 2027-end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 21: The 5G subscriptions in India will touch 500 million by 2027-end, accounting for 39 per cent of mobile subscribers, according to a report by Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson.

The commercial launches of 5G networks are planned for the second half of 2022 in India, with enhanced mobile broadband expected to be the initial main use case, the Ericsson Mobility Report said.

5G will represent around 39 per cent of mobile subscriptions in the region at the end of 2027, with about 500 million subscriptions, it predicted.

"Total mobile data traffic in the India region is estimated to grow by a factor of four between 2021 and 2027. This is driven by high growth in the number of smartphone users and an increase in average usage per smartphone," Thaw Seng Ng,



Head of Network Evolution, SEA, Oceania and India at Ericsson said.

The average data traffic per smartphone in the India region is the second highest globally.

Further, it is projected to rise from 20 GB per month in 2021 to around 50 GB per month in 2027, growing at 16 per cent CAGR.

In India, where 5G deployments have yet to begin, 5G is expected to account for nearly 40 percent of all subscriptions by 2027. In global terms, 5G is forecast to account for almost half of all subscriptions

PVR-INOX MERGER GETS CLEARANCE FROM BSE, NSE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 21: Multiplex operators PVR and INOX Leisure Tuesday said that they have received clearances for their merger from bourses NSE and BSE.

"The company has received observation letter with 'no adverse observations' dated June 20, 2022 from BSE Ltd and observation letter with 'no objection' dated June 21, 2022 from National Stock Exchange of India Ltd respectively in relation to the scheme of amalgamation," said PVR in a regulatory filing.

This was also confirmed by INOX through an identical regulatory filing.

A 'no objection' certificate from the exchange is a mandatory step for getting clearance from the National Company Law Tribunal and other regulatory authorities for any scheme of amalgamation.

Shares see best day in 3 weeks

AGENCIES

Mumbai, June 21: Indian shares posted their best session in three weeks Tuesday, lifted by sharp gains in metal and technology stocks as investors hunted for bargains in beaten-down sectors following last week's brutal sell-off.

The Sensex and Nifty advanced for the second straight session Tuesday, powered by across-the-board buying amid a bullish trend in global equities.

Index major Reliance Industries and IT stocks saw robust demand after their recent hammering, even as a depreciating rupee and hawkish global central banks weighed on sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 934.23 points or 1.81 per cent to settle at 52,532.07. During the day, it rallied 1,201.56 points or 2.32 per cent to 52,799.40.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty climbed 288.65 points or 1.88 per cent to finish at 15,638.80.



Barring Nestle India, all Sensex components closed in the green. Titan rallied 5.92 per cent, followed by SBI, TCS, HCL Technologies, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, Wipro, Infosys, ITC and Tech Mahindra.

World stocks marched higher on bargain hunting, even as monetary policy tightening by central banks and risks of slowing global growth remained an overhang.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with smart gains, while Shanghai

Musk's \$44 billion Twitter deal gets board endorsement

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, June 21: Twitter's board has recommended unanimously that shareholders approve the proposed \$44 billion sale of the company to billionaire and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, according to a regulatory filing Tuesday.

Musk reiterated his desire to move forward with the acquisition last week during a virtual meeting with Twitter employees, though shares of Twitter remain far below his offering price, signalling considerable doubt that it will happen.



Tuesday at the Qatar Economic Forum in an interview with Bloomberg, Musk listed the approval of the deal by shareholders as one of several "unresolved matters" related to the Twitter deal.

Shares of Twitter Inc were essentially flat just before the opening bell Tuesday and far short of the \$54.20 per share that Musk has offered to pay for each. The company's stock last reached that level April 5 when it offered Musk a seat on the board before he had offered to buy all of Twitter.

executives surveyed across a range of industries believe 5G is a critical technology enabling their digital transformation.

The study highlighted that quality of experience rather than price drives customers to buy 5G, changing the competitive dynamics of India's telecoms market.

The top 5G use cases that enterprises identify are enhanced content streaming, real-time video analytics and control of autonomous vehicles and drones.

Meanwhile, the Ericsson Mobility Report has predicted that current global 5G subscriptions will surpass the one billion milestone by the end of 2022.

The 2027-timeline also includes projections that 5G will account for about 82 per cent of subscriptions in Western Europe; 80 per cent in the Gulf cooperation council region, and 74 per cent in North East Asia.

settled in the red.

The US markets were closed Monday for a holiday. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.57 per cent to USD 115.9 per barrel.

The rupee declined 12 paise to close at 78.10 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth ₹1,217.12 crore Monday, as per exchange data.

DJOKOVIC GETS TOP BILLING

Murray still planning to play

Andy Murray said he remains on course to play at Wimbledon even though he is still being hampered by an abdominal injury which has left him unable to practice fully.

The 35-year-old Briton, who won the grasscourt Grand Slam in 2013 and 2016, sustained the injury during his Stuttgart Open final loss to Matteo Berrettini on June 12.

The former world number one withdrew from last week's Queen's Club Championships and is racing to be fit for Wimbledon, which begins June 27.

"The plan is still to play. The injury is improving. I've had it rescanned and it's progressing in the right way," Murray told British media Monday.

"But you can probably work out from the nature of the injury which shots it is that I've been struggling with and haven't been able to practise. In the next few days I'll start to increase that and test it out. Hopefully it's recovered sufficiently," he said.

Murray, who is now

ranked 51st in the world, looked in good form during the grasscourt swing, reaching the Surbiton Challenger semi-finals before the final at Stuttgart.

"It's frustrating but I played nine matches in two weeks, which I haven't done since 2016," added Murray, who has endured lengthy injury lay-offs in recent years due to hip surgeries.

"My game was obviously in a good place physically. It's frustrating to be in this position in the build-up to

Wimbledon, but the positive for me is I've dealt with certainly worse issues in the last few years and handled them OK," said Murray.

WIMBLEDON MUSINGS

AGENCIES

London, June 21: Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic will head into next week's tournament as the men's top seed with Russian world number one Daniil Medvedev banned from taking part while Germany's second-ranked Alexander Zverev is out injured.

Organisers of the grasscourt Grand Slam have banned players from Russia and Belarus from playing at this year's Wimbledon following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which Russia calls a 'special operation'.

Zverev had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle this month after he was forced to retire from his French Open semi-final against Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic, who was unable to defend his 2021 Australian Open title and the 2,000 ranking points he earned due to his non-vaccinated status against Covid-19, recently lost his world number one spot to Medvedev.

The Serbian, who has won the last three editions of the grasscourt major, will slip further down the rankings after Wimbledon as he will lose another 2,000 points with the ATP and WTA stripping the tournament of points.

The absence of Medvedev and Zverev means Nadal, who is halfway through a possible calendar year Slam after winning the Australian

and French Open titles, to be seeded second.

It also results in Djokovic and Nadal finding themselves in different halves of the draw and they cannot face each other until the men's final on July 10. The duo met in this year's Roland Garros quarter-final where the Spaniard triumphed.

Britain has two players in the top 10 seeds at their home major with Cameron Norrie ninth while U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu is 10th in the absence of Belarussian Aryna Sabalenka.

Poland's world number one Iga Swiatek will be the women's top seed with Estonian Anett Kontaveit the number two.

Wimbledon organisers had previously used a computer-based system favouring results on grasscourts in the previous two years to determine the seedings but from the 2021 edition seedings mirror the world rankings.



Ramanathan, Bhambri out in 1st round

India's singles players yet again failed to cross the qualifying hurdle at the Grand Slam stage as both Ramkumar Ramanathan and Yuki Bhambri exited the Wimbledon championships with first round defeats.

Bhambri lost to top seed from Spain Bernabe Zapata Miralles 5-7 1-6 while Ramkumar fell 5-7 4-6 to Czech Republic's Vit Koprivá Monday night.

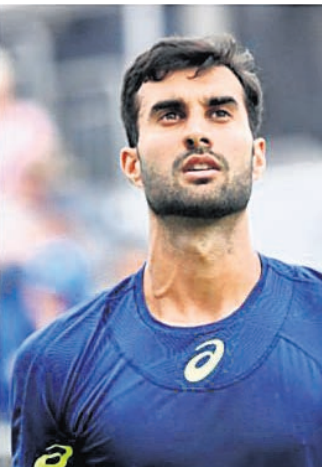
The 29-year-old Bhambri got off a flying start as he got an early break in the opening set and, at one point, was leading 5-3.

However, despite Bhambri being in an advantageous position, squandered two set points and it was Miralles who took the lead.

The second set, however, was a drab affair and Bhambri was eliminated from the grass court event.



Ramanathan, on the other hand, India's no.1 ranked tennis player, took on the 19th seed Koprivá, and the script turned



out to be something similar. The 27-year-old Ramanathan, thanks to his aces and winners, looked comfortable but lost steam

soon after to lose the opening set.

He made a desperate attempt to bring things at level and even led 3-1 lead in the second but Koprivá bagged four games on the trot to regain control over the proceedings.

With both Bhambri and Ramanathan bowing out, Sania Mirza, who is in her last year on tour, remains the only Indian confirmed to play at SW19 this year.

The 35-year-old former double's world number one will be all set to feature in the women's double draw alongside her partner Lucie Hradecká of Czech Republic.

Rohan Bopanna has decided not to play this event since ATP is not offering points this year as Russian and Belarusian players have been banned from competing by the organisers in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

American tennis player Sebastian Korda pulls out

American tennis player Sebastian Korda has pulled out of Wimbledon, scheduled to commence June 27, as he is dealing with "terrible shin splints" and "beaten up feet".

The 21-year-old world No 46 had made his Wimbledon debut last year and announced his withdrawal late on Monday after his round-of-32 loss at Eastbourne to Australian John Millman.

The young American had a great debut Wimbledon season in 2021, reaching the quarterfinal before bowing out to Karen Khachanov of Russia. He kicked off this grasscourt season in Halle, where he lost to Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain the round-of-16.

"Hi all. Sadly I had to withdraw from Wimbledon after my match in Eastbourne (Monday). I have

been dealing with terrible shin splints and beaten up feet for quite some time now and can't go on

with it anymore. I have been advised to rest and recuperate is the best way forward," tweeted Korda.



ICC WOMEN'S ODI RANKINGS

Mandhana steady at 8th, Jhulan slips to 6th



AGENCIES

Dubai, June 21: Star opener Smriti Mandhana held on to her eighth position but veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami slipped a spot in the bowler's list in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings issued here on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Mandhana, who has scored 411 runs in ODIs this year from nine matches, including a century against the West Indies at the World Cup earlier this year, is the lone Indian in the top 10 of the batting chart which is headed by Australian Alyssa Hailey followed by England's Natalie Sciver.

Goswami, on the other hand, slipped one spot to number six in the bowler's rankings. The 39-year-old has played nine ODI games this year and has scalped 12 wickets so far.

Goswami lost her position to Proteas pacer Ayabonga Khaka after her brilliant performance in South Africa's ODI series sweep against Ireland. England's Sophie Ecclestone and South Africa's Jen Jonassen continue to remain in the first and second positions respectively among bowlers.

Khaka made the biggest impression on the bowler rankings as she jumped two places to fifth after an eye-catching series against Ireland. While Khaka only managed two wickets for the series, the right-

armer was near unplayable for many of the young Ireland batters and finished the three matches with an economy rate of just 1.40.

That helped Khaka jump in front of India pacer Jhulan Goswami - who dropped to sixth - and experienced team-mate Marizanne Kapp, and into fifth on the latest bowler rankings behind first-placed England spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

Stylish South Africa opener Laura Wolvaardt made big gains in the latest rankings after dominant performances during her recent ODI series sweep over Ireland.

Wolvaardt's superb innings of 89 in the third and final match in Dublin came just at the right time as it catapulted the right-hander past Australia skipper Meg Lanning and into fourth place on the latest rankings for batters. Australia's Alyssa Healy continues to lead the charts with 785 points.

It was the only change inside the top 10 for batters, but fellow South Africa batter Lara Goodall - who was the leading run-scorer for the series with 143 runs - shot up 15 places to 43rd following an unbeaten 93 in the second match.

In the all-rounder's list, another Indian Deepti Sharma remained static in the seventh position. South Africa captain Sune Luus moved up four places to ninth on the rankings for all-rounders. England's Nat Sciver remains the top-ranked all-rounder.

Australia mulling bid to host 2023 Asian Cup

REUTERS

Melbourne, June 21: Australia is weighing up a bid to host the 2023 Asian Cup following China's decision to relinquish its rights to the tournament, Football Australia said on Tuesday.

China was to host the tournament in June and July next year but the country's resolve to maintain a zero-Covid policy has resulted in the 24-team event being moved.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) invited bids for 2023 last month, saying interested parties must confirm by June 30.



"We are having discussions with the AFC and government in parallel as we determine the process and our interest," a Football Australia spokesperson said. The Australian government declined to comment on whether it supported a bid.

"The decision to bid sits with Football Australia, as the relevant national sporting organisation," federal sports minister Anika Wells said in a statement.

South Korea confirmed on Monday that it will bid for 2023, while Japan said last month that it had been informally approached about making a bid.

Australia already has a busy 2023 planned as co-hosts of the Women's World Cup with New Zealand, which starts July 20.

Australia hosted and won the Asian Cup in January 2015, with former coach Ange Postecoglou leading the Socceroos to their first title in the continental showpiece.

The country's interest may hinge upon the AFC's willingness to shift the tournament away from the mid-year slot planned for China, given the potential clash with the Women's World Cup and the high demand for stadia from rival sports during Australia's winter.

Ashwin tests positive for Covid: BCCI source



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 21: Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has not travelled to the United Kingdom along with his India team-mates for the one-off 'fifth Test' after testing positive for Covid-19, a BCCI source told PTT.

Ashwin is currently in quarantine and will only join the squad after meeting all protocols requirements. The Indian team had left for UK June 16.

"Ashwin hasn't travelled with the squad to UK as he has tested positive for Covid-19 before departure. But we are hopeful that he will recover well in time before the Test match starts on July 1," the BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity.

"However, he might miss the practice game against Leicestershire," the source added.

After the IPL, Ashwin had played a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) League red-ball match where he had bowled 20 overs to get some long form game time.

The rest of the Indian squad is already in Leicester and started training under the supervision of bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and batting coach Vikram Rathour.

Rahul Dravid, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer have reached London after finishing the T-20I assignment against South Africa. The Ireland-bound squad under VVS Laxman will leave for Dublin either June 23 or 24 as the team members have been given a three-day rest.

FIFA extends Ukrainian club contract rules for next season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, June 21: Seeking to protect Ukrainian soccer clubs during the Russian military invasion, FIFA Tuesday extended emergency contract rules for foreign players and coaches through next season.

FIFA's move aims to give clarity and security for clubs with some staff likely leaving on loan deals while the direction of the war is unclear.

Interim rules first applied by FIFA in March let soccer employees from abroad get out of their contracts in Ukraine and Russia for the rest of the season that just ended.

Ukrainian clubs had stopped playing during the war and in Russia some coaches and players declined to continue with clubs there. With the European off-season transfer period now starting, Ukraine's top club Shakhtar Donetsk warned this month that some agents were trying "to take our players for free" and exploit the uncertainty.

FIFA said Ukrainian and Russian clubs have until June 30 to reach agreements with overseas players and coaches, who would then "have the right to suspend their employment contracts" for one year.

"These provisions give players and coaches the opportunity to train, play and receive a salary, while protecting Ukrainian clubs and facilitating the departure of foreign players and coaches from Russia," FIFA said in a statement.

The Ukrainian Premier League aims to start a new season in August, and Dynamo Kyiv is due to start in Champions League qualifying rounds July 19 or 20. Dynamo has been drawn to face Fenerbahce.



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Shakhtar has a direct entry into the Champions League group stage in September. Sporting director Darijo Srna told The Associated Press this month the Shakhtar lineup would be mostly young Ukrainian players. The club has typically had a core of Brazilian players in the past 15 years.

FIFA also amended its rules protecting young players from international trafficking, and will allow "minors fleeing Ukraine to other countries with their parents" to sign with a club in a different country before their 18th birthday.