



DISHA 'HATES' HERSELF

Disha Patani who is currently busy in promotion of 'Ek Villain Returns' admits that she hates to see herself on screen

LEISURE

P2



RELENTLESS RUSSIA

Russian missiles hit Odesa, threatening a landmark deal signed to unblock grain exports to ease global food crisis

INTERNATIONAL

P10



INDIA TAKE LEAD

India take 1-0 lead in the ODI series with a thrilling three-run win in the first match against the West Indies

SPORTS

P12

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SHORT TAKES

Monkeypox a global emergency: WHO

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said the expanding monkeypox outbreak in more than 70 countries is an "extraordinary" situation that now qualifies as a global emergency, a declaration Saturday that could spur further investment in treating the once-rare disease and worsen the scramble for scarce vaccines. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the decision to issue the declaration despite a lack of consensus among members of WHO's emergency committee. It was the first time the chief of the UN Health agency has taken such an action. "We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly through new modes of transmission about which we understand too little and which meets the criteria in the international health regulations," Tedros said. **MORE P10**

Chilika MLA's bail plea opposed in SC

NEW DELHI: Odisha police has opposed the bail petition filed by Chilika MLA Prasanta Jagadev in the Supreme Court and said that the MLA is a habitual offender having as many as 13 cases registered against him. In an affidavit, filed through advocate Sibho Sankar Mishra, the state police submitted to the apex court that the legislator was granted bail in other cases on the condition that he would not commit any crime. But the MLA has violated the bail condition by committing more heinous crimes and an application also filed for cancellation of bail granted in other cases, the police said. Opposing the bail petition, the police said that it may not be safe for witnesses if the petitioner is enlarged at this stage. **MORE P3**

Bengal minister held over school jobs scam

KOLKATA: West Bengal Industry and Commerce Minister Partha Chatterjee was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday in connection with the investigation into the alleged school jobs scam, an official of the agency said. He was later produced before a judge in Bankshall court here and sent to the ED custody for two days. The Trinamool Congress secretary general, who was the state education minister when the alleged irregularities took place, was arrested after around 26 hours of grilling in his residence in connection with the probe since Friday morning. ED also arrested Chatterjee's close aide Arpita Mukherjee, from whose property ₹21 crore in cash was seized during a raid on Friday, the agency official said. **MORE P7**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



| WEATHER | | |
|----------|----------------------|--------|
| | BHUB | CTK |
| TEMP MAX | 29.7°C | 29.2°C |
| MIN | 24.5°C | 25.0°C |
| Humidity | 91% | 95% |
| Rainfall | 25mm | 11mm |
| | Generally cloudy sky | |



MONSOON MAYHEM: Communication between Junagarh and Dharmagarh towns in Kalahandi district was disrupted Saturday after surging floodwaters of Haler creek washed away an approach road and a bridge connecting National Highway-130 (C)

Tricolour can fly at night too

The Union government amends Flag Code of India, 2002 ahead of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign that begins August 13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The Centre has changed the country's flag code by allowing the tricolour to fly both day and night and be machine-made besides use of polyester.

The move came as the government is going to launch a 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (hoisting of flag in every home) from August 13 to 15 as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

In a letter to secretaries of all central ministries and departments, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla said the display, hoisting and use of the Indian national flag is governed by the Flag Code of India, 2002 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

The Flag Code of India, 2002 has been further amended through an order July 20, 2022 and clause (xi) of paragraph 22 of Part-II of the Flag



Code of India, 2002 shall now be read as under: (xi) "where the Flag is displayed in open or displayed on the house of a member of public, it may be flown day and night".

Earlier, the tricolour was allowed to be flown from sunrise to sunset, irrespective of weather

conditions.

Similarly, paragraph 1.2 of Part-I of the Flag Code of India, 2002 shall now be read as under: 1.2. "The National Flag shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/ polyester/ wool/ silk khadi bunting."

Earlier, machine made and polyester flags were not allowed to be used. 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is being celebrated to commemorate 75 years of a progressive independent India.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign has been launched to encourage the citizens to hoist the national flag in their homes from August 13 to 15.

The home secretary also enclosed with his letter the salient features of the Flag Code including the changes made December, 30, 2021 and July 20, 2022 and the frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the use and display of the national flag.

"You are requested to ensure that these are widely disseminated among various organisations, PSUs under your administrative control," the home secretary said in his letter.

ACTOR BABUSHAAN IN SOUP OVER 'AFFAIR'

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: An actor, his wife, an actress, multiple cameras and a high-voltage fracas over an alleged extramarital affair in broad daylight. It was not some scripted scene being shot for a film about a love triangle, but a real-life feud as actor Babushaan Mohanty's marital dispute spilled onto the streets of Bhubaneswar.

High drama unfolded in Satya Nagar area in the morning as Trupti Satapathy intercepted a white SUV, which was being driven by her husband with actress Prakuti Mishra sitting beside him.

Allegations and counter allegations flew thick and fast as multiple videos of the unprecedented scenes went viral online, leaving the state glued to their mobile phones or television. Satapathy was seen trying to drag Mohanty out of the car. His T-shirt was torn as locals took out their mobile phones to record the fracas, which was going on amid light drizzle.



"Please brother, please help me!" Mishra pleaded from the front seat to those recording the videos as Satapathy appeared to grab the actress and her hair from the back seat in order to stop her from escaping. An unidentified person could be seen taking a selfie as the actress was battling the assault. It was not clear where Mohanty was at that time. **Contd...P4**

Kangaroo courts by media bane of healthy democracy: Ramana

■ *Ill-informed and agenda-driven debates on issues involving justice delivery are proving to be detrimental to the health of democracy, says the CJI*

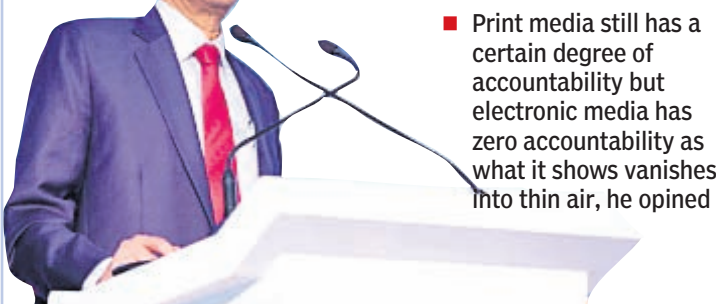
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: Chief Justice NV Ramana Saturday hit out at electronic and social media 'trials', saying that media run 'kangaroo courts' at times on issues and even experienced judges find it difficult to decide.

Speaking at the inaugural 'Justice SB Sinha Memorial Lecture' on "Life of a Judge" organised by National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi, the Chief Justice stressed the need to ensure proper judicial infrastructure, the problems created by media trial in judicial administration, future challenges of the judiciary and the importance of judicial review in protection of the Constitution.

Asserting that we are living in a complex society, Ramana said that the role of a person holding a position in the judiciary or governance becomes extremely crucial as their decisions at critical junctures influence the growth and progress of humanity. "Doing justice is not an easy re-

■ The CJI said biased views propagated by media are affecting people, weakening democracy, and harming the system



■ Print media still has a certain degree of accountability but electronic media has zero accountability as what it shows vanishes into thin air, he opined

sponsibility. It is becoming increasingly challenging with each passing day," he said, pointing out the increasing number of media trials.

"New media tools have the enormous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between the right and the wrong, the good and the bad and the real and the fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases," he said in the speech.

Rapping the biased views appearing on social media, he said, "Ill-informed and agenda-driven debates on issues involving justice delivery are proving to be detrimental to the health of democracy."

He said further that biased views propagated by media are affecting peo-

ple, weakening democracy, and harming the system.

In the process, justice delivery gets adversely affected. "By overstepping and breaching your responsibility, you are taking our democracy two steps backward," he blasted.

Print media still has a certain degree of accountability, he said, adding that electronic media has zero accountability as what it shows vanishes into thin air.

At times, there are concerted campaigns in media, particularly on social media, against judges, he said.

Owing to the frequent transgressions and consequent social unrest, there is a growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability, CJI Ramana said.

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FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

So, busy bee, you finally realise you've been ignoring your near and dear. And now, it's going to cost you a lot of effort to make it up to them. Dinner at the finest restaurant, a trip to the theatre, shopping at a posh boutique... be ready to splurge, says Ganesh!

TAURUS

Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesh. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out.

GEMINI

The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesh. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.

CANCER

It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesh. All you need is a little attitude adjustment.

LEO

When it comes to maintaining a balance in any relationship, you set an example for others to follow. It is like an inner light guides you towards joyful coexistence, though, at times, it may entail making certain acts of sacrifice, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Open the mind gates and let your imagination flow, says Ganesh. At your creative best, you will pursue innovation and creativity today. Luck will be on your side and even those things that you took a risk on may lean your way.

LIBRA

Everyone has a dream, but only few have the fortune to realise them. Be among the lucky ones today as you see your dream project materialise and take its first steps towards a successful future. But all good things have humble beginnings.

SCORPIO

You are a visionary and today you work towards building a successful future. But, expecting an instant result would be unfair. You need to have patience to bring in those dynamic changes in your life. Wait and watch, the patience would reap sweet fruits!

SAGITTARIUS

As Ganesh foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. It was fun being kid, isn't it?

CAPRICORN

Not everyday is the same day. And, today is one of those days when you feel extremely confused, feels Ganesh. While you won't be able to get rid off negative emotions, your hard work will be paid off and lay a strong foundation for future. You'll not understand whether to feel good about your achievements or experience sadness of confusion. Ganesh throws light on your path and advises you to keep a calm head over your shoulders.

AQUARIUS

Bursting with new ideas, you want to make the world a better place! You will give your best in a team and will come up with great schemes and solutions. At gatherings and social dos, says Ganesh, you will remain your charming self, impressing people with an amazing social grace.

PISCES

Home is where the hearth is, in which the troubles you need to deal with today are smouldering. Running away from your problems will simply have you out of breath; it would be wiser to take a stand and find solutions to petty conflicts without losing your perspective. Make no mountains out of mole hills, says Ganesh.



'JOHN WICK 4' TRAILER PACKED WITH SKULL BASHING, GUN-FU

Brand new footage for Chad Stahelski's 'John Wick: Chapter 4' was released as Keanu Reeves surprised the crowd at the San Diego Comic-Con with a fresh look at the beloved action hero, who's back in action yet again

'LORD OF THE RINGS' WEB SERIES TRAILER UNLOCKS TOLKIEN'S SPECTACULAR UNIVERSE

The trailer of the upcoming webseries 'Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power', was unveiled on Friday evening in Mumbai. The trailer was specially clocked to release closer to midnight. The series brings to screens the heroic legends of the fabled Second Age of Middle-earth's history.



Disha Patani hates to see herself on screen

Mumbai: 'Malang' actress Disha Patani who is currently busy in the promotion of "Ek Villain Returns" along with John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor and Tara Sutaria admitted that she hates to see herself on screen.

The actress, during a recent interview, said that every time she is watching her films she covers up her eyes.

During the interview, Disha was asked about the common perception if she is perfect in every sense. The actress promptly answered that she just closes her eyes almost every time she watches herself on the screen.

On the professional front, Disha Patani will be next seen in Mohit Suri's 'Ek Villain Returns'. The film is all set to release on July 29. The film also has John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor and Tara Sutaria in the lead.

Meanwhile, Disha Patani and John Abraham's crackling chemistry has already upped the excitement bar. However, buzz is strong that the makers had to make certain changes in order to get censor certification for the films.

The action thriller is the sequel to the 2014 film 'Ek Villain' which had Sidharth Malhotra, Shraddha Kapoor and Riteish Deshmukh in key roles.

'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai' actor passes away

New Delhi: 'Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai' actor Deepesh Bhan, who played Malkhan in the popular sitcom passed away Saturday morning.

Sometimes on weekends, after his workout, he used to play cricket in his neighborhood. While playing cricket, he collapsed and died.

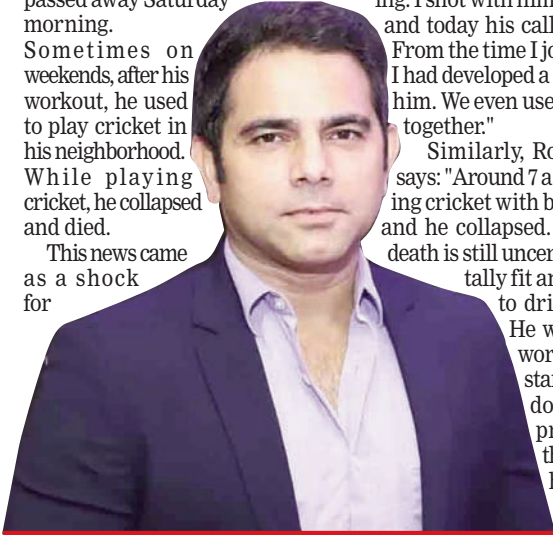
This news came as a shock for

his family and industry friends.

His co-star Charrul Malik (who plays Rusa) says: "It is very shocking. I shot with him yesterday only and today his call time was late. From the time I joined 'Bhabhiji' I had developed a good bond with him. We even used to make reels together."

Similarly, Rohitashv Gaur says: "Around 7 a.m. he was playing cricket with building friends and he collapsed. The reason of death is still uncertain. He was totally fit and neither used to drink nor smoke.

He was a delight to work with as a co-star and he used to do excellent improvisations on the set and added his zing to the scenes."



Urmila feels lucky to be the 'bahu' of Kashmir

Mumbai: From Bhagyashree Dassani's parents not attending her wedding to Urmila Matondkar feeling lucky for getting married to a person from Kashmir, 'DID Super Mom' judges shared their wedding secrets during the 'Shaadi Special' episode.

Urmila praised the contestants and said that she feels lucky for getting married to a person who belongs to a beautiful place like Kashmir.

"The act truly made me nostalgic and made me feel so lucky to have my husband in my life. To be honest, I am married to a person who belongs to the most heavenly place in this world - Kashmir. I still remember, before marriage, I used to roam almost everywhere, both nationally as well as internationally, but I never visited Kashmir," she said.

"In fact, after my marriage, I went to Kashmir for the first time, and was really amazed and mesmerised to see the real Jannat on this earth with my better half. I wished I had gone earlier, but I guess it was destiny," concluded Urmila.

Anushka Sen to host 'Not Just A Chat Show'

Mumbai: Anushka Sen, who was on the cast of the historical drama 'Jhansi Ki Rani' and was also seen in the stunt-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11', will host a talk show titled 'Not Just A Chat Show'.

In the four episode show, Anushka will have conversations with celebrities such as Krystle D'Souza, Ridhima Pandit, television chef Shipra Khanna, and the aesthetic physician, Dr Monica Jacob.

The show's format is informal and celebrities will be seen sharing BTS moments and gossip. In a candid conversation with the host, they will be discussing their work, food habits, skincare

and personal life.

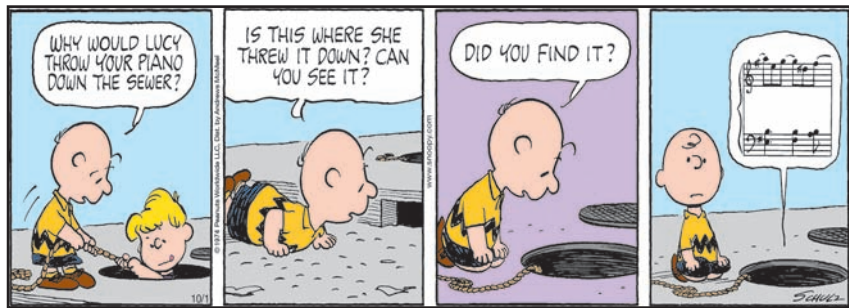
Anushka says: "I am all excited and jittery as this is my first show as an anchor. I have never hosted a chat show before and therefore when they offered me, I said yes without batting an

eyelid. The concept of the show is extremely unique, without a set of pre-drafted questions."

'Not Just A Chat Show' is starting on July 24 on Zee Cafe. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

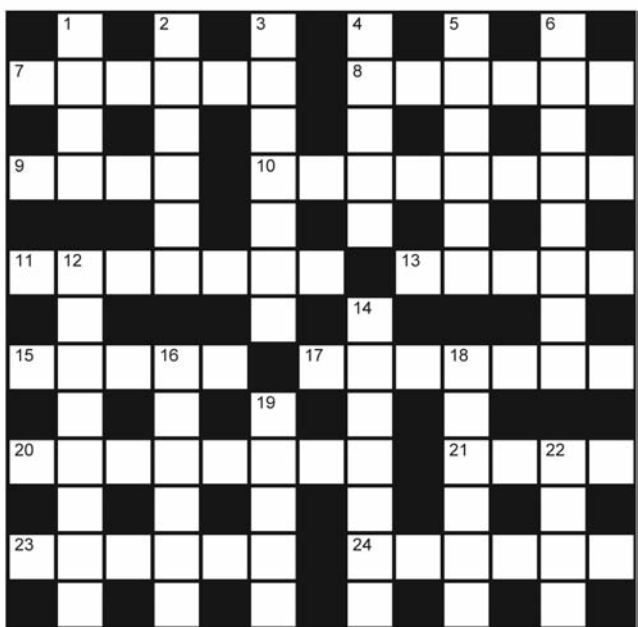


BREVITY



FUN post

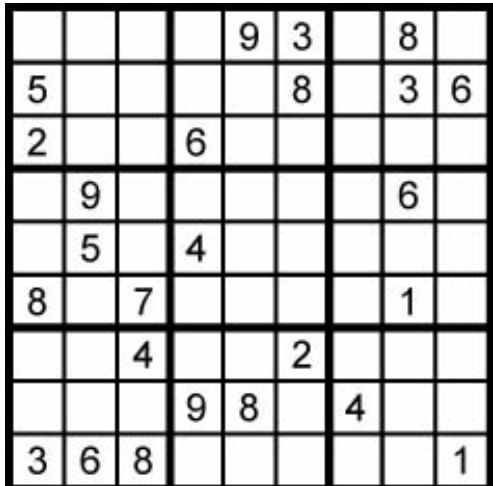
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Mexican cloak
 - 8 Esoteric
 - 9 Footwear
 - 10 Onion plant
 - 11 White ant
 - 13 Spring bloom
 - 15 Fool
 - 17 Venezuelan statesman
 - 20 Photograph
 - 21 Mouselike animal
 - 23 Food grain
 - 24 Type of policy
 - Down**
 - 1 Genesis skipper
 - 2 Shout
 - 3 Trinket
 - 4 Impertinent
 - 5 Predicament
 - 6 Sleep disorder
 - 12 Heightened
 - 14 Roman Catholic Pope
 - 16 Weak person
 - 18 Commit funds
 - 19 Blackboard item
 - 22 Incline

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Odisha Police opposes Jagadev's bail plea in SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 23: The Odisha Police has opposed the bail petition of MLA Prasanta Jagadev in the Supreme Court on a case wherein the legislator is accused of ramming his SUV into a crowd near Banpur block in Khurda district of Odisha injuring many in March this year.

The Odisha Police informed the apex court that Jagadev is a habitual offender having as many as 13 cases registered against him.

In an affidavit, filed through advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra, the Odisha Police submitted that the Chilika MLA was granted bail in other cases with riders that he would not commit any crime. But the MLA has violated the bail condition by committing more heinous crimes and an application has also been filed for cancellation of the bail granted in other cases, the police said.

Opposing Jagadev's petition, the police said it may not be safe for witnesses if the petitioner is granted bail at this stage. The police also rejected Jagadev's claim that the people suffered minor injuries in the incident.

The police said that out of 20 victims, 18 sustained simple injuries while two including a SHO received grievous injuries. One in-



The Chilika MLA is accused of ramming his SUV into a crowd near Banpur block in Khurda district of Odisha injuring many in March this year

The Odisha Police informed the apex court that Jagadev is a habitual offender having as many as 13 cases registered against him

THE POLICE SAID IT MAY NOT BE SAFE FOR WITNESSES IF THE PETITIONER IS GRANTED BAIL AT THIS STAGE

jured person is yet to recover and he has been bedridden for last five months, the police said.

"The MLA was driving the SUV without a driving licence. The vehicle had also a fake number plate," the police said.

Notably, the Orissa High Court had rejected the bail application of Jagadev May 20. The HC asked him to surrender before a court

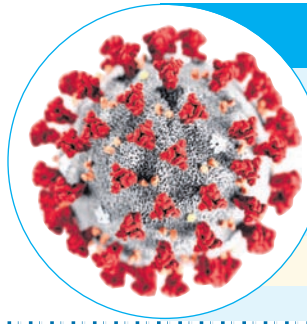
in Banpur with the end of his interim bail period. Jagadev filed a special leave petition in the apex court challenging the decision of the High Court.

Jagdev has been charged with serious offences like attempt to murder, obstructing police personnel from performing their duty, injuring public and using car as weapon to hurt people.



HELPING HAND

DCP Pinak Mishra hands over stolen mobile phones to their rightful owners in Cuttack, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 57,42,37,027 | 54,38,97,370 | 64,01,841 |
| India | 4,38,68,476 | 4,31,92,379 | 5,25,997 |
| Odisha | 13,05,499 | 12,89,885 | 9,131 |

CITY SHOW



Artistes during staging of play *Emitika Patutie* at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Cong MLAs create ruckus in House over ED summons to Sonia Gandhi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: For the second time, Congress MLAs created a ruckus in state Assembly over Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi, Saturday.

During zero hour, Congress members rushed into the well and created a ruckus over the issue. Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati alleged that an attempt is being made by the Narendra Modi government at the Centre to suppress the voice of the Opposition by serving notices through Central agencies like CBI and ED.

On the other hand, BJP said that the summons and notices are being served after getting substantial evidence. Earlier, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi raised the issue over the seizure of about Rs 20 crore from a West Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee by the ED.

Countering it, Congress MLA SS Saluja said issues related to a person, who is not a member of the



Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati alleged that an attempt is being made by the Modi government to suppress the voice of the Opposition by serving notices through Central agencies like CBI and ED

House, should not be raised, as per the tradition. However, the BJP repeatedly raised such issues, he said.

A heated argument ensued between the members of both parties following which the Congress members trooped into the well and created a ruckus over the issue.

Last Thursday, the House witnessed uproarious scenes over the

ED's questioning of Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi in connection with an alleged money laundering case.

After witnessing a face-off situation between Opposition Congress and BJP members, Speaker BK Arukha adjourned the House for 10 minutes and then till 4 pm.



Senior officials during the inauguration of Quick Response Service of Odisha Fire Brigade in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. An advanced fire tender was flagged off on the occasion

OP PHOTO

Coffee cultivation checks migration among tribals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koraput, July 23: "Life has transformed due to coffee. Although work was available, it took months to get the money. However, now the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha Limited (TDCCOL) comes home and buys coffee berries directly from us. We pluck the berries at night and send them for processing; we also receive the money within the day. This year alone, I earned a profit of Rs 21,500, selling 480 kg of coffee berries," says Balram Huntal of Kiramba village, Nandpur block.

Koraput, nestled in the hilly terrain of the Eastern Ghats, at an altitude of 3,000 ft above sea level, is ideal for coffee cultivation due to its cool climate and favourable rainfall. However, before coffee became a viable economic possibility, distressed migration was the only option, with most tribal families travelling from Koraput to Odisha's neighbouring states yearly.

The scarcity of employment opportunities, climate change-induced environmental factors, poor agricultural production, lack of irrigation and drought, deforestation, inadequate food security, low working wages, economic deprivation, exploitation by moneylenders or middlemen, deplorable working conditions, excessive debt, and an overall bleak prospect of surviving with dignity forced people to leave their homes and seek better options. Keeping these socio-economic roadblocks in mind, the district administration has tried to provide alternative employment through coffee cultivation to those workers who do not hold job cards. The government is extending support to the adivasis from Koraput, Nandpur, Dasmantpur, Laxmipur, and Lamatput; two coffee nurseries have been set up in Nandpur, Lamatput and Dasmantpur; and one each in Koraput, Similiguda and Laxmipur.

District Labour Officer Prasno Panigrahi tells 101Reporters: "As many as 9,940 people migrated for work from the



district during the Covid-19 pandemic. Of this, 3,843 migrant construction workers returned. Of these, 2,678 were unskilled and 172 went to work at brick kilns. Many of them are now employed as labourers at coffee plantations."

Manik Kooda of Golar village, Nandpur block, says: "Three self-help groups (SHG) in the villages have been involved in growing and selling coffee, earning more than Rs 40,000 yearly. This year, our profit margin rose by Rs 12,000 per SHG. This crop has, indeed, brought about a remarkable change in the lives of the tribal people, who mainly practised shifting cultivation, or podu, for generations.

"We've been growing coffee since 2012 but did not get much money out of it because traders used to buy from us at Rs 10 to 15 per kg. However, TDCCOL started buying it at Rs 35 per kg. Last year, with the help of the Coffee Board, the Coffee Development Trust, and the district administration, we began to sell at Rs 45 per kg."

"Earlier families were supported through daily working wages. But now, I earn some money by cultivating coffee on 2 acres and selling 294kg of coffee berries. Besides coffee, we cultivate black pepper and dragon fruit, which has led to economic recovery. The Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) has also provided us employment as labourers working in the coffee nursery for the past eight months," Badnayak adds.

"Every year, the whole family used to go to Andhra Pradesh in search of work.

Due to the unavailability of work at the time of Covid, we borrowed a lot of money," recalls one Diba Jani of Punjisil village, Dasmantapur block. "My children even had to drop out of school. But with the help of TDCCOL, we sold 750kg of coffee in 2021 and made a profit of Rs 34,000. Now, I can work on my land in my village, and the children have also resumed school."

Until a few years ago, Sumoni Dami of Ghumar village under Lamtaput block would travel to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh or Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh in October-November in search for work. They were forced to migrate with their entire family, looking for a means to earn a living and escape the looming threat of Naxalites within their native village.

The situation has since improved, as Dami and other farmers from the village are now keen on coffee cultivation after the government gave them incentives. For the past eight months, they have received funds to grow coffee in government nurseries, using scientific techniques prescribed by the Coffee Board and cultivating the crop on their own farmlands. Sasmita Samantaray, OLM project manager in charge of coffee nurseries says that for the first time, through the cultivation of coffee, people have won their rights. Starting from seedlings, farmers can cultivate in their authorised hill lands and earn a profit through the berries.

"Presently, the government has sanctioned the official papers of the hill forest land under the forest land rights, wherein people receive encouragement and support to cultivate coffee. Beyond the coffee nursery, the sale of fertilisers and garden soil through the efforts of women's SHGs is also paving the path for new employment," she adds.

According to Director, Migration & Education, at Aide Action International Umi Daniel, in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, around 2 lakh migrant labourers returned to undivided Koraput, of whom, a high number of adivasis had travelled to Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh to work at brick factories.

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| REGIONAL OFFICE : CUTTACK, M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph.: 0674-2537900 | | | | |
| SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | | | | |
| E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/immovale Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 . Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/ immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/symbolic/physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.08.2022 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM for recovery of outstanding dues to the Union Bank of India from the Borrowers & Guarantors mentioned below . The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit is stated in the column respectively . | | | | |
| Sl. No. | BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagees/Co-Applicants/ Co-Obligants/Outstanding Dues | Description of Properties to be Auctioned | Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment | Account Details for EMD Submission |
| 1. | JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 9439799686 Borrower: Mrs Malaka Taranum, W/o: Mr Taaz Uddin Noorani (Late), Prop.: M/s Taaz Traders, At: Talapatka, PO.: Anakhia, P.S: Biridi, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754102 . / Outstanding: Rs.10,58,511.35 as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses . | All the piece and parcel of Land and residential building belonging to Late Mr. Taaz Uddin Nuran, S/o-Mr Fayaz Uddin Khan over khata no. -193/17, Plot No-417, Mouza-Talapatak, Tahasil/Ps.-Biridi (No-80), Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754102, Total Land Area - Ac 0.060 Dec (2613.6 Sq Ft). Property is bounded by North:Tabir Khan, South:Village Road, East :Road, West :Kalim Khan . | Rs.6,66,000/- / Rs.66,600/- / Rs.10,000/- | Account No.: 600101980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0560014 |
| 2. | JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 9439799686 Borrower: Mr Khirod Sethi, Prop.: M/s Swostik, Guarantor: Smt Pushpalata Sethi, both are resident of At: Bagasahi, Jagatsinghpur, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Pin- 754103 . / Outstanding: Rs.6,75,353.56 as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses . | All that part and parcel of Land over Plot No. 87/ 4931, 88/4932, Khata No-275/18, Mouza-Mukundapur, Tahasil-Jagatsinghpur (No-252), Ps-Jagatsinghpur (No-252), Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754103, Total Land Area-Ac 0.3970 Dec. standing in the name of Mr Khirod Kumar Sethi, S/o Late Krishna Sethi. Property is bounded by North:SubarnaBarahiThakurani, South: Road, East:ThakuraniRoad, West: Road . | Rs1,20,08,000/- / Rs.12,00,800/- / Rs.10,000/- | Account No.: 600101980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0560014 |
| 3. | CDA BIDANASHI BRANCH, Mob.: 8000090330 Borrowers: (1) Mr Prasant Kumar Das, S/o: Late Bholanath Das, (2) Mr Tushar Ranjan Das, S/o: Mr Prasant Kumar Das, Guarantor: Mrs Mira Das, W/o: Mr Prasant Kumar Das, all are resident of At: Sabalpur, Bentkar, Cuttack, Odisha-754112 . /Outstanding: Rs.19,66,654.08 as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses . | All the piece and parcel of Land and residential building belonging to Mrs. Meera Das, W/o: Mr Prasant Kumar Das, At: Sabalpur, Po- Bentkar, Ps- Cuttack Sadar, Dist-Cuttack, Over plot no. 617 (Area Ac 0.080 Dec) & 618 (Area Ac 0.180 Dec), Khata No.-223/37, Tahasil: Cuttack-754112, No-323 Thana: Cuttack, Sadar No.-117 Mouza-Sabalpur, Kissan: Gharabari-I, Total Area: Ac 0.260 Dec., Property is bounded by North:Road, South:Plot No 619, East: Road, West: Plot No 616 & 621. | Rs.61,79,000/- / Rs.6,17,900/- / Rs.10,000/- | Account No.: 588601980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0558869 |
| 4. | ANUGUL e-CB BRANCH, Mob.: 9938003368 Borrower: M/s RP Associates, Prop.: Pranaya Kumar Mohanty, C/o: Shantilata Mishra, Nigamananda Lane, Similapada, Anugul, Pin-759122, Guarantor: Mr Basudev Sahoo, S/o: Rama Chandra Sahoo, C/o: Brajamoohan Pradhan, 6th Lane, Amalapada, Anugul, Pin-759122 . Outstanding: Rs.18,97,394.75 as on 30.06.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses . | All the piece and parcel of Vacant Land belonging to Mr Pranaya Kumar Mohanty, S/o: Mr Abhyaya Kumar Mohanty over plot no. -1078/1881/3096/ 3685, Khata No.-542/1449, Mouza- Ranigoda Jungle, TS- Banarpal, PS-Anugul No-66, Dist-Anugul At-Adarsh Nagra, Baliapada, Near Baliapada Pond, Po-Ranigoda, PS/Dist-Anugul, Odisha, Pin -759123 Area Ac 0.060 Dec., Property is bounded by- North:Plot No 1882, South: Govt Road, East: Mr Dinabandhu Jena, West : Mr Basudev Sahoo . | Rs.4,60,000/- / Rs.46,000/- / Rs.10,000/- | Account No.: 143321980050000 IFSC Code: UBIN0914339 |
| Date & Time of Inspection of Property for intending purchasers : Before 29.08.2022 on any working day during banking hours | | | | |
| DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION: 30.08.2022 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM | | | | |
| Last Date & Time of EMD Submission : 29.08.2022 before 5.00 P.M | | | | |
| Details of encumbrances if any : NIL | | | | |
| For registration and login and bidding rules visit https://www.msctcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp , www.unionbankofindia.co.in For further detailed any query please contact: Mr Rishikan Prasad, Mob.: 9769987208 | | | | |
| STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) / RULE 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 | | | | |
| This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date . | | | | |
| Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 22.07.2022 | | | Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India | |

State logs 1,130 new Cov cases, one fatality



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 23: For the fourth consecutive day the daily Covid load in Odisha reported over 1100 mark as 1130 fresh cases were reported in the past 24 hours taking the total tally in the state to 13,05,499 Saturday.

143 children tested positive for the infection, while one fresh fatality pushed the toll to 9,131, a health bulletin said.

Actor Babushaan in soup over ‘affair’

Continued from P1

After the 27-year-old actress managed to get out of the car while coughing and holding two handbags on her shoulders, she scampered to reach a nearby auto-rickshaw as Satapathy tried to get hold of her.

As the two women were standing on the two sides of the auto-rickshaw, Satapathy shouted to the locals: “Mo poribhar dhwongsa karichi ye (She has destroyed my family)”.

Mishra retorted by gesturing with her hands to a person making a video that Satapathy lost her mind, adding that “she has gone mad”. Satapathy went to the other side of the auto-rickshaw and shoved Mishra, who lost her balance.

Babushaan had married childhood friend Trupti Satapathy in 2014 and they have a son. The actor is son of star couple Uttam Mohanty and Aparajita Mohanty Satapathy’s maternal aunt alleged that the affair was going on for two years and that they were staying in a guest house at Satya Nagar.

Mishra reacted on Instagram about the incident, saying there were two sides to every story. “Unfortunately, we are living in such a society where a woman is blamed even before listening to her.”

The ‘Hello Arsi’ actress claimed that she was going to Chennai with Babushaan to attend an event of the Utkal Samaj. “At that time, his wife came with some goons and assaulted him and tortured me mentally and physically,” Mishra said in Odia.

Babushaan Mohanty could not be contacted for comments. An FIR has been lodged based on a complaint by Mishra’s mother under Indian Penal Code sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and two others, DCP Prateek Singh said at a press conference. Satapathy’s case has been lodged under sections 498A (husband or his relative subjecting her to cruelty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, the DCP added.

Uttam Mohanty, actor father of Babushaan, told media that his son and daughter-in-law love each other very much. Mohanty also said his daughter-in-law is an educated lady and she might have some evidence regarding the affairs between Babushaan and Prakruti.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sunita Dora, aged - 42, Duplex No. RA-02, Royal Avenue, Haridaspur, Baliantha, Bhubaneswar - 752101 by affidavit C.F. No. 62 Dt.22.07.2022. Corrected my name to Sunita Dora instead of M. Sunita Rao. That, I hereby declare that M. Sunita Rao & Sunita Dora is one & same person i.e. my self.

On July 19 the state recorded 1122 cases which went up to 1196 on a subsequent day but declined to 1178 on July 21 and again marginally reduced to 1130 in the past 24 hours.

Health department sources said out of 1130 new cases, 662 were registered from the quarantine centres and 468 from local contact cases. At least 143 positive cases were reported in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

Fertiliser crunch irks Malkangiri farmers

ADMIN URGED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS DEALERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, July 23: Though parts of Malkangiri district have been battered recently by floods, agricultural activities are gradually picking up across the district. However, farmers are worried at present over the shortage of fertilisers.

They alleged that some dealers are deliberately creating artificial shortage of the fertilisers. They have pleaded with the district Collector to sort out the issue at the earliest. This is because fertilisers are needed for growth of paddy saplings.

Sources said that most farmers are reeling due to fertiliser shortage. They pointed out, the crisis is

largely due to an unholy nexus between officials of the Agriculture department and some unscrupulous dealers.

Peved over the shortage, tribal and farmers’ leader Sharat Buruda along with others met the collector and complained about the issue. They alleged that for the last several weeks dealers have hiked the price of urea fertiliser which is required for the proper development of paddy saplings.

A 25kg packet of a particular brand of urea is being sold for Rs 400. Farmers pointed out that the brand is harmful for the saplings and soil, yet it is the only product available.

However, the district agriculture officer said that no such com-

plaint has been received from farmers. He added that action will be taken only after the complaints are lodged.

It should be stated here that multi-purpose societies (LAMPS) and primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in the district have no stock of fertilisers, forcing farmers to buy it from the open market at higher prices.

During this period of the crop cycle, farmers apply the second dose of urea for growth of paddy. If they do not apply the fertiliser now, it will impact their paddy yield at the end of the season, they said. Small and marginal farmers are to be the worst affected by this crisis. Farmers have warned of agitation if no step is taken.



BJP workers staged a sit-in protest to highlight educational concerns of OBC and SEBC students at lower PMG, Saturday

ECoR concludes ‘Azadi ki Rail Gadi aur Station’ celebration



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The week-long celebration of ‘Azadi ki Rail Gadi aur Station’ by East Coast Railway, which started on July 18, ended Saturday. The celebration is a part of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations being organised by government of India to mark 75 years of Indian independence.

Indian Railways identified 75 railway stations all over the country for this purpose, with three stations of the Khurda Road Division—Khurda Road, Cuttack and Sakhi Gopal, Samalpur and Visakhapatnam—making it to the list.

During the weeklong celebrations, the stations were illuminated; history of the freedom struggle was put on audio-visual display; various cultural programmes were organised, like nukkad natak, performance of patriotic songs and

dance, with fun activities like instant quizzes, selfie contests being held on the side.

As a part of the conclusion, a closing ceremony was organized at Khurda Road Railway Station where ECoR Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Basudev Panda and Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road, Rinkesh Roy felicitated four freedom fighters and nine descendants of martyrs of the Paika Rebellion with their families.

Panda thanked all the departments of the ECoR for actively participating. He said felicitation to the freedom fighters were done to respect the great sacrifices they made, and to inspire the public further towards the unity and integrity of the nation. The Khurda Road railway station has a unique history as it’s associated with the two hundred years old Paika Rebellion, part of the regional struggle for independence.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE NHRC asks CS to pay damages immediately

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a reminder asking the state chief secretary to immediately pay Rs 2 lakhs compensation to the relatives of a pregnant woman, who died as the ambulance carrying her stopped midway after it ran out of petrol in October, 2019. The commission, while hearing a plea filed by rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, asked the state government to pay the compensation immediately and send the compliance report within eight weeks from the receipt of order.

The deceased identified as Tulasi Munda of Hanida village was admitted to the Bangiriposhi community health centre in Mayurbhanj October 4, 2019. However, the doctors there referred her to Pandit Raghunath Murmu medical college and hospital in Baripada, 40 km away after she was diagnosed with high blood pressure, claimed the petitioner. The ambulance carrying her ran out of fuel after the fuel pipe burst draining all the oil. The ASHA worker accompanying the woman, called another ambulance which arrived after an hour; but Munda had died by that time.

Earlier, December 31, 2021, the Commission had directed the chief secretary to release the compensation of Rs. 2, 00,000 in favour of the deceased.

Low serotonin not the only cause of depression: Study

A recent study conducted by psychologists from University of Edinburgh and King’s College, London found inconsistent evidence linking the neurotransmitter serotonin to depression.

Depression is a common and serious life-limiting condition. Low mood and loss of enjoyment are its core symptoms, but many unique symptom combinations can lead to a diagnosis. Two people with depression can have very different symptoms.

The roots of depression are varied and people can have very different reasons for their symptoms. Psychological trauma is a well-established risk factor. And inflammation is increasingly recognised as a likely cause in many research studies.

Many genetic factors have also been identified, each with a very small effect. There are probably thousands of small genetic effects with each person having an almost unique combination that can increase the risk of depression.

These risk factors explain why some people get depression more often than others, but multiple risk factors are often reported by people with depression, and it is not usually possible to conclude which – if any – led to their symptoms.

Depression, like many conditions defined chiefly by its symptoms, is unlikely to be a single condition with a simple set of discrete causes.

Similarly, it is unlikely that there would be a single therapy or drug that would treat all people effectively. But the diverse symptoms and risk factors underlying depression do not mean we lack effective treatments.

Antidepressants were discovered initially by repurposing a drug used to treat tuberculosis, with little understanding of its effects on the brain.

Initial research revealed that antidepressants increased the quantity of serotonin and noradrenalin in the brain. These findings formed

the basis of a theory of depression, known as the monoamine hypothesis, which suggests that insufficient levels of these neurotransmitters are an underlying mechanism of depression that can be corrected with antidepressants.

This simplistic explanation of depression and its treatment has been met with conflicting data and justifiable scepticism, and several alternative theories of depression and antidepressants have been proposed.

Yet it would be unwise to dismiss the role of serotonin entirely, as there remains some evidence for its involvement in depression. Although limited access to living human brain tissue means that direct confirmation of serotonin’s role in depression is difficult.

These critiques are not new, but they incorrectly imply that an understanding of the mechanism is necessary for effective treatment.



Depression, like many conditions defined chiefly by its symptoms, is unlikely to be a single condition with a simple set of discrete causes

Steadily, we are beginning to understand more about the causes of depression and identify subtypes, or “depressions”, that have more specific mechanisms and treatments

We cannot know if treatments address the underlying problem because we haven’t yet identified what that is. To imply that SSRI antidepressants may not be worthwhile is to misunderstand an evidence base that says the very opposite

In contrast, the cornerstone for identifying effective treatments is the randomised controlled trial (the gold standard of clinical research), which has been widely applied to the study of antidepressants and psychotherapies. This type of study can reliably tell us whether a treatment works or not – even if we have no idea why the treatment is effective.

Randomised controlled trials of thousands of depressed people have shown beyond reasonable doubt that antidepressant drugs are effective in depression. Studies of people with depression treated with antidepressants can also provide important information on how treatments deliver their benefits and may in future provide important information on why some people respond more than others.

Conditions defined largely by their symptoms are difficult to research and treat, but this has not prevented the development of effective treatments. Depression is

usually managed effectively with antidepressants or by talking treatments, such as cognitive behaviour therapy, despite an incomplete understanding of the condition and how these treatments work.

We cannot know if treatments address the underlying problem because we haven’t yet identified what that is. To imply that SSRI antidepressants may not be worthwhile is to misunderstand an evidence base that says the very opposite.

Steadily, we are beginning to understand more about the causes of depression and identify subtypes, or “depressions”, that have more specific mechanisms and treatments.

Our understanding of depression and its treatment has been advancing for more than a century and shows no signs of slowing. Identifying the causes and new treatments for depression is difficult but essential if we are to address one of the most common causes of disability worldwide. 77

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Ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, an artisan was busy making idols of Lord Ganesh at Dussehra ground in Angul town

Health Min visits Kashipur as cholera claims another

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada/Tikiri, July 23: State Health Minister Naba Kishore Das and Tribal Welfare Minister Jagannath Sarka Saturday visited Rayagada district and took stock of the situation in Kashipur at a time when the southern districts grapple to contain a deadly outbreak of cholera.

Meanwhile, another person died of cholera in Kashipur block Saturday as diarrhoea is spreading its tentacles in Rayagada, Koraput and Nabarangpur districts. The deceased was identified as Arjun Jani, 55, of Deghaguda village under Dudukabahal panchayat. With this, the death toll reached eight. Over 61 persons afflicted with cholera are under treatment. Similarly, the death in Dasmanpur block of Koraput has remained at two with over 39 persons afflicted with the disease.

The two ministers visited the cholera-affected areas in Kashipur block and reviewed the measures undertaken by the district administration and health officials to control the spread of the disease. They interacted with Collector Swadha Dev Singh, public health director Dr Niranjan Mishra, CDMO Dr Lal Mohan Routray and the medical team. They also visited cholera-affected Tikiri Jhodia Sahi, Dudukabahal, Ushapada and other areas.

The water-borne disease has spread in Khadiaguda village under Nandahandi block of Nabarangpur. One person died and 16 others were affected by diarrhoea here in the last four days. The deceased identified as Thabir Majhi died during treatment at Nandahandi CHC. Condition of four of the affected is stated to be critical. A medical team is camping at the village.

Farmer killed in wild boar attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, July 23: A farmer was killed in wild boar attack at Jiringpada village under Phiringia block of Kandhamal district, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Mana Kanhar, 55, of the village. The incident occurred when he was ploughing his farmland in the morning.

A wild boar suddenly came running and attacked him. He sustained critical injuries in the attack as villagers rescued him and rushed him to the district headquarters hospital in Phulbani where he succumbed during treatment.

Locals alleged that wild boar menace is on rise in parts of this block and the forest department should take steps to curb it.

DGCA team's visit to Jeypore airport ups flight service hopes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, July 23: Fire safety measures, security, lighting, and drinking water supply at Jeypore Airport were the priority issues that came up for discussion during a two-day visit of a team formed by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to the airport, a report said.

The Central team was reportedly happy at the existing infrastructural facilities at the airport and very soon flight services might start from the airport after issuance of the license.

The team members stressed on upgrading the system on the above issues and bring in improvement in them during their review of the infrastructure at the airport for two days.

The members comprised of Manoj Kumar Garg, deputy director from DGCA headquarters, Manish Thakur, deputy director and Dhurar Mandal from the eastern region.

Keonjhar medical college still non-starter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 23: The proposed medical college in Keonjhar which is scheduled to start batches from the current educational session has allegedly remained a non-starter due to inordinate delay in completion of its building construction works.

The construction of the medical college is showing no sign of completion delaying availability of modern treatment facilities to the patients in the district apart from pushing into uncertainty the medical students' studies and practice. This has sparked sharp resentment among the residents as they flayed the authorities for the delay.

The authorities are remaining tightlipped on the completion of the construction works when asked when it will become fully functional. Sources from the state government, however, said that the medical college and hospital has started functioning from the district



headquarters hospital on a temporary basis.

As many as 75 doctors have been appointed for the medical college and hospital including a principal-cum-dean, one superintendent, five professors, 12 associate professors, 36 assistant professors and 16 tutors.

It is alleged that patients and their attendants have failed to feel their presence as the medical college and hospital is yet to become fully functional. Over 70 attendants and sweepers have also been out-

Reports said that the medical college and hospital is being built with funds available from the district mineral foundation (DMF) and is scheduled to start from this educational year. It is yet to become fully functional due to delay in construction works.

As a result, the hospital employees are getting payment every month without actually doing any work while patients have failed to avail quality healthcare services. People claimed that this is sheer wastage of precious revenue which could have been utilized in other developmental works.

When contacted, hospital superintendent Dr Subhabrata Parida said that the treatment of patients will continue in the district headquarters hospital till the inauguration of the new building of the hospital. Moreover, professors and tutors have been appointed to teach the students soon after the admissions get over. He claimed that it will take some time and everything will fall in place.

Murmu's village wants prosperity for her as Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rairangpur, July 23: As Taranisen Tudu and his wife Sukri Tudu leave for New Delhi to attend the swearing in ceremony of the country's first tribal president Droupadi Murmu Monday, the people in her Uparbeda village are praying for her prosperity.

Taranisen is the brother of President-elect Droupadi Murmu, who lives along with his family at Uparbeda village, about 20 kilometres from Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district.

Though the residents of Uparbeda village are poor, they are highly satisfied that Murmu has made them proud. Her being sworn in as the President of India in the 75th year of Independence has added to their joy.

Most of the residents of



Uparbeda, her birthplace, and Pahadpur, her in-laws' house, have basic facilities like electricity, drinking water, phone service, schools, hospitals and others. They just want Murmu to earn a separate and unique identity for herself and the state as the President.

"We pray for her prosperity more than anything else," said Saunta Majhi, an elderly priest of the Santhal community.

"Every girl and woman of our village and the tribal community have now gained confidence which no government or leader can do,"

said Chandramani Hansda, a 25-year-old woman.

However, when insisted that they say what they want from the new President for the village, a number of suggestions were put forth.

A group of boys and girls said that they need a college at Uparbeda as they have to travel at least 5 kilometres to go to the nearby institute of higher learning.

Some women said that they have a government public health centre (PHC), but not a full-time doctor or a female nurse there.

Women are reluctant to go for institutional delivery due to the lack of a female nurse at the hospital, pointed out Jamuna Hembaram, the Sarpanch of Uparbeda Gram Panchayat. She said a skill development centre for youths may help check large-scale migration from the

village. A pregnant woman, who did not want to be identified said that if she gives birth to a girl, her name will be "Droupadi".

Sukhlal Murmu, who was two years senior to Droupadi Murmu at the Government Upper Primary School, said, "We have roads, schools, a hospital and phones in the village. If she wants, we will like to have a dam on the natural spring to irrigate our agricultural fields. Our cultivation mostly depends on rain." The headmaster of the President-elect's school, Manoranjan Murmu, also said they do not want any major project.

"We want better infrastructure for the school. It should be made a model school. We will name a classroom after Droupadi Murmu when its construction is completed," he said.

Nine minor boys rescued in Koida

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, July 23: Police Friday night rescued nine minor boys from Koida bus stand in Sundargarh district, who were being sent to other states for bonded labour.

All the minors are in the age group of 14-17 years. While eight of them belonged to Patamunda panchayat under Koida block, one of them hailed from Guali in Keonjhar district. They were

reportedly sent to Bhubaneswar, from where they were supposed to move out of the state.

However, acting on a tip off, police rescued them from Koida bus stand and handed them over to their families.

Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) of Koida, Minati Mohapatra said, "Making minors work as bonded labourers is illegal and action will be taken against those responsible for this.

Once poachers, villagers turn protectors for birds



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 23: Unabated hunting and poaching are threatening the existence of birds and animals in many parts of Odisha. Many varieties of birds that once were seen and heard chirping on a regular basis have virtually become non-existent these days. This is because of poachers who kill birds and hunt them down by destroying their nests. However, residents of Badapasi village have turned from poachers to protectors of the winged species.

Badapasi village located near NH-20 under Ghatagaon block in Keonjhar district is home for hundreds of species of migratory and resident birds. The village is a perfect place for bird watchers, pho-

tographers, nature enthusiasts and ornithologists.

Most of the former hunters are now into bird conservation. There was a time when they killed birds and ate those. However, now they are the guardians of the birds. They have come forward to protect the birds and also ensure poachers from outside do not kill them.

The former poachers of birds realised the negative impact of their actions and felt the need for environmental conservation. They decided to quit hunting and took collective action to protect birds.

Birds fly thousands of kilometres from other parts of the world and arrive at the village every year for breeding and nesting. As soon as the monsoon arrives, the winged guests

start to throng the village as they think of it as a safe abode.

"Now, every 'tamarind', 'mango' and 'bel' trees in the village is home to several species of birds. We take every possible step to see that there is no harm to the birds. They lay their eggs on the trees and stay here for a couple of months," villager Sibanand Naik said.

"It is high time that we start protecting the birds before they become extinct. It is the duty of every citizen to take steps towards bird protection. The villagers are indeed setting an amazing example," said environmentalist Dr Bimbhadhar Behera heaping praises on the villagers. "The community participation is commendable. This initiative by the villagers will give a new direction to bird conservation," he added.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, CUTTACK
Email ID: cuttackrw2nd@yahoo.co.in
No. O-702 Telephone/Fax No. (0671) 2445119

e-Procurement Notice for Road Work
Bid Identification No. SECTC-II-06 of 2022-23 Dt.19.07.2022

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of the work | : 01 (One) Number Road under Periodical Maintenance for the year 2022-23 |
| 2. Estimated Cost (Approx.) | : Rs.30.37 lakh |
| 3. Period of Completion | : 2 (Two) Calendar Months |
| 4. Date & time of sale & receipt of bid document online | : From 30.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to 16.08.2022 at 4.00 P.M. |
| 5. Date & time of opening of bids | : 17.08.2022 at 11.30 A.M. |
| 6. Name and address of Inviting Officer | : Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Cuttack, Nayabazar, Cuttack - 753004 |

Further details can be seen from the State Govt. portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division-II, Cuttack
OIPR-25095/11/0007/2223

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O. A. No. 101/2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant
Versus
Iswar Prasad Sahoo & Another ... Defendant(s)

To,
1) Iswar Prasad Sahoo
S/o Bindayachal Sahoo,
at Palasa, Bamebari, Joda, Keonjhar,
Inside Bamebari Daily Market,
Keonjhar, Orissa - 758034
2) Kiran devi
D/o Kripa Sankar Gupta,
at Palasa, Bamebari, Joda, Keonjhar, Orissa - 758034

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED
Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 101/2022 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 31,48,865.45 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 05.09.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.
Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 13th day of July, 2022

Sd/-
M. K. Patnaik
Registrar

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O. A. No. 60/2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant
Versus
Sarat Kumar Mahanta & Another ... Defendant(s)

To,
1) Sarat Kumar Mahanta & Another
S/o Chandra Mohan Mahanta
at Indraprastha, GP - Sonaposi, PS - Champua, Keonjhar, Near Pandindraprastha, Keonjhar, Orissa - 758041
2) Sabitrami Mahanta
W/o Sarat Kumar Mahanta, at Indraprastha, GP - Sonaposi, PS - Champua, Keonjhar, Orissa - 758041

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED
Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 60/2022 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 27,96,635.90 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 18.08.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.
Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of June, 2022

Sd/-
M. K. Patnaik
Registrar

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O. A. No. 84/2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant
Versus
Laxmidhar Mahakud & Another ... Defendant(s)

To,
1) Laxmidhar Mahakud
S/o Janardan Mahakud,
Kumundi Ka Nayakote, Keonjhar, Orissa - 758018
2) Maheswar Mahakud
D/o Maninath Arukha, Kumundi Ka Nayakote, Keonjhar, Orissa - 758018

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED
Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 84/2022 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 32,34,853.27 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 07.09.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.
Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 18th day of July, 2022

Sd/-
M. K. Patnaik
Registrar

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O. A. No. 59/2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant
Versus
Dhiren Swain & Another ... Defendant(s)

To,
1) Dhiren Swain & Another
S/o Djabar Swain
At - CDA, Plot No. D/138, Sector 7 CDA, Cuttack, Orissa - 753014
2) Jashoswini Swain
D/o Jatadhari Sahoo, At - CDA, Plot No. D/138, Sector 7, Cuttack, Orissa - 753014

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED
Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 59/2022 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 29,11,486.64 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 18.08.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.
Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of June, 2022

Sd/-
M. K. Patnaik
Registrar



We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves.

THE MOTHER

Hear & Decide

It has been about five years since the Electoral Bonds scheme was challenged in the Supreme Court, which has not decided on it. The scheme was introduced as a ‘money bill’ in the Budget of 2017 so that it could not be debated and voted on in the Rajya Sabha. Essentially, the scheme allows anyone — including foreign governments and foreign companies and even criminal elements — to anonymously donate unlimited sums to political parties. The Reserve Bank of India objected to the scheme, saying that a bearer bond was essentially cash but the government overruled the objection and implemented it. The Supreme Court has not taken up the matter and decided on it.

It has been over two years since the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed and challenged in the Supreme Court as being in violation of the Constitution. Home Minister Amit Shah said that it was the first part of a pincer, along with the National Register of Citizens, which would then go after what he said were the ‘termites’. Readers will of course remember a massive protest against it in all of India’s cities after CAA was passed. For some reason, the Supreme Court decided not to hear this matter either.

Around the same time, the status of Jammu and Kashmir was changed and though Article 370 was not abrogated it was hollowed out. Kashmir lost its status as a state, it was demoted to a Union territory, Ladakh was separated from it (causing a problem with China, though that is another issue) and Kashmir’s elected representatives were dismissed and many jailed. The Supreme Court did not hear or decide the habeas corpus pleas of the detained Kashmiri leaders, including former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. Our highest court has still not decided whether all this was constitutional. It has not shown urgency in cases that many people think it should have.

Divisive laws that the government favours, such as the so-called love jihad laws passed by seven BJP states after 2018, the Supreme Court has chosen to not hear. These laws essentially criminalise marriages between Hindus and Muslims but are not seen as important enough to be heard quickly.

Much noise was made by the court about the farm laws, but after setting up a committee the matter was forgotten till the government itself withdrew the laws. On Pegasus, the current Chief Justice has said strong things but it has been a year since the victims of the criminal hack have moved court but nothing of significance has happened. In fact the government refused to file an affidavit though the court asked it to reveal whether it was using this surveillance weapon on media, the Opposition, its own ministers and the judiciary.

We have to compare this state of affairs with some of the other things that the court has decided to do. On 16 August 2019, senior advocate Dushyant Dave wrote a letter to the Supreme Court’s judges, in which he repeated an accusation previously made by four rebel Supreme Court judges: that cases dear to the Prime Minister were being given to a bench comprising of Justice Arun Mishra out of turn.

Dave said that then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had surprised the legal fraternity by putting himself and Mishra on the vacation benches for the summer of 2019 (when only a few judges work and senior judges are usually off), and then taking up and deciding cases of import.

Cases concerning the Adani group were taken up by Mishra without a regular bench ordering their hearing by a vacation bench, and without there being any urgency in the case. One such case was heard and disposed of 22 May. The next day, Mishra took up another Adani case, which had last been heard in February 2017. Mishra finished it off the next day. The benefit to Adani from these two cases, wrote Dave, would ‘run into thousands of crores’.

Dave said that out-of-turn allotment to Mishra and then quick judgements in Adani’s favour had also happened 29 January 2019 and 29 May 2018. Mishra and Gogoi did not respond to this accusation or initiate any action. None of the other judges said anything. An investigation by journalists Abir Dasgupta and Paranjay Guha Thakurta into seven Adani cases showed that Mishra had always ruled in favour of Adani. After he retired, Mishra was made the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission and has shown no interest since in challenging the government on the issue of human rights.

The Supreme Court retains credibility as an independent institution that is able to rise above politics and protect the Constitution. This reputation has not been easy to build and has come because of some brave judges across the decades who have defied the government and the political leadership. The judiciary and particularly the Supreme Court are special because they are theoretically immune from the pressures that media, Opposition and civil society face. History would not see the institution kindly if it continues to avoid, as appears to be the case, hearing and deciding some of the most pressing issues of our time.

WISDOM CORNER

- Great men are like eagles, and build their nest on some lofty solitude. **ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER**
- You can’t wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club. **JACK LONDON**
- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment. **RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

WORDSWORTH

Upsidaisy

There are lots of forms of this expression: upsidaisy, upsa-daisy, upsy-daisy, and oops-a-daisy, variously hyphenated on the rare occasions they turn up in print. These days, it’s just a nonsense word. It’s said to a child as encouragement to get up again after falling over, or when somebody is picking it up. Though the one thing most versions have in common is a reference to a daisy, a flower is not involved. The common origin of all of these is up-a-daisy, dating from the early eighteenth-century. An even earlier version is the English dialect up-a-day. This is just as nonsensical a phrase, but it does show that the final part of the modern expression is actually a corruption of day.

Upsizing

This word has turned up on occasion in recent years in the computing field, where it is used as the opposite of the much more common downsizing with the sense: “(the action of) replacing a smaller system with a larger one, especially one with networking capabilities”. It may be about to become a fashionable word in business, if we are to judge from an article in the Economist, which asked “Will upsizing be the next management fad?” and answered its own question with a qualified “yes”. The word’s root sense in this context is “increasing the size of an organisation (by hiring staff)”, but — like downsizing — it has undertones of a formal policy forcefully pursued, perhaps for doctrinaire reasons.

FOCUS CONGRESS

LAST CHANCE FOR RAHUL



Anita Saluja

IF NO URGENT STEPS ARE TAKEN, THE PARTY WILL CEASE TO EXIST (CONGRESS-MUKT BHARAT), AS DECLARED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

S cion of the Gandhi family Rahul Gandhi, who has been reluctant to take-up the responsibility of Congress president for almost three years, is left with no option now. Keeping in mind the health of his ailing mother and more importantly due to the Congress getting decimated fast all over the country, Rahul will be forced to occupy the party’s top post. Though his coronation will be no surprise to anyone, what will be of interest is to see if he is able to save the party.

Unlike the Shiv Sena, where the rebel leader Eknath Shinde was able to split the party, walking out with a major chunk of MLAs, in the Congress, no one has the courage to desert the dynasty, even if the party is on a losing spree. The fate of the G-23 leaders Kapil Sibal, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and Manish Tewari is known to everyone, as not many came forward to speak up against the leadership.

Interestingly, though everyone would vouch for the fact that Uddhav Thackeray appears to be more stern and strong than Rahul, the latter undoubtedly is leading a national party, where it is difficult to bring about a coup. Moreover, while Shinde had the backing of the BJP, the Congress is too large a party, where all the disgruntled leaders cannot be satisfied. Instead of a full-blown revolt against the leadership, one, therefore, witnesses a handful of leaders deserting the party in the states for greener pastures.

Fault does not lie solely with the Congress leadership, which has been dilly-dallying to assume power, but the entire party, which can’t think beyond the Gandhi family. Sonia Gandhi refused to succeed as Congress president in the wake of the tragic assassination of her husband Rajiv Gandhi, but the Congressmen were adamant and patiently waited for seven years, till she finally agreed to assume charge. Later, despite the insistence of UPA leaders, she re-



To lead regional parties it is imperative for the Congress to win the ensuing Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat this year and in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana next year

fused to become Prime Minister and instead named Manmohan Singh for the post. Rahul, similarly, has been disinclined, but Congressmen are not letting him to do so.

After the Udaipur brainstorming session in May, wisdom has finally dawned on the Congressmen and the leadership that the situation is really grim for the party. If no urgent steps are taken, the party will cease to exist (Congress-Mukt Bharat), as declared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For the first time, perhaps, the message was loud and clear for the Congressmen that the future of all of them is doomed, if the party is not saved.

The fact that the message had indeed seeped in was evident, as within a few days following the Udaipur Nav Sankalp Chintan-Shivir, when the leaders, right from Chief Ministers, MLAs, MPs and workers from all-over the country, joined hands in courting arrests in the Capital on the issue of Rahul’s quizzing by the Enforcement Directorate. Everyone was amazed to see the ‘josh’ of the Congressmen, who thronged the AICC headquarters and ED office, despite

being lathi-charged by police.

Seniors like P Chidambaram and KC Venugopal were man-handled by the Delhi Police, but the leaders and hundreds of party workers were unfazed. They vied with one another to show their loyalty towards the Gandhi family. The same scenario was repeated, when Sonia appeared before the ED.

With Rahul finally expected to don the mantle of Congress president in the party elections to be held in September, the 137-year-old party, which is gradually fading out, will presumably get recharged once again. Soon after his coronation, the party would hold the Bharat Jodo Yatra, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, with the sole agenda of highlighting the failures of the NDA government under Modi.

The padyatra, to be inaugurated by Rahul, is expected to infuse the much-required adrenaline into Congressmen, who have been directionless and lethargic in the past few years. The Congress is expecting to create a similar magic which was created by the Rath Yatra undertaken by LK Advani on the issue of construction of the Ram Temple,

which saw the revival of the BJP.

With Rahul in the saddle, accompanied by senior leaders, travelling all-over the country, it will not only be an image-makeover for him, but also perhaps the beginning of the party’s graph upwards. Ever since Modi has assumed power, the Congress has always been at the receiving-end, with its political graph declining sharply in all states. Both the party and its leadership were ridiculed for inaction and policy paralysis.

As it dawned on the party leadership and the workers at the brainstorming session in Udaipur, Congressmen can no longer afford to remain inside their barracks. They will have to work really hard to come back to power. Congress is the sole national party which can lead the Opposition to launch a tirade against the Modi government. But to lead regional parties it is imperative for Congress to win the ensuing Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat this year and in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana next year. Only then, it will be in a position to dictate its terms to other Opposition parties which have lined up to fill the vacuum created by the Congress’ decline. The more time Rahul takes to set his house in order, the more he will lose, vis-à-vis other parties, vying to compete with the Congress. Both in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party has widened its base to give tough competition to Congress and BJP. In Maharashtra, NCP is strong, while in the North-East, the Trinamool is fast replacing the Congress.

It’s the last chance for Rahul to take up the mantle of the Congress if he really is keen to save the party. No more can he afford to take holidays with his ailing mother on his side and the party losing out badly, every single day.

The writer is Delhi-based senior journalist and political commentator. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Confronting the growing drought risk



Ibrahim Thiaw

INDIA HAS ADOPTED A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH THAT INCLUDES DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AS PART OF ITS NATIONAL DISASTER-MANAGEMENT PLAN

D rought may be an ancient scourge, but it is getting worse.

No region or country today is immune to its effects. Southern Europe is in the grip of a severe drought – the worst in 70 years for Italy. In western US, the past two decades have been the driest in 1,200 years. Chile is in its 13th consecutive year of drought, and Monterrey, Mexico’s third-largest city, is now being forced to ration water.

In the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are recording their fourth consecutive year without rains, and the situation has grown increasingly dire for people, livestock, and the ecosystems that support them. Drought is a natural phenomenon; but it need not become a natural disaster.

In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification identify successful examples of systems that have reduced drought risk among vulnerable populations. In Brazil, Ethiopia, India, and Tunisia, a combination of water harvesting and sustainable land-management practices are being used to reduce the impact of droughts. While it may take time, all countries can adopt similar strategies to help move their people from water scarcity toward water security.

A major shortcoming of the current approach, however, is that it is based on national systems, even though droughts do not observe

drought, and many more soon will be. Scientists project that climate change will increase the frequency, duration, and geographic spread of droughts, with three out of four people affected by 2050.

Areas across all regions are becoming drier, and while there is not yet a consensus on where exactly the most acute drought conditions will emerge, scientists agree that land degradation exacerbates the problem. Together, recent traumatic experiences and the latest scientific projections should convey a sense of urgency, compelling everyone to build resilience against future drought risks. Drought is a natural phenomenon; but it need not become a natural disaster.

In a recent report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification identify successful examples of systems that have reduced drought risk among vulnerable populations. In Brazil, Ethiopia, India, and Tunisia, a combination of water harvesting and sustainable land-management practices are being used to reduce the impact of droughts. While it may take time, all countries can adopt similar strategies to help move their people from water scarcity toward water security.

A major shortcoming of the current approach, however, is that it is based on national systems, even though droughts do not observe

political boundaries. Proactive planning across sectors within countries is essential; but without international collaboration, the effects of drought eventually will reach other countries. Common knock-on effects include conflicts over diminished water resources, soaring food prices or shortages, wildfires, mass wildlife and livestock loss, sand and dust storms, human displacement and forced migration, and civil unrest.

Collaborative arrangements to anticipate and respond to droughts quickly can avert or reduce the scale of these outcomes. Australia and the US, for example, have long had policies and planning protocols in place to ensure that affected communities can endure droughts with dignity. Building such resilience globally will take time and political will. Fortunately, even in the world’s most vulnerable regions, policy-makers already have foundations that they can build on. For example, Africa’s Sahel has a regional drought-risk system, set up 50 years ago to bring together a broad range of stakeholders, from producer associations to political decision-makers, and benefits from the pooling of scientific and technological capabilities at the regional level.

India has adopted an even more comprehensive approach that includes drought management as part of its national disaster-management plan. An intricate strategy

is in place to include all the relevant government ministries and closely coordinate national, state, and local responses. After a process that started 15 years ago, India now has an integrated water-management system that also serves as a drought warning system. In June, the US announced that drought will henceforth be considered a strategic domestic and foreign-policy priority. As home to one of the most sophisticated and advanced drought-monitoring and response mechanisms in the world, the US could help to fast-track the development of better risk-management systems globally.

Around the world, there is a strong appetite among governments to act quickly before the effects of increasingly frequent and severe droughts become unmanageable. And following the creation of an intergovernmental working group on drought at the UNCCD’s summit in May, we now have a platform for mobilising collective action according to what the science says is necessary. We can rein in drought impacts together. But all leaders, down to the community level, will need to commit to doing what it takes to build effective resilience – starting immediately.

The writer is Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Senior citizens get a raw deal

Sir, Senior citizens have enjoyed privilege for decades with men (60 years and above) given a 40% discount on train tickets and women (58 years and above) given 50% discount. Senior citizens will no longer be given discount on train tickets. Railway Minister Ashwini Baishnav has clearly said that doing so puts a burden on the Railways. “Don’t wait for reinstatement of concession in fares for senior citizens in trains,” said Vaishnav. The Ministry of Railways says that the Railways is suffering loss due to low fares and discounts. Earlier, the price increase of cooking gas and diesel petrol, then 5% GST on essential items and now the central government abolished the discount in train tickets given to senior citizens. Do we live in a democratic nation or a dictatorial system? One by one the common people are being deprived of all their democratic rights. In a democracy, it is the responsibility of the government to provide the common people with their daily necessities at affordable prices. But that expectation has already been shattered. The backbone of the common people has been broken under the pressure of taxes and price hikes. On the one hand, crores of rupees are being exempted to the capitalists, and that compensation is being taken from the general public. This is unfair and undemocratic. The people should raise their voice against this.

Asit Mohanty, JAIPUR

A visual delight

Sir, The landmark Napier Bridge in Chennai, which has been painted like a chess board ahead of the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad commencing shortly at the historic tourist town of Mamallapuram, is an absolute visual delight. The fascinating black and white squares of the bridge add plenty of colour and radiance to the eagerly awaited grandiloquent event, which is a momentous pride to the cultural city of Chennai. The Tamil Nadu government deserves compliments for organising this biennial tournament in a short time after it was shifted out of Moscow in the aftermath of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. To play chess you need brain, and not brawn, yet the game is considered as the gymnasium of the mind. American Grandmaster Bobby Fischer said: “Chess is a war over the board. The object is to crush the opponent’s mind.”

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

of the day quote

The recruitment for one lakh government jobs in the state will begin from August 15

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
| MP CM

Mark my words.. This government will soon collapse and Maharashtra will have to face mid-term polls

AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA LEADER

The conservation efforts of sacred places and heritage sites must retain the aesthetic, historic and social values of the Union territory's great civilisational and cultural legacy

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LG

SHORT TAKES

Sharjeel denied interim bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court Saturday dismissed the interim bail plea of activist Sharjeel Imam, who is in judicial custody under sedition charges, among others, for allegedly delivering inflammatory speeches at the Aligarh Muslim University and the Jamia Milia Islamia during the anti-CAA protests in 2019-20. Additional sessions judge Amitabh Rawat dismissed the plea of Imam, who had approached the Karkardooma court on May 27 following Delhi High Court's direction to approach the lower court first for bail.

Srinagar court summons Farooq

Srinagar: A court here Saturday summoned National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in a money laundering case related to the alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

MEGHALAYA BJP LEADER'S RESORT RAIDED, 73 HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, July 23: Six children were rescued and 73 people arrested from a "brothel" allegedly run by BJP's Meghalaya vice-president Bernard N Marak in Tura Saturday, a senior police officer said.

Rimpu Bagan, a farmhouse

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

Shun partisan politics: Prez Kovind to parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday asked citizens to use Gandhian means to express opposition and pursue demands, and said parties should shun partisan politics to deliberate on what is necessary for people's welfare by keeping in mind that the nation is supreme.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind greet MPs during the latter's farewell function at Parliament House in New Delhi

Cong attacks Irani over Goa bar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Panaji, July 23: The Congress Saturday demanded Union Minister Smriti Irani's sacking, alleging her daughter was running an illegal bar in Goa, but the BJP leader claimed the "malicious" charge was made at the Gandhi family's behest due to her vocal stand in the National Herald case and vowed to fight back.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, its general secretary Jairam Ramesh and the party's Goa chief Amit Patkar made the allegations at press conferences in Delhi and Panaji, targeting Irani and her family. The opposition party also shared a copy of the purported show cause notice given to the bar and alleged that the excise official who gave the notice is reportedly being transferred after pressure from authorities.

But, in a statement, Kirat Nagra, the lawyer of Irani's daughter, said the allegations are baseless and asserted his client is neither an owner nor operating the restaurant called Silly Souls Goa and has also not received any show cause notice from any authority as alleged by them.

Nagra said various "erroneous, frivolous, malicious and defamatory social media posts (were) being

'Daughters not liability'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Daughters are no liability, the Supreme Court has said while dealing with a matter relating to payment of maintenance to a woman by her father.

The observation from a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna came on Friday after the counsel appearing for the man said that the woman is a liability. "Daughters are not a liability," Justice Chandrachud observed while referring to Article 14 of the Constitution which deals with equality before law. The apex court had in October 2020 noted that the counsel appearing for the applicants had stated that no amount was paid towards the arrears of maintenance computed at Rs 8,000 per month for the daughter and Rs 400 per month for the wife after April 2018. It had then directed the man to pay Rs 2,50,000 to his spouse and daughter within two weeks.



The TMC government has crossed all limits of misgovernance and corruption. The level of corruption in the state is just shocking and unprecedented. The TMC government is no longer a government for the people, it is rather the government of corrupts. The entire government is knee-deep in corruption

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER



Union Minister Smriti Irani addresses a press conference at her residence in New Delhi

My daughter's fault is that her mother holds a press conference on the loot of Rs 5,000 cr by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Her fault is that her mother fought against Rahul Gandhi in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

made by various vested quarters trying to settle political scores with our client's mother, the renowned politician Smriti Irani each of which is predicated on blatant falsities".

Attacking Irani, Khera said Smriti Irani was asking all kinds of questions from Rahul Gandhi, "but we want to ask her what problem do those running bars have with those running newspapers."

The BJP has been attacking the Gandhi family for their alleged role in the National Herald case. The Enforcement Directorate has questioned both Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, drawing strong protests from the opposition party. The Congress has dismissed the allegations as vendetta and intimidatory tactics by the government. "We are running only a newspaper



BJP activists protest against the Delhi government's Excise Policy outside Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's residence in New Delhi

FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC

The Ministry of Personnel has advised all government departments to make a list of the number of eligible employees and their family members to be administered the precautionary dose, separately for both types of vaccines (Covishield and Covaxin) so as to ensure optimum utilisation of resources



SCHOOL JOBS SCAM

WB minister sent to 2-day ED custody



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 23: West Bengal Industry and Commerce Minister Partha Chatterjee was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday in connection with its investigation into the alleged school jobs scam, an official of the agency said.

He was later produced before a judge in the Bankshall court here and sent to the ED custody for two days. The Trinamool Congress secretary general, who was the state education minister when the alleged irregularities took place, was arrested after around 26 hours of grilling in his residence in connection with the probe since Friday morning.

ED also arrested Chatterjee's close aide Arpita Mukherjee, from whose property Rs 21 crore in cash was seized during a raid on Friday, the agency official said. "Chatterjee was not cooperating with our officers who were questioning him since Friday morning. He will be produced before a court during the day," the ED official said.

The minister, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio, was taken to an ESI Hospital where a medical check-up was conducted on him. While coming out of the hospital, Chatterjee, when asked by reporters whether he tried to contact Chief Minister

ED arrested Chatterjee's close aide Arpita Mukherjee, from whose property Rs 21 crore in cash was seized during a raid Friday, the agency official said

Mamata Banerjee, said, "I tried, but could not connect (to her)."

Later, his counsel told reporters that as it is a Saturday, he would be again produced before the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court on Monday. His lawyer argued in the court that since no unaccounted money and documents have been found at his residential premises but the house of Mukherjee, he should be granted bail, which the ED lawyers of the directorate opposed.

The court remanded him to the custody of the ED for two days. While Mukherjee was whisked away by ED officials in a car, she told reporters: "I have done no wrong, it is a conspiracy by the BJP to malign me."

Chatterjee, who was the state education minister from 2014 to 2021, was grilled by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in April and May this year in connection with the scam.

11 kanwarias arrested in Bihar

Patna: Eleven kanwarias were arrested in a drunken state in Bihar's Jamui district Saturday, officials said. The devotees of Lord Shiva, travelling on two SUVs, were returning to their native places after offering water at Deoghar. They were intercepted during a vehicle checking campaign of Anti-Liquor Task Force (ALTF) at Mahesha Pather checkpoint under Chakali police station in the district, and four liquor bottles were seized from them.

ଘର ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ବସନ୍ତ କରକର ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt. of Odisha
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଯୌର ପରିଷଦ, ଜଟାନୀ
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, JATANI
ଘର- ଜଟାନୀ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା- ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ୭୫୧୦୫୦
A/PS- Jatani, Dist- Khordha (Odisha), Pin- 752050
E-mail - municipalityjatani@gmail.com, Phone. no. 0674-2490826
CORRIGENDUM IN CONNECTION WITH EO
REFERENCE NO. 2696/ DATED 14.07.2022
No.C-839:- With reference to the EO Reference No.2696/ dated 14.07.2022 of Jatni Municipality for the work - "EOI for the preparation of Storm Water Drainage Master Plan & DPR of Jatni Municipality", the revised timeline for submission of bid, timeline for completion of the project, minutes of pre-bid meeting & revised norms has been published in the website: www.jatnimunicipality.in & www.khordha.nic.in in place of the previous EOI/Bid documents.
Sd/- Executive Officer, Jatni Municipality
OIPR-13041/11/0023/2223

ଘର ନିର୍ମାଣ ଓ ବସନ୍ତ କରକର ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
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यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE : CUTTACK
M-14, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar-751003
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES-2002]
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act, No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors in loan Account mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, below mentioned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the Secured Assets.

| Branch / Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantors | Liabilities due as per notice (In Rs.) | Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession | Description of Immovable Properties |
|---|---|--|--|
| CDA BIDANASI BRANCH Borrowers: (1) M/s Vidisha Enterprises, Prop.: Arabinda Samal, S/o: Kailash Chandra Samal, At: Plot No.D/1406, Sector-10, CDA, PO.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014, (2) Mr Arabinda Samal, S/o: Kailash Chandra Samal, Address: At/PO.: Jari, Via: Singhpur, Dist: Jajpur, Pin- 755016, and Plot No.3D/1114, Sector-10, CDA, PO.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014, Guarantors: Mr Debasis Jena, S/o: Trilochan Jena, At Plot No.3D/1114, Sector-10, CDA, PO.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014, Mr Dumsanta Behera, S/o: Guru Charan Behera, At/PO.: Kalyani Nagar, Madhupatana, Cuttack-753010, & Mr Dumsanta Behera, Prop.: Clinic Shakti, Shakti Lane, Magalabag, Cuttack-753001. | Rs.12,15,001/- as on 30.04.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses | 06.05.2022 / 20.07.2022 | Residential land belonging to Mr Dumsanta Behera, S/o: Guru Charan Behera situated at Khata No.603/396, Plot No.777/4047, Area: Ac.0.055 dec., Mouza: Chandaka, Thana: Chandaka, Thana No.31, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Property is bounded by: North- 20ft Wide Road, South- Part of Plot No.777, East- Part of Plot No.777, West- Part of Plot No.777. |
| SOMPUR-e-ABT BRANCH Borrower: Mr Rajiba Lochan Panda, S/o: Padma Chandra Panda, Guarantor: Mr Sachidananda Panda, S/o: Mr Krishna Panda, both are resident of At: Kotuan, PO.: Arilo, Sompur, Dist: Cuttack, State: Odisha, Pin- 754130. | Rs.22,78,814.60 as on 31.01.2022 with further interest, cost & expenses | 20.04.2022 / 22.07.2022 | EM of land building in Mouza: Katuan, Thana: Kishan Nagar, 27, Tahasil: Kisan Nagar, Tahasil No.547, M Khata No.99, Stitiban, Non consolidable Plot No.325, Area: Ac.0.16 dec. (Kisam- Gharabari). Dist- Cuttack in the name of Rajiv Lochan Panda. Dist: Cuttack, SRO: Raghunathpur, Mouza: Kotuan, Thana: Kishan Nagar No. 27, Tahasil: Kishan Nagar vide No.547, M Khata No.100, stitiban, Chaka Plot No.171, Area: Ac.0.840 dec. (Kisam- Gharatala), chaka no.145, chaka plot no. 171, Area: Ac.1.120 dec., (Khajurikala), non-consolidable Plot No.220, Area: Ac. 0.060 dec. (Bagayat), Non Consolidable Plot No.342, Ac.0.060 dec. (Gharabari), Non Consolidable Plot No.40, Ac.0.160 dec. (Bialidofasali), Non Consolidable Plot No.160, Ac.0.010dec. (Patita), Non Consolidable Plot No.53, Ac.0.030 dec. (Bialidofasali), Non Consolidable Plot No.175, Ac.0.080dec. (Baze Fasal-ii), Non Consolidable Plot No.184, Ac.0.0560dec. (Patita), Non Consolidable Plot No.191, Ac.0.080dec. (Patita), Non Consolidable Plot No.3424, Ac.0.020dec. (Gharabari), Non Consolidable Plot No.317, Ac.0.100dec. (Gharabari), Total Area: Ac.3.010 dec. in the name of Mr Rajiv Lochan Panda. |

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:22.07.2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

GYANVAPI CASE

Locals say ‘ganga-jamuni’ culture must not erode

Though the matter has obvious political underpinning with religious bodies differing on many points, they are united in their call for calm and keeping intact the original bonhomie of the city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, July 23: With Gyanvapi Shringar Gauri case in the Supreme Court, leaders from both religions voice different opinions, yet want the “Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb” of Kashi to stay intact.

Hearing the matter Thursday, the Supreme Court said it would wait for the Varanasi district judge’s decision on the objections of the Gyanvapi Mosque Committee regarding the admissibility of a civil suit filed by Hindu devotees.

The top court had May 20 transferred the civil suit filed by Hindu devotees regarding the Gyanvapi Mosque from a senior civil judge to the Varanasi district judge.

Though the matter has obvious political underpinning with religious bodies differing on many



points, they are united in their call for calm and keeping intact the original bonhomie of the city.

Former Mahant of Kashi Vishwanath Temple Kulpati Tiwari said that some people are deliberately dragging the Gyanvapi issue “from here to Delhi” just to gain popularity.

Tiwari said that when the matter is in the court at the district level, then one should wait for the decision of the court here.

“We are waiting for the district court’s decision and if the verdict does not come in our favour, we will approach the high court,” he told PTL.

Mohd Yasin, secretary, Anjuman Intezamia Committee, concurred saying the people of Kashi too want the verdict of the local court.

Swaran Mukherjee, a resident of Mahmooarganj in Varanasi, insisted that the matter is first settled in the local court, saying that “the mat-

ter is between Hindu-Muslim brothers of Banaras and there is no need to make it national issue.”

Amit Rai, a resident of Sigra, however, said that Muslims should voluntarily forfeit their claim on the mosque.

“History is witness that Muslim invaders demolished the temple and built a mosque, so Muslims should set an example by handing over Baba Adi Vishweshwar and Gyanvapi to Hindus keeping in mind the Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb,” he said.

“Baba Vishwanath himself has appeared in Gyanvapi, hence that particular place is very significant for Hindus,” said Mahant Vijay Puri of Baba Batuk Bhairav.

He said, “Kashi has been a believer of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb, Muslim brothers have got a chance to rectify the mistake of their ancestors, they should not miss it.”

Haji Syed Farman Haider, spokesperson of Shia Jama Masjid and secretary of Hazrat Ali Masjid Committee, said the court’s decision will be supreme, and rued the wedge that has been driven between the two communities.

“We have offered prayers at the ghats of Banaras with water of Holy Ganga. No one ever stopped us,” Haider said.

“But today there is a ruckus in the country for even offering Namaz. Kashi has always been an example of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb.

The atmosphere of the country should not be spoiled over a temple or a mosque,” he said, adding that the communities were as inseparable as water.

Shahar-e Mufti Maulana Abdul Batin Nomani said, “Although this trial is not maintainable under the Worship Act, we will accept the court’s decision.”

One Rakhi Singh and others from the Hindu side have filed a petition in the court of civil Judge (senior division) of Varanasi with a request for protection of deities and permission for regular worship at Shringar Gauri located in Gyanvapi complex.

In May, a video survey of Gyanvapi campus was also done at the court’s order.

During the survey, the Hindu side claimed to have found a Shivling in the ‘Wazu Khana’ of the Gyanvapi Mosque.

The report of the survey was presented in the court May 19.

The Muslim side objected to the videography survey saying that the trial court’s decision was against the provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991 and approached the Supreme Court with the same contention.

The court refused to stay the videography survey, but ordered the matter to be transferred to the district court.

The matter has been in the district court since then.

SP signals end of alliance with Rajbhar, Shivpal

The development comes after Rajbhar and Shivpal supported NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu who defeated Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition nominee supported by SP



more respect”.

The SP shared the letters on its official Twitter handle.

Reacting to the development, Rajbhar told reporters, “We have accepted the divorce that he (SP chief Akhilesh Yadav) has given today.”

“It is bad if I meet Yogi (Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath) but it is very good if Akhilesh Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav meet him,” he said and warned the SP chief that the effect of his action “will be known by the 2024 elections”.

On the question of his next step, he said that he will hold talks with the Bahujan Samaj Party.

He also said that “Shivpal Yadav is our leader and we keep in touch with him”.

The development came after Rajbhar and Shivpal Yadav supported NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu who defeated Yashwant Sinha, the Opposition nominee supported by SP.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, July 23: The Samajwadi Party Saturday told allies Omprakash Rajbhar and Shivpal Singh Yadav that they are free to go, signalling a break-up after the two supported the BJP presidential candidate in the just concluded polls.

In a letter to Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) President Omprakash Rajbhar, the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP said while they are fighting the BJP, Rajbhar “has a partnership” with the saffron party and was helping it. It said he is free to go if he feels he will get more respect there.

In a similar letter to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) President Shivpal Singh Yadav, the SP said that “he can go where he gets

Teachers asked to manage traffic outside schools in UP

The need for the advisory arose as some prominent schools are situated close to VVIP establishments, including Vidhan Bhawan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 23: The Lucknow police has issued an advisory to all schools to deploy guards under the supervision of teachers outside schools to manage traffic and ensure that vehicles are parked at designated spots when schools get over.

The need for the advisory arose as some prominent schools are situated close to VVIP establishments, including Vidhan Bhawan.

These areas see frequent traffic blockades owing to VIP movement and heavy rush when schools get over. This also has ripple effect on adjoining routes, some of which are near three major government hospitals.

An eight-point advisory was is-



sued by the Joint commissioner of police, law and order, Piyush Mordia to all the schools, says that all schools/colleges must deploy marshals outside the school gates to direct and guide parents coming to pick and drop their children.

Schools/colleges must depute a teacher or administrative staff to monitor the movement of vehicles outside the gates when the schools start or end daily, as practised in Delhi.

“A pre-designated parking slot must be identified where vehicles

must be parked,” he added.

Mordia said the entire school must not be dispersed at the same time and different classes must get over at gap of 20 minutes.

President of Unaided Private School Association Anil Agarwal, meanwhile, said that it is the duty of the traffic police to clear snarls everywhere and not just outside the schools.

He said that schools can appoint a traffic representative to keep a check, but teachers cannot stand and manage the traffic.

Assam okays second wildlife sanctuary in Barak Valley

NAMED AFTER THE SECOND-LARGEST RIVER IN THE NORTH-EAST, THE BARAK VALLEY IS HOME TO 550 SPECIES OF BIRDS AND 100 SPECIES OF MAMMALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Silchar, July 23: Home to a multitude of birds and mammals, Assam’s Barak Valley will soon get a second wildlife sanctuary with Governor Jagdish Mukhi approving a proposal for the creation of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Barak Valley also houses the Borail Wildlife Sanctuary.

“In exercise of the power conferred by Section 35 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended up to date, the Governor of Assam is pleased to declare its intention to constitute the area described in the Schedule annexed hereto as the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary,” an official order dated July 19 stated.

The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary will be spread over an area of 320 sq km between the Barak river and the Sonai river.

“The Governor of Assam fur-



ther hereby appoints the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar, to enquire into and determine the existence, the nature and extent of any rights/claims alleged to exist in favour of any person or persons, in or over any land within the limit described in the schedule below,” the order said.

The area has eight recorded species of primates – slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, payre’s leaf monkey and hooleck gibbon.

It’s also an important habitat for king cobra, according to the Cachar Forest Division.

The proposal for the creation of the sanctuary was submitted by

BJP MP from Silchar Rajdeep Roy last year.

With the idea now set to become a reality, Roy said he is very happy.

“The NDA government headed by the BJP takes decisions very fast and also implements them very fast. So, I am 100 per cent confident that this will not take months after months for changes to take place at the ground level. I assume that within the next three to six months, a lot of changes will be seen on this project,” Roy told PTL.

Asked how the sanctuary will benefit the Barak Valley, he said a Shiva temple is located near the site where the Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary is proposed to be cre-

ated and these two together can help draw tourists and create employment opportunities.

“So, (with) the sanctuary and the temple in the same vicinity, we can get a lot of small business houses to start small businesses. Maybe slowly and slowly, the hotel industry and other things will come... A viable ecosystem can develop and I think the people around this place will ultimately benefit if the sanctuary is established,” he added.

Named after the second-largest river in the northeast, the Barak Valley is home to 550 species of birds and 100 species of mammals.

It comprises three districts – Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

Flood situation in Assam improves

More than 10,000 people are suffering from the deluge in Cachar, Morigaon and Tamulpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, July 23: The flood situation in Assam has improved although over 10,000 people remained affected in three districts, an official bulletin said.

More than 10,000 people are suffering from the deluge in Cachar, Morigaon and Tamulpur districts, the bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said.

Cachar district was the worst hit with over 6,600 people suffering, followed by Morigaon (2,600) and

Tamulpur (900).

Around 17,200 people were affected by the deluge in four districts till Thursday.

The toll due to floods and landslides in the state this year stood at 197.

Presently, 44 villages are under water and 210 hectares of farmland have been damaged.

Around 1,084 people, including 190 children, have taken shelter in seven relief camps in two districts. Erosion has been reported in Bongaigaon, Nagaon and Nalbari districts.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by floodwaters in Baksa, Kamrup and Tamulpur districts.

No river is flowing above the danger level in the state as of now, it added.



India’s mango man, father of 300 varieties

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Maliabad, July 23: Every day, octogenarian Kaleem Ullah Khan wakes at dawn, prays, then ambles about a mile to his 120-year-old mango tree, which he has coaxed into producing more than 300 varieties of the beloved fruit over the years.

His footsteps quicken as he draws nearer and his eyes light up as he peers closely at the branches through his spectacles, caressing the leaves and sniffing the fruits to see if they are ripe.

“This is my prize of toiling hard in the scorching sun for decades,” the 82-year-old said in his orchard in the small town of Maliabad.

“For the naked eye, it’s just a tree. But if you see through your mind, it’s a tree, an orchard, and the biggest mango college in the world.”

The school dropout was just a teenager when he conducted his first experiment in grafting, or joining plant parts to create new mango varieties.

He nurtured a tree to produce seven new kinds of fruit, but it blew down in a storm.

But since 1987, his pride and joy has been the 120-year-old specimen, source of more than 300 different types of mango, each with their own taste, texture, colour and size, he says.



This is my prize of toiling hard in the scorching sun for decades...For the naked eye, it's just a tree. But if you see through your mind, it's a tree, an orchard, and the biggest mango college in the world

KALEEM ULLAH KHAN
FARMER

One of the earliest varieties he named “Aishwarya” after Bollywood star and 1994 Miss World beauty pageant winner Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. To this day, it remains one of his “best creations”.

“The mango is as beautiful as the actress. One mango weighs more than a kilogram (two pounds), has a tinge of crimson to its outer skin and it tastes very sweet,” Khan said.

Others he named in honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and cricket hero Sachin Tendulkar. Another is “Anarkali”, or pomegranate blossom, and has two layers of different skin and two different pulps, each with a distinctive

aroma. “People will come and go, but the mangoes will remain forever, and years after, whenever this Sachin mango will be eaten, people will remember the cricketing hero,” said the father of eight.

FAMED FRUIT

Standing nine metres (30 feet) tall, his treasured tree has a stout trunk with wide-spreading, thick branches that yield a pleasant shade against the Indian summer sun.

The leaves are a patchwork of different textures and smells. In some places, they are yellow and glossy, and in others, a dark, dull green.

“No two fingerprints are the same, and no two mango varieties

are similar. Nature has gifted mangoes with traits like humans,” Khan said.

His method for grafting is intricate, and involves diligently slicing a branch from one variety, leaving an open wound into which a branch from another variety is spliced and sealed with tape.

“I will remove the tape once the joint becomes sturdy, and hopefully, this new branch will be ready by next season, and bear a new variety after two years,” he explained.

Khan’s skills have won him numerous accolades, among them one of India’s highest civilian honours in 2008, as well as invitations to Iran and United Arab

Emirates. “I can grow mangoes even in a desert,” he says.

CLIMATE THREAT

India is the largest producer of mangoes, accounting for half the global output. Maliabad, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, has more than 30,000 hectares of orchards and accounts for nearly 25 percent of the national crop.

Mostly owned by families for generations, the orchards are a mango lover’s paradise, with the best-known variety possibly the melt-in-the-mouth Dasher, named for the nearby village where it originated in the 18th century.

But farmers are worried by climate change, with a heatwave this year destroying 90 percent of the local crop, according to the All-India Mango Growers Association.

The number of varieties has also fallen, which Khan blames on intensive farming techniques and the widespread use of cheap fertilisers and insecticides.

Growers also plant too many trees packed too tightly together, leaving no space for moisture and dew to settle on the leaves, he says.

But he still has a good life, he says.

“I recently moved into a new house inside the farm to be closer to my beloved tree, which I’ll keep working on till my last breath.”

of the day quote

Fact-based historical accounts, which inspires new generation is the need of the hour

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

TMC leaders have accumulated huge amounts of money over the years, including in connection with recruitment for various posts

DILIP GHOSH | BJP LEADER

Today's president comes from a region, where many do not even know what president is

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Drone repulsed

Srinagar: A drone movement was detected and effectively repulsed by the Border Security Force (BSF) in the Kanachak sector of Jammu district, the BSF said Saturday. "On July 22 at nearly 9:40 p.m. BSF troops observed a blinking light coming from Pakistan side in Kanachak area. Alert BSF troops fired on it. Search of the area in progress," the BSF added.

Kerala girl dies

Thiruvananthapuram: A 16-year-old girl died Saturday when a speeding train hit her while she was crossing a railway track in Kerala's Kannur to board her school bus. According to an eyewitness, the victim, Nandita P. Kishore's mother would drop her in a car every day. However, Saturday, a train, which was to pass at 6.40 a.m., was delayed by an hour and arrived at the time when the teenager was hurriedly crossing the track.

Girl stabbed

Patan (Gujarat): A schoolgirl was injured after a man attacked her with a knife in this district of the state, police said Saturday. The accused has been apprehended. According to police, an investigation is underway to ascertain whether the girl was attacked for spurning the man's advances or some other reason.

Two arrested

Noida: Two people were arrested for performing a dangerous stunt with their car outside a girls hostel in Greater Noida, officials said Saturday. The accused were identified as Prashant Kumal and Bhav Sagar. The police had received a complaint about the incident through social media where a 20-second video of the incident was shared. In the video, three people, of which one was sitting on the bonnet of the car and two others standing on the doors could be seen driving their vehicle outside the girls hostel.



'No Data Available' (NDA) government wants you to believe: No one died of oxygen shortage. No farmer died protesting. No migrant died walking. No one was mob lynched. No journalist has been arrested. No Data. No Answers. No Accountability

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

27 PC PRODUCTIVITY IN RS

The Rajya Sabha has reported productivity of 26.90 per cent in the first week of the ongoing Monsoon Session, officials said Saturday. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat said the Upper house transacted business only for 1 hour and 16 minutes during the first three days of the week



OUT OF GEAR



Vehicles stuck in traffic jam on the Sion-Panvel road in Navi Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

Woman gangraped, culprits held

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: In another incident of capital shame, a 30-year-old woman was sexually assaulted by four Railways employees at New Delhi Railway Station's train lightning hut on the pretext of providing her a job in the Railways. Police said that they got a call regarding the incident Friday.

DCP of Railways, Delhi Police, Harender K. Singh said that all the four accused have been held, adding that all the accused are railway employees in the Electrical Department. The accused are identified as Satish Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Mangal Chand Meena and Jagdish Chand.

"The call was earlier received at PS ODRS at around 2:27 p.m. The staff there checked for the caller but could not find her. Upon contacting her on the given mobile number, it



was known that she is standing at PF No. 8-9 of the station. Immediately, the SHO along with the staff reached platforms 8-9 where he met the victim," police said. The victim told that she is separated from her husband for the last one year and was seeking divorce. Around 2 years back, she came in contact with Satish through a common friend. He told her that he is a railway employee and can arrange a job for her. Both continued talking over phone calls. On July 21, he

asked her over a call to come to his home as he was hosting his son's birthday party and housewarming. She came via metro to Kirti Nagar at around 10:30 p.m. from where she was picked up by the accused and brought to PF 8-9 of New Delhi Railway Station. He asked her to sit in a hut meant for electrical maintenance staff.

"Then he and his friend came inside the room and bolted it from inside and sexually assaulted her one after another. Two of his accomplices facilitated the assault by guarding the room from outside," the police said.

She was then taken to a nearby government hospital where she was made to undergo a medical test. Rape was established in her medical report. The police then lodged the FIR for rape read with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

7 of 19 missing labourers found

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, July 23: Seven of the 19 labourers who went missing from a road construction site in Arunachal Pradesh were found in a forest area, a senior officer said Saturday.

The seven labourers were found in a forest near Huri village in Damin of Kurung Kumey district on Friday night, deputy commissioner Nighee Bengia said.

"Their health conditions are not good and medical assistance is being provided. Their families have been informed. The search is on for the other 12 labourers," he said. The labourers, natives of Assam, fled the remote road construction site at the India-China border on July 5 after they were denied leave to go home for Eid. In two-three groups they took off for their homes on foot through jungles, the officer said.

The labourers have been missing since then, he added. Bengia had earlier said that the body of one of the missing labourers was found in a river, but after the circle officer of Koloriang who visited Damin to take stock of the situation found no such body, he went back on his statement.

The project site is in Damin circle, about 200 km from Koloriang, the district headquarters. State Civil Aviation Secretary Swapnil Naik said that the Indian Air force (IAF) has joined the search operation for the missing labourers.

Missing pet parrot found, elated family gives ₹85k

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tumakuru, (Karnataka) July 23: A missing pet parrot, whose owners had announced a Rs 50,000 reward for whoever finds it, has been found after a week.

Elated family members rewarded Rs 85,000 instead of Rs 50,000 announced earlier to the person who found 'Rustama', the African grey parrot.

Earlier, the owners had printed 30,000 handbills, and started searching in residential areas as their pet went missing in Tumakuru city of Karnataka. Srinivas, a resident of Bandepalya in Tumakuru had noticed the rare parrot in front of his residence and kept it safely with him.

Srinivas came to know about the search for the bird and reward by neighbours. Srinivas then called the owners and returned the parrot to them. The owners had also launched a search with another bird, thinking that 'Rustuma' will respond to its partner bird.

According to Ravi, an animal activist and the owner of the bird, their family nursed two African grey parrots at their home in Jayanagar locality of Tumakuru district. One of the parrots, 'Rustuma' had gone missing on July 16.

Yasin Malik on hunger strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik is on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail after the government did not respond to his plea that he be allowed to physically appear in a Jammu court hearing the Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case in which he is an accused, officials said on Saturday.

Malik, 56, head of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), began his indefinite strike Friday as he had threatened to earlier this month, they said. Friday morning, he refused to eat anything despite repeated requests by jail authorities, the officials said. His health is being closely monitored.

Appearing before a special CBI judge through video conference, Malik had said he wanted to appear physically in the case related to the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in December 1989.

Malik informed the court that he had written a letter to the government seeking his transfer to a Jammu jail so he could appear physically in the case and contest the allegations against him. He had said he would like to personally cross-examine all the prosecution witnesses in the case and would wait for a government nod till July 22. If not, he would sit on an indefinite hunger strike inside

● Malik, 56, head of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), began his indefinite strike Friday as he had threatened to earlier this month

● Malik informed the court that he had written a letter to the government seeking his transfer to a Jammu jail so he could appear physically in the case and contest the allegations against him

● The JKLF chief was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror-funding case registered by NIA

the jail. Malik began his protest when he received no information from the government about his plea to shift him to any prison in Jammu, the officials said.

The JKLF chief was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA). Malik had pleaded guilty in the case and was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May.

Rubaiya Sayeed was allegedly kidnapped by the JKLF on December 8, 1989. She was freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government at the Centre, supported by the BJP, released five JKLF terrorists in exchange. The case had gone into virtual cold storage and was revived after Malik was picked up by the NIA in 2019.



Lumpy virus kills 977 cattle in Gujarat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, July 23: Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) also known as Lumpy virus, has claimed lives of 977 cattle in Gujarat, state Agriculture Department said Saturday.

Agriculture Department's Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry) Dr H. N. Modh said: "The virus has spread in 14 districts, including all districts of Saurashtra region, Kutch and now Banaskantha. Checking of vehicles entering from Rajasthan and neighbouring states have been intensified to prevent infected cattle from entering the state. People living in border villages have been asked to inform the department if they see a cattle movement across the border."

Till Saturday

afternoon, the state had lost 977 cattle, while some 33,561 are infected and undergoing treatment in 14 districts



Till Saturday afternoon, the state had lost 977 cattle, while some 33,561 are infected and undergoing treatment in 14 districts. A total of 2,48,189 cattle have been vaccinated, he added. On July 19, Kutch District Development Officer

Bhavya Verma had tweeted about the virus spreading in his district. Some 26,917 cattle were infected in the district, 81,633 vaccinated, and

1,14,079 vaccine doses used.

Virus spread is high in the district as it houses the highest domestic cattle population. According to the 20th livestock census, Kutch has 21 lakh animals, including 10.41 lakh bovines.

According to the Deputy Director, since Kutch is geographically the largest district of the state spread over 45,674 square kilometers, the cases here are higher as compared to other districts. In the remaining 11 districts, animal husbandry teams are working hard to vaccinate domestic cattle.

Surge in air travel, staff issues spur epidemic of snags

GROWTH IN AIR TRAFFIC HAS APPARENTLY BROUGHT A LOT OF TURBULENCE AS PLANES HAVE WITNESSED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF GLITCHES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: Air traffic in the Indian skies has returned to normalcy with airports buzzing with a large number of footfalls in the last couple of months.

Air traffic data has rightly shown that passengers carried by domestic airlines saw a growth of 66.73 per cent from 343.37 lakh to 572.49 lakh in the January to June period, as compared to the previous year.

However, growth in air traffic has apparently brought a lot of turbulence as planes have witnessed an unusually large number of technical glitches related occurrences and a rising number of such incidents have left the fliers harried.

Shockingly, technical glitches in flights are not limited to one or two airlines. Most of the Indian carriers, including the largest player IndiGo, SpiceJet, Go First or Air India Express, have been plagued by technical snags over the last one month.

Multiple incidents were reported to have occurred on aircraft operated by Indian carriers over the last few days owing to engine snags, burning smell, pressurisation loss in cabin to a bird entering the airplane cockpit.

A top DGCA official said that improper identification of cause of a reported defect and non-availability of required certifying staff to cater to multiple arrivals and departure of flights in short intervals are the



main reasons behind such snags.

Explaining about the procedure, the official said that before every flight takes off, a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer (AME) inspects the aircraft and releases it if everything is in order. There are various categories of AME licences, and the Category A licence is given to

technicians who are permitted to maintain the aircraft under certain limits. The Category B licence is more specialised and equip AMEs to deal with intricate components, such as engines, wings, etc.

"Spot checks disclosed that airlines were not adhering to the laid down standards and they were not

posting the relevant qualified engineers at all the stations with the Category A licence holders releasing aircraft at some of the smaller airports," said the official.

The official said that shortage of required staff is one of the major reasons and airlines have been accordingly advised to take proper action and deploy the certified staff to conduct checks before departure.

Aviation safety experts also pointed towards the same. Aviation safety consultant, Captain Mohan Ranganathan, said, "The string of incidents occurred because airlines are fudging maintenance procedures due to lack of finance, shortage of trained manpower, and fatigue issues of staff not taken care of."

Ranganathan also pointed out that failure of DGCA to enforce safety regulations, findings of their own safety and financial audits and covering up accidents and serious incidents as minor occurrences are some other reasons.

"One cannot let things ride thinking nothing has happened hence we are safe," he said. Ranganathan said that all occurrences are mandatorily reported to the DGCA which are then analysed and the severity of the occurrence is determined.

"Based on the severity, these occurrences are classified and investigated and safety recommendations emanating from the investigation reports are acted upon by the concerned stakeholders," the official said.

of the day quote

As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC

SOHAIL MAHMOOD | FOREIGN SECRETARY, PAKISTAN

Society believes that all the territories must be liberated first, and then we can negotiate about what to do and how we could live in the centuries ahead

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

Now that Putin's accomplices are threatening a nuclear strike every day, one thing is clear to me: we need nuclear deterrence at the European level as well

WOLFGANG SCHAEUBLE | GERMAN POLITICAL VETERAN

SHORT TAKES

Thai PM survives 4th no-trust vote

Bangkok: Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and 10 cabinet ministers survived no-confidence votes in parliament Saturday, with the government emerging on top in Prayuth's last major test ahead of a general election due within 11 months. The 68-year-old former army chief, in power since a coup he led in 2014, received 256 votes in favour and 206 against with nine abstentions, securing his position as premier until his term ends in March. Three deputy prime ministers and seven other cabinet members also survived the censure motion.

Trump aide held guilty of contempt

Washington: A federal jury Friday found Steve Bannon, an advisor to former US President Donald Trump, guilty of two counts of criminal contempt of Congress. Jail terms and fines will be determined during sentencing, which is scheduled for October 21. Bannon faces between 30 days to one year behind bars and a fine of \$100 to \$100,000 for each count. The trial lasted less than a week; it started Monday, the US attorney and defence up their arguments on Thursday and the jurors returned the guilty verdict Friday.

Pakistan reports 13th polio case

Islamabad: An 18-month-old infant was paralysed by wild poliovirus in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (KP), the National Institute of Health confirmed to the media. The total number of polio cases in the country this year has increased to 13 with all of them from southern KP, the Health Ministry spokesperson said Friday, adding that the virus has a significant presence in the area. The government is taking practical steps to ensure polio eradication, with access to polio vaccination being facilitated on an emergency basis to the districts in need, said the Health Ministry.

Psychiatric test for Abe's killer

Tokyo: The suspected assassin of Japanese former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will undergo psychiatric evaluation until later this year, Japanese media reported Saturday. Tetsuya Yamagami, an unemployed 41-year-old, has been identified by police as the suspect who approached Abe at a campaign speech on a street corner July 8 and opened fire with a handmade gun.

WHO declares monkeypox global emergency

WHO previously declared emergencies for public health crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, the Zika virus in Latin America in 2016 and the ongoing effort to eradicate polio

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, July 23: The World Health Organisation said the expanding monkeypox outbreak in more than 70 countries is an "extraordinary" situation that now qualifies as a global emergency, a declaration Saturday that could spur further investment in treating the once-rare disease and worsen the scramble for scarce vaccines.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the decision to issue the declaration despite a lack of consensus among members of WHO's emergency committee. It was the first time the chief of the UN Health agency has taken such an action.

Although monkeypox has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades, it was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May, when authorities detected dozens of epidemics in Europe, North



- So far this year, there have been more than 16,000 cases of monkeypox in more than 74 countries
- Monkeypox virus could become entrenched as new STD in the US: Experts
- The emergency declaration mostly serves as a plea to draw more global resources and attention to an outbreak

In short, we have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly through new modes of transmission about which we understand too little and which meets the criteria in the international health regulations

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO

America and elsewhere.

Declaring a global emergency means the monkeypox outbreak is an "extraordinary event" that could spill over into more countries and requires a coordinated global response.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 74 countries since about May.

To date, monkeypox deaths have only been reported in Africa, where a more dangerous version of the

virus is spreading, mainly in Nigeria and Congo. In Africa, monkeypox mainly spreads to people from infected wild animals like rodents, in limited outbreaks that typically have not crossed borders.

In Europe, North America and elsewhere, however, monkeypox is spreading among people with no links to animals or recent travel to Africa.

WHO's top monkeypox expert, Rosamund Lewis, said this week that 99% of all the monkeypox cases beyond Africa were in men

KEY GRAIN DEAL AT RISK

Russian missiles hit Odesa port

The attacks on key infrastructure on the 150th day of Russia's war in Ukraine marked new attempts by the warring parties to tip the scales of the grinding conflict in their favour

REUTERS

Kyiv, July 23: Russian missiles hit Ukraine's southern port of Odesa Saturday, the Ukrainian military said, threatening a landmark deal signed just the day before to unblock grain exports from Black Sea ports and ease global food shortages caused by the war.

The deal signed Friday by Moscow and Kyiv and mediated by the United Nations and Turkey was hailed as a breakthrough after nearly five months of punishing fighting since Russia invaded its neighbour. It is seen as crucial to curbing soaring global food prices by allowing grain exports to be shipped from Black Sea ports including Odesa.

UN officials had said Friday they hoped the agreement would be operational in a few weeks but it was not yet clear if that would still be possible given Saturday's strikes.

Two Russian Kalibr missiles hit infrastructure at the Odesa port, while another two were shot down by air defence forces, Ukraine's Operational Command South wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

"In the context of what is cur-



The Russian missile is Vladimir Putin's spit in the face of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Erdogan, who made enormous efforts to reach the agreement. "If the reached agreement is not fulfilled, Russia will bear full responsibility for deepening the global food crisis

OLEG NIKOLENKO | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, UKRAINE

rently happening with Ukrainian grain, the strike was carried out exactly where the grain is," said Yuriy Ignat, spokesperson for the Ukrainian air force.

The cruise missiles were fired from warships in the Black Sea near Crimea, he added.

A Russian defence ministry statement Saturday outlining progress in the war did not mention any strike in Odesa.

The strike appeared to violate the terms of Friday's deal, which

TWO MISSILES HIT PORT IN ODESA, UKRAINE SAYS

MOSCOW, KYIV HAD SIGNED GRAIN EXPORT DEAL FRIDAY

UNCLEAR IF EXPORTS POSSIBLE AFTER SATURDAY'S STRIKES

DEAL HAD SOUGHT TO AVERT MAJOR FOOD CRISIS

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CONDEMNS THE MISSILE STRIKES

would allow safe passage in and out of Odesa and two other Ukrainian ports. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "unequivocally condemned" the reported strikes, a spokesperson said, adding that all parties had committed to the grain export deal.

"These products are desperately needed to address the global food crisis and ease the suffering of millions of people in need around the globe," spokesperson Farhan Haq said in a statement. "Full implementation by the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Turkey is imperative."

On Friday, Guterres had called the deal "a beacon on the Black Sea".

A new strategy is needed which should focus peace talks and drafting a good peace proposal...instead of winning the war

VIKTOR ORBAN | HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

US RACE TO SAVE SEQUOIAS

The US Forest Service announced Friday it's taking emergency action to save giant sequoias by speeding up projects that could start within weeks to clear underbrush to protect the world's largest trees from the increasing threat of wildfires



In a first, monkeypox diagnosed in children

New York: Two children have been diagnosed with monkeypox in the US, health officials said Friday. One is a toddler in California and the other an infant who is not a US resident, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The children were described as being in good health and receiving treatment. How they caught the disease is being investigated, but officials think it was through household transmission. Other details weren't immediately disclosed. The US may see more cases of monkeypox before the numbers go down, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rochelle Walensky said. "With the scale-up of testing, with the scale-up of information, we anticipate that there will be more cases before there are less," Xinhua news agency quoted Walensky as saying to The Washington Post. The CDC currently does not have specific projections on how serious the situation may be, Walensky added. "I do not think that we have a stable estimate now," the CDC chief said. So far, the US has reported over 2,800 confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxvirus cases, according to CDC data.



I am the underdog: Sunak

IN AN INTERVIEW, SUNAK SAID HE WOULD PUT THE GOVT ON A CRISIS FOOTING ON TAKING OFFICE



REUTERS

Grantham, July 23: Former British finance minister Rishi Sunak, one of two remaining candidates to become Britain's next Prime Minister, Saturday described himself as the underdog in the contest.

Sunak's resignation helped trigger a revolt that saw Prime Minister Boris Johnson agree to step down after a series of scandals. Members of the ruling Conservative Party will vote for a successor over the summer, with an announcement due September 5.

Sunak led all rounds of the voting among Conservative Party lawmakers to reduce the field to two candidates.

But it is foreign secretary Liz Truss who seems to have gained the advantage so far among the 200,000 members of the governing party who will ultimately choose the winner.

Truss held a 24-point lead over Sunak in a YouGov poll of

Conservative Party members published Thursday.

"Be in no doubt, I am the underdog," Sunak said in a speech in Grantham, central England, the birthplace of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

Truss would be only Britain's third female PM after Thatcher and Theresa May while Sunak would be the country's first leader of Indian origin.

"The forces that want this to be a coronation for the other candidate but I think members want a choice and they are prepared to listen," he said.

So far the focus has been on pledges, or non-pledges, to cut taxes, at a time when many people are struggling, along with defence spending and energy policy.

In his speech Sunak, laid out his Thatcherite credentials, promising careful management of the economy before tax cuts. He criticised as arbitrary Truss' pledge to increase defence spending to 3% of GDP by 2030.

Flash floods kill at least 21 in Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, July 23: Flash floods in Iran's drought-stricken southern Fars province have killed at least 21 people, state television said Saturday.

Heavy rains swelled the Roudbar river by the city of Estahban, according to the city's governor Yousef Karegar.

Karegar said rescue teams had saved 55 people who were trapped by the flash flooding, but at least six people were still missing.

Flooding hit more than 10 villages in the province, he added.

Iran's interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, shared his condolences with the families of the flood victims, state television later reported.

Iran's metrology department had warned about possibly heavy seasonal rainfall across the country that is facing a decades-long drought blamed on climate change.

Over 1K artefacts missing from SL Prez, PM's homes

On July 9, anti-government protesters occupied the residences of former President and former PM after entering their premises and setting fire to one of the buildings, protesting the government's handling of the unprecedented economic crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 23: More than 1,000 valuable artefacts, including items of vintage and antique value have reportedly gone missing from Sri Lanka's Presidential Palace and Prime Minister's official residence at Temple Trees in Colombo after irate anti-government protesters occupied these premises earlier this month, police said Saturday.

Based on initial investigations at least 1,000 items of value, including rare artefacts have gone missing from the residences of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, web portal Colombo Page quoted

police sources as saying.

Special investigation teams have been formed to begin an investigation, it said.

What is compounding the agony for the investigative officers is that the Sri Lankan Department of Archaeology does not have a detailed record of the antiques and different artefacts at the Presidential Palace, even though it has been gazetted as a place of archaeological importance, the report said.

A senior official of the Department of Archaeology told Sunday Lankadeepa newspaper that it would be difficult to get specific and clear information about the exact number of antiques that have gone missing, even though po-



lice estimate that it could be well over 1,000.

Newly-elected President Ranil

Wickremesinghe said he respects the rights of the protesters to peacefully undertake their demon-

strations, but he asserted that he will not allow another government building like the Presidential Palace or the Prime Minister's private residence to be occupied.

Wickremesinghe said he has authorised Sri Lanka's armed forces and the police to take whatever action is necessary to stop people from storming public facilities and obstructing Parliament.

"Don't obstruct the parliamentarians and the parliament from carrying out their duty," he said this week.

In a pre-dawn raid Friday, Sri Lankan security forces attacked a site of anti-government protesters at Galle Face, where several government offices are located, injuring at least nine persons.

of the day quote

All the EV two-wheelers companies have been served show-cause notices after their vehicles caught fire

NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

The Indian fintech ecosystem has not only helped rebuild the trust between the citizens and the government but also plugged corruption and leaks in financial disbursements

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT AND ELECTRONICS

The corporate occupiers shrugged off major uncertainties they had over the last two years and are now going ahead with major expansion plans

RAMESH NAIR | CEO, COLLIERIES INDIA

SHORT TAKES

ICICI Bank Q1 net profit zooms 50%

New Delhi: ICICI Bank Saturday reported a 50 per cent jump in standalone net profit to Rs 6,905 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal aided by a decline in bad loans. The second biggest private sector bank had posted a net profit of Rs 4,616 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year. Total income during the April-June quarter of 2022-23 improved to Rs 28,336.74 crore, from Rs 24,379.27 crore in the same quarter in FY22, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. Its executive director Sandeep Batra told reporters that the new provisions have been set aside because of what he called as volatilities in the market.

Orange, MasMovil sign merger deal

Paris: Orange and MasMovil have signed a binding agreement to combine operations in Spain in a deal valuing the merged entity at close to \$19 billion, the two telecoms firms said in a statement Saturday. The merger creates a heavyweight spanning mobile and broadband, posing a challenge to top player Telefonica and analysts say possibly opening the way to similar alliances in markets such as Italy, Portugal and the UK.

Yes Bank Q1 profit jumps 54 per cent

Mumbai: Yes Bank Saturday reported 54.17 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 314.14 crore for June quarter 2022-23, driven by core income growth and a fall in provisions. The private sector lender reported a net profit of Rs 310.63 crore on a standalone basis as against Rs 206.84 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 367.46 crore in the preceding March quarter. On a consolidated basis, its core net interest income grew 32 per cent to Rs 1,850 crore in April-June 2022-23.

Airbnb co-founder quits after 14 yrs

New Delhi: Online hospitality major Airbnb Co-founder Joe Gebbia has announced to step down after 14 “wild years” and is set to open a new chapter. Gebbia, who formed Airbnb more than a decade ago, wrote a letter to employees, saying he will remain on the board of directors but transition to an advisory role, supporting co-founders Brian Chesky and Nathan Blecharczyk on “the roadmap, future concepts, and creative culture.”



As the global penetration rates for both fibre and 5G excluding China still remain very low, Nokia is bullish on the 5G roadmap in India which is an important country for the company

PEKKA LUNDMARK | PRESIDENT & CEO, NOKIA

GO FIRST MAY RAISE MONEY VIA IPO

Go First airline with a fleet size of 57 aircraft is a major player in the Indian aviation sector. While its latest available financial results talk about stressed financials, industry sources said that the airline is likely to raise money through an initial public offering (IPO) with air travel now recovering from the pandemic blues



SpaceX sends 46 Starlink satellites into space



Starlink, a largely consumer-based service with hundreds of thousands of internet users.

“Congrats to SpaceX team on

record number of launches!” Musk, SpaceX’s chief executive, tweeted after the mission, which deployed 46 Starlink satellites to

low-Earth orbit. The mission took off from the company’s California launch-site at the Vandenberg Space Force Base. SpaceX so far has launched nearly 3,000 Starlink satellites to space. Friday’s mission keeps SpaceX on pace to reach its goal of 52 orbital missions by year’s end, nearly doubling its annual launch cadence with the reusable Falcon 9 that SpaceX says can be reflown up to 15 times. A majority of those missions have been, and are scheduled to be in-house Starlink missions. The company, founded by Musk in 2002 to normalize interplanetary travel, has in recent months shifted

its focus from manufacturing Falcon 9 rockets to managing a fleet of those already built, investing heavily in infrastructure for refurbishing boosters under speedy timelines. The company has applied the same strategy to its fleet of reusable Crew Dragons - gumdrop-shaped spacecraft that launch atop the Falcon 9 and ferry humans to orbit and the International Space Station. SpaceX has launched Starlink satellites to space quicker than its rivals in the satellite internet race, such as satellite operator OneWeb, due in part to Falcon 9’s rapid reusability and the edge associated with using in-house rockets.

Snapchat loses \$10bn as stock hits 52-week low



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, July 23: Snap, the parent company of Snapchat, suffered nearly \$10 billion loss after its shares hit a new 52-week low over disappointing quarterly results (Q2) amid poor future forecast. The company’s stock lost nearly 40 per cent of their value Friday, after it reported a net loss of \$422 million compared to \$152 million in the prior year as the company

Like many tech companies, Snap continues to face rising inflation and interest rates, supply chain shortages and labour disruptions

“substantially” reduced hiring. “We face a number of very large and very sophisticated competitors (and) we’re seeing the overall advertising pie grow at a slower rate amid the macro headwinds,” CFO Derek Anderson told investors. “As competition, whether it’s with TikTok or any of the other very large, sophisticated players in this space, has only intensified and it’s hard to disentangle the numerous factors here impacting what’s clearly a headwind driving deceleration in our business,” he added. In May, Snap announced to slow down hiring this year. Spiegel told employees that the company plans to hire 500 people this year, versus 2,000 it hired over the past 12 months, after warning investors that its revenue wouldn’t grow as fast as expected. Like many tech companies, Snap continues to face rising inflation and interest rates, supply chain shortages and labour disruptions, platform policy changes, the impact of the war in Ukraine, and more.

Domestic air traffic sees 66.73% growth

IndiGo had the largest market share at 56.3 per cent, followed by Go First at 10.4 per cent, SpiceJet at 9.7 per cent, Vistara at 8.9 per cent, and Air India at 7.5 per cent



The growth in aviation traffic comes as a sigh of relief for the industry battered by the Covid-19 pandemic for two years and high fuel prices after Russia’s war in Ukraine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: Aviation traffic in the country is growing continuously, with DGCA data showing that passengers carried by domestic airlines grew 66.73 per cent from 343.37 lakh to 572.49 lakh in the January to June period. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation data said that this also shows a monthly growth of 237.65 per cent. The passenger load factor (PLF) or occupancy rates for IndiGo was 78.6 per cent, 84.1 per cent for SpiceJet, 83.8 per cent for Vistara, 75.4 per cent for Air India, 75.8 per cent for Air Asia, 78.7 per cent for GoFirst, 66.9 per cent for Alliance Air, 54.2 per cent for Fly Big, and 81.8 per cent for Star Air in June. The DGCA’s June report said that the overall cancellation rate of the scheduled domestic airlines

for the month has been recorded at 0.59 per cent. The On-Time Performance (OTP) of scheduled domestic airlines for four metro airports -- Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai -- showed that for the month of June, AirAsia’s OTP was at 89.8 per cent, followed by Vistara at 86.4 per cent, IndiGo at 84.5 per cent, Air India at 83.1 per cent, SpiceJet at 79.4 per cent, Go First at 76 per cent, and Alliance Air at 66.4 per cent. IndiGo had the largest market

share in the April-June period at 56.3 per cent, followed by Go First at 10.4 per cent, SpiceJet at 9.7 per cent, Vistara at 8.9 per cent, and Air India at 7.5 per cent. As per the data, a total of 570 complaints were received by the domestic airlines in June. “The number of complaints per 10,000 passengers carried for the month of June 2022 has been around 0.54,” the report added. The highest number of complaints was received by Alliance Air, and the least by Vistara.

EU sanctions tweak to unblock Russian oil deals with third nations

REUTERS

Brussels, July 23: Russian state-owned companies Rosneft and Gazprom will be able to ship oil to third countries under an adjustment of European Union sanctions agreed by member states this week aimed at limiting the risks to global energy security. Major trading houses such as Vitol, Glencore and Trafigura as well as oil majors such as Shell and Total have stopped trading Russian oil for third parties, citing EU sanctions, including restrictions on insurance. Purchases of Russian seaborne crude oil by EU companies and its export to third countries is allowed, but under tweaks to sanctions on Russia that came into

force Friday payments related to such shipments would not be banned. “With a view to avoid any potential negative consequences for food and energy security around the world, the EU decided to extend the exemption from the prohibition to engage in transactions with certain state-owned entities as regards transactions for agricultural products and the transport of oil to third countries,” the EU said in a statement. Trading house sources had said EU restrictions would have led to China and India buying oil via smaller private traders and Russian oil trade migrating into grey areas with weak insurance against accidents and being handled by older ships.



Major Russian firms have stopped trading oil for third parties, citing EU sanctions, including curbs on insurance

QR code labelling on electronics soon: ICEA

THE MOVE WILL PUT INDIAN CONSUMERS AT PAR WITH OTHER GLOBAL CONSUMERS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEGUN USING QR CODE AND DIGITAL DISPLAYS FOR MANDATORY DECLARATIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 23: The decision by the Department of Consumer Affairs on mandatory QR code labeling on various packaged commodities including electronics, will de-clutter the information for the consumers needed at the time of purchase, the India



Cellular and Electronic Association (ICEA) said Friday. Last week, the Department of Consumer Affairs announced the first step to simplify labelling using digital QR code under a law that is over 30 years old. “The industry will start working alongside the government to start transforming labelling on electronics commodities over the next one year,” said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of ICEA.

With this amendment, which covers the electronics industry, consumers will be able to read and retain several mandatory declarations in a digital format via a QR Code. It means, except information that is needed during the purchase of a specific electronic item, such as the MRP, name of manufacturer/importer, customer support details, unit sales price, month/year of manufacture and

This is a historic, pro-consumer step to reform a 30-year old law. Consumers will be the biggest beneficiaries of this change. It is both environment-friendly and reduces compliance burden for the industry

PANKAJ MOHINDROO | CHAIRMAN, ICEA

country of origin, which will remain on the label, all other mandatory declarations can be stored and read digitally. It will de-clutter the label while retaining only relevant information needed at the time of purchase, and make the label neater and more legible. The move will also provide easy real-time and updated information via QR code to consumers even months after the purchase, thereby reducing the size of labels on commodities.

Google fires techie who said AI chatbot is sentient

REUTERS

Washington, July 23: Alphabet Inc’s Google said Friday it has dismissed a senior software engineer who claimed the company’s artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot LaMDA was a self-aware person. Google, which placed software engineer Blake Lemoine on leave last month, said he had violated company policies and that it found his claims on LaMDA to be “wholly unfounded.” “It’s regrettable that despite lengthy engagement on this topic, Blake still chose to persistently violate clear employment and data security policies that include the need to safeguard product information,” a Google spokesperson said in an email to Reuters. Last year, Google said that LaMDA - Language Model for



Dialogue Applications - was built on the company’s research showing Transformer-based language models trained on dialogue could learn to talk about essentially anything. Google and many leading scientists were quick to dismiss Lemoine’s views as misguided, saying LaMDA is simply a complex algorithm designed to generate convincing human language. Lemoine’s dismissal was first reported by Big Technology, a tech and society newsletter.

Domino’s may shift business away from Zomato and Swiggy

Dominos’ warning comes as Zomato and Swiggy face accusations by many restaurants that their alleged practices hurt business

REUTERS

New Delhi, July 23: Domino’s Pizza India franchise will consider taking some of its business away from popular food delivery apps, Zomato and SoftBank-backed Swiggy, if their commissions rise further, according to a letter seen by Reuters. The disclosure was made by Jubilant FoodWorks, which runs the Domino’s and Dunkin’ Donuts chain in India, in a confidential

filing with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) which is investigating alleged anti-competitive practices of Zomato and Swiggy. Jubilant is India’s largest food services company, with more than 1,600 branded restaurant outlets – including 1,567 Domino’s and 28 Dunkin’ outlets. The CCI ordered in April its probe into Zomato and Swiggy after an Indian restaurant group alleged preferential treatment, exorbitant commissions and other anti-competitive practices. The food delivery apps deny any wrongdoing. After the CCI sought responses from Domino’s India franchise and several other restaurants as part of its investigation, Jubilant sought more time to share data related to its online



sales, but wrote to the watchdog expressing concerns over potentially higher commission of food-ordering platforms. “In case of an increase in commission rates, Jubilant will con-

sider shifting more of its businesses from online restaurant platforms to the in-house ordering system,” the company stated in its July 19 letter addressed to the CCI.

HEFTY COMMISSIONS

- National Restaurant Association alleges that commissions charged by Zomato and Swiggy in the 20% to 30% range were “unviable”
- Zomato said it negotiates and charges commissions from restaurants but they had no bearing on how listings appear on its app
- Swiggy stated that its commissions were determined by factors such as a restaurant’s popularity or the volume of orders

Zomato, which is backed by China’s Ant Group, said it had no plans in the pipeline to increase restaurant partner commissions at the top end. “No commercial

decisions are unilaterally taken that may adversely impact our stakeholders.” With the rising use of smart-phones and attractive discounts on offer, food delivery platforms have become increasingly popular in India. Jubilant in February said Domino’s app was installed 8.2 million times during the quarter to December 2021, and its “own app sales continued to grow faster than the aggregators”. A senior industry executive with direct knowledge said that Zomato’s and Swiggy’s commissions were a concern for Domino’s and many other restaurants. “If commissions are increased further, they will lead to profit squeeze of businesses and will simply be passed on to consumers,” said the executive, who declined to be named.

INDIA PULL OFF THRILLING WIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 23: Shikhar Dhawan made a well crafted 97 (99b, 10x4, 3x6) while Shubman Gill made a classy 64 (53b, 6x4, 2x6) in his ODI comeback before India held their nerves to pull off a three-run win over the West Indies in the series opener here.

Openers Dhawan and Gill shared a 119-run stand before the West Indies fought back to restrict India to 308/7. The West Indies needed 15 off the final over for a record chase at Queens Park Oval but Mohammed Siraj (2/57) was able to stop a rampaging Romario Shepherd (38 n o, 25b, 3x4, 2x6).

At the top of order, Kyle Mayers (75, 68b, 10x4, 1x6) and Shamarh Brooks (46, 61b, 4x4, 1x6) raised West Indies' hopes with an 117-run stand for the second wicket before Brandon King (54, 66b, 2x4, 2x6) took the game deep. In the end, the West Indies fell short and ended at 305/6.

Shardul Thakur (2/54) had struck twice earlier in the chase to bring back India into the game as he removed the set duo of Mayers and Brooks. Skipper Nicholas Pooran (25) came in and punished Prasidh Krishna with two flat sixes over deep square leg and deep mid-wicket.

The hosts needed 60 off the last 90 balls and the 56-run stand between King and Akeal Hosein (32 n o) kept India on the edge. However, Yuvvendra Chahal (2/58) came up with a timely breakthrough to make the job tougher for the West Indies.

Earlier, Gill, playing his first ODI since December 2020, played some sublime strokes while Dhawan took his time before changing gears. Shreyas Iyer was back amongst



JOB DONE: Mohammed Siraj is mobbed by teammates after India's win in the first ODI over West Indies

the runs with a fluent 54 (57b, 5x4, 2x6).

The opening duo of Gill and Dhawan provided the launchpad for a 350-plus total before the former was run out in the 18th over against the run of play. Gill, one of the most watchable batters when in full flow, was very comfortable against the fast bowlers.

Gill hooked Alzarri Joseph (2/61) for a six before he delighted the crowd with a perfectly placed punch off the back foot for a boundary. It took a brilliant direct hit from West Indies captain Pooran to dismiss

him. It was Gill's maiden ODI fifty in what was his fourth game.

Dhawan, who only plays one format and had a lean run in England, paced his innings well with Gill going strong at the other end. The southpaw's go-to-shot was the slog sweep off left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie (2/54).

India were set for a 350-plus score but Dhawan's dismissal for the seventh time in the 90s led to a middle-order collapse with the visitors reduced to 252/5 from 213/1. Sanju Samson (12) squandered a good opportunity to make an im-

pact while Suryakumar Yadav (13) fell to a loose shot. Deepak Hooda (27) and Axar Patel (21) took India past 300 with a 42-run stand for the sixth wicket.

BRIEF SCORES

India 308/7 (Shikhar Dhawan 97, Shubman Gill 64, Shreyas Iyer 54; Gudakesh Motie 2/54, Alzarri Joseph 2/61) beat West Indies 305/6 (Kyle Mayers 75, Brandon King 54, Shamarh Brooks 46, Romario Shepherd 39 n o; Shardul Thakur 2/54, Mohammed Siraj 2/57, Yuvvendra Chahal 2/58) by 3 runs.

Javeline thrower Annu finishes 7th in Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eugene, July 23: India's Annu Rani finished seventh in the women's javelin throw final with a below-par effort of 61.12m at the World Championships here.

Competing in her second consecutive final in the showpiece, Rani achieved her best of the day in her second attempt, but failed to cross the 60m mark in other five throws Friday.

Her series read 56.18m, 61.12m, 59.27m, 58.14m, 59.98m and 58.70m. The 29-year-old has a season's and personal best of 63.82m. A personal best effort would have handed Rani a medal but it was not to be as she struggled in her campaign in the showpiece.

The national record holder had qualified for the final as eighth best in the qualification round with a throw of 59.60m.

Defending champion Kelsey-Lee Barber of Australia won the gold with a best and world leading throw of 66.91m. American Kara Winger took the silver with a last round effort of 64.05m, while Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi of Japan won a surprise bronze with her best throw of 63.27m. Olympic champion Shiyi Liu of China was fourth with a best performance of 63.25m.

This was Rani's third appearance in the showpiece. She had finished eighth in the finals with a best throw of 61.12m in the last edition in 2019 in Doha. She could not qualify for the finals in 2017 in London after finishing 10th in her qualification group.

Annu had broken her own national record with a throw of 63.82m while winning gold during the Indian Open Javelin Throw Competition in May in Jamshedpur.

ENGLISH PLAYER HITS 410 FOR HIGHEST SCORE THIS CENTURY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leicester, July 23: Sam Northeast entered an exclusive group of cricketers to pass 400 runs in a single innings after hitting 410 not out for Glamorgan in an English County Championship match Saturday.

He didn't get a chance to challenge Brian Lara's world-record individual score of 501 — set in 1994 while playing for Warwickshire, also in an English county match — because Glamorgan chose to declare on 795/5 against Leicestershire.

Northeast, a 32-year-old right-handed batter, hit 45 fours and three

sixes in his 450-ball knock. It is the highest individual score this century in elite-level cricket, surpassing Lara's test-record 400 not out for West Indies against England in 2004, and the ninth highest of all time.

Only eight players had previously ever made 400 or more in first-class cricket. Like Lara, Australian batter Bill Ponsford passed the 400 mark on two occasions, when playing for the state of Victoria in the 1920s.

Northeast's knock was the fourth 400-plus score in the English county game, after Lara, Archie MacLaren (424) in 1895 and Graeme Hick (405) in 1988.

How an article changed CWG-bound boxer Sagar's life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: An aversion to studying accompanied by a "life-changing" newspaper article on the 2015 'Fight of the Century' between legends Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao marked the beginning of Sagar Ahlawat's boxing dream.

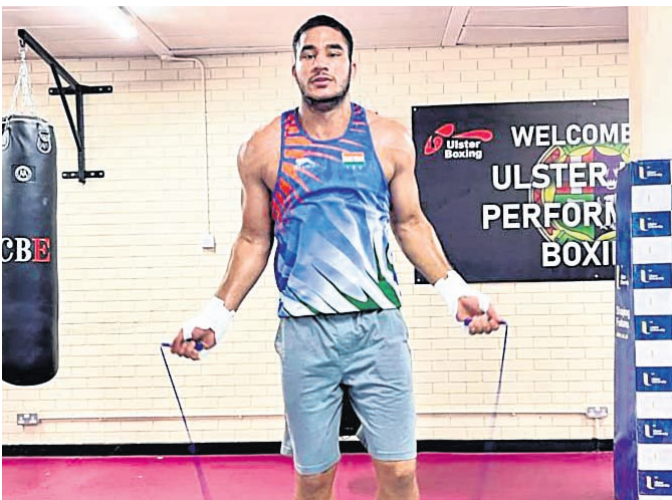
Seven years later, the 20-year-old is gearing up for the men's +92kg super heavyweight competition at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, where he will be donning the India jersey for the very first time.

"I was not good at studies. Mere se padhai hoti hi nahi thi. (I just couldn't study) So, I started look-

ing for something else to do after 12th class," Sagar told this agency.

Born to a family of farmers, Sagar had no connection to sports. But one fine day, he came across a full page newspaper article about the famous bout between Mayweather and Pacquiao, considered to be one of the most anticipated sporting events in history.

As he read about the two boxing greats and their achievements, it became clear to Sagar where his future lay. "No one was into sports in my family. I knew a little bit about boxing but I felt inspired after reading about them (Mayweather and Pacquiao) and their accomplishments," said the man of few words.



He started training at the Jawahar Bagh Stadium in Jhajjar, which is some 20km away from his village Dhandlan. "I took up boxing in 2017."

The Haryana pugilist wanted to make a career in boxing but had to miss training sometimes in order to help his folks at the family farm.

His first big win came a couple of years later, at the All India University Games, where he won the gold medal. He followed that up by winning back-to-back titles at the Khelo India University Games.

A sensational silver medal on debut at the Senior Nationals in 2021 led to his induction in the national camp at Patiala.

Sagar continued his impres-

sive run at the CWG selection trials. He stunned Tokyo Olympics quarterfinalist Satish Kumar before downing reigning national champion Narender to book his ticket to Birmingham for his maiden international tournament.

At the CWG, Indian boxers are expected to face tough competition from English and Irish pugilists among others. Sagar may lack experience but the Haryana boxer knows with absolute clarity what aspect of his game he will rely on most to win him bouts.

"I'm a bit weak on technique but my power is my strength. I will use my power to win bouts," a confident Sagar said.

CWG FACTFILE

With less than a week left for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the let's take a look at 15 facts involving India at the showpiece...

India's first CWG medallist was wrestler Rashid Anwar at the 1934 edition of the event in London. That was also India's maiden entry at the Games.

Only six Indian athletes participated in the 1934 Commonwealth Games. The six-member Indian contingent at the 1934 Commonwealth Games took part in only athletics and wrestling disciplines.

India had to wait until 1958 for its first gold at the Games when the legendary Milkha Singh clinched the yellow metal in Cardiff.

The duo of Ami Ghia and Kanwal Thakar Singh became the first Indian women to win a CWG medal when they bagged bronze at the 1978 edition of the event in Edmonton, Canada.

Discus thrower Krishna Poonia clinched India's second gold medal in athletics at the 2010 CWG in Delhi, 52 years after Milkha's historic feat.

Shooter Roopa Unnikrishnan wrote her name in history books when she became the first Indian woman to clinch a CWG gold in the women's 50m rifle prone event during the 1998 edition of the tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

So far, India has bagged a total of 503 medals in its CWG history. India returned home without any medal from the CWG only on two occasions — 1938 (Sydney) and 1954 (Vancouver).

Delhi beat Edmonton by a margin of 46-22 to clinch the hosting rights of the 2010 edition of the Commonwealth Games.

BR Chopra's Mahabharat's late Praveen Kumar Sobti won a medal for India at the 1966 edition of the CWG in Kingston, Jamaica, when he bagged silver in the men's hammer throw.

India has never finished outside the top five of the medal tally since the 2002 edition of the Games in Manchester.

Discus thrower Ranjith Kumar became the first Indian para-athlete to win a CWG medal when he bagged bronze during the 2006 edition.

The most successful Indian athlete at the CWG to this date is shooter Jaspal Rana, who has won 15 medals in the multi-sport extravaganza.

A strong 322-member Indian contingent will be taking part in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The country's biggest contingent was during the Delhi Games in 2010 when a total of 495 athletes took part in it.

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