



DREAM RUN

Actor Shruti Haasan says she never thought cinema will become the greatest source of joy in her life

LEISURE

P2



CALLED FOR QUESTIONING

The twin city police asks actors Babushaan and Prakruti Mishra to appear before it for questioning in two separate cases

DOWNTOWN

P3



FRESH ATTEMPT

Ukraine presses ahead Sunday with efforts to restart grain exports from its Black Sea ports

INTERNATIONAL

P10

99.52% clear CISCE Class XII exam

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 24: Eighteen candidates have shared the top rank in CISCE Class XII examination with a score of 99.75 per cent, according to results announced Sunday.

PRAGNYA MISHRA IS STATE TOPPER

Bhubaneswar: Pragnya Mishra of Berhampur got 99.25% and was the state topper in ISC exam. Pragnya Mishra is a student of De Paul School, Berhampur. Around 1871 students wrote the exam from the state. Out of them 949 are boys and 922 are girls. The pass percentage in the state stood at 99.47%. Girls have done better than boys with 99.67% while boys' pass percentage is 99.26.

The second rank has been shared by 58 candidates who scored 99.50 per cent while 78 candidates scored 99.25 per cent to share the third rank. The pass percentage in the exams stood at 99.52 per cent with girls outshining boys by a very small margin, officials said. In a first, the board had conducted the exams in two terms.

Monkeypox: Centre holds high-level meet as tally climbs

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 24: The Centre Sunday held a high-level review meeting after a 34-year-old man from the national capital with no history of foreign travel tested positive for the monkeypox virus, making it the fourth case of the disease reported in India.

Sources said the meeting was chaired by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and attended by officials from the Health ministry, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and ICMR among others.

The new patient who is presently recovering at a designated isolation centre at the Lok Nayak Hospital had attended a stag party in Manali in Himachal Pradesh recently, official sources told PTI.

A resident of West Delhi, the patient was isolated at the hospital around three days ago after he showed symptoms of the disease.

His samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune on Saturday which came out positive, Union Health Ministry officials said.

The close contacts of the case have been identified and are under quarantine as per the Ministry of Health's guidelines, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Three cases of monkeypox had earlier been reported from Kerala.

The World Health Organisation Saturday declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thanks to our leadership, you all became aware of corona, nipah & monkeypox... first time in the past 70 years

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 30.3°C	30.0°C
	MIN 24.2°C	23.0°C
Humidity	100%	95%
Rainfall	34.7mm	29.6mm
	Cloudy	sky

Neeraj scripts history again

19-YEAR WAIT ENDS

INDIA'S SPORTS COMMUNITY HAILS NEERAJ CHOPRA AFTER THE OLYMPIC JAVELIN CHAMPION WON THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SILVER MEDAL AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHOPRA'S THROW OF 88.13 METRES WAS NOT ENOUGH TO BEAT GRENADIAN ANDERSON PETERS' EFFORT OF 90.54M BUT IT WAS ENOUGH TO END INDIA'S 19-YEAR WAIT FOR ANOTHER MEDAL AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ANJU BOBBY GEORGE TOOK BRONZE IN THE WOMEN'S LONG JUMP IN PARIS IN 2003 TO WIN INDIA'S FIRST MEDAL

AGENCIES

Eugene, July 24: The gold eluded him but with a landmark silver here, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra still created history one more time, becoming only the second Indian and first male track and field athlete to win a medal in the World Championships.

The 24-year-old Chopra, who had come into the showpiece as a hot medal favourite, produced a best

throw of 88.13m, which came in the fourth round, to finish second behind defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada (90.54m). Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby

George was the first Indian to win a medal - bronze -- in the World Championships in the 2003 edition in Paris. It was a nervy and unusual start for Chopra, as he opened with a foul throw and had 82.39m and 86.37m to be at fourth after three rounds.

But, to the big relief of the Indian contingent, and the legions of his fans back home, he got his rhythm back as he came up with a big fourth round throw of 88.13m, his fourth career-best effort, to jump to second place, which he held on to till the end. His fifth and sixth throws were fouls. Chopra had won gold in Tokyo Olympics last year with a second round throw of 87.58m and had just

needed a first round effort of 88.39m to qualify for the finals at second place here. His silver saw India featuring in the medal table of the Worlds for the first time in nearly two decades. India were placed at joint 28th in the standings.

The usual big smile was back as Chopra, the son of a farmer from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana, did the 'calm-down' gesture and showed the victory sign with his right hand. Chopra was, however, no match for Grenada's gold winner Anderson Peters, who produced a massive 90.54m throw to defend the title he had won in the last edition in 2019 in Doha. Peters, also 24, became only the second man in

More P12

Athlete Neeraj Chopra competes in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships, in Eugene, USA. Chopra won the silver medal with his best throw of 88.13m.

PTI PHOTO



Murmu's victory matter of honour: CM

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is on a four-day visit to the national capital, will attend the oath-taking ceremony of President-elect Droupadi Murmu

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 24: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday met President-elect Droupadi Murmu at her residence here and said that it is a matter of honour that a daughter of Odisha has been elected as the President of India.

Patnaik along with Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha went to the residence of Murmu to greet her. The Chief Minister arrived in Delhi Saturday and is on a four-day visit to the national capital.

"I came to greet the President-elect Droupadi Murmu and wish



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik meets President-elect Droupadi Murmu at the latter's residence in New Delhi, Sunday.

OP PHOTO

her all the best. I'm so pleased and honoured that a daughter of Odisha has been elected to be the President

of India. I will attend the oath taking ceremony Monday," Patnaik said after meeting Murmu.

BJP MLAs from Mayurbhanj also met Murmu at her residence Sunday. Sources said the BJP MLAs from Mayurbhanj will attend the oath taking of Murmu in tribal attire.

It may be mentioned here that the BJD had supported Murmu and also campaigned for her by urging the Congress MLAs to vote for her in the Presidential elections.

Murmu will take oath of office of the highest constitutional post of the country Monday followed by a 21 gun salute.

The Union Home Ministry said the ceremony will be held at the central hall of Parliament at 10.15 am Monday where Chief Justice of India NV Ramana will administer the oath of the office of the President to her.

Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Members of the Council of Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, Members of Parliament and principal civil and military officers of the government will attend the ceremony.

STF recovers skeletal remains of 2 tuskers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: Forest officials were caught on the wrong foot after a Special Task Force (STF) of the state Crime Branch recovered the half-burnt skeletal remains of two tuskers from Kolagaon reserve forest and Tabaloi jungle under Dhama forest range in this district, Sunday.

The incident comes eight months after forest officials ruled out poaching following recovery of a tusker skeleton from Munder jungle under Sadar forest range in the district.

Preliminary investigation on the bones indicated that the tuskers were adults and within their forties with the incident taking place some months back.

The ashes have been washed away in the rainwater but the fragmented pieces of bones remain on the spot without getting destroyed. While large pieces of bones were recovered from one place, the bones recovered another place were small in size.



When contacted, divisional forest officer (DFO) Biswanath Nilambar said he was aware of the development and can only comment on the issue after visiting the spots and going through the reports prepared from all aspects. Subhendu Mallick, honorary wildlife warden, alleged that there have been reports of killing of seven tuskers in Sambalpur forest division. He said that the poachers have taken away the ivories after killing the tuskers at Kolagaon and Tabaloi jungles under Dhama forest range and the forest officials were allegedly trying to suppress the incident.

Contd...4

HC recognises right to give only mother's name in IDs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, July 24: The children of unwed mothers and rape victims can live in this country with the fundamental rights of privacy, liberty, and dignity, the Kerala High Court has said and allowed a person to include his mother's name alone in the birth certificate, identity certificates and other documents.

Justice PV Kunhikrishnan, in an order issued July 19, said a child of an unwed mother is also a citizen of this country and nobody can infringe any of his/her fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

"The children of unwed mothers and the children of raped vic-

tims can also live in this country with the fundamental rights of privacy, liberty, and dignity. None can intrude into their personal life, and if it happens, the constitutional Court of this country will protect their fundamental rights," the order said.

The name of the father of the petitioner, who is the son of an unwed mother, was different in three of his documents.

The court directed the Registrar of Births and Deaths to expunge and remove the name of the father from the Birth Register maintained at the office regarding the petitioner and issue a certificate showing the name of mother only as a single parent, if such a request is



made by the petitioners.

"He/she is a son/daughter of not only the unwed mother but this great country India," the court said in its order.

The court also said the state should protect citizens of all kind as equal to other citizens without disclosing their identity and privacy. "Otherwise, they will face unimag-

We want a society with no such characters like 'Karna', who curses his life because of the insult he faced for not knowing the whereabouts of his parents...the new age 'Karnas' can live like any other citizen with dignity and pride

JUSTICE PV KUNHIKRISHNAN | KERALA HIGH COURT

inable mental agonies," it said. "We want a society with no such characters like 'Karna', who curses his life because of the insult he

faced for not knowing the whereabouts of his parents. We want the real brave 'Karna' who was the real hero and fighter in 'Mahabharata'. Our Constitution and the constitutional Courts will protect all of them and the new age 'Karnas' can live like any other citizen with dignity and pride," Justice Kunhikrishnan said.

The court had also directed the General Education Department, the Board of Higher Secondary Examinations, the UIDAI, the IT Department, the Passport Officer, the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commission to effect the consequential expunge of the name of the father from their official records and databases.

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES
You will make a great deal of progress which will help you set aside quite a chunk of money for lean times. There are yet more deals to be signed which will turn out to be landmarks in your business. Ganesha says that your current labours will bear fruits in the future.

TAURUS
In the more morning you are due to be gripped by an urge to acquire a fresh look, a complete make over. You will probably visit a beauty parlour for necessary treatment. Ganesha says that you will be desperate to make an impression on the people around you. In the evening you are likely to be vexed and puzzled by some particular issue.

GEMINI
You will be able to improve your social standing and status tremendously today. You will spend all your energies in making your heart's desires come true. You may end up proposing to that special someone and will find your life partner. You may finally decide to take the decision to tie the knot and settle down, says Ganesha.

CANCER
It is highly probable that you will be highly pious and dutiful today, foretells Ganesha. You will spend sparingly in the afternoon. You will stay in excellent health condition. Romantic dinner with sweetheart is likely, hopes Ganesha.

LEO
It is fine to make hay while the sun shines, but do not forget to put aside some for a rainy day as well, says Ganesha. Today is one such day when you can do fantastically well by putting aside some money for your family's future. At work, pending tasks may have piled up, but today you shall do well to try and clear the backlog.

VIRGO
Your position of strength will be shaken badly today. All chances are, this may invite unwanted troubles and furrow deeper lines of worry. But you may yet do good if you shift out of the usual and foray into something new.

LIBRA
Remember the joint account you were going to open one of these days? Well, today is the day best suited for such decisions. Make the most of this propitious day and make well-informed plans concerning your future career growth. Ganesha gives his nod.

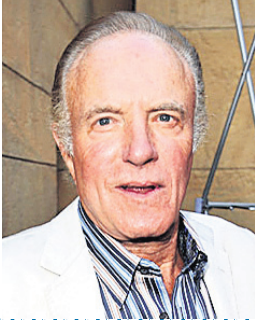
SCORPIO
In all probability, backlog is the last word you may like to hear. Professionally, you will remain workaholic for most part of the day. You shall polish off all those files in your 'In' tray. The romantic bee will buzz around in the evening and gladden your heart, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
High-octane action might be in the offing at work today. The day will be highlighted by your workaholic and tireless nature. Your bosses may be lenient with you today on certain issues. Love, affection and devotion of your loved ones will keep you preoccupied otherwise.

CAPRICORN
Striking a perfect balance between work and passion, you are likely to inspire people and leave them in awe with all that multitasking, says Ganesha. Of course, as the day progresses, work will gain more prominence and demand more attention, but for the time being, you will enjoy the break you may get from work. Amid all the happenings, your social life may take a back-seat, but you wouldn't as much as even realise it.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas may be excellent, says Ganesha, but it's your diplomacy and charm which will oil the wheels. You are a silver-tongued smoothie, and can even talk people into eating soap! Family and friends will revel in your company. If you are a student, you may get As in all your tests!

PISCES
You will be in the mood to splurge today. You are likely to find yourself throwing a party or entertaining guests in the afternoon. You might just indulge in some uncalled-for extravagance and give your spouse a pleasant, albeit expensive, surprise, says Ganesha.



JAMES CAAN'S CAUSE OF DEATH REVEALED

The cause of *God Father* actor James Caan's death has now been revealed to be a heart attack and coronary artery disease. The actor died July 6 at the age of 82. The Los Angeles County Coroner revealed the information in Caan's death certificate.

ELLIE CREDITS MOTHERHOOD FOR HER STRONGER VOICE

Singer Ellie Goulding says her voice has gotten stronger since becoming a mother. After welcoming her first child, Arthur, with husband Caspar Jopling last April, the *Easy Lover* hitmaker admits she felt like her whole brain changed after she gave birth, while her vocals are better than ever.



NSD'S 22ND BHARAT RANG MAHOTSAV

Phulaguri Dhewa tells poppy growers' sacrifice during freedom movement



A scene from Assamese play *Phulaguri Dhewa* staged at KIIT Auditorium, Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Members of Abhineswar Gosthi, a theatre troupe from Assam, presented Assamese play *Phulaguri Dhewa* here at KIIT Auditorium, Thursday, on the fourth day of 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav (Azadi segment). The event

is being organised by National School of Drama(NSD) under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in five cities of the country. Written by Sarada Kanta Bordalo and directed by Deepak Bora, the play told the story of a peasant's revolt in the year 1861 in Phulaguri region of Assam when British administration de-

clared opium cultivation illegal and increased the land debt more than 30 per cent. Three revolutionaries - Lakhan Singh, Rongobor and Changbor - were hanged by the British in order to crush the revolt. Among the artistes Utpal Kalita, Mintu Kalita, Ranjan Tamuli, Mousam Bora, Sumitra Saikia, Depen Chandra Das performed on stage while Guna Kanta Das and Ranjan Kumar Borah scored the music. Odia play *Gandhinka Odisha*, written by Shankar Tripathy and directed by Nalini Nihar Nayak, will be staged on the last day of the festival Monday. It will be presented by Rourkela-based theatre troupe New Quest Repertory.

Tara says male actors are given more respect

Mumbai: Tara Sutaria says male actors are often addressed as 'sir' by paparazzi whereas female actors are just called by their first names.

The *Tadap* actress, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film, *Ek Villain Returns*, recently spoke about male actors being given more respect by the paparazzi than female actors.

The actress also mentioned how male actors are often addressed as 'sir' by the paparazzi whereas the female actors are just called by their first names. Tara also clarified that she is not asking the photographers to address her as 'ma'am'. According to her, all this comes from a general sense that 'man is greater'.

During a promotional interview, the actress was asked about pay parity in the industry and if male and female celebrities are not given an equal platform in a movie. Talking about the same, Tara told a news portal that it can be small things. It doesn't need to be some huge conversation about the big things that we are doing wrong. It can be about the small things and the small differences we can make.

AGENCIES



Akshay named highest taxpayer again

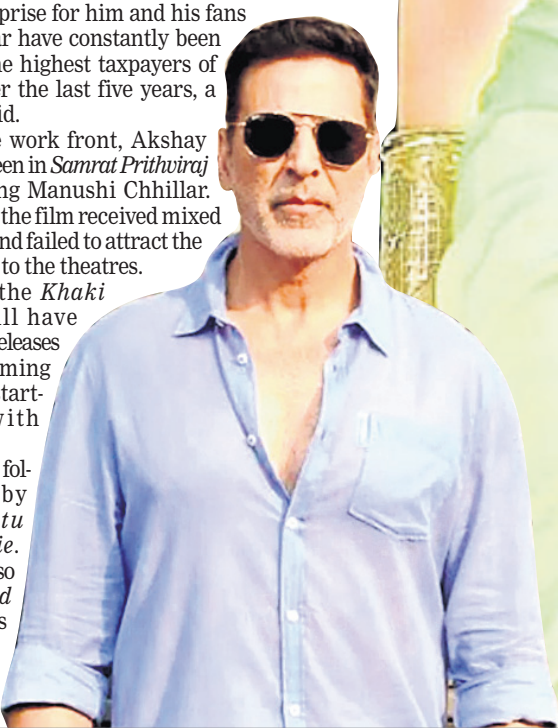
Mumbai: Akshay Kumar has once again been termed the highest taxpayer from the entertainment industry. The *Khiladi* star has also received a 'samman patra' from the Income Tax department.

Akshay is currently shooting in the UK for his upcoming film with Tinu Desai. The honour certificate was received by his team on his behalf. This has come as no surprise for him and his fans as the star have constantly been among the highest taxpayers of India over the last five years, a report said.

On the work front, Akshay was last seen in *Samrat Prithviraj* co-starring Manushi Chhillar. However, the film received mixed reviews and failed to attract the audience to the theatres.

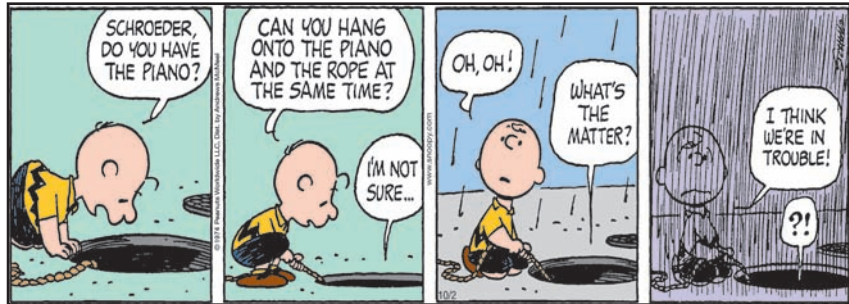
Next, the *Khaki* actor will have multiple releases in the coming months starting with *Raksha Bandhan*, followed by *Ram Setu* and *Selfie*. There's also *Oh My God 2* in his pipeline.

IAN S



FUN post

PEANUTS



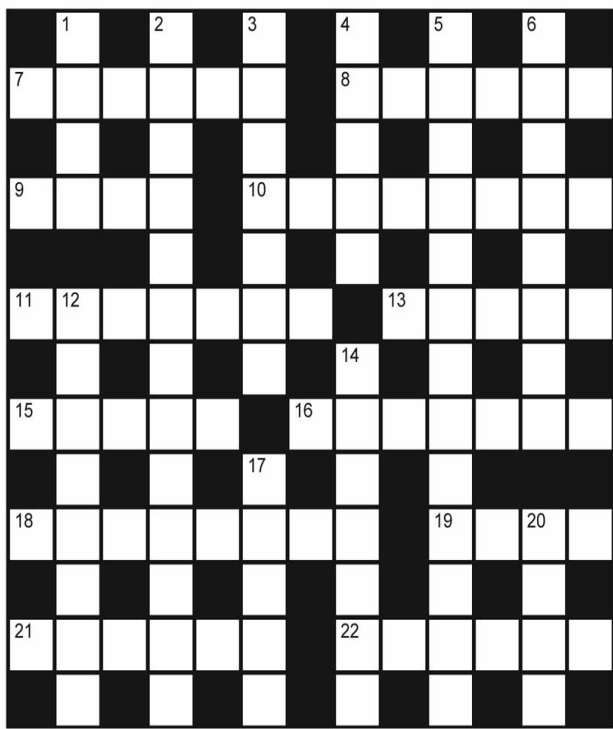
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



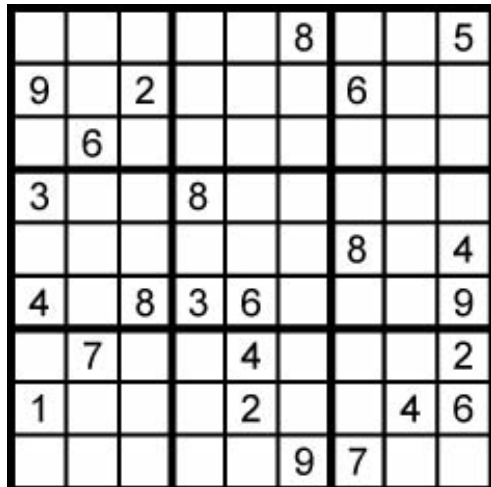
CROSSWORD



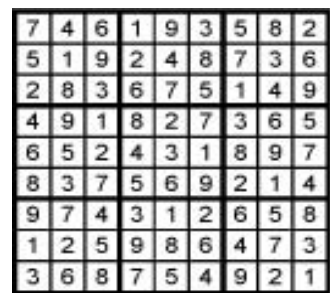
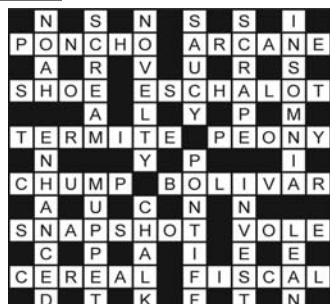
- Across**
- 7 Watch out!
 - 8 On the train
 - 9 Pasta choice
 - 10 Bless
 - 11 Cordial
 - 13 Escargot
 - 15 Dish
 - 16 Promotional item
 - 18 Untidy
 - 19 Kind of cow
 - 21 Moon of Neptune
 - 22 Macaque
 - 3 Ships, etal.
 - 4 Clever
 - 5 Back-up plans
 - 6 Writing on the wall
 - 12 Traditional knowledge
 - 14 Swiss cheese
 - 17 Foolish
 - 20 Shantytown
- Down**
- 1 Persian spirit
 - 2 Geiger counter finder

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

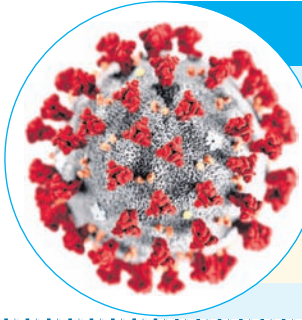


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

Devotees participate in the Maharudrabhishek at Tulasipur in Cuttack, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	57,48,37,209	54,44,12,515	64,02,672
India	4,38,88,755	4,32,10,522	5,26,033
Odisha	13,06,510	12,90,663	9,132

Cops ask Babushaan, Prakruti to appear for questioning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: The Commissionerate Police has asked actors Tanmay Mohanty alias Babushaan and Prakruti Mishra through their respective families to appear before it for questioning in connection with the assault on Mishra and alleged marital dispute between Mohanty and his wife Trupti Satpathy.

The marital dispute between Mohanty and his wife spilled on to the streets Saturday. Satpathy had a brawl with Mohanty and Prakruti in the full public glare near a guest house at Satya Nagar here over alleged extramarital affair.

The locals present at the spot made videos of the high drama that soon went viral on social media.

Subsequently, two separate cases were filed by Prakruti's mother and Satpathy at Kharvela Nagar police station.

Prakruti's mother alleged that some people blocked her daughter's car and assaulted her mentally and physically.

On the other hand, Satpathy alleged that Prakruti was using Mohanty to boost her career. She also alleged that Prakruti was providing alcohol and ganja to her husband.

The police Sunday started an investigation into the cases and visited the spot where Mohanty and his wife were engaged in a brawl Saturday.

The police have so far recorded



File photo of the incident

THE MARITAL DISPUTE BETWEEN BABUSHAAAN AND HIS WIFE TRUPTI SATPATHY SPILLED ON TO THE STREETS SATURDAY

SATPATHY HAD A BRAWL WITH BABUSHAAAN AND PRAKRUTI IN THE FULL PUBLIC GLARE AT SATYA NAGAR OVER ALLEGED EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR

THE LOCALS PRESENT AT THE SPOT MADE VIDEOS OF THE HIGH DRAMA THAT SOON WENT VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SUBSEQUENTLY, TWO SEPARATE CASES WERE FILED BY PRAKRUTI'S MOTHER AND SATPATHY AT KHARVELA NAGAR POLICE STATION

the statements of seven persons in connection with the assault case.

In a veiled attack on Prakruti, Mohanty's mother and popular actor Aparajita Sunday said a true friend is someone who always helps a person and stands beside him through thick and thin. A true friend never causes any harm to the person concerned, she said.

Aparajita also claimed that Mohanty loves his family very much. But, his behaviour changed a lot after he got into bad company during the Covid-19

pandemic.

Prakruti, meanwhile, shared a video on Instagram and pleaded her innocence in the controversy.

"A woman assaulted and harassed another in full public view with the help of eight goons. The people who were present at the spot were making fun out of it. Nobody was trying to help me when she (Babushaan's wife) was assaulting me. I remained silent at that time. I am still strong despite what happened to me. I will soon begin my work," Prakruti said in the video.

1,011 fresh Covid cases, 1 fatality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,06,510 Sunday as 1,011 more people, including 130 children, tested positive for the infection, a Health bulletin said.

The toll rose to 9,132 as a 53-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Bhadrak district. Fifty-three other patients have died due to co-morbidities so far.

The state had logged 1,130 cases and one fatality on the previous day.

Khurda, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new infections at 239, followed by 180 in Sundargarh and 105 in Sambalpur

The daily positivity rate was 4.67 per cent as the infections were detected from 21,666 samples that were tested



Odisha now has 7,440 active cases, while 12,89,885 people have recovered from the disease, including 995 in the last 24 hours, it said.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new infections at 239, followed by 180 in Sundargarh and 105 in Sambalpur.

The daily positivity rate was 4.67 per cent as the infections were detected from 21,666 samples that were tested.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Kalinga Stadium, India's new launchpad for mega events

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Bhubaneswar, the city of temples which was nowhere in the sports map of India, has now become a favourable destination for Indian athletes to prepare for national and international sporting events.

Apart from hosting several mega sporting events like the men's Hockey World Cup in 2018 and the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017, the iconic Kalinga Stadium is playing a pivotal role in preparing athletes for mega sporting events.

The Kalinga Stadium located in the heart of Bhubaneswar is nowadays known as one of the best sports hubs in India for its world-class infrastructure and facilities.

The City has successfully organised nearly a dozen of international hockey tournaments and several other sporting events in past five years and it is all set to host the 2023 men's hockey World Cup.

People's love for hockey and world-class infrastructure has made the City the home of the game. However, it is not only restricted to hockey alone, as rugby, swimming and football are also the key disciplines that are nurtured here.

Owing to this model, Odisha has grown and evolved into a sports hub and is the preferred destination for different federations.

National and international athletes have been vocal about Odisha's sports ecosystem.

In 2018, right before the men's hockey World Cup, Odisha took the step to support and sponsor the national men's and women's hockey teams for five years, and the result was seen at the Tokyo Olympics. After four decades, Indian men's team brought home a medal (bronze), while the women's team made a historic fourth place finish.

There was euphoria in the country and it was a matter of pride that Odisha played a significant role in the revival of Indian hockey. After the Olympics, Odisha extended its support for Indian hockey by another 10 years.



The Kalinga Stadium located in the heart of Bhubaneswar is nowadays known as one of the best sports hubs in India for its world-class infrastructure and facilities

The City has successfully organised nearly a dozen of international hockey tournaments and several other sporting events in past five years and it is all set to host the 2023 men's hockey World Cup

Odisha is also the only state to set up a bouquet of high-performance centres at the stadium in disciplines including hockey, swimming, football, athletics, weightlifting, sports science and badminton, in partnership with leading corporates like the Tata Group, JSW Sports, Reliance, among others.

Odisha continues to transform its sports landscape, thus empowering its athletes. It has created a defined talent identification pathway for their transition from grassroots to elite levels. Coupled with myriad welfare schemes, financial support and sports infrastructure enable them to stay focussed on their sporting journey.

The sports science centres at the Kalinga Stadium, which include the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centre and the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, are equipped with high-end machines and are led by a team of professionals to help analyse and maximise the performance and endurance of the athletes, both national and international.

Currently the high-performance centres (HPC) for hockey, swimming, football, weightlifting, shooting, athletics and sports science are operational and the badminton HPC will be completed in the coming months.

In addition, work on the centre of excellence in sports management is also going on in full swing.

As part of the Kalinga Stadium expansion plan, five projects are under construction, which include a Davis Cup standard tennis court, hockey high-performance centre, aquatic centre, India's first indoor athletic centre and staff accommodation.

The Biju Patnaik swimming pool complex at the Kalinga Stadium successfully hosted the Junior Aquatic Nationals. It also hosted the national camp for water polo wherein the Serbian national team engaged in friendlies. Once the aquatic centre is operational later this year, it will be a hub for grooming swimming champions for India.

Asmita Barla, captain of Odisha senior women's hockey team, said, "Odisha government has created a wonderful sports environment both at the state and district level. We get to reside at the sports hostel at Kalinga Stadium and train under the guidance of expert coaches."

"With new infrastructure for hockey coming up, particularly at Sundargarh and Bhubaneswar, we're sure to have larger number of players from the state representing the country."



Kanwariyas of Bidanasi Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack carry milk and holy water for offerings at Sarpeswar Mahadev temple at Athagarh on the second Monday of Hindu month of Shrabana

Union IT Min visits IIT-Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Union electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Sunday visited the IIT-Bhubaneswar. On this occasion he threw a challenge to the students to identify ten application areas and uses of 5G.

Speaking to the gathering, Vaishnaw said presently India has 74,000 startups which were nearly 400 in 2014-15. If the students provide the techniques, a Centre of Excellence will be opened in the institute. Earlier, Vaishnaw visited the laboratories of IIT Bhubaneswar and suggested students to look for new ideas and innovation in the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav period.

Vaishnaw also handed over the approval letter of government of India to IIT Bhubaneswar for inclusion in startup programme for chips. IIT Bhubaneswar will be the 31st Institution of the country for preparing semiconductors.

Not sure if we could still address Murmu informally, say friends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rairangpur July 24: With Droupadi Murmu set to take oath as the first tribal President of the country Monday, her neighbours and friends back home are confused over how to address their amigo the next time they meet her.

Ramachandra Murmu, a farmer of Uparbeda village in Mayurbhanj district, said, "Everyone in the president-elect's hometown is proud of her achievements, but I am not sure if I should use 'tu' (informal address) or 'aap' (address with respect) when we talk next".

Ramachandra, who was her classmate in Government Upper Primary School in Uparbeda, recalled that the two would often shared food from the same plate on the school campus.

"We all took part in sporting activities together. All these year, I have used 'tu' to address her. Things have changed now. I am not sure if I can use 'tu' for the first citizen of India. How can a farmer

be on equal terms with the President," he said, taking a break from his field work.

Talking more about Murmu, he said, "Her family had landed property, which did not generate revenue. She was a simple and amicable girl who wore the same frock to school."

Another friend, Govind Majhi, said that he had last met Murmu when she was the governor of Jharkhand

"She had visited my home as the governor of Jharkhand, Back then, we conversed like we always did. She is a very down-to-earth person. There was no formality involved. Now, however, I am not so sure. I don't know if I could talk informally with the country's President," he said.

Majhi also looked back on their school days with fondness, and said, "She was among the brightest students in school. I had to drop out due to poverty. She would often invite me to her home for lunch. I remember having 'pakhal bhaat' at



File photo of Murmu sweeping a temple premises in Mayurbhanj

her place."

Born to a Santhal family in 1958, Murmu studied in Government Upper Primary School in Uparbeda till Class 7 and then moved to Bhubaneswar Government Girl's

High School. She graduated from Ramadevi Women's College.

Her college mate, Suchitra Samal, said the president-elect was the same person that she was when they met the first time.

"I was pleasantly surprised when she called me two days ago. I wasn't expecting a call from her amid her busy schedule. I had wished her earlier on her success," Samal said.

She had visited my home as the governor of Jharkhand, Back then, we conversed like we always did. She is a very down-to-earth person. There was no formality involved. Now, however, I am not so sure. I don't know if I could talk informally with the country's President

GOVIND MAJHI | DROUPADI MURMU'S FRIEND

Samal along with Dangi Murmu had visited Droupadi at Jharkhand Raj Bhavan some years ago.

"We had a fun time reminiscing old days. We talked a lot, teased each other and shared updates from our lives. Droupadi was her usual, cool and composed self," said Dangi.

Samal hopes to get an invitation from the Rashtrapati Bhavan soon. "Let her settle down, we will go and meet her there," she added.

CM lauds health workers for administering 7cr vax doses



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday congratulated all the healthcare personnel of the state for achieving another significant milestone in the fight against Covid-19 by administering 7 crore vaccine doses.

He commended the hard work and commitment of the healthcare workers in ensuring a swift immunisation to save precious lives.

In his twitter account CM said, “Glad to share that #Odisha has achieved yet another significant milestone in the fight against #COVID19 by administering 7.0 crore vaccine doses. Commend the hard work & commitment of our healthcare workers in ensuring a swift immunisation to save precious lives.”

Glad to share that #Odisha has achieved yet another significant milestone in the fight against #COVID19 by administering 7.0 crore vaccine doses. Commend the hard work & commitment of our healthcare workers in ensuring a swift immunisation to save precious lives (sic)

NAVEEN PATNAIK, CHIEF MINISTER

The Health and Family Welfare department had written to the Centre to supply 1.72 crore Covishield and 18.73 lakh Covaxin doses to cover the target population by the end of August

The Health and Family Welfare department also took to Twitter Sunday to share the achievement with the people of Odisha and praised the healthcare workers for their persistent efforts.

“We salute the people of Odisha for their support & our Healthcare workers for their relentless efforts for making this #COVID19Vaccination drive a great success in our State,” the H&FW Department’s tweet read.

Earlier, in February 2022, Odisha had crossed the milestone in Covid vaccination by administering more

than six crore doses of vaccines. Odisha was the 10th State to cross the mark in 13 months.

The Odisha government recently had urged the Centre to supply 1.9 crore vaccine doses in phases for the free booster drive that commenced in the state July 15 as the stock is expected to last only a couple of days.

While over 26 lakh beneficiaries are due for second dose, 2.65 crore people aged 18 to 59 years will take the precaution dose.

The Health and Family Welfare department had written to the Centre to supply 1.72 crore Covishield and 18.73 lakh Covaxin doses to cover the target population by the end of August.

Director of Family Welfare and nodal officer of Covid vaccination Bijay Panigrahi said, the indent has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Health and the officials have assured us to provide the vaccine doses as and when required.



DISMANTLING ACT

Chariots being dismantled by Bhoi servitors in Puri after the completion of Rath Yatra

OP PHOTO

OPF asks CBSE to allow 50-50 weightage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: Odisha Parents’ Federation (OPF) Sunday wrote to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) chairperson voicing grievances of its members over the exam Term-I and Term-II weightage issue for both class X and XII students.

Basudev Bhatt, chairman of OPF, said they have received many calls and emails from students and parents regarding the Term-I and Term-II weightage allocation, which the CBSE implemented for the first time with two terms for the year 2021-2022.

The CBSE in its circular dated

5 July 2021 had stated that in its scoring it would give equal weightage, 50 per cent each, to both the terms I and II. As scheduled, Term-I examinations were conducted in the month of November-December 2021. But days after the publication of Term-I results in March-2022, news circulated on social media that the board has decided to give weightage of 30-70 instead of 50-50 to Term-I and Term-II respectively. When that news spread and students sought clarification, CBSE through its official twitter handle declared that news to be fake, essentially confirming the 50-50 equal

weightage regime.

Term-II board examination was held in May-June 2022. After the declaration of results, in one circular the board stated that majority of its committee members recommended that the weightage for Term-I (theory) should be 30 per cent and Term-II (theory) should be 70 per cent. As far as practical was concerned, it was decided that equal weightage would be given to both Term I and Term-II.

This caught the students and parents in surprise as they were expecting an equal weightage scoring system. The students, who had

eight months to prepare for Term-I and only 2-3 months for Term-II, had generally secured more percentage in Term-I than II. Seeing Term-I get significantly lesser weightage than Term-II broke their hearts.

Bhatt said that what the board did with the students should be considered injustice as it has left many of the students and their parents in anxiety and stress.

That’s why OPF is requesting the board to allow those students who are asking for it an equal weightage 50-50 scoring system. They have also made the same request to education minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

EDU-MEET 2022

‘BHUBANESWAR IS EMERGING AS A KNOWLEDGE HUB’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 24: The first edition of Education Summit - ‘Edu-Meet 2022’ was organised for the first time in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. The summit was held at the KIIT Campus-7, Bhubaneswar.

The event was inaugurated by Yemi Odanye of British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata, Rohit Pujari, Minister of Higher Education, Odisha, Arun Lal, former Indian Cricketer and commentator, Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KIIT International School, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Transgender Rights Activist and others.

The Education Summit, instituted by Candid Communication in collaboration with the ‘Association of Leaders in Education, British Council’, ‘BOPTER’ and ‘NASSCOM’.

Speaking on this occasion, Minister of Higher Education, Rohit Pujari said that Bhubaneswar is emerging as a knowledge hub in India with several new public and private universities, including the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology. Odisha has fared reasonably well in terms of literacy rates.

CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Sri Satyasiba Guin, S/o Late Girish Prasad Guin, resident of At-Nathapada, PO/PS: Jajpur road, Dist-Jajpur-755019 have unfortunately lost the land ROR on dtd. 12.06.22 measuring A 0.24 dec. which is in name of my mother late Kunjalata Guin, vide Khato No. 102/140, Plot No. 224/540 Kisam- Gharabari-2 under mouza Jagannathpur, Unit-17, Keonjhar Dist. lost in jajpur road bazar on 12.06.22. If any one found it please contact me on my cell no. 6370508150.



BJD MLAs and workers play a friendly football match at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar to mark the regional party’s 25th year celebration, Sunday

OP PHOTO

PLAYFUL MOOD

Mammals became warm-blooded 233mn years ago: Study

Mammals and birds produce their own body heat and control their body temperatures. This process is known as endothermy, or warm-bloodedness, and it’s considered to be one of the factors that helps them dominate every global ecosystem.

Warm-blooded animals are more active during both days and nights than their cold-blooded counterparts and they reproduce faster. But until now it hasn’t been known exactly when endothermy originated in mammalian ancestry. A new study published in Nature, by Julien Benoit of University of the Witwatersrand, Kenneth D. Angielczyk of University of Chicago, Ricardo Miguel Nóbrega Araújo of Universidade de Lisboa, and Romain David of the Natural History Museum, changes that status quo.

A combination of scientists’ intuition, fossils from South Africa’s Karoo region and cutting-edge technology has provided the answer: endothermy developed in mammalian ancestors about 233 million years ago during the Late Triassic period.

The origin of mammalian endothermy has been one of the great unsolved mysteries of palaeontology. Many different approaches have been used to try to pinpoint the answer, but they have often given vague or conflicting results. These scientists think their method

shows real promise because it has been validated using a very large number of modern species.

It suggests that endothermy evolved at a time when many other features of the mammalian body plan were also falling into place. Warm-bloodedness is the key to what makes mammals what they are today. Endothermy was likely the starting point where mammalness evolved: the acquisition of an insulating fur coat; the evolution of a larger brain, supplied with warmer blood; a faster reproduction rate; and a more active life are all defining mammalian traits that evolved because of warm-bloodedness. Until now, most scientists had speculated that the transition to endothermy was a gradual, slow process over tens of millions of years beginning near the Permo-Triassic boundary, although some suggested it happened closer to the origin of mammals, about 200 million years ago.

In contrast, the study results suggest that it appeared in mammalian ancestors some 33 million years prior to the origin of mammals. The new date is consistent with recent findings that many of the traits usually associated with “mammalness”, such as whiskers and fur, also evolved earlier than previously expected.

And according to study results, endothermy evolved very quickly



Until now, most scientists had speculated that the transition to endothermy was a gradual, slow process over tens of millions of years. In contrast, according to study results, endothermy evolved very quickly in geological terms, in less than a million years.

The origin of mammalian endothermy has been one of the great unsolved mysteries of palaeontology. Many different approaches have been used to try to pinpoint the answer, but they have often given vague or conflicting results.

In mammals, the three semicircular canals of the inner ear are oriented in the three dimensions of space. They’re filled with a fluid that flows in the canals as the head moves and activates receptors to tell the brain the exact three-dimensional position of the head and body.

The viscosity, or runniness, of this fluid (called the endolymph) is critical to the balance organ’s ability to efficiently detect head rotation and aid balance. In the same way as a piece of butter turns from solid to liquid in a warm pan, or honey becomes thicker when it is cold, the viscosity of the endolymph changes with body temperature.

That means the endolymph’s viscosity would normally be altered by the evolution of a higher body temperature. But the body has to adapt because changing viscosity would prevent the semicircular canals from working properly. In mammals, the canals adapt to higher body temperature by changing their geometry. The researchers realised that this change in the semicircular canals’ shape would be easy to trace through geological time using fossils.

Pinningpointing the species in which the change of geometry occurred would, they reasoned, provide an accurate guide to when endothermy evolved. They needed fossils to test their hypothesis – and that’s where South Africa’s wealth of fossils from the Karoo region came in.

The arid Karoo region preserves a treasure trove of fossils, many of them belonging to mammalian ancestors. These fossils offer an unbroken record of the evolution of life over a period of almost 100 million years. They document the transformation from reptilian-like animals (therapsids) to mammals in exquisite detail.

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Using cutting edge CT-scanning techniques and 3D modelling, we were able to reconstruct the inner ear of dozens of mammalian ancestors from the South African Karoo and elsewhere in the world. From there we could point out exactly which species had an inner ear anatomy consistent with a warmer body temperature, and which ones did not.

One thing we had to take into consideration was the geographical position of the Karoo at the time when these animals lived. It was situated closer to the South Pole than it is now as a result of continental drift. That means the warmer body temperature suggested by the geometry of the inner ear cannot be due to an overall warmer climate. As the South African climate was colder on average, the change in inner ear fluid viscosity can only have been caused by a generally warmer body temperature in mammalian ancestors.

This is an exciting time for the field. Until now, to reconstruct the evolution of endothermy, scientists only had access to skeletal features that questionably correlated with warm-bloodedness. Every attempt was a long shot to get any accurate results. The inner ear, as this research shows, changes this. We believe it may be the key to unlocking more knowledge about mammalian ancestors in future.

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Teacher suspended for beating up 14 students



POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, July 24: The Bhadrak district education department Sunday suspended Kalpataru Mallick, the Mathematics teacher of Sunamuhi Government Upper Primary (UP) School under Bideipur cluster of Basudevpur block for allegedly beating up 14 girl students after they failed to answer a question.

The action comes a day after the 14 students of Class-VIII were mercilessly beaten up by Mallick for not being able to answer a question, Saturday. The matter came to the

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

jured girls were administered primary treatment at Basudevpur community health centre (CHC) and later discharged.

The incident sparked tension in the area after the news spread. Angry parents and guardians stormed into the school premises and created a ruckus opposing the alleged assault of their wards. They detained the teacher and handed him over to police at Kashia Marine Police Station. The corporal punishment to girl students has drawn flak from various quarters.

A student alleged that Mallick was angry from the beginning. He was so angry that he started asking questions as soon as he entered the classroom and did not even give them time to answer. He started beating the girls before they could answer, she added.

When contacted, CRCC Sarat Ojha confirmed the development stating that the Mathematics teacher Kalpataru Mallick has been suspended by the BEO.

fore after the victim students informed their parents about the incident. The block education officer suspended him from service following a directive by the district education department. The suspension notice was served to the cluster resources centre coordinator (CRCC) who in turn will inform Mallick, BEO Jagabandhu Sahu said.

Notably, Mallick works as a Mathematics and Science teacher in the school. The incident occurred when Mallick was taking classes, Saturday. He allegedly beat up 14 girls in the class out of which four were injured. The four in-

Girl jumps into river after tiff with lover

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: A girl tried to commit suicide by jumping into Saida Bheden river after a heated brawl with his boyfriend in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district, Sunday.

However, Kuchinda police acted in time and rescued her in critical condition from the river. She was rushed to Kuchinda hospital where she is presently undergoing treatment.

Curious Cubs’ new centre in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: Curious Cubs Pre-school has opened a new center at Sambalpur. The new Sambalpur centre of Curious Cubs preschool was inaugurated July 24 2022 by chief guest Raseshwari Panigrahi at Cheruapada. This is the second Centre in Sambalpur and the fifth centre in Odisha after Rourkela, Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda with over 600 students.



Co-founder and Chairperson Debashri Debjani in her speech told about the journey of the school from 7 students to 600+ students and 5 centres. She also feels proud to say that it is an “all women” organization with over 80 women working staff. Curious Cubs is selected in top 25 inspiring schools amongst over 1500+ Xseed schools in India, this was published in the recent book “25 stories about a million children”. Co-founder Saransh Pansari told in his speech that Curious Cubs Preschool is the leading and one of the premium preschools in the western Odisha and has its presence in Sambalpur, Rourkela, Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda.

₹1cr sanctioned for landslide-hit villages

JANGARITUL AND BANGADISINGH VILLAGES UNDER GUMMA BLOCK IN GAJAPATI SUFFERED MASSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO LANDSLIDES FOLLOWING TORRENTIAL RAINS A FEW DAYS AGO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, July 24: The state government will carry out renovation works in the landslide-hit Jangaritul and Bangadisinh villages of B Kalakat panchayat under Gumma block in Gajapati district.

It may be noted here that the two villages suffered massive damage due to landslide following torrential rains a few days ago.

The district administration is now on its toes to carry out restoration work in both the villages. An estimated ₹1 crore will be spent for various projects in these villages.

PD (DRDA) Romanchal Khamari, zilla parishad chairperson Gabara Tirupati Rao, block chairperson Sunemi Mandal, BDO Bhaskar Chandra Sahu and MGNREGS coordinator Rashmita Das visited the two villages. The PD has directed the BDO to carry out various projects worth ₹1



₹20 lakh each has been allocated for land development under MGNREGS, two protection walls; three culverts; a check dam to be constructed by the minor irrigation department and roads and drains

crore as soon as possible. The PD said that ₹20 lakh has been allocated for land development under MGNREGS; ₹20 lakh

Children cross river on parents’ shoulders to reach schools

The incident comes close on the heels of a similar incident in Ganjam where students were forced to cross a flooded stream with the help of a rope in absence of a proper road

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, July 24: School-going children in Debahali village under Badmal panchayat of Redhakhole block in this district face a tough obstacle during the rainy season every year as they have to cross a swelling river to reach their school.

The Harihar river flowing near their village swells during the rainy season and disrupts all communication to the other side. As a result, guardians have to carry their kids on their shoulders and wade through the flooded river to drop

them at an Anganwadi centre and a primary school which are on the other side. Rolling up their trousers or lungis, the parents slowly cross the river in spate.

The incident comes close on the heels of a similar incident where students in a village under Patrapur block of Ganjam district were forced to cross a flooded stream with the help of a rope in absence of a proper road to reach their respective homes. The incident has exposed the sorry state of development in remote parts of the state.

A guardian Debaki Bhoi alleged

that their village has no Anganwadi centre or primary school. Budhikhamar village in Bhaliakata panchayat has an Anganwadi centre and a primary school but is on the other side of the river.

Our children have no other way than crossing the river to reach their school, she said. They do not face any problem during summer season but their problem aggravates once the rainy season starts.

The river swells with floodwater during monsoons but due to lack of any alternative route or bridge on the river, the elders risk their lives and carry their children to drop them at the Anganwadi centre and the primary school and also bring them back home after the school hours, she said.

The children get an undeclared holiday if the river is swollen to the



brim due to heavy rainfall, she added.

Another guardian Bharat Kumar Dharua said the river was raging Tuesday for which the children were unable to attend their schools

and got a holiday. The river was overflowing with water up to the chest for which they were unable to carry their children to drop them at school, he said.

He said that the villagers ap-

TIME FOR CELEBRATION



Women from the Santhal community perform dance wearing traditional Santhali sarees in Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj district

PTI PHOTO

Kids study under trees as school lacks classrooms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, July 24: The government spends a lot of funds to improve infrastructure in schools. However, the Karanpalli primary school in Chandbali block of Bhadrak district is plagued by shortage of infrastructure. As a result, children have been forced to study under trees, sources said Friday. The suffering of the kids has triggered resentment among the local people.

Sources said that there are 328 students in the school from Classes I to VIII. The school has four classrooms, out of which two are functional while the remaining ones are being repaired. Teachers said that accommodating all the students in two classrooms is impossible. Students of some of the classes are taught on the school verandah while others have to study under trees.

Following complaints from local people, a group of mediapersons visited the school a couple of days back to take stock of the situation.



They were shocked to see 48 students of Class-VII, 40 of Class-II and 25 of Class-III sitting under trees amid slight drizzle. They also found Class-I kids attending the classes on the balcony of the school. They learnt that children are being taught under such deplorable conditions for a substantial amount of time.

Guardians have expressed their displeasure over the situation which has cropped up due to shortage of classrooms. They sought to know why classrooms are being repaired during the monsoons.

When contacted, cluster resources centre coordinator (CRCC) Gorachand Majhi said that once the classrooms are repaired, things will be sorted out.

STIR FOR ROADS



Demanding upgradation and expansion of national highways passing through Angul district, people led by local BJD leaders staging a road blockade on NH-149 at Burukuna under Kaniha block, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Lecturer pledges to donate her body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, July 24: A woman college teacher in Sundargarh took a pledge on her birthday to donate her whole body for use in academic, medical research and related purpose after her death.

Snigdharani Patel, wife of Santosh Kumar Patel and a lecturer in Education department of Jashodabishnu Degree College at Jogimal in Tangarpalli block of Sundargarh district made this pledge while celebrating her birthday, July 19. Snigdha's husband Santosh works in OMFED at Bhawanipatna. The couple has a daughter studying in Class-I.

Snigdha accompanied by her mother and brother visited VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla on her birthday and submitted the pledge form and an affidavit



wherein she pledged that her mortal body will be donated to the Department of Anatomy, SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack or VIMSAR, Burla to be utilised for academic research and related purpose. She has also declared that in case of brain death, the body will be handed over at the disposal of either of the colleges for proper utilisation. After the pledge, the acknowledgment slip was handed over to her by Professor Mamata Sar, HOD, Department of Anatomy, VIMSAR, Burla.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. ETCPMGSUBBS
2022071 Dtd.: 18.07.2022

Name of work: EXECUTION OF MAJOR BRIDGE OF SPAN 1X12.2 M PLATE GIRDER, MINOR BRIDGES, EARTHWORK IN FORMATION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORK LIKE DRAIN, PROTECTION WORKS ETC. IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING OF LINGARAJ SILO CONNECTIVITY OF NTPC LINE OF MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 4027.54 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 21,63,800/-, Completion period of the work: 18 Months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1200 hrs. of 18.08.2022.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.


The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B/G & G1 duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/
PR-61/CF/22-23
Bhubaneswar

“

Turn all things to honey; this is the law of divine living.

SRI AUROBINDO



Lanka’s Next Test

In a win for democracy, mass protests in Sri Lanka recently led to the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. A strongman who won popularity for overseeing the end of Sri Lanka’s civil war in 2009 (while his older brother, Mahinda, was president), Gotabaya was elected in November 2019 and promised to safeguard national security and deliver prosperity. He failed miserably.

Despite allegations of corruption, war crimes, and attacks on journalists, the Rajapaksa government had a powerful mandate, which was reinforced nine months later when the brothers’ party, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (the Sri Lanka People’s Front), won a two-thirds majority in Parliament. Yet during his short tenure, the Rajapaksas drove the country into bankruptcy, food insecurity, and spiraling inflation.

Gotabaya announced his candidacy just days after the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings, promising a strong response to terrorism. In the months that followed, newspapers’ and radio stations’ frenzied coverage heightened people’s fear of Muslims (who comprise 10% of the population), and attacks on them increased. Gotabaya capitalised on this environment, portraying himself as a defender of the Sinhala-Buddhist majority who would transform Sri Lanka into a Singapore of the Indian Ocean. The clergy, media, military, political elites, and local business tycoons all adopted the same rhetoric, tying their fortunes to his.

The Buddhist clergy, for example, continuously reaffirmed their trust in Gotabaya throughout his presidency. In return, he established a Buddhist Advisory Council of notable monks to help guide his policy decisions. Even in January of this year, as families began rationing food, and as the central bank sold its remaining gold reserves to pay back an international bond, the Buddhist establishment spoke up for Gotabaya, arguing that he was still the only leader who could save the country.

By March, hospitals were reporting shortages of essential medicines, and two elderly men died while queuing for gasoline. Unable to pay for fuel to produce electricity, the government instituted rolling blackouts that culminated in 13-hour power cuts at the height of a suffocating heat wave. That was the final straw. Protesters stormed the streets and demanded the Rajapaksas’ resignations.

The political class responded by playing musical chairs within the Cabinet of Ministers, while demonstrators occupied the area surrounding the Presidential Secretariat. The space that Rajapaksa had set aside as an “agitation area” – a move heavily criticized for limiting people’s freedom of assembly – was re-named “GotaGoGama” (“Gota Go Village”). The GGG became the home of the Aragalaya (struggle) against the government, which has now raided the site and arrested protest leaders.

The Aragalaya has been unusual in that it welcomed Sri Lankans from all ethnic backgrounds. In April, protesters outside the Presidential Secretariat included activists from the Muslim community – a direct rejection of the chauvinist sentiment Gotabaya had stoked. Demonstrators also cooked a mixture of water and rice (kanji) to commemorate Tamil civilians who died during the last stages of the war, when indiscriminate shelling made it impossible for them to secure other food.

The Aragalaya thus became a place where people lived out the alternative to the Rajapaksa brand of politics. The protesters celebrated unity amid diversity, demonstrating that hope comes not from leaders but from the power of people.

But does this solidarity reflect a mere marriage of convenience? Just two and a half years ago, many of the current anti-government protesters endorsed the Rajapaksas’ brand of majoritarian politics. Today, they complain that Parliament is full of cheats and liars. Yet it is they who voted for the charlatans in free and fair elections.

The Rajapaksas were given a mandate despite their well-known record of corruption, authoritarianism, and violence. The protests began not when the family stole public funds or trampled on minority rights, but when Sinhalese were called “extremists and terrorists” just for demanding food.

The institutions that underwrote Gotabaya’s power have now lost credibility. Businesses and others who aligned with the Rajapaksas are being shamed on social media, and any elite Buddhist clergy who dare to show up at protests are lambasted. The military and the police, once praised for their service, are now seen as vehicles of state repression, and major media organisations have been condemned for whipping up anti-minority sentiment.

The question now is what will fill the vacuum. Sri Lankans have a rare opportunity to build a new identity based on this struggle for dignity. After being tear-gassed and battered by the police, Sinhalese protesters have caught a glimpse of the violence and mistreatment that Tamils have suffered. After watching their businesses collapse from lack of electricity, they now have a sense of what Muslims feel when their businesses are torched by angry mobs. And after feeling the effects of sharply rising inflation, all households now recognise that plantation workers cannot live on \$3 per day.

In each case, the Sinhala-Buddhist majority has been given a window onto the decades of deprivation suffered by minorities. Sinhala Buddhists are connecting with their inner Tamils and Muslims. But only by building on this shared trauma can Sri Lankans transform resentment against the Rajapaksas into a new social contract. By renegotiating our communal bonds and relationships, we can construct a new collective identity. That means rejecting majoritarianism and corruption, and embracing our shared struggle for a free and prosperous future.

The writer is a former research analyst for Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Finance.

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WISDOM CORNER

- “

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

ZIG ZIGLAR
- “

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

VINCENT VAN GOGH
- “

The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.

ALAN WATTS

WORDSWORTH

Upper crust

In trying to get to the root of this dismissive way to describe the upper classes, aristocracy or social elite, we have to start by clearing away the obscuring undergrowth of supposition. Many sources say it’s from the US. That’s because the OED says it is and cites as its first two examples works by Thomas Chandler Haliburton, with a third from John Bartlett’s Dictionary of Americanisms. The earliest example isn’t from America, but Britain. More disinformation comes from that splendid body of people, the guides who herd tourists around the ancient buildings of Britain. In kitchens, they explain the old method of baking bread in an oven. This was heated by burning dry twigs in it. Ashes were then raked out and bread dough was put in to bake. The bottom of the loaf was over-baked because it was sitting on the hot oven floor and ashes stuck to it. The upper crust was properly baked, however, and was obviously more desirable.

FOCUS NATION

MURMU SYMBOL OF MODI’S COMMITMENT TOWARDS TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT



The nation had to wait for 70 long years to see a tribal woman reaching the highest office of the land. It marks yet another victory for our democracy and our Constitution

Amit Shah

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF OUR TRIBAL SOCIETY, THEIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BJP’S PHILOSOPHY

Priyanka Krishnamoorthy

The Rajapaksas were given a mandate despite their well-known record of corruption, authoritarianism, and violence

SPECTRUM DIGITALISATION

Time to build a digital lifeline

In periods of crisis, digital technologies provide a lifeline that keeps people, communities, and businesses functioning. From COVID-19 to violent conflicts and natural disasters, being connected has allowed us to continue working, learning, and communicating.

How policymakers have responded to these emergencies has played a large part. In particular, as a new paper by the World Bank Group’s Development Committee shows, more agile regulation has accelerated digitalisation and unleashed innovation. In today’s global context of several overlapping crises, this needs to become the norm. Secure and resilient internet infrastructure is a fundamental necessity.

During the pandemic, as more and more of our lives went online, internet usage spiked worldwide. In 2020, 800 million people went online for the first time, and 58 low- and middle-income countries used digital payments to deliver COVID-19 relief. To manage that surge, governments and regulators in more than 80 countries moved quickly to change rules, including those governing the allocation of radio spectrum – the electromagnetic waves used for wireless communications. In Ghana, regulators assigned temporary radio spectrum to networks in high demand, and all mobile-service providers were granted permission to expand coverage. This resulted in better-quality service for more than 30 million mobile subscribers, letting them “go” to work, learn online, and access essential services.

Agile regulations have also helped digital technologies offer critical support to people in fragile and conflict situations. In Ukraine, the presence of a strong internet connection through satellite links, even while terrestrial infrastructure is under attack, has enabled the government to communicate with its citizens in real time. At the beginning of the war, shelling and cyberattacks were predicted to take down the internet, but innovations such as the satellite hookups have kept the country online. Here, too, the Ukrainian government moved quickly to speed up permissions and adapt rules.

But a digital lifeline is effective only if it is safeguarded from cyberattack, something that Ukraine knows well. For many years, the country has been a testing ground for strikes on infrastructure. Hackers carried out waves of attacks that hit Ukraine’s

Reconsider decision

Sir, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed the Parliament that extending concession to senior citizens of the country tantamounts to financial burden on the Ministry. Quoting the figures for the fiscal 2019-20, he has apprised the House that as much as ₹1667 crore has been spent towards concession to the elders. He has further advised through the august House that the senior citizens should not move out during the pandemic. Senior citizens have personal and social commitments and they have to discharge them by visiting their near and dear ones. As such, the Minister should reconsider the decision taken by his Ministry for the well-being of the senior citizens of the country whose contribution to the nation building process can hardly be undermined. Reversing the decision would be a fitting tribute to this section of our society in the 75th year of our Independence which is being observed as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

Participative democracy

Sir, As expected, NDA’s presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu was declared the winner by a huge margin of votes. This is the beauty of Indian democracy that a woman from a tribal community has been elected to the highest constitutional position. She has become the first tribal leader and the second woman (after Pratibha Patil) to be elected President of India. Her elevation to the top constitutional post is a landmark in the country’s post-Independence history. May this victory mean that there should be a really big change in the lives of Dalits, deprived women and tribals of the country. Marginalised and victimised over the decades, more than 700 Scheduled Tribes with a total population of around 10 crore can now hope that their pressing issues will be highlighted and addressed at the highest level. The tribal community has been grappling with poverty, denial of rights, loss of agricultural land and traditional livelihoods, displacement triggered by industrialisation, deforestation and mining operations, and lack of access to the government’s welfare schemes. It is no secret that even after seven decades of Independence, the marginalised sections have to go through various levels of struggle to gain representation and participation. Now after Droupadi Murmu was elected as the President, it can be said that the country has strengthened its democratic nature day by day and has taken concrete steps towards ensuring everyone’s participation in it.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

spire today’s generation. All this underlines how the Narendra Modi government is tirelessly working for the honour and empowerment of our tribal society.

From Kashmir to the Northeast, a large chunk of our tribal population dominates our rural landscape in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Post-Independence the Congress party exploited them as its vote-bank and ignored the tribal-dominated Northeast. It was PM Shri Narendra Modi who immediately after taking over as the Prime Minister began the transformation of our tribal areas at the right earnest. To kickstart the growth and development of the tribal-dominated Northeast, he formulated the Act East Policy. In the past eight years our North-eastern states have been successfully integrated into the national mainstream to become partners in growth and progress.

For decades poverty and social insecurity has been the biggest challenge for our tribal communities. This fear and uncertainty was tapped by the Left extremism in some states which led to tribal youth getting radicalised. This resulted in total disruption of growth and development in some of our tribal areas. The Narendra Modi government’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy towards terrorism has led to near complete elimination of Naxalism. Today violence and unrest in our tribal areas has been replaced by development and peace.

The socio-economic development and empowerment of our tribal society, their political representation has always been an integral part of the BJP’s philosophy. And, today under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi India has chosen Droupadi Murmu as its first tribal woman President. It is also the shining example of PM Shri Narendra Modi’s resolute commitment towards empowerment of our tribal society.

The writer is Union Home Minister.

The writer is Vice President for Infrastructure at World Bank.

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of the day **quote**

The NRI Commission is collaborating with foreign countries for generating employment opportunities for the youth in the coastal state

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Food, clothing and housing are the basic needs of the people and so the prices should be affordable and bearable

DATTATREYA HOSABALE | RSS GENERAL SECRETARY

The Jharkhand Tourism Policy 2021 aims to revive, renew and revamp the tourism sector of the state, and to provide a different dimension and perspective as to how the world views the state

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

SHORT TAKES

5 killed in blast

Saran (Bihar): At least five people, including a four-year-old child and a woman, have been killed and four others injured in a massive explosion in an illegal firecracker unit in Bihar's Saran district on Sunday, police said. The blast was so powerful that the three-storey building in Khodaibag Bazar from which it was operating collapsed, Saran Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar said.

11 jawans injured

Giridih: As many as 11 jawans of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were injured after the vehicle carrying them fell into a pit in Jharkhand's Giridih district Sunday, police said. The incident took place on Dumri road near Latkato forest in Madhuban police station area around 3 pm when the CRPF vehicle lost its balance and fell into the pit, the police said. Madhuban police station in charge Mrityunjay Singh said the bus was heading towards Chatra from Madhuban.

Sharp shooters held

Lucknow: Three sharp shooters from Bihar were injured in an encounter with the police in Lucknow Sunday. The sharp shooters belong to the Raees Khan gang of Bihar, according to police officials. They are wanted in the murder of Virendra Thakur. DCP east Prachi Singh said that the police had received a tip off about the presence of criminals in the area.

Boy ends life

Sultanpur: A day after the announcement of board exam results, the body of a 15-year-old boy was found hanging from the ceiling here. The boy had locked himself in a room in his home after he failed to clear the Class 10 examinations. His family members thought he 'needed time' to overcome the 'grief' and left him alone. Saturday, his parents left for Lucknow, and then his friends came to meet him. They knocked on the door and on finding no response from inside, they called the neighbours, who broke open the door to find the boy hanging from the ceiling.

Liquor shop robbed

Gurugram: A liquor shop was allegedly robbed at gunpoint at Bakhtawar Chowk in sector-47, Gurugram. CCTV footage from the liquor shop shows two men walking into the store and approaching the salesman. One of them took out a handgun while the second demanded cash from the salesman. The cashier complied and the men got away with an unknown amount of cash late Saturday night.



GST on scientific equipment needed by research institutions and universities raised from 5% to 12-18%. This unkind act is after reducing the budget allocation of the Ministry of Science by 3.9% from last year

P. CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

PARK DEDICATED TO COVID MARTYRS

A unique park to remember those who lost their lives due to Covid-19 was unveiled in Hyderabad Sunday



FAREWELL ADDRESS

PROTECT ENVIRONMENT: KOVIND

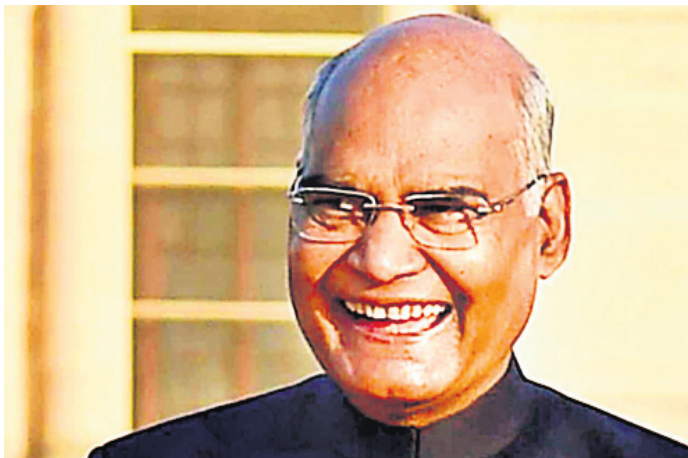
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Mother Nature is in deep agony and the climate crisis can endanger the very future of this planet, outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind said in his farewell address to the nation on Sunday as he appealed to all to protect the environment for the coming generations.

Emphasising that the country is getting equipped to make the 21st century "the century of India", Kovind highlighted the importance of healthcare and education and said these, along with economic reforms, would enable citizens to pursue happiness by discovering their potential. President-elect Droupadi Murmu will be sworn in as the country's 15th President on Monday.

In his last televised address to the nation, Kovind said, "The pandemic has underlined the need to further improve the public healthcare infrastructure. I am glad that the government has accorded top priority to this task." Once education and healthcare are in place, economic reforms will let citizens find the best course for their lives, he said, adding that "I firmly believe that our country is getting equipped to make the 21st century, the century of India". He said the National Education Policy will go a long way in making it possible for young Indians to connect with their heritage and also find their feet in the twenty-first century.

The President made a special



Mother Nature is in deep agony and the climate crisis can endanger the very future of this planet. We must take care of our environment, our land, air and water for the sake of our children

RAM NATH KOVIND | OUTGOING PRESIDENT

mention of the threat to the environment and asked all citizens to take care of it for future generations. "Mother Nature is in deep agony and the climate crisis can endanger the very future of this planet. We must take care of our environment, our land, air and water for the sake of our children." In our daily lives and routine choices, we must be more careful to protect our trees, rivers, seas and mountains as well as all other living beings. As the first citizen, if I have to give one advice to my fellow citizens, it has to be this," he added. President Kovind also hailed the trinity of ideals of liberty,

equality and fraternity, saying they must not be mistaken as abstractions because they "are lofty, noble and uplifting". "Our history, not only of modern times but also from ancient times, reminds us that they are real; that they can be realised, and indeed have been realised in different eras.

"Our ancestors and founders of our modern nation exemplified the meaning of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity with hard work and an attitude of service. We only have to follow in their footsteps and keep walking," he said. And what do such ideals mean for a common citi-

zen today? Kovind asked.

"I believe the chief goal is to help them discover the joy of living. For that, first of all, their basic necessities must be taken care of," the president emphasised.

During his address, the President went down memory lane to highlight the inherent power of vibrant democratic institutions. Kovind recalled his earlier days when the country had just achieved independence and said, "There was a fresh wave of energy to rebuild the country; there were new dreams. I too had a dream, that one day I would be able to participate in a meaningful way in this nation-building exercise".

"A young boy living in a mud house could not have any idea about the highest Constitutional office of the Republic. But it is a testament to the strength of India's democracy that it has created pathways to let each citizen take part in the shaping of our collective destiny." If that Ram Nath Kovind from village Paraunkh is addressing you today, it is solely thanks to the inherent power of our vibrant democratic institutions," he said.

In his farewell speech on the eve of his completing five-year tenure as the President, Kovind said the founders of our modern nation exemplified the meaning of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity with hard work and an attitude of service, and "we only have to follow in their footsteps and keep walking".

Partha to be taken to Odisha hospital

The court directed that the minister be produced before a special ED court in Kolkata through virtual mode at 4 pm Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 24: The Calcutta High Court Sunday directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to take West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, arrested in connection with the school jobs scam, to AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday by air ambulance.

The court directed that the minister be produced before a special ED court in Kolkata through virtual mode at 4 pm Monday. TMC, on the other hand, demanded a time-bound probe in the ED case against Chatterjee, asserting the party will not interfere politically if any leader has done anything wrong.

ED also produced the senior TMC leader's associate Arpita Mukherjee before a court, which remanded her to one-day custody of the agency. ED personnel raided several locations in the state July 22 as part of their probe into the money trail involved in a teacher recruitment scam at government-sponsored and aided



schools. Crores of rupees in cash along with other items were allegedly recovered from Mukherjee's residence, sources said. Chatterjee and Mukherjee were arrested as part of ED's investigation into the scam.

After hearing pleadings in a revision application moved by the ED challenging a lower court order sending Chatterjee to state-run SSKM Hospital after his lawyers claimed he was ill, Justice Chaudhuri directed, "The investigating agency is directed to take the accused by air ambulance to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar in the early morning on 25th July, 2022."

He directed that the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar authority will medically examine the accused by a team of specialist doctors of cardiology, nephrology, respiratory medicines and endocrinology. ED moved the high court challenging Bankshall Court order which directed that Chatterjee, who complained of uneasiness after his arrested, be admitted to SSKM Hospital.

Man asks cops not to urinate, thrashed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 24: Kerala police has suspended the three policemen who allegedly beat up a man for objecting to them urinating outside the walls of his house near Kilimanoor here.

Top officials of the state police confirmed that the three policemen were suspended, pending departmental enquiry, on Saturday itself hours after the incident was reported.

Besides the departmental enquiry, the three would also be facing criminal proceedings as an FIR was also lodged the same day against them, police said.

An officer of Kilimanoor police station said an FIR was lodged Saturday afternoon itself when the incident happened and the accused were also arrested. While refusing to give details of the FIR or the sections under which the accused

were booked, the officer said they were released on station bail after their arrest was recorded.

The victim, however, had alleged that police took no action on his complaint, delayed various procedures, like recording his statement, and repeatedly tried to settle the matter.

According to the victim-complainant, the accused are posted at Changanassery police station in Kottayam district of Kerala and were on their way to a police association meeting when the incident occurred.

The complainant told a TV channel that when he objected to the accused urinating outside the boundary wall of his home, they hit him on both sides of the head and also injured his hands.

Thereafter, they left the scene in the vehicle which he chased down and removed its key, the complainant said.



Women in traditional attire take a selfie during the Sawan festival programme in Jabalpur

PTI PHOTO

Chhattisgarh BJP MLA triggers row

Bilaspur: Chhattisgarh BJP MLA Dr Krishnamurti Bandhi has suggested that the use of bhang and cannabis be encouraged as alternatives to liquor for addiction, claiming that persons hooked on these substances hardly commit offences like rape, murder and dacoity. The legislator's statement, which he had made while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme in the state's Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district Saturday, triggered a row with the ruling Congress questioning how a public representative can promote addiction. The sale and consumption of cannabis is banned under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, while that of bhang, an edible mixture made using leaves of cannabis plant, is permitted under the law, officials said. Reacting to the MLA's statement, Congress's Bilaspur district unit spokesperson Abhay Narayan Rai said how Bandhi, who is a former state health minister, can give such a statement to promote addiction instead of suggesting ways to free society of it.

It theatre commands of tri-services soon: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, July 24: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday said the Centre has decided to set up joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.

The defence minister also said India is moving quickly from being the world's largest importer of defence equipment to an exporter.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitates family members of a martyr during a programme commemorating 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' in Jammu

He was speaking during a programme organised by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum at Gulshan Ground near Jammu University here to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces.

"Keeping in view (joint operations as seen in Operation Vijay in Kargil), we have decided to set up joint theatre commands (in the country)," Singh said. Paying tributes to the Kargil martyrs, the de-

fence minister said the country cannot forget their supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"It is the duty of the society and the people to give their utmost respect to the martyrs and their families," he said. "Whatever support you can offer, do it for their families. It is the responsibility of each citizen," he added.

Major parties 'headless' in UP ahead of 2024 elections

The Congress remains in a self-demolition mode. The party has been headless since March, when it faced its worst ever drubbing in the Assembly polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, July 24: Even as political parties across the country have already started preparing for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, major political parties in Uttar Pradesh remain in a state of disarray after the Assembly elections held earlier this year.

Major political parties in Uttar Pradesh are 'headless' and their organisations directionless. Most parties are apparently working out caste arithmetic for the next Lok Sabha elections before they appoint a state head. Some are even waiting for rival parties to an-

nounce their state presidents before they do so. The state's ruling BJP has been working without a full-time state president since March this year. The incumbent Swatantra Dev Singh is now a minister in the Yogi Adityanath government and is mainly preoccupied with his ministerial duties.

While the functioning of the BJP organisation has not been affected because party programmes are being efficiently carried out by the office bearers of the party, the absence of a full-time state president is impacting the party.

"It has been four months since we had a full-time president and this



does take away from the organisation because Swatantra Dev Singh has his ministerial work to attend to," said a party functionary. The Samajwadi Party (SP) also seems to be in complete disarray at the moment.

SP President Akhilesh Yadav has dissolved all organisational units of

the party and allies are either being shown the door or have left on their own. A section of the party leaders is speaking out against Akhilesh Yadav and Muslim MLAs and MPs are making their disillusionment with the party policies clear.

For a party that aims to make big gains in the next Lok Sabha elec-

tions, the SP needs to build up a robust organisation, address issues being raised by the senior leaders and also mobilise cadres. The refusal of Akhilesh Yadav to pull up his socks where his party is concerned, could land the SP into a Congress-like situation, sooner than later.

The Congress, meanwhile, remains in a self-demolition mode. The party has been headless since March, when it faced its worst ever drubbing in the Assembly polls. It does not have a state president and general secretary in charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has visited Lucknow only once in five months, that too barely for a few hours. The party is being run either by third and fourth rung leaders who belong to Team Priyanka or by paid employees. "We have stopped even visiting

the party office because there is no political activity or discussion. In fact, we do not even recognise majority of the people there. The party has transformed itself into an NGO," said a former UPCC president. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), meanwhile, remains directionless when it comes to its political direction. A former BSP MLA said, "We do not know whether we are going right or left in the next elections. Going by Mayawati's tweets, nearly 60 per cent are in BJP's favour while 40 per cent are against it. We do not know what to make of it."

He said that the cadres were confused about whether the party would position itself against the SP, as it did in Azamgarh Lok Sabha by-elections, or against BJP in the 2024 elections.

AAP govt accuses Centre of ‘hijacking’ plantation event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Sunday alleged that the Centre hijacked an event of the Arvind Kejriwal government at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary with the Delhi Police putting up banners carrying pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the venue last night.

He said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was supposed to attend the event but decided not to participate following the incident. Kejriwal had also skipped the weekly meeting with Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena Friday, against the backdrop of the LG recommending a CBI probe into alleged lapses and irregularities in the implementation of the Delhi government's excise policy.

Rai alleged the Delhi Police acted on the directions of the prime minister's office. The 'Van Mahotsav' which started from the Central Ridge July 11 was to culminate with the plantation of 1 lakh saplings at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday. "The Delhi Police reached the location of the event last night and took control of the pandal and the stage. They forcibly put up banners carrying pictures of PM Modi... Banners carrying photos of Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister Kejriwal were taken down," Rai alleged at a press conference here.

The Delhi Police warned of ac-



What does Modiiji want to prove by putting his picture in the programme of Delhi government? Who does not know your (Modi) name, face and photos. But this act of hijacking a programme has made it clear that there is a fear of Arvind Kejriwal instilled in your heart

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

tion if the banners carrying pictures of PM Modi were removed. They threatened the officers involved in the preparation to step back, while the banners belonging to the AAP government were torn down, he claimed. The lieutenant governor and the chief minister were supposed to attend the event and all preparations had been made, he said.

"An event of the Kejriwal government has been turned into a political event of PM Modi and he was not even going to attend it... Following the incident, the Delhi chief minister and I have now decided not to participate in the programme," he said. Rai said that attempts are being made to malign the Delhi government and alleged that Satyendar Jain was ar-

rested on "frivolous charges", and a conspiracy is now being hatched to arrest Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The CM had to go to Singapore but the file was blocked, he said. Saxena had on Thursday written to Kejriwal advising him not to go for the World Cities Summit to be held in Singapore from July 31, stating that it was a conference of mayors.

Rai alleged the incidents that have transpired in the last one and half months could not have happened "without the go ahead from the PMO." "Who doesn't know your face and name, PM Modi ... But sending police to put up your photos in the dark of the night shows you are extremely afraid of the rising popularity of

Kejriwal. This is not good for democracy," he said.

The minister said the police are supposed to ensure the safety and security of people and not put up banners of PM Modi. "I wonder what message they want to send out to people. This is not the first time we are conducting a tree plantation event."

Rai told reporters that the banners carrying pictures of PM Modi had been put up on an LED screen installed to show educational programmes to children. "We do not want to fight anyone. We will continue our plantation drive. So far, we have planted around 9 lakh saplings. The target is to plant 35 lakh saplings this year," he said. The minister said more than 2.10 crore saplings have been planted in Delhi since Kejriwal came to power in 2014.

He said the plantation drives have played a crucial role in curbing air pollution in the capital, reducing PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentrations by 25 per cent in the past five years.

Delhi Police hired 100 photographers to capture Cong moves

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 24: In a first of its kind move, the Delhi Police hired 100 private photographers to cover all happenings, including Congress protests, around the headquarters of the Enforcement Directorate when the Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were summoned there for questioning.

The strategic move, a senior police official said, was done by the department to keep an eye on any untoward incident that may have arisen due to Congress' workers protest during this time.

Delhi Police has never hired private photographers for such situations. It hired the photographers from private event management companies through which the photographers were deployed in and around the EDs headquarters

These photographers were paid around Rs 2,000 per head to 4,000 per head based on their experience, and thus, the Delhi Police paid around Rs 2 lakh to 4 four lakh for the coverage.

These camera persons were also given a police jacket to put on so that they could be identified among the crowd.

One of the photographers, who was present at A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, told IANS that he was being paid Rs 2,000 per day and was asked to click photos when Sonia Gandhi came to the ED headquarters. He



refused to be named.

Akash, of Sky Global firm through which the photographers were hired/deployed, told IANS that 30 photographers were sent to the spot when Sonia Gandhi came for the questioning.

He said different amounts were paid to each camera persons.

"On the first day of questioning of Rahul Gandhi, around 30 photographers were sent. This questioning went on for five days but on the next four days we sent only 10 photographers each day. When Sonia Gandhi came to the ED headquarters, we sent 30 photographers," he said.

Senior Delhi Police officials, specially DCP Headquarters, were contacted for their response but no one was available to comment on the matter.

A senior police official only said that if the photographers were used by the department to keep an eye on any untoward incident, nothing was wrong.

CPI comes out against CPM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, July 24: The Communist Party of India (CPI) has come out strongly against the CPM, saying that there was a deliberate attempt to brand the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala as Pinarayi Vijayan government.

Party members who were participating in the Thiruvananthapuram district committee meeting spoke about the need for internal discussions on the government. They said that there were no such attempts in the previous LDF governments led by E.K. Nayanar, P.K. Vasudevan Nair or V.S. Achuthanandan, asserting that branding an LDF government was not acceptable according to communist ideals.

The party members also flayed the home ministry under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and said that the state police was drawing flak from the general society for its failures and even its high-handedness including lockup torture and murders. The members said that the Chief Minister travelling in a cavalcade of more than 40 vehicles was unheard of in the history of Kerala, also charged the state CPI leadership for keeping a studied silence on the matter.

The members stated that the state CPI leadership was not giving any concrete opinion on the environmental issues being mishandled by the Left government led by the CPM.

The members also said that the K-Rail was a classic example in which the government and the Left front became unacceptable to the general public.

BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT

Delhi govt to develop food hubs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 24: In a bid to generate more employment, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday announced that his government will develop food hubs in the national capital.

"Delhi is already known as the food capital of India but we have decided to take this concept further. We will develop all the food of the city," the Chief Minister said in a media briefing.

According to the Chief Minister, the government has a target of giving 20 lakh jobs in the next five years and the setting up of food hubs will be a step in that direction.

He said that initially his government will revamp two food hubs at Majnu Ka Tila and Chandni Chowk as a pilot project.

"We did intense research on which places to choose first and then finally we came to the conclusion that we will begin this project from Majnu Ka Tila and Chandni Chowk," Kejriwal said.

He said Majnu ka Tila is a favourite spot of DU students



Delhi has various food hubs known for serving different cuisines. Some of the hubs serve all varieties of food. So, in the first phase, we will develop Majnu Ka Tila, a favourite of the Delhi University students, and Chandni Chowk food hubs. Based on the learnings from these, we will develop other areas

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

and is also famous for Asian cuisine and similarly Chandni Chowk is also known for a variety of street food.

The Chief Minister said they will soon hold a design competition for the architecture of the food hubs.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE


New Delhi, July 24: After the detection of a monkeypox case in the capital on Sunday, which took the nation's case tally to four, city doctors have urged people to remain cautious but not to panic.

Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries, including five deaths in Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The UN health body on Saturday also declared the infection as a public health emergency of international concern.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that is typically identified with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes along the skin lesions. However, it is a self-limiting disease and the patients recover within four weeks, health experts said.

"First of all, we have to understand that there is no need to panic. People need to be more cautious as monkeypox is a mild infection which has symptoms quite similar to smallpox," said Manisha Arora, senior consultant in internal medicine at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute. "Monkeypox is spread among humans by respiratory

MONKEYPOX IN DELHI



- Monkeypox is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact
- Human-to-human transmission can occur through direct contact with infectious skin or lesions, including face-to-face, skin-to-skin, and respiratory droplets
- Among the reported monkeypox cases, transmission appears to be occurring primarily through close physical contact, including sexual contact
- Transmission can also occur from contaminated materials such as linens, bedding, electronics and clothing carrying infectious skin particles

droplets and contacts with body fluids of patients. Hospital surveillance and isolation of cases re-

main the main intervention or prevention of infection spread. There is no need to panic," added Harshal

Salve, additional professor, Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS.

A monkeypox outbreak can be tackled by strong surveillance. The virus spread can be contained by isolation of confirmed cases and quarantine of contacts, they said and underlined that immunocompromised individuals need to be taken care of.

In a statement issued Sunday, the Union Health Ministry said the 34-year-old male patient from Delhi is presently recovering at a designated isolation centre at the Lok Nayak Hospital. "Close contacts have been identified and are under quarantine as per the Health Ministry guidelines," it added.

As per the ministry guidelines, public health interventions like identification of the source of infection, enhanced contact tracing, testing sensitisation of private practitioners etc. are being carried out.

In the WHO South-East Asia region, five cases of monkeypox have been reported so far, four from India and one from Thailand.

The infected Delhi man reportedly has no history of foreign travel, but got infected at a stag party in Himachal Pradesh.

Light rains in some parts of national capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Delhi Sunday witnessed rains in some parts with the mercury settling at 27.1 degrees Celsius, the weather office said.

There was rainfall in west Delhi's Paschim Vihar area and east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, while Shahdara and few other parts experienced some drizzle, it said. The relative humidity at 8:30 am was 79 per cent, it said.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the city will witness a generally cloudy sky with the possibility of light rain and thundershowers. The maximum temperature is likely to settle at 35 degrees Celsius.

On Saturday, the minimum temperature reached 25.5 degrees Celsius, two notches below the average while the maximum temperature settled at 34.9 degrees Celsius.



All houses, institutions in Kerala to hoist national flag on I-Day

The decision, as part of the Union government's 'Tricolour at every home' initiative, was announced in a district collectors' meeting called by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 24: The Kerala government has decided to hoist the national flag in all houses, educational institutions, government, semi-governmental organisations in the state as part of the 75th Independence Day celebrations.

The decision, as part of the Union government's Tricolour at



every home' initiative, was announced in a district collectors' meeting called by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday.

In the meeting, it was decided that state-wide celebrations would be organised as part of the Independence Day. "All houses, educational institutions, gov-

ernment, semi-governmental institutions in the state will hoist the national flag as part of the 75th Independence Day celebrations... The national flag will be hoisted from August 13 to 15.

The flags need not be lowered at night during this period as necessary changes have been

made in the Flag Code," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a release.

District collectors have been instructed to include the Kudumbashree units along with Khadi and handloom sectors to prepare the national flags.

The flags will be distributed through students and if there are houses without school children, then the necessary arrangement will be made through the local self government institutions, it said.

The meeting directed the local self government bodies to ensure that all houses, public spaces and libraries hoist the flag and that the clubs and libraries organise various programmes in connection with the freedom struggle.

The school students will be taken to various places relevant to the national freedom struggle in the state and a booklet containing the prominent incidents related to the movement will be distributed, the release said.

Senior government officials, including the Chief Secretary, took part in the meeting.

HOLY JOURNEY



Lord Shiva devotees or 'Kanwariyas' hold the tricolor as they carry holy water from the Ganga river during their pilgrimage in the month of 'Shravan' in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

You must always rise above narrow considerations of caste, gender, religion and region and work for bringing unity, harmony and peace in society

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

Trinamool Congress -- stands for The Mountain of Corruption

ANURAG THAKUR | INFORMATION & BROADCASTING MINISTER

A 100-day special programme will be launched once the cabinet is expanded to resolve issues of people in a time-bound manner

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Student dies in Hyd

Hyderabad: A 21-year-old engineering student died after falling from the second floor of a hostel building in Hyderabad. The incident occurred late Saturday night at the Lakshmi Durga women's hostel in B.N. Reddy Nagar under Vanasthalipuram police station limits of Rachakonda Police Commissionerate. The student, who was talking to her friends while sitting on railings, lost balance and fell on the ground, police said quoting the eye-witnesses.

9-yr-old girl raped

Bhopal: A nine-year-old girl was raped by a watchman in a government-run school in Bhopal, police said. The incident took place in the school located in the state capital's Khoehefiza area on Friday and the matter came to light after the victim's parents lodged a complaint on Saturday. According to the police, the victim, a student of the school, had gone to the bathroom and finding her alone there, the accused, raped her.

1 dead, 3 injured

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was killed while three others suffered injuries after the roof of a house collapsed in northeast Delhi on Sunday morning, a Fire Department official said. The deceased was identified as Sufhiyan while the injured were identified as Suleman (father of Sufhiyan), Sabnam and Laiba. The official informed that they received a call about the incident at around 5 a.m. at Babu Nagar, Gali number - 5, Mustafabad, in northeast Delhi after which three fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Three cops killed

Amaravati: Three Karnataka police officers were killed and three others injured in a road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district Sunday. The accident occurred along the Tirupati-Chittoor highway when the car in which they were travelling overturned and fell off the road after hitting a road divider. The accident took place near Choutapalli village in Puthalapattu mandal early Sunday morning when the vehicle was heading to Tirupati from Chittoor.

Hathras SP removed

Hathras: Vikas Kumar Vaidya, the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district, has been removed following the death of six Kanwariyas in a road accident. Vaidya has been posted as commandant PAC in Mirzapur. He has been replaced by Devesh Kumar Pandey who takes over as the new SP. On Saturday, six kanwariyas were killed after being hit by a dumper truck near Sadabad in Hathras.



What will be the future of thousands of 'Agniveers' retiring after 4-year contracts? With this new experiment of the Prime Minister's laboratory, both the security of the country and the future of the youth are in danger

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

CBSE results of overseas Indian schools touch lowest level since 2019

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 24: Overseas schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) could not repeat their past performance in the board examinations this year which have fallen to the lowest level since 2019.

Around 44,000 overseas students had registered for the CBSE Class 10 and 12 board examinations this year, which comprises 18,834 for Class 12 and 25,095 for Class 10. Out of these students, 93.98 per cent of Class 12 students have passed the examinations, which the lowest pass percentage of students living abroad in the last four years.

However, the result of CBSE Class 10 in overseas countries -- with 97.29

per cent students getting passed, is much better than that of Class 12. Despite this, even in Class 10, these CBSE schools could not repeat their past performance. CBSE had made elaborate arrangements to conduct of examinations in India and 26 countries.

According to the Board, there are CBSE-affiliated schools in countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nigeria, Qatar, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tanzania and Thailand.

Giving a detailed report, CBSE said that 18,834 students had registered themselves for Class 12 abroad. Out of these, 18,774 stu-



dents took the exam and 17,644 students could clear it. That is, 93.98 per cent of the students abroad have passed the Class 12 board examinations in 2022.

In 2021, 99.92 per cent of students abroad had passed the Class 12

board examinations. At the same time, in 2020, 94.26 per cent overseas students were successful in passing the Class 12 board examination. In 2019, the pass percentage was 95.43 per cent.

For Class 10, 97.29 per cent over-

seas students have passed in the board examinations in 2022. In 2021, the pass percentage was 99.92 per cent. In 2020, 98.67 per cent students had passed it while in 2019, 98.75 per cent of students succeeded in passing the Class 10 board examinations.

These schools, affiliated to CBSE, are for those places or countries, where the population of Indian citizens is high. The Indian Embassies in such countries have established the CBSE schools.

In countries where there are not many Indian citizens, India's diplomatic missions have established schools in countries such as Russia and Iran, which are mainly for the education of the children of diplomats.

A total of 14,44,341 students had registered themselves for the CBSE Class 12 board examinations. Out of these 14,35,366 students appeared in exams and more than 13 lakh students have passed it.

Similarly, 21,09,208 students had registered themselves for the Class 10 board examinations, out of which 20,93,978 students appeared and a total of more than 19 lakh students have passed it.

According to CBSE, it has 28 government and private schools in different countries outside India. The reason for their establishment is to provide education to the children and dependents of the Indian community or Indian diplomats abroad at large.



GOA BAR ROW

Irani sends legal notice to Cong

Irani's action came a day after the Congress leaders alleged that her 18-year-old daughter Zoish Irani ran a bar illegally in Goa and also targeted the minister over this, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sack her from his Cabinet



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Union minister Smriti Irani Sunday sent a legal notice to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera, asking them to apologise for their "baseless and false" allegations against the BJP leader and her daughter.

Irani's action came a day after the Congress leaders alleged that her 18-year-old daughter Zoish Irani ran a bar illegally in Goa and also targeted the minister over this, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sack her from his Cabinet. If they do not tender an unconditional and unequivocal apology and withdraw their allegations, Irani will initiate civil and criminal proceedings against them, the legal notice said. The notice has also been sent to 'Mahila' Congress leader Netta D'Souza and

the Congress party.

"The false allegations were intended to hurt the reputation of our client as a minister and a person in public life, and also to outrage her modesty and that of her daughter," the notice said. The Congress leaders stooped to a new low, morally and ethically, by attacking Irani's young daughter who is in her first year at university and at the threshold of a new chapter of her life pursuing her professional aspirations, the notice sent by Irani said.

"These aspirations of our client's (Irani) daughter are sought to be cruelly marred, jeopardised and prejudiced by the addressees (Congress leaders) through their inhumane, insensitive and false narratives as collateral damage," it said.

"The insistence of addressees to invoke value systems of our client with a reference to her 'sanskar' is an effort to make our client and her young daughter social outcasts by proclaiming that by the act of 'running' a bar our client and her young daughter are women of disrepute," it said. Zoish Irani has never applied for any licence for "running" any bar or for any business enterprise, it said, asserting that she has not been served with any show cause notice from the excise department in Goa as alleged by the Congress leaders.

Man who chopped son's body held

The accused, who had also planned to flee to Nepal, had boarded a Surat-Gorakhpur train. However, the police tracked him down when the train reached Rajasthan and nabbed him



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, July 24: In a shocking incident, a retired Transport Department official battered his son to death after an argument, chopped his body into pieces, and dumped them in different loca-

tions of Ahmedabad in the last four days, police said Sunday.

Accused, Nilesh Joshi, was arrested from Rajasthan on Sunday morning. Addressing the media, Joint Commissioner of Police, Prem Veer Singh, said: "Nilesh Joshi is a retired Inspector of the state transport service. His son, Swayam, was an alcoholic. The father-son duo had an argument over

the latter's drinking problem on either Monday or Tuesday and in a fit of rage, he hit his son with a pestle on his head for at least seven to eight times and killed him."

Joshi then chalked out a plan to conceal his crime. Buying an electric cutter and plastic sacks, he cut up his son's body into three pieces, packed the first half in a sack and dumped it in Vasma area and the second half in Ellisbridge. However, the victim's head has not been found yet, the official added. The accused, who had also planned to flee to Nepal, had boarded a Surat-Gorakhpur train. However, the police tracked him down when the train reached Rajasthan and nabbed him.



Naidu to shift to Naqvi's bungalow

Even as speculation about the next destination of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi continues, the outgoing Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will be shifting to the ministerial bungalow of former Minority Affairs Minister. Naidu has decided to stay put in Delhi after retirement next month and

Now, Pawar eyes UPA chair

After losing his bastion in Maharashtra, the Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar may now eye the UPA chairmanship in Delhi. For the Opposition parties in Delhi, Pawar is a tall leader and Congress president Sonia Gandhi has already requested him to

coordinate with all like-minded parties. Pawar played a key role in the selection of the Opposition's joint presidential candidate. The buzz in Delhi is that Sonia Gandhi wants to relinquish the post of Congress president. Therefore, Pawar is eyeing the post of the UPA chairman hoping that Sonia may quit that post too. Pawar has not agreed as his heart remains in Maharashtra though he is playing an active role in coordinating with the Opposition parties in key matters.

BJP's scouting mission in Maha

The BJP is desperately on the lookout for a strong Maratha leader from the Congress among other MLAs to enhance its base

before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It is not interested in wooing the 15-odd MLAs belonging to the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray as it considers it an internal Sena matter. However, the BJP wants to weaken Congress further not only in other states but also in Maharashtra and wean away strong regional leaders.

Who were 20 Presidential candidates!

On June 21, BJP president JP Nadda told the nation that the party has chosen Droupadi Murmu as its Presidential candidate. He went on to disclose that the party considered 20 names for the post and she was chosen amongst them. However, he left the country guessing about the remaining 19

names considered at the Parliamentary Board's meeting. It transpires that the top BJP leadership considered 19 other names which included Parkash Singh Badal, former Punjab Chief Minister and a tall Sikh leader. The name of a former Chief Justice of India was also considered who may have been signaled once that he could be considered for a Constitutional post. Telangana Governor Tamilasi Sundarajan and three other tribal women leaders were also considered. Former Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao who hails from Telangana too figured among those considered. The names of many Governors including that of Thawarchand Gehlot and Kalraj Mishra were also mentioned considering their wide experience.



Sea waves crash against the shore during high tide at Kovalam beach in Thiruvananthapuram

PTI PHOTO

Untreated sewage still flowing into Ganga: NGT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Untreated sewage and effluents continue to flow into the River Ganga even after decades of monitoring, the National Green Tribunal has said, noting that the National Mission for Clean Ganga does not appear to be in a position to take stringent measures against non-compliance.

While seeking an action taken report from the National Ganga Council (NGC) on the matter, a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adesh Kumar Goel said the quality of water in Ganga has to be as per norms as it is used not only for bathing but also 'achman' (taking sips of water before prayers or rituals).



It directed the Member Secretary, NGC to file an action taken report before October 14, the next date of hearing. Even after decades of monitoring, still nearly 50 per cent of untreated sewage and substantial industrial effluents are continuing to be discharged in the river or its tributaries/drains, in

absence of requisite functional treatment capacity, the NGT said.

"Instead of indefinitely continuing the proceedings without success, as has happened in the last 37 years, we suggest that the Member Secretary, NGC i.e. DG, NMCG may place the agenda of reviewing the existing mechanism

The NGT said in view of the disappointing factual position, a paradigm shift in execution and monitoring appears to be necessary

for executing the work of setting up and maintaining requisite treatment systems to ensure prevention of pollution of Ganga in the next meeting of the NGC, which is the highest authority under the 2016 Ganga Order, preferably within one month or as early as possible," it said.

UP: PORTRAITS OF YOGI, PM FOUND IN GARBAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura (UP), July 24: Portraits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were found in garbage collected at the Kosi Kalan power plant, officials said Sunday.

The portraits of the two leaders were disposed off in 'kabad' by some employees of the power plant while the office was being cleaned, they said. A few days ago, a sanitation worker was terminated after photos of Modi and Adityanath were found in his garbage cart. He was reinstated after much hue and

cry on social media.

Executive engineer in the power department Prabhakar Pandey confirmed the recovery of portraits from the garbage. The government had asked Pandey to submit a report after the BJP's Yuva Morcha gave a complaint in this regard to the chief minister and Energy Minister A K Sharma.

"During inspection of the power plant, the complaint was found to be true. On inquiry, it was found that the sub-divisional engineer and a junior engineer posted there had kept those portraits in junk after getting the office cleaned," Pandey said.

Five of family killed in accident

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koppal (Karnataka), July 24: In a tragic road accident, five members of a family including four women were killed and four others were critically injured after their car was hit by an unknown vehicle.

The police have launched a hunt for the driver who fled the scene after colliding his vehicle with the car.

The incident took place on late Saturday night in Bhanpura in Kukanuru taluk in Koppal district of Karnataka.

The deceased have been identified as Devappa Koppada (62), Girijamma (45), Paravva (32), Shantamma (22) and Kasturamma.

Harshavardhana, Pallavi, Puttaraju and Bhoomika have been hospitalised as they suffered serious injuries in the accident. According to police, the family members were returning to their village after attending a birthday party.

The police have recovered mud guard of the vehicle which collided with the car, from the spot and are gathering clues to nab the driver.

The movement of tipper lorries are frequent in the region and police are suspecting that one of the tipper lorry may be involved in the accident.

The vehicle has been completely mangled because of the impact of the collision and dead bodies have to be extracted.

Further investigations in the matter are on.

of the day quote

Russia must stop its aggression and fully implement the grain deal to which it has agreed

ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

The message is the Chinese military, in the air and at sea, have become significantly more and noticeably more aggressive in this particular region

GEN MARK MILLEY | CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, US

This (attack) proves only one thing: no matter what Russia says and promises, it will find ways not to implement it. Geopolitically, with weapons, bloodily or not, but it has several vectors, as it always acts

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Israeli forces kill two in gun battle

Nablus (West Bank): Israeli troops and special forces on an arrest mission exchanged fire with Palestinians barricaded in a house in the occupied West Bank Sunday, Israeli police said. The local rescue service said two Palestinians were killed. Israeli police said a number of armed Palestinians were killed during the hours-long battle deep inside the city of Nablus, without specifying.

Flash floods leave 9 dead

Sanaa: Heavy seasonal rains drove flash floods through Yemen and left at least nine people dead, official media reported Sunday. The casualties were reported in the capital of Sanaa and the southwestern province of Dhamar, where it began raining late last week, the Houthi-run Sanaa Radio said. Both Sanaa and Dhamar are held by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who have been warring since 2014 with the internationally recognized government which is aided by a Saudi-led coalition.

Protests in Balochistan

Quetta: Protests were held in Turbat and the provincial capital Quetta in Balochistan against the alleged "fake encounter" of Baloch missing persons by the Pakistani security forces in Ziarat, media reports said. The families of the victims staged a three-day sit-in protest in front of the Governor's house in Quetta and warned that if the culprits of the Ziarat incident are not brought to justice, the protests will be expanded throughout the province indefinitely, Balochistan Post reported.

Taiwan's jobless rate rises to new high

Taipei: Taiwan's unemployment rate rose to 3.74 per cent in June, setting a new high since November 2021, the island's statistics agency said Sunday. A total of 442,000 people on the island became unemployed in June, 8,000 or 1.87 percent, more than the last month, Xinhua news quoted the agency as saying. The unemployment rate over the past six months is 3.66 per cent on average, down 0.27 percentage points from the same period last year, it added.

Pope in Canada

Edmonton: Pope Francis began a fraught visit to Canada Sunday to apologize to Indigenous peoples for abuses by missionaries at residential schools, a key step in the Catholic Church's efforts to reconcile with Native communities and help them heal from generations of trauma. Francis flew from Rome to Edmonton, Alberta, where his welcoming party included Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mary May Simon, an Inuk who is Canada's first Indigenous governor general.



As Prime Minister, I am determined to see the Rwanda policy through to full implementation as well as exploring other countries where we can work on similar partnership. I'll make sure we have the right levels of force and protection at our borders

LIZ TRUSS | PM CANDIDATE, UK

SAKURAJIMA VOLCANO ERUPTS

A volcano on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu erupted Sunday night, spewing ash and rocks. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries in nearby towns but residents were advised to evacuate



WILDFIRE NEAR YOSEMITE
California Governor declares emergency

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, July 24: Authorities have declared a state of emergency in part of California as a wildfire continued to rage near the Yosemite National Park. The state of emergency has been declared in Mariposa County and in a statement, California Governor Gavin Newsom said the flames were being "driven by hot, dry weather and drought conditions". The fast-moving wildfire, dubbed the Oak Fire, grew to 6,555 acres (about 26.5 square km) overnight, prompting mandatory evacuation orders, Xinhua news agency. The wildfire ignited on Friday afternoon in Mariposa County and was still zero contained as of Saturday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). It is about 50 km away from Yosemite Valley, near Yosemite National Park, one of the most popular national parks in the US. The blaze had destroyed at least 10 structures and damaged another five by Saturday, threatening 2,000 other structures, Cal Fire said. "Fire activity is extreme with

frequent runs, spot fires and group torching. Emergency personnel are working to safely evacuate people and are actively engaged in protecting structures," said Cal Fire, noting that explosive fire behaviour is challenging over 400 firefighters on the spot. It is now "one of California's largest wildfires of the year", the Los Angeles Times said in a report. Some residents were forced to temporarily evacuate and some roads in the area, including one major highway to Yosemite, were closed. With the Oak Fire, the streak of relatively modest and non-destructive wildfires in California so far this season appears to be over, said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles. He added that record vegetation dryness and less stable atmospheric conditions will likely favour plume-dominated behaviour at times. Swain estimated that the Oak Fire will very likely surpass 10,000 acres (around 40.46 square km) in less than 24 hours.



Firefighters work to keep the Oak Fire from reaching a home in the Jerseydale community of Mariposa County, California

PTI PHOTO

Ukraine working to resume grain exports

REUTERS

Kyiv, July 24: Ukraine pressed ahead Sunday with efforts to restart grain exports from its Black Sea ports under a deal aimed at easing global food shortages but warned deliveries would suffer if a Russian missile strike on Odesa was a sign of more to come. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy denounced Saturday's attack as "barbarism" that showed Moscow could not be trusted to implement a deal struck just one day earlier with Turkish and United Nations mediation. The Ukrainian military, quoted by public broadcaster Suspilne, said the Russian missiles did not hit the port's grain storage area or cause significant damage. Kyiv said preparations to resume grain shipments were ongoing. "We continue technical preparations for the launch of exports of agricultural products from our ports," Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said in a Facebook post. According to the Ukrainian military, two Kalibr missiles fired from Russian warships hit the area of a pumping station at the port and two others were shot down by air defence forces. Russia said Sunday its forces had hit a Ukrainian warship and a weapons store in Odesa with its high-precision missiles. The deal signed by Moscow and Kyiv on Friday was hailed as a diplomatic breakthrough that would help curb soaring global food prices by restoring Ukrainian grain shipments to pre-war levels of 5 million tonnes a month. But Zelenskyy's economic advisor



Firefighters work at a site of a Russian missile strike in a sea port of Odesa, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues

REUTERS

- Russia confirms Odesa strike, says warship was hit
- Zelenskyy: attack shows Moscow can't be trusted on deal
- Zelenskyy's advisor: shipments will suffer if strikes continue
- Moscow, Kyiv had signed grain export deal on Friday
- Accord had sought to avert major global food crisis

warned on Sunday the strike on Odesa signalled that could be out of reach. "Yesterday's strike indicates that it will definitely not work like that," Oleh Ustenko told Ukrainian television. He said Ukraine could export 60 million tonnes of grain over the next nine months, but it would take up to 24 months if its ports' operations were disrupted. **WAR ENTERS SIXTH MONTH** As the war entered its sixth month on Sunday there was no sign of a let-up in the fighting. The Ukrainian military reported Russian shelling in the north, south and east, and again referred to Russian operations paving the way for an assault on Bakhmut in the

eastern Donbas region. Its air force command said three Russian Kalibr cruise missiles fired from the Black Sea and aimed at the western Khmelnytskyi region were shot down early Sunday. **SAFE PASSAGE** The strikes on Odesa drew condemnation from the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, Britain, Germany and Italy. Russian news agencies quoted Russia's defence ministry as saying that an Ukrainian warship and U.S. supplied anti-ship missiles were destroyed. "A docked Ukrainian warship and a warehouse with US-supplied Harpoon anti-ship missiles were destroyed by long-range precision-guided naval missiles in Odesa seaport on the territory of a ship repair plant," it said. On Saturday, Turkey's defence minister said Russian officials told Ankara that Moscow had "nothing to do" with the strikes. Friday's deal aims to allow safe passage in and out of Ukrainian ports, blocked by Russia's Black Sea fleet since Moscow's Feb. 24 invasion, in what one UN official called a "de facto ceasefire" for the ships and facilities covered.

Lavrov visits Egypt, part of Africa trip amid Ukraine war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, July 24: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is in Cairo for talks on Sunday with Egyptian officials as his country seeks to break diplomatic isolation and sanctions by the West over its invasion of Ukraine. Lavrov landed in Cairo late Saturday, the first leg of his Africa trip that will also include stops in Ethiopia, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to Russia's state-run RT. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry was holding talks with Lavrov Sunday morning. The Russian chief diplomat was scheduled to meet later Sunday with the Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit. He will also address the permanent representatives of the pan-Arab organisation, RT reported. The war has disrupted shipments of Russian products because shipping and insurance companies did not want to deal with Western sanctions on the country. African countries are among those most affected by ripples of the war. The prices of vital commodities skyrocketed and billions of dollars in aid have been directed to help those who fled the war in Europe. That has left millions of people in conflict areas in Africa and the Middle East suffering from worsening growing shortages in food and other assistance. In an article posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry website, Lavrov rejected the West accusations that Russia is responsible for the global food crisis, as "another attempt to shift the blame to others".



Russia's war in Ukraine has had dire effects on the world economy, driving up oil and gas prices to unprecedented levels

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments

Some Ukrainian grain is transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but with higher transportation costs

Seeking to rally African nations on his country's side, he hailed what he called "an independent path" such nations took when they refrained from joining the West in sanctioning Russia. "We know that the African colleagues do not approve of the undisguised attempts of the US and their European satellites to gain the upper hand, and to impose a unipolar world order to the international community," he wrote in the article, which also was published in four African newspapers. Lavrov's meetings with Egyptian officials and Arab envoys in Cairo come less than two weeks after US President Joe Biden's Mideast trip.

China launches space station's first lab module

The giant Long March-5B Y3 carrier rocket, carrying Wentian, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, July 24: China Sunday successfully launched the first lab module for its under-construction space station, the latest step in the country's ambitious programme to complete it by year's end. The new module will function

both as a backup of the core module, Tianhe, and as a powerful scientific experiment platform in the space station currently being built by the country. China is on the track to completing the construction of its space station as it successfully launched the first lab module, state-run People's Daily reported. The construction of China's space station called Tiangong is expected to be completed this year. It will then evolve from a single-module structure into a national space laboratory with three modules - the core module, Tianhe, and two lab modules, Wentian and Mengtian. The Tianhe module was launched in April 2021, and the Mengtian module is set to be launched in October this year, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported



In the next couple of hours, the Wentian will rendezvous and then dock with the Tiangong station's Tianhe core module, the CMSA said. After that the three-member crew mission commanders - Senior Colonel Chen Dong, Senior Colonel

Liu Yang and Senior Colonel Cai Xuzhe currently building Tiangong station - will enter the lab module to check its condition and internal equipment, it said. In the coming weeks, Wentian will be repositioned by a robotic apparatus from the forward docking port to

a lateral port, where it will remain and be prepared for long-term operation, it said. To prepare for the Wentian's arrival, a cargo spacecraft Tianzhou 3 detached from the Tiangong station on July 17 and it will be guided by ground controllers to fall back to Earth in due course, it said. Currently, Tiangong consists of the Tianhe module, the Tianzhou 4 cargo ship and the Shenzhou XIV spacecraft. Wentian lab features cutting-edge technologies, strong capabilities, and sophisticated design and represents a new milestone in China's space industry, state-run China Daily reported. It consists of three major parts - a crew working compartment, an airlock cabin and an unpressurised service module. Once ready, China's low-flying

space station will be the only country to own a space station. The International Space Station (ISS) of Russia is a collaborative project of several countries. China Space Station (CSS) is also expected to be a competitor to the ISS built by Russia. Observers say CSS may become the sole space station to remain in orbit once the ISS retires in the coming years. The significant feature of China's under-construction space station is its two robotic arms, especially the long one over which the US has previously expressed concern over its ability to grab objects including satellites from space. The 10-meter-long arm earlier successfully grabbed and moved a 20-tonne Tianzhou-2 cargo ship in a test, according to China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO).

of the day **quote**

We cannot rest on our laurels and need to keep working hard to maintain this momentum. Prompt redressal of taxpayers' grievances in the true spirit of the Taxpayers' Charter shall remain a top priority area



Steel demand in the ongoing Q2 period is expected to be 7-8 per cent higher for the industry with a revival of re-stocking activity from July. Our profitability will also improve over the Q1FY23



If I compare with the last two years, you will find at least double the model launch during the festive season. Moreover, we are seeing a lot of electric vehicles being launched also



SHORT TAKES

Infosys Q1 net profit up 3.2%

New Delhi: India's second-largest IT services firm Infosys reported a lower-than-estimated 3.2 per cent rise in June quarter net profit as operating margin declined on rising expenses. Net profit is at ₹5,360 crore, or ₹12.78 a share, compared with ₹5,195 crore, or ₹12.24 per share, in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. Sequentially, the profit declined 5.7 per cent from ₹5,686 crore in the January-March quarter. Revenue or turnover rose 23.6 per cent to ₹34,470 crore in April-June - the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Panattoni forays into Indian market

New Delhi: US-based Panattoni has forayed into India and will invest \$200 million to develop four industrial and logistics parks as it seeks to tap the growing demand for warehousing spaces across major cities. Panattoni, a global leader in industrial & logistics real estate development, has debuted in the Asian market with its entry in India. Indian venture, Panattoni India Development Pvt Ltd, is headquartered in Bangalore.

Sahasra to set up memory chip unit

New Delhi: Electronics firm Sahasra Semiconductors has said it expects to become the first company to set up a memory chip assembly, test and packaging unit in the country and start selling locally-made chips by December. Sahasra Semiconductors chairman and managing director Amrit Manwani told PTI that the company plans to invest a total of ₹750 crore in setting up the unit at Bhiwadi in Rajasthan. Semiconductors are converted into a complete product ready for sale at ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) units.

Daiki Axis Japan planning 3rd plant

New Delhi: Water treatment solutions provider Daiki Axis Japan plans to set up its third plant in the country in the southern region, a company official said. The company is setting up its second plant with a capacity to produce 1,000 sewage treatment units with Japanese "Johkasou" technology at Palwal, Haryana, Daiki Axis India CEO Kamal Tiwari told PTI during an interaction. The Palwal plant is being set up at a cost of about ₹200 crore.



Imagine if I start selling one movie on Netflix at ₹10 in cash, it is going to crash down their servers. So to cater to this mass segment which we call Bharat. We are in talks with Netflix already

ANAND KUMAR BAJAJ | FOUNDER MD & CEO, PAYNEARBY

BANKING STOCKS RALLY ON RISING RATES

Helped by rising interest rates, expanding retail loan book and improved credit quality, many banking stocks have outperformed broader market indices this year and experts are hopeful of a continuing rally as long as there are no major macroeconomic headwinds



FPIs return to Indian equities

Due to the headwinds in terms of rising inflation and tightening monetary policy there has been an exodus of FPIs from Indian equity markets over the last nine months, since October 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: The relentless selling by foreign investors appears to have taken a breather as they have turned net buyers so far this month with an investment of nearly ₹1,100 crore in the Indian equity market.

This comes following a net withdrawal of ₹50,145 crore from equities in June. This was the highest net outflow since March 2020, when they had pulled out ₹61,973 crore from equities, data with depositories showed.

According to data with depositories, Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) invested a net amount of ₹1,099 crore in Indian equities during July 1-22.

They have significantly slowed down their relentless selling and have even turned buyers for several days this month particularly during the last few days.

"Another factor that helped in net inflow was expectation of less aggressive rate hike by the US Federal Reserve in its upcoming policy meeting than what was anticipated earlier. This also softens the dollar index, which augurs well for emerg-

ing markets like India," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

Finally, Russia opening the tap to allow natural gas flow to Europe has raised hope of a truce going forward. The Russia-Ukraine deal of opening the border for food grains export is also a big boost, he added.

"It appears that INR depreciation is almost over for now. The dollar index which had moved above 109 is now down to 107.21. This is one of the factors that have contributed to the change in FPI strategy," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

He, further, said that the present trend is likely to continue for the near-term. However, a lot will depend on the news from the US, relating to the economy and markets.

According to Morningstar India's Srivastava, the current buying by FPIs cannot be construed as a change in trend, or that FPIs have made a complete comeback.

The scenario is evolving, and it



FPIs INVESTED NET ₹1,099 CRORE IN EQUITIES DURING JULY 1-22

SO FAR THIS YEAR, FPIs PULLED OUT AROUND ₹2.16 LAKH CRORE; HIGHEST-EVER

FPIs INFUSED A NET AMOUNT OF ₹792 CRORE IN THE DEBT MARKET

RUSSIA-UKRAINE DEAL OF OPENING THE BORDER FOR FOOD GRAINS EXPORT IS ALSO A BIG BOOST

may take a while for clarity to emerge. For instance, if the US Fed rate hike turns out to be more aggressive than what is accounted for at the moment, then this flow trend may quickly reverse.

In addition to equities, FPIs infused a net amount of ₹792 crore in the debt market during the period under review.

Apart from India, FPI flows were positive in South Korea and Thailand, while it was negative for Taiwan, Indonesia and Philippines during the period under review.

Nearly \$14bn sell-off drives biggest global equity funds outflow

Global equity funds recorded their biggest weekly outflow in five weeks in the week to July 20, on investor caution ahead of crucial central bank meetings in which rate hikes are expected to be announced. According to Refinitiv Lipper, investors offloaded a net \$13.79 billion worth of global equity funds, marking the biggest weekly outflow since June 15. US and European equities funds booked withdrawals of \$8.45 billion and \$5.6 billion, respectively, although investors poured about \$740 million in Asian equity funds. Sectoral data showed financial, consumer discretionary and metals and mining funds witnessed outflows of \$995 million, \$445 million and \$416 million, respectively, but healthcare gained \$511 million in inflows.

RIL, TCS LEAD Mcap of nine of top-10 companies surges ₹2.98L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Nine of the 10 most valued firms added ₹2.98 lakh crore to their market valuation last week amid a bullish trend in equities, with Reliance Industries and TCS emerging as lead gainers. Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 2,311.45 points or 4.29 per cent.

Barring Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), the top 10 firms, including HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever Limited and ICICI Bank, added a total of ₹2,98,523.01 crore to their valuation.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries jumped ₹68,564.65 crore to ₹16,93,245.73 crore at close Friday. The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) shot up by ₹64,929.87 crore to ₹11,60,285.19 crore. ICICI Bank added ₹34,028.7 crore to its valuation at ₹5,56,526.81 crore.

The mcap of Infosys climbed ₹31,893.77 crore to ₹6,33,793.91 crore and that of State Bank of India by ₹30,968.4 crore to ₹4,58,457.30 crore. The valuation of Bajaj Finance rose by ₹20,636.69 crore to ₹3,78,774.69 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever by ₹16,811.32 crore to ₹6,20,362.58 crore.

HDFC Bank's valuation increased by ₹16,110.37 crore to ₹7,73,770.09 crore and that of HDFC climbed ₹14,579.24 crore to ₹4,16,701.23 crore. From the laggard, LIC's valuation declined by ₹12,386.99 crore to ₹4,35,780.72 crore. In the ranking of top 10 firms, Reliance emerged as the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI, SBI, LIC, HDFC and Bajaj Finance.

MORE PAIN AHEAD

₹ faces risk of plunging to 82'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Indian rupee may further depreciate to 82 to a dollar in the near term due to widening of trade deficit and expected aggressive rate hike by the US Fed later this week to tame record high inflation, economists said.

There is widespread speculation that the US Federal Reserve in its July 26-27 meeting may increase the interest rate by 50-75 basis points, which could result in flight of capital from emerging nations like India. With dollar outflow and elevated level of crude oil prices, the rupee would see further depreciation.

Economists are of the opinion that the rupee after touching a lifetime low may settle around 78 to a dollar by March next year with stability around crude oil prices and likely improvement in geopolitical situation.

"Overall what we had assessed is that the rupee could settle somewhere around 79 to a dollar. That will be the average price for the entire year..In the current depreciating cycle, the rupee may fall to over 81/USD in the current political situation," India Ratings & Research principal economist Sunil Kumar Sinha told PTI.

Amidst a rebound in crude oil prices and the expectation that the US dollar will remain relatively



Last week, the rupee depreciated to a life-time low of 80.06 a dollar

ECB raised its benchmark deposit rate by 50 basis points

US Fed is also expected to raise policy rates by another 75 basis points

strong in the immediate term, ICRA expects the rupee may weaken to 81/USD in Q2 FY2023.

According to Nomura, the rupee may see 82 level during the July-September quarter due to multiple headwinds including weakening India BoP dynamics and Fed hikes during the year.

Trade deficit ballooned to a record \$26.18 billion in June due to costlier imports of crude oil, coal and gold. The deficit widened to \$70.80 billion in April-June this fiscal. The country's foreign exchange reserves had declined by \$7,541 billion to \$572.712 billion in the week ended July 15.

Poised to be on the top in incense stick mkt: Anshul

India's leading incense stick manufacturer Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH) popular for its flagship agarbatti brand Zed Black launched the Cian series and Zed Black Odia range of incense sticks at an event organised in the holy city of Puri Sunday in the presence of Anshul Agrawal, Director, MDPH; Anand Oberoi, Chairman & Managing Director, Oberoi IBC and actress Varsha Priyadarshini who felicitated all the distributors. Following are some excerpts from our conversation with MDPH director Anshul Agrawal

■ How has been your journey so far in Odisha?

■ We entered the Odisha market a decade ago and since then the state continues to be the leading contributor to our brand with the love the people of Odisha have shown towards our brands Zed Black 3-in-1, Manthan, Pineapple & Arij. It's now a celebration of growth as we host a retreat for our distributor network in this territory, and mark the new era of growth by launching 4 new variants especially for the people of Odisha. We are now poised to be the No.1 player in the market by achieving bigger milestones in the near future. We have a manufacturing unit in Jagatpur, Cuttack for the last eight years where women comprise 90 per cent of our workforce. We have plans to open a new unit in other places in the state which we will decide soon.

■ Why did you choose Puri for the event?

■ Puri is a special place for people of Odisha because of Jagannath culture and because we have completed 10 years in Odisha, we decided to organise this summit in Puri. Odisha holds important place in our business plans. We are focusing on Odisha because it's one of the highest consuming markets of agarbatti. Nine new agarbatti fragrance products were unveiled, four of them specifically for the state-Deep

Mogra, Deep Chandan, Deep Gulab and 3-in-1 Gold.

■ How competitive is the incense stick market?

■ We are in top 5 in every state across India. We are the second largest agarbatti market in India. We are the first agarbatti company who are not from south India. We have set a trend in the market for different fragrance including pineapple fragrance agarbatti.

■ What do you think is the USP of your brand?

■ The USP of all the products of MDPH group is the quality. We never compromise on the ingredients. Our other strengths are the strong network and the widerange of innovative perfumes.



Local levies, supply woes trigger inter-state variation in inflation

Rural inflation varies more across states and it is also generally higher than its urban counterparts in almost all states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 24: Even after five years of a common Goods and Services Tax (GST), retail inflation in India varies widely across states as differences in local levies and supply chain efficacy distort consumer prices.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rate for the month

of June was as high as 10.5 per cent in Telangana and as low as 4.7 per cent in Bihar, while the national average stood at 7 per cent.

The difference in inflation, according to experts, can be attributed to factors like transport costs, tax policies of state governments, and supply chain efficiency.

Rajinder Singh, General Secretary of All India Confederation of Goods Vehicle Owners' Association said that 40-60 per cent of the transportation cost is on account diesel which directly impacts the prices of consumer goods.

Singh said that for transporting perishables like vegetables, vehicle owners charge a to-and-fro fare. For long-distance transportation, only one-way rates are charged.

As per latest CPI data, states, including Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, registered inflation of over 8%. The other states which recorded inflation higher than the national average were Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir too had inflation of 7.2%

On the other hand, inflation was lower than the national average in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh in June. Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala reported retail inflation of less than 6%



"(NSO) is another important factor in determining the transportation cost. More the number of toll plazas on a route, higher the cost of deliveries," Singh added.

Diesel costs more in states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra because of the higher incidence of local taxes.

Some states are witnessing heightened price pressures on account of high petroleum products prices due to variation in the fuel duties across states. Variation in fuel duties among states leads to different degrees of impact of increase in fuel prices on overall states' inflation

SP SHARMA | CHIEF ECONOMIST, PHDCCI

Division on a weekly roster. The cost of power is also high in states with higher inflation rates like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Sashi Sivramkrishna, Senior Professor (Economics) at NMIMS, Bangalore, said several factors are responsible for the differences in inflation rates among states. These include differences in food expenses that can be due to state-level policies like price change of food grain, pulses and edible oils as well as transport expenditure.

"Inflation is after all a consequence of friction that exists in the market and it is only obvious that there will be differences in inflation rates between states, which have some degree of autonomy in policy making," he added.

I WILL TAKE IT: NEERAJ

88.13m The throw that helped the Panipat lad to become first Indian male track and field athlete to win a medal at the Worlds

An athlete cannot win a gold every time but we have to keep trying and give our best. I have learnt a lot from the challenging situation today and I will work for improvement. I will try to change the colour of medal (to gold) in the next World Championships in 2023 (in Budapest)

I had strapping (on thigh). I will know the status tomorrow morning because my body is still warm after the event. I hope there should not be any issue for the upcoming events, Commonwealth Games

NEERAJ CHOPRA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Eugene, July 24: "I will take it," said Neeraj Chopra, who felt "something" on his strapped thigh, on way to what he termed a challenging history-scripting silver at the World Championships javelin throw final here.

The reigning Olympic champion admitted that his comeback from outside medal position midway into the final was "challenging". Chopra, however, also knew that a good throw was around the corner.

He was lying at fourth position after three rounds of throws, having opened with a foul before registering 82.39m and 86.37m in his next two attempts. He got his rhythm back with a big fourth round throw of 88.13m, his fourth career-best effort, to jump to second place, which he held on to till the end.

"Conditions were challenging, there was wind coming from front. It was a tough competition with very tough competitors. It was challenging for me, but I was confident that a good throw will surely come.

"I was making the effort (in the first three throws) but it (big throw) was not coming. It was challenging but good that I made a comeback," the 24-year-old Chopra said during a virtual press conference.

"I am happy to have won a silver, the country's first medal in World Athletics Championships after 19 years, I will take it."

Chopra felt some tightness on his thigh after the fourth throw and could not do well in the last two

throws which were fouls. "I thought even the fourth throw could have gone farther. After that, I felt something on my thigh and could not do my best in next two.

"I had strapping (on thigh). I will know the status tomorrow morning because my body is still warm after the event. I hope there should not be any issue for the upcoming events, Commonwealth Games."

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada won the gold with a massive throw of 90.54m. He was a class of his own in the final as he had three massive 90m-plus throws – in the first two rounds and the last attempt. Olympic silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic took the bronze with 88.09m.

The Indian fans are used to watching Chopra having big throws in the first two rounds but it was a different scenario in the World Championships final. Chopra had won gold in Tokyo Olympics last year with a second round throw of 87.58m and just needed a first round effort of 88.39m to qualify for the finals at second place here.

His trademark big smile was back after the fourth round throw as Chopra, the son of a farmer from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana, did the 'calm-down' gesture and showed the victory sign with his right hand.

Chopra had won Indian athletics' maiden gold in the Tokyo Olympics last year. He is only the second Indian to have won an individual gold in the Olympics, after shooter Abhinav Bindra, who

clinched the yellow metal in 2008 Beijing Games.

Asked if he was feeling the pressure of being an Olympic champion heading into the World Championships finals, he said, "I never felt that kind of pressure. My focus was always to give my best, improve upon my best. Of course, I was in a challenging position (after third round) but I was confident that I will have a good throw somehow. I kept trying and it came.

"An athlete cannot win a gold every time but we have to keep trying and give our best. I have learnt a lot from the challenging situation today and I will work for improvement. I will try to change the colour of medal (to gold) in the next World Championships in 2023 (in Budapest)."

Celebrations break out in Chopra's village

CHANDIGARH: Celebrations broke out in Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's village in Panipat Sunday after he won a landmark silver medal in the Athletics World Championships in Eugene, USA.

Son of a farmer from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana, the 24-year-old Chopra became only the second Indian and first male track and field athlete to win a medal at the showpiece.

Congratulatory messages poured in from various quarters including Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar; his deputy Dushyant Chautala and former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

The women of his village danced and sang while family members got busy receiving guests



and distributing 'laddoos' (sweets).

"Everyone is feeling very proud. This medal is of Olympic level. So, it is a very big achievement," Chopra's uncle Bhim Chopra, who has played a key role in shaping his career, told PTI over phone.

Bhim said the whole country is happy and proud of his achievement. "He has been constantly working very hard and we are

happy that he has brought laurels for his country," he said, adding villagers had gathered at their house since morning.

The javelin thrower's father Satish Chopra referred to long jumper Anju Bobby George being the first Indian to win a medal – bronze – in the World Championships nearly two decades ago. "We had so far a bronze medal in World Championships and now Neeraj has won a silver, we are proud," he said.

The athlete's mother Saroj was busy distributing sweets and receiving the guests. "Entire country and the entire Haryana is proud of him," she told reporters, adding that there were some anxious moments after a subdued start.



(From L): Neeraj Chopra, gold winner Anderson Peters of Grenada and bronze medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic pose with their national flags and medals after the medal distribution ceremony

Praises pour in for Chopra

The country Sunday rejoiced the 24-year-old Neeraj Chopra's landmark silver medal at the World Athletics Championships, calling it a 'special moment'. Let's take a look at some of the reactions...



ABHINAV BINDRA: Many congratulations @Neeraj_chopra1 for your silver at the worlds! You make us proud. Well done and the best for the rest of the season

RAJNATH SINGH: India is elated by the stupendous performance by Subedar @Neeraj_chopra1. Congratulations to him on winning Silver Medal at the #WorldAthletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon. His hard work, grit and determination have yielded outstanding results. We are proud of him

ANURAG THAKUR: Neeraj Chopra continues his winning streak! Wins in Men's javelin throw at @WCHoregon22 with his best throw of 88.13m, becoming the 1st Indian male and 2nd Indian to win a medal at the #WorldChampionships! Neeraj has now won medal at every Global event!

ANJU BOBBY GEORGE: Congratulations @Neeraj_chopra1 for that magic moment..N welcome to the group..It was a long wait.Thanks to @afiindia @Media_SAI

@ianuragthakur for all the support

PT USHA: Congratulations to @Neeraj_chopra1 for winning the silver at 2022 World Athletics Championships for our country. Your best efforts have made our country proud in the world. Keep the flag flying high. Jai Hind

PR SREEJESH: Congratulation brother @Neeraj_chopra1. You are a motivation for billions of people

SACHIN TENDULKAR: @Neeraj_chopra1 has added another laurel to his name! India is very proud of you! Heartiest congratulations on winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw at World Athletics Championships.

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Years from now there is going to be a generation of youngsters for whom "Kya Fenkta Hai" is going to be a massive compliment, thanks to this champion #NeerajChopra. Once again making India proud with a Silver at the World Athletics Championship.

Special Hope ton guides Windies to 311/6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 24: Opener Shai Hope (115, 135b, 8x4, 3x6) showed his class with a magnificent century while skipper Nicholas Pooran (74, 77b, 1x4, 6x6) went on a six-hitting spree as the West Indies produced a solid batting display to post 311/6 against India in the second ODI here Sunday.

Hope, who became the 10th batter in the world and fourth from West Indies to score a century on his 100th ODI appearance, played the role of the anchor to perfection as he added 65 runs for the opening wicket with Kyle Mayers (39), before forging another 62 with Shamarh Brooks (35). Later, Hope and Pooran shared a 117-run stand off 126 balls.

Hope constructed his innings well, focusing on building partnership and exploded in the end. Spin duo of Axar Patel (1/40) and Deepak Hooda (1/42) were the best



bowlers on display, while Yuzvendra Chahal (1/69) too scalped one but was expensive.

Mohammed Siraj (0/47) was decent but Avesh Khan had a forgettable ODI debut, while Shardul Thakur (3/54) made amends in the

back end with three wickets after conceding 13 in the first over.

Opting to bat, Mayers and Hopes gave West Indies a good start with the former taking the attack to the opposition. Hooda produced the first breakthrough with Mayers

hitting the first delivery straight back to the bowler.

Brooks and Hopes then looked to build a partnership with Hooda and Patel bowling in tandem, targeting the stumps. The spin duo did well to tighten things up as WI managed just 42 from the 10th to 20th over.

Chahal was taken to the cleaners in the 21st over. But Dhawan brought back Patel and he produced a wicket- maiden to get rid of Brooks with the Indian skipper taking a low catch. Chahal redeemed himself in his next over as he induced a top-edge off Brandon King.

Pooran and Hope then brought up 200 in 38th overs. Rovman Powell (13) and Romario Shepherd (14) played some lusty blows to take WI across the 300-mark. WI amassed 93 runs in last 10 overs.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies 311/6 (Shai Hope 115, Nicolas Pooran 74, Kyle Mayers 39; Shardul Thakur 3/54) vs India.

Raphinha helps Barca beat Real



AGENCIES

Las Vegas, July 24: Raphinha made it two goals in two matches as Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 1-0 Saturday in their Las Vegas Clasico.

Raphinha, signed from Premier League side Leeds United earlier this month for around USD 60 million, followed up his debut in a 6-0 thrashing of Inter Miami with the lone goal of the high-profile clash at Allegiant Stadium.

The Brazilian was perfectly placed to intercept an ill-advised pass from Real's Eder Militao along the top of the area. After one touch to settle he lashed a left-footed shot over Thibaut Courtois into the top right corner of the net to put Barcelona up 1-0 in the 27th minute

The fourth edition of the Clasico to be played outside of Spain – the second ever held in the United States – featured all the intensity

of the long rivalry.

Real Madrid, playing their first pre-season friendly, nearly opened the scoring in the 18th minute but Federico Valverde was denied by the post in the 18th minute, seizing the ball after a poor clearance by Jordi Alba and blasting a volley from 25 yards out that beat Marc-Andre Ter Stegen only for the up-right to intervene.

Two minutes later it was Barcelona who saw a chance get away when Eduardo Camavinga lost possession to Pedri in front of Real's goal. Pedri found Fati, who pulled Real keeper Thibaut Courtois off his line but put his shot just wide of the far post.

Overall it was Barcelona – energized by the debut of Polish striker Robert Lewandowski after his move from Bayern Munich – who controlled the tempo in the first half against the reigning Champions League and La Liga

Haaland's day out

WISCONSIN (US): Erling Haaland took just 12 minutes of his City debut to score his first goal for the Club which proved to be enough to give the Blues a 1-0 win. The Norwegian striker had barely touched the ball before Kevin De Bruyne picked up possession outside the Bayern Munich box, fed Jack Grealish and his pass across the six-yard box was slid home by Haaland. After almost a 45-minute delay, the players came back out, warmed up and the game resumed.

title holders.

The first half ended on a testy note after Jordi Alba's sliding tackle on Militao that earned a yellow card. Some jawing and shoving escalated, with players having to step in and separate Madrid newcomer Antonio Rudiger and Barcelona's Ronald Araujo.

Lewandowski's night ended without a goal as he was departed at the half, replaced by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as part of a raft of changes at the midpoint.

A back and forth between substitute Marco Asensio and defender Lucas Vazquez gave Real Madrid a golden opportunity in the 59th minute, but after Vazquez played the ball back to Asensio in front of goal he pulled his shot wide.

They pressed desperately in the closing minutes for an equalizer, but Carlo Ancelotti's side clearly missed French star Karim Benzema, who was granted an extended holiday by the club and sat out the contest after joining up with his teammates in Los Angeles just days before.