



GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Bhumi Pednekar will be honoured with the Disruptor Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023

LEISURE P2



GO FIRST TO FLY AGAIN

Aviation regulator DGCA says it has approved Go First's plan to restart operations with 15 aircraft and 114 daily flights

BUSINESS P11



SATWIK-CHIRAG THROUGH

Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty enters semifinals of Korea Open

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Now visit Mt Kailash via Indian territory

Pithoragarh: From September this year, devotees will be able to visit Mount Kailash, believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva, from the Indian territory. Officials said that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has started the work on cutting the road from KMVN Huts in Nabhidhang in Pithoragarh district to Lipulekh pass on the India-China border, which will be completed by September. Vimal Goswami, Chief Engineer of BRO's Diamond Project, said, "We have started the work of cutting the road from KMVN Huts to Lipulekh Pass in Nabhidhang, about six and a half kilometres long."

Lion run over by train in Gujarat

Amreli: An Asiatic lion was killed and another injured after they were hit by a goods train in Gujarat's Amreli district in the early hours of Friday, officials said. The incident took place near Uchaia of Rajula taluka at 2:05 am shortly after forest staff spotted a pride of two lions and two lionesses close to the railway track that connects Pipavav Port with Rajula. The 35-km railway route between Pipavav port and Rajula falls in revenue area away from the Gir forest, the last abode of Asiatic lions in the world.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



"We've managed the govt, media & social media very well. Now, there is no way we can find the truth, sir"

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	66684.26 ↓ 887.64
NIFTY	19745.00 ↓ 234.15
DOLLAR	82.01 ↓ ₹0.14
EURO	91.22 ↓ ₹0.12
GOLD	₹59,311 ↓ ₹241
SILVER	₹75,133 ↓ ₹316

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.0°C	34.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.5°C	26.0°C
Humidity	98%	88%
Rainfall	15.3mm	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



GROWING ANGER: Locals set ablaze the house of an accused in the Manipur sexual assault case, at Tuinomkhopi in Manipur, Friday (Report P9)

PTI PHOTO

'Protected country, couldn't protect wife'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, July 21: The husband of one of the two women paraded naked and molested by a group of men in Manipur is a Kargil war veteran who rued that though he protected the country he could not save his wife from being humiliated. The incident which sparked condemnation countrywide came to light when a video shot of May 4 surfaced Wednesday night. The husband had served the Indian Army as a Subedar of the Assam Regiment. "I fought for the nation in the Kargil war and was also in Sri Lanka as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force. I protected the nation but am dejected that after my retirement, I could not protect my home, my wife and fellow villagers... I am sad, depressed," he told a Hindi news channel. He said that on the fateful May 4 morning, a mob burnt down several houses in the locality, disrobed the two women and made them walk on the village paths in front of people. "Police were present but took no action. I want that all those people who burnt the houses and humiliated the women get exemplary punishment," he said.

Cabinet nod for Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

Under the scheme, beneficiaries will get full interest subvention on bank loans up to ₹1 lakh to purchase a scooter of their choice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 21: In order to facilitate smooth movement of SHG federation leaders and community support staff, the state Cabinet Friday approved Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana for them. This initiative aims to provide mobility support to Community Support Staff (CSS) and EC (Executive Committee) members of SHG federations by facilitating their access to scooters, said Mission Shakti Minister Tukuni Sahu. Under this scheme, eligible individuals will benefit from full interest subvention on bank loans up to ₹1 lakh to purchase a scooter of their choice, making the transition to sustainable mobility more affordable and accessible than ever before, she said.

Sahu said federation ecosystem starting from panchayat to district level has been set in place to support Mission Shakti SHGs at the grassroots. The SHG federation leaders and community support staff provide crucial services and handholding towards training, financial inclusion, livelihood promotion, and market linkage.

The Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik decides to construct around 10,000 buildings across the state for the Vana Suraksha Samitis in a phased manner within a period of four years

Cabinet also approves the provision of ₹5,700 crore for implementation Interest Subsidy-Subvention to Cooperative Banks/PACS to ensure adequate credit flow in agriculture sector at an affordable rate of interest to farmers

Around 75,000 Community Support Staff and nearly 1,25,000 federation leaders will be benefited under the Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana

In recognition of their contribution towards women's empowerment, the state government has come up with this scheme for further empowering them in their roles, she said. Around 75,000 CSSs and nearly 1,25,000 federation leaders will be benefited under the new scheme. The state government has made budgetary provision of ₹528.55 crore for execution of the scheme over a period of next five years, the minister informed. The Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has also decided to construct around 10,000 buildings across the state

for the Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSS) in a phased manner within a period of four years i.e. from 2023-24 to 2026-27. These buildings can be used by the VSS as a place of congregation and an inception point of all decision making processes with a wide spectrum of uses like convening meetings on management and protection of the assigned area, income generation activities, and convergence meeting of villagers. It will also represent as an institution of a VSS in a village, Sahu said. The state government has made a budgetary allocation of ₹250 crore for this purpose in financial year 2023-24. With this budgeted allocation, 2941 VSS buildings are targeted for completion during the current financial year, she added. The Cabinet has also approved the provision of ₹700 crore for implementation of the state sector scheme—Interest Subsidy-Subvention to the Cooperative Banks/PACS for five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28 to ensure adequate credit flow in agriculture sector at an affordable rate of interest to farmers in the state, said Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak.

Naveen set to break Basu's record

Patnaik to become India's second longest-serving Chief Minister today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 21: Veteran politician and five-time Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to become the second longest-serving Chief Minister in the country Saturday. Naveen is set to break the record of Jyoti Basu, who served as the Chief Minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977 to November 5, 2000. Basu served as the CM of Bengal for 23 years, 138 days while Naveen has completed 23 years and 137 days in the office of Chief Minister of Odisha as on July 21, 2023. Pawan Kumar Chamling, the



former CM of Sikkim, holds the distinction of being the longest-serving CM since Independence. Chamling has served as CM of Sikkim from December 12, 1994 to May 27, 2019. Naveen is also the third Indian Chief Minister after Pawan Chamling and Jyoti Basu to win five consecutive terms as CM. If he

wins the next election in 2024, he would be very close to becoming the longest serving Chief Minister. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will surpass late Jyoti Basu to set the record. It is a matter of pride for all of us. I am sure he will break the record of another CM after winning the 2024 election for the sixth consecutive time," said BJD MLA Raj Kishore Das. Naveen has been serving as the CM of Odisha since March 5, 2000. Since then, his party has won all Assembly elections with thumping majority. The BJD won the Assembly polls five times consecutively in 2000, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

Varanasi court orders ASI survey of Gyanvapi mosque

AGENCIES

Varanasi, July 21: A court here Friday directed Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple here. The 'wazukhana', where a structure claimed by Hindu litigants to be a 'Shivling' exists, will not be part of the survey following an earlier Supreme Court order related to the spot where Muslims perform ritual ablutions. A throng of people outside the court received the news with slogans of 'Har Har Mahadev'. The order by the court

of AK Vishvesh upheld the petition of a group of Hindus seeking a survey to determine if the Mughal-era mosque was built at the site of an earlier Hindu temple. The court fixed August 4 as the next date of hearing, according to government counsel Rajesh Mishra. The court had July 14 reserved its order after hearing both Hindu and Muslim sides. The petition filed by the Hindu group had sought a direction to the ASI to survey the complex. The mosque management's counsel Mohammed Tauhid Khan said it will challenge the order.

Parents engage 10-year-old girl in begging

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 21: The Commissionerate Police rescued a minor girl with an iron chain tied on her limbs near the ticket counter of Nandankanan Zoological Park here Friday. The Nandankanan police have launched a probe to find out the parents of the victim. "Today a tragic incident came to our notice. A 10-year-old girl with iron chain tied on her hands and legs was rescued by the Nandankanan police. When asked, the minor stated that her parents were torturing her. She was rescued by police while she was begging for alms," said Benudhar Senapati, director, Bhubaneswar Child Line. As per law, if a child is engaged in begging by anyone including parents, the accused would serve jail for five years and pay fine up to ₹1,00,000. Senapati told in a video message that investigation is on to find out why this incident took place and under what circumstances the parents chained and tortured the girl. The Child Line will take legal recourse after discussions with district child welfare committee and district administration, Senapati said. Meanwhile, police failed to track the parents who were found missing at the addresses mentioned by the girl. "We were informed by locals about a girl with chains begging from tourists at ticket counter. The girl was rescued by Child Line earlier too. We have been probing into the girl's claims. We are yet to nab the accused parents," said a senior police official.

Iran's ancient wind catchers beat the heat naturally

THE OLDEST OF YAZD'S 700 WIND CATCHERS DATES BACK TO THE 14TH CENTURY, BUT THE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE IS BELIEVED TO DATE BACK AS FAR AS 2,500 YEARS WHEN THE PERSIAN EMPIRE RULED OVER MUCH OF THE MIDDLE EAST

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Yazd, July 21: Tall, chimney-like towers rise from centuries-old adobe houses in Iran's desert city of Yazd, drawing in a pleasant breeze for residents of one of the hottest cities on earth. The wind catchers, called badgirs in Persian, are just one of the engineering marvels inhabitants have developed in this ancient city in central Iran - where temperatures reach well over 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in the summer. And, unlike energy-guzzling air-conditioners, they're cost and carbon-free. "For centuries, before we had electricity, they made it possi-

ble to cool dwellings," said Abdolmajid Shakeri, the provincial deputy of Iran's cultural heritage and tourism ministry. The oldest of the city's 700 wind catchers dates back to the 14th century, but the architectural feature is believed to date back as far as 2,500 years when the Persian Empire ruled over much of the Middle East. "The badgirs played a key role in the city's prosperity," said Shakeri at the desert city that was a caravan stop on the ancient Silk Road. "Thanks to them, people lived at ease," he added, describing how the wind catchers pull fresh air into buildings and allow hot air to ventilate out through large



vertical slots. Majid Oloumi, the head of Dowlatabad garden, home to a towering 33-metre wind catcher - one of the tallest in the world - described the cooling method as "totally clean because it uses neither electricity nor polluting materials." UNESCO listed Yazd as a World Heritage Site in 2017, describing the city as a "living testimony to intelligent use of limited available resources in the

desert for survival." The bioclimatic architecture which provides thermal comfort for the people of Yazd has attracted interest elsewhere on a heating planet. "Badgirs demonstrate that simplicity can be an essential attribute to sustainability," said Paris-based architect Roland Dehghan Kamaraji, who has studied Iran's wind catchers. "It goes against the common misconception that sustainable solutions need to be complex or high-tech." At a sustainable urban community called Masdar city in the United Arab Emirates, buildings have been "designed to make use of the natural ventilation for cooling, like badgirs," he said.

Similarly, ventilation inspired by "termite mounds, an approach similar to that of badgirs" were built atop Eastgate Centre, a shopping mall and office complex in Harare, Zimbabwe. However, Yazd's unique architectural traditions have largely been abandoned at their birthplace. "Unfortunately, our ancestral heritage has been forgotten," especially since the emergence of air conditioners, said Oloumi. Yazd's old town is a labyrinth of narrow streets and roofed alleyways. Its centuries-old edifices made of clay, mud-brick and adobe all provide insulation against the torrid heat.



JOHNNY DEPP SELLS HIS SIGNED SELF-PORTRAIT FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

Actor Johnny Depp's fans can get their hands on his signed self-portrait, the creation of which helped him heal during a challenging five-year period of his life, with \$200 from each painting sold going to a mental health charity, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

AFFLECK GETS HELP FROM STRANGER AFTER HIS CAR BREAKS DOWN

Actor Ben Affleck got help from a stranger when his classic car broke down on the street. The 50-year-old was cruising in his 1969 Cadillac DeVille in Brentwood, CA, with his son Samuel when the car overheated, and temperatures hovered around 90.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are likely to give in to the demands of your children today. Ganesh says it is for times like this that you labour so hard. You will finish the tasks that you have been postponing for a long time. It is a good day for people in the medical field and in the public sector.

TAURUS
Ganesh finds this an excellent day for managers and administrators. If you are one, the results you will achieve by the end of the day will far exceed the efforts you put in. This is mainly because your subordinates will be enthusiastic, compliant and cooperative.

GEMINI
You will listen to your heart over your head, swept away as you will be in a flood of emotions today. This could mean that you will be unable to distinguish between good and bad. However, looking back upon your day in the evening, you are unlikely to regret any of the decisions you made, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be involved in a team effort and associated with work like inspection and examination. You will base your opinions on your friends' choices. So select good friends, says Ganesh. You will spend time with close circle.

LEO
Your natural self-confidence and capability will help you attain a position of strength today. As a result, all your tasks will be completed easily and you will reap rewards greater than your expectations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will be faced with serious financial problems today. You may even have to pay through your nose to get what you desire. Later in the evening, you might accomplish some short-term goals. Ganesh predicts that some vital business agreements will end your day in high spirits.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be able to improve your relations abroad. There will be good news coming from friends or relatives living abroad. Your working ability and efficiency will make you popular in the office today. In the day today you shall have a variety of good and bad experiences.

SCORPIO
An electric wire of 440 volts is apt to describe you today. According to Ganesh, you are in a belligerent mood today and can burst like a fireball. Meditation and yoga is likely to improve the situation. Remember, treat others the way you want to be treated by them.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh foresees a day full of promises. People in the creative field, especially artists are going to benefit more. Radio jockey and television anchors can make a note of this day in their diary, as it may serve as a memorable day, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You have projected yourself as a confused individual. You may have a tendency to remain in a double mind. But, today you'll come up with a very specific plan that will surprise many of the people around you. Be clear about what you want to do in life, how you want your life to be and make sincere efforts to achieve it, guides Ganesh. Rest assured, success shall be with you!

AQUARIUS
You are disappointed and you seek solace in spirituality. Don't run away from the problems; rather face them with strength and confidence, advises Ganesh, to bring your life back on track. With patience and belief in the Almighty, you will be sail through the storm.

PISCES
You will display kindness and generosity today and will do your best to help anyone in need. At work you will receive praise for the efforts that you've put in and your dedication will be validated.

Kajol on limits of women

New Delhi: Actress Kajol's character Noyonika in web-series *The Trial*, exemplifies every woman navigating through demanding expectations, and resonates with the challenges they encounter in their quest to balance the diverse aspects of life.

The *Fanaa* actress said, "The great thing about Noyonika is that every woman identifies with her. As women, we are taught to be a good mother, a good wife, a good person and to fulfill all of these roles to the nth degree at every point in your life."

"That's where Noyonika was at, where she felt like she's perfect at everything and at the same time when her world came crumbling down she realised that she can't be good at everything, she cannot be a good wife and a good mother and a good person, there are so many facets and she cannot manage all those balls and she realises that it doesn't matter at the end of day," said Kajol.

She further said that Noyonika's journey is what we all go through as women. "What we are juggling through as women, some come to it a little early in life and some a little later," she added.

The Trial - Pyaar, Kaanoon, Dhokha is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.



The Sea & Seven Villages makes it to 15th IDSFFK

BHUBANESWAR: Award winning director Himansu Khatua's Odia documentary film *The Sea & Seven Villages* has been selected for the Long Documentary Competition section of the 15th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK), scheduled to be held from August 4 to 9.

Produced by Iti Samanta under the banner of Kadambini Media, the film is presented by KIIT-KISS founder and Kandhamal Lok Sabha MP Achyuta Samanta.

He has done exhaustive research to make the film to give a vivid message about climate change and its impact on Satabhaya, said Khatua.

Satabhaya, once a cluster of seven villages, is said to be the first orphan of Climate change after five villages have taken watery graves with the passing of time. The documentary also gives a real picture of the life and struggle of the people of Satabhaya, known for their resilience in facing the marauding sea.



Bhumi to be feted at Melbourne film fest

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar will be honoured with the prestigious Disruptor Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023.

The actress has carved a unique space for herself in the industry with performances in films including *Badhaai Do*, *Bheed*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Bala* and many others.

In addition, this recognition will also be for her relentless commitment to addressing climate change and promoting sustainability. The award will be presented to the actor on the festival's opening day, August 11.

Speaking of this honour, the *Govinda Mera Naam* actress said, "I am so grateful for having been awarded as the Disruptor of the year by IFFM. This recognition means a lot to me. Through my work, through the films and roles I take up, the causes that I support and stand up for and for everything I do to champion climate conservation, this is exactly what I strive for - I strive to live a life of impact."

"The individual strives to improve society through promoting women's representation in cinema and advocating for gender inclusivity, while also working towards environmental stability. The recognition from IFFM reinforces their commitment to the cause. They express excitement in celebrating cinema's power and creativity at the festival, praising its efforts in promoting Indian cinema worldwide and supporting artists."



Sobhita's quirky revelation

New Delhi: Actress Sobhita Dhulipala has made a quirky revelation about how she chose her career path after her class 12 examination on *The Kapil Sharma Show (TKSS)*.

The *PS II* actress, shared, "It's true that I had tossed a coin before coming to Mumbai. The choice was between Mumbai and

Bangalore for my bachelor's degree. I had a strong desire to live in a big city, as I had spent my years of schooling in Vizag."

"Convincing my parents was the first hurdle, and then I had to decide which city I wanted to go to. And fortune shined when luck decided Mumbai for me and here I am," she added.

Kapil will host Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sobhita, Tillotama Shome, and Ravi Behl in a fun-tastic episode that will be the culmination of this season of the show.

The season finale of *TKSS* will air this weekend on Sony.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

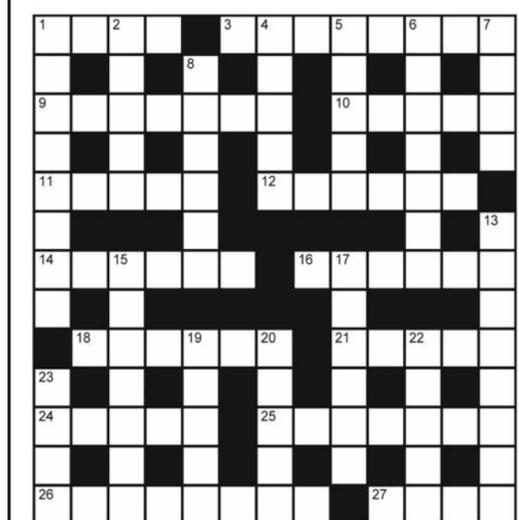


BREVITY



FUN post

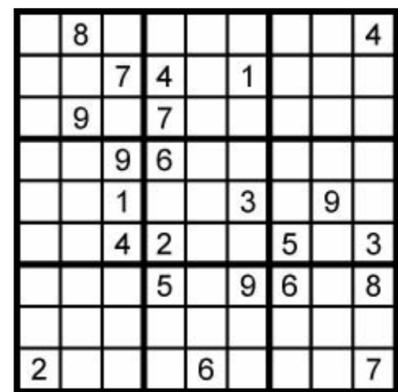
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Extinct bird
 - 3 The one and only love (4,4)
 - 9 Dereliction
 - 10 Vapid
 - 11 Reddish brown
 - 12 Large stringed instruments
 - 14 Bearish
 - 16 Place to buy a petit four
 - 18 Leftovers
 - 21 Self-evident truth
 - 24 Hard wood
 - 25 Looking chic
 - 26 Going out of business auction (4,4)
 - 27 Dare to resist
- Down**
- 1 Mesozoic era ground-shaker
 - 2 Excavate (3,2)
 - 4 Kind of nerve
 - 5 Tag
 - 6 Pie preference (1,2,4)
 - 7 Old Icelandic epic
 - 8 Hang around
 - 13 Perfect balance
 - 15 Comfort and assistance
 - 17 Flabbergasted
 - 19 Bottomless pit
 - 20 Beach souvenir
 - 22 Fatuous
 - 23 Table extender

SUDOKU

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

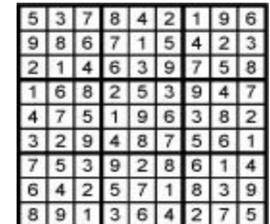


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



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(via video conferencing)

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41 BAHANAGA VICTIMS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, July 21: The remains of 41 persons killed in the June 2 Balasore triple train crash that claimed at least 295 lives are yet to be identified, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Friday.

While replying to questions in the Rajya Sabha, Vaishnaw said 295 persons lost their lives and 176 sustained grievous injuries in the horrific train mishap near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district June 2.

"The remains of 41 persons killed in the Balasore accident are yet to be identified. The mortal remains of unidentified passengers have been retained in medically-prescribed ways at AIMS-Bhubaneswar. DNA samples have been taken for analysis at CFSL in New Delhi," the Railway minister said.

"DNA analysis reports are maintained which can be matched with DNA of claimants as and when they arrive. Action to pay last respects to deceased passengers is being taken as per law and in consultation with medical professionals and law enforcement agencies (GRP and CBI)," he said.

Vaishnaw also informed the House that till July 16, Rs 29.49 crore has been paid as enhanced ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh each to the next of kin of each deceased, Rs 2 lakh each to the grievously injured and Rs 50,000 each to the passengers with simple injury. As on July 13, as many as 258



DNA analysis reports are maintained which can be matched with DNA of claimants as and when they arrive. Action to pay last respects to deceased passengers is being taken as per law and in consultation with medical professionals and law enforcement agencies (GRP and CBI)

ASHWINI VAISHNAW, RAILWAY MINISTER

Mortal remains of 41 unidentified passengers have been retained in medically-prescribed ways at AIMS-Bhubaneswar

claim cases have been received in various benches of the Railway Claims Tribunal, of which 51 claims have been disposed off, he said.

The accident occurred when the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express (12841) rammmed into a stationary goods train and its coaches fell on the adjacent track and hit the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast coming from the opposite direction.

Vaishnaw said the rear-collision was due to lapses in the signalling-circuit alteration carried out in the past and during the execution of the signalling work related to replacement of electric lifting barrier for a level-crossing gate.

"These lapses resulted in wrong signalling to the Train No. 12841 wherein the UP Home Signal indicated Green aspect for run-through movement on the UP main line of the station, but the crossover connecting the UP main line to the UP loop line (crossover 17 A/B) was set to the UP loop line; the wrong signalling resulted in the Train No. 12841 traversing on the UP loop line, and eventual rear-collision with the goods train (No. N/DDIP) standing there," he said.

He further informed the House that seven Railway officials have been suspended and Discipline and Appeal Rules proceedings have been initiated against them.



FOR A CAUSE: Supporters of Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim and Chiranjib Biswal stage a demonstration near Congress Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday, demanding withdrawal of the duo's suspension

Stir over Moquim, Biswal suspension

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 21: Supporters of Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim and Chiranjib Biswal Friday staged a demonstration near Congress Bhawan here demanding withdrawal of suspension order on the duo.

Supporters of Moquim and Chiranjib attempted to enter the Congress Bhawan to talk to Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak.

However, they were not allowed entry into the state Congress headquarters.

They then staged a demonstration at Master Canteen against the suspension. They termed the suspension of the two leaders as "undemocratic".

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) earlier placed both leaders under suspension on charges of anti-party activities.

The action was taken based on the recommendation of the Disciplinary Action Committee of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Both the leaders were accused of criticising the state Congress leadership at a meeting May 8 leading to the party candidate's

humiliating defeat in Jharsuguda bypoll.

"The way in which the party suspended the two leaders has hurt the Congress workers. The suspension orders are not justified as the two leaders worked for strengthening the party in the state," a supporter said.

Congress leader from Cuttack, Giribala Behera said, "A number of party workers from different parts of the state have assembled here on their own to protest the action against Mohammad Moquim and Chiranjib Biswal. We urged the high command to immediately revoke suspension and work for uniting the party

workers."

After the suspension, Biswal had claimed that he was the victim of a coterie in the party. "The leaders who have not won a single election in last 25 years have hatched a conspiracy to oust me from the party," Biswal, a two-time MLA said.

"If speaking the truth is a crime, then I have done it," Biswal said.

Both Moquim and Biswal have said that they continued to remain in the party and will fight the next election as Congress candidates.

Pattanayak said all should abide by the order of the AICC.

50 MW floating solar power project soon at Hirakud reservoir

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 21: A 50 MW captive floating solar power project will be set up at Hirakud reservoir in Sambalpur district by Shyam Metalics and Energy Limited (SMEL).

SMEL Vice Chairman & Managing Director Brij Bhushan Agarwal said the company has now earmarked Rs 450 crores to set up a captive green energy project with a floating solar plant with power generation capacity of 50 MW at Hirakud reservoir.

The company has requested the Odisha government to allot 250 acres of land with grid connectivity to build the 50 MW floating solar power plant.

SMEL's integrated steel facility at Rengali in Sambalpur has a total steelmaking capacity of 3 MTPA, as well as a 158 MW power plant and a 3.0 MTPA pellet plant.

The company is also planning for an addition of 0.5 GW Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by 2025 and it is to be increased to combined capacity of 2 GW in the subsequent 3-5 years.

State's plea to rescue 33 Odia workers in Saudi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, July 21: The state government has requested the ambassador of India at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia to look into the rescue and repatriation of at least 33 stranded Odia workers there.

After receiving distress calls and messages from some of the Odia workers employed in the Gulf country, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena Thursday wrote a letter to Suhel Azaj Khan, ambassador of India at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

The Chief Secretary has also forwarded a copy of his letter to the joint secretary (Gulf Division) of Ministry of External Affairs.

The Indian citizens employed in Saudi Arabia have reportedly been cheated by their em-

ployers, Jena said.

It is found that 33 of them are from Odisha, while 10 are from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Gulf Odia Society, which was pressed into service, could contact the forlorn workers from Odisha and it is found that their Iqama (Visa) are not being renewed by their company owners (Qafeel), the Chief Secretary wrote in his letter.

He said the workers have not been paid their salary and are deprived of basic amenities like food, water and medicines. They are working in Ms Hadi Al Hammam Group, at Camp-47, Juaymah in Saudi Arabia.

Attaching a list of the 33 persons from Odisha along with his letter, Jena requested the Indian ambassador in Saudi for their rescue and repatriation.

Lopar over Bay triggers heavy rain



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 21: Many parts of Odisha witnessed widespread rainfall Thursday and in the early hours of Friday due to formation of a low pressure area (Lopar) over Bay of Bengal off the state's coast.

IMD officials said that the Lopar was formed under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the Bay and under its in-

fluence squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching up to 40-50 kmph is very likely along and off the Odisha coast till July 22.

The weather office has also advised fishermen not to venture into the sea during this period. The circulation is likely to move across Odisha during the next two days and trigger light to moderate rains with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall

across the state till July 24. The IMD forecast the formation of another Lopar July 24 and issued Orange and Yellow warnings.

The Orange warning has been issued as heavy to very heavy rainfall of 7-20cm is very likely to occur at isolated places in Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Boudh, Subarnapur and Sambalpur districts between 8:30am Friday and 8:30am Saturday.

Yellow warning of heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Angul, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Dhenkanal districts between 8:30am Friday and 8:30am Saturday.

The IMD also warned of possible landslides in the hilly areas of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati districts.

IISER Berhampur awards degrees to 101 students

AGENCIES

Berhampur, July 21: As many as 101 students, who passed out from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) here were awarded the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science (BS-MS) dual degree in its third convocation held, Friday.



The ceremony was held at the institute's under-construction permanent campus at Vignyanpuri at Laudigaon here.

Besides dual degrees, the institute also awarded four integrated PhD (iPhD) and two PhDs to students who successfully completed their research work. The institute also gave medals, including President's Gold Medal, the Director's Gold Medal, proficiency medal (silver) and some other medals to the best performing students.

The major dual degrees are included in Biology, Chemical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

The second batch of students, who had joined the five-year BS-MS degree in Sciences in August 2018, have completed all the academic requirements and were conferred their BS-MS degrees. Former Defence secretary G Satheesh Reddy was the chief guest on the occasion. He urged the students to work hard to make India self-reliant.

IISER Berhampur director Ashok Kumar Ganguli said several of the graduating students of the institute have been selected for PhD programmes at highly reputed institutions across the country and abroad.

Notably, IISER Berhampur was established in 2016 by the Central government and is the youngest institute among seven IISERs across the country.

LABOUR MINISTER TOURS ESI HOSPS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 21: Labour Minister Sarada Nayak made a whirlwind tour of most of the ESI hospitals here, Friday. A high-level team of officials from the ESI and Labour department accompanied the minister during the visit.

Nayak was visibly upset owing to the abysmal condition of the hospitals. An irritated Nayak said, "The state of affairs here is really bad. Rourkela is among the highest contributors to ESI and look at the condition of the hospitals." Officials who accompanied the minister were regional director Partha Sarathi Panda, director ESI scheme Ashok Kumar Panda, personal secretary Sambhunath Nandi and others. They took stock of the situation of the dispensaries.

The team visited Rajgangpur, Kalunga, Vedvyas, Kuanrunda, Jhartarang, ESI Rourkela 4, Model Hospital, CISF Colony and FCT Balijuhuri

The team visited Rajgangpur, Kalunga, Vedvyas, Kuanrunda, Jhartarang, ESI Rourkela 4, Model Hospital, CISF Colony and FCT Balijuhuri

Balijuhuri. The minister was seen asking questions to the beneficiaries and taking feedback from them. He was disappointed with the condition of the hospitals and the non-availability of doctors and medicines at all these dispensaries. "I can say that some changes will be brought definitely in all the dispensaries soon. I am directing the officials to take care of the situation at the earliest possible time. The buildings will be repaired soon to make those more patient-friendly and the Model Hospital will be upgraded to 150 beds soon from existing 50 beds," Nayak said.



JOB CRY: Members of Odisha Government Outsourcing Employees' Federation take out a rally from Odisha Judicial Academy to RDC (Central) office in Cuttack, Friday, demanding job regularisation

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Panposh at Uditanagar, Rourkela, I, Kiran Ekka, W/o. Bhodro Kisan, R/o. Tumran, PO. Garjan, Dist.- Sundargarh declare that my name Kiran Ekka is mentioned in my Aadhaar card and PAN card. My maiden name was Kiran Tirkey which is mentioned in my School record and Kiran Kisan is mentioned in my Reliance industries share. That above all the names stands for one and same person.

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CABINET DECISION

₹1,001cr boost for cancer care



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Altogether 11 comprehensive cancer care units will be set up across the state within two years
- Radiotherapy, brachytherapy, histopathology, onco-surgery, chemotherapy and palliative care services will be strengthened
- Each facility will be added with 50 to 100 beds with operation theatres, ICUs, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and palliative care units
- MARKFED's Price Support Scheme to continue for another 5 years with an outlay of ₹500 crore

care units and with provision of future expansion when required. Posts for specialists, super-specialists and technical staff will be created as regular cadres under state government to provide uninterrupted serv-

Semiconductor policy gets nod

The state Cabinet led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday approved Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy to facilitate investors to enter into the manufacturing of semiconductor/electronic chips in the state. Chief Secretary PK Jena said that the state government has taken several initiatives to promote Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in the state. He also said the proposed Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy aims at developing an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem in Odisha. At least one semiconductor manufacturing unit and around 100 fabless design companies are expected to be set up generating around 5,000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs in the next seven years, he added.

ices at these facilities, he said. Similarly, the Cabinet has approved a provision of ₹500 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28) for implementation of the Price Support Scheme (PSS) by Odisha State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (MARKFED-Odisha) for procurement of oilseeds & pulses in the state on behalf of NAFED.

The decision was taken with an objective to support more than 1,500 PACS, LAMPSCS, FPOs, WSHGs etc. reaching around 1 lakh farmers in the next five years to support the beneficiaries and prevent distress sale.

As per the Cabinet decision, the Canal Lining and System Rehabilitation Programme (CLSRP), which was launched during 2013-14, will continue for another five years with an outlay of ₹2,032.92 crore. The scheme has been renamed as Mukhyamantri Canal Lining

Yojana. The scheme has been extended to take up the ongoing 287.62 km of lining in major and medium irrigation projects and 24.58 km of canal lining work in minor irrigation projects and new lining works of 660.28 km of lining in major and medium irrigation projects and 295.34 km of canal lining work in minor irrigation projects. The government has extended the deadline for One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme of arrear water rates dues of central and state units/organisations and private industrial, commercial and other establishments. The last date for receipt of such applications is extended up to September 30, 2023 and the last date for settlement of such applications under OTS scheme is now extended up to March 31, 2024.



COMMUNICATION WOES: Women of Baliguda village under Dasmantpur block in Koraput district wade through Mujanga river on her way back home after getting subsidised rice from the panchayat office, Friday

State, TBI join hands to push growth

The pact will go a long way in successful implementation of various programmes of the state government and enhancement of economic potential

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 21: In an attempt to further catalyse the state's ongoing transformation, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the state government and Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) Friday. As part of this understanding, TBI will provide advisory support to government to enable it to successfully deliver on its overall economic agenda.

The collaboration, a non-commercial project, involves strategy development support, delivery and implementation support, and strategic communications support. Under these support initiatives, TBI will undertake a range of activities such as current-state analysis, external benchmarking, roadmap design, capacity development, effective communication of core reforms to enhance adoption, and many others. These initiatives, coupled with TBI's expertise in leveraging insights from various public and private stakeholders, are expected to further catalyze Odisha's on-



KNOW THE TBI

- Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) is headquartered in London and helmed by UK's former Prime Minister Tony Blair
- It works in more than 45 countries to help governments turn ideas into reality
- It helps leaders by advising on strategy, policy and delivery
- Its domains of specialisation include governance, foreign policy, investments, infrastructure and cities, climate and energy, and human capital

going transformation.

The TBI, through its interventions in various areas, aims to help build more open, inclusive and prosperous societies for people everywhere.

On this occasion, Electronics, Information Technology, Sports and Youth Services & Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, development commissioner-cum-

additional chief secretary Anu Garg, additional chief secretary to Home department Deoranjay Kumar Singh, principal secretary, Finance Vishal Kumar Dev, principal secretary to E&IT Manoj Kumar Mishra were present on the occasion.

The MoU was signed by E&IT special secretary Manas Ranjan Panda and TBI's country director Vivek Agarwal.

Fake spices-making unit busted; 1 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, July 21: A fake spices-manufacturing unit was busted by the twin city Commissionerate Police in Malgodown area of the Silver City here, Friday. The prime accused in the case, identified as Arun Gantayat, has been taken into custody by the police.

The crackdown was carried out jointly by Malgodown police and Health wing of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) leading to the recovery of more than 24 bags of duplicate spices laced with spurious food colour.

Ghost bailer nabbed from City court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 21: Following the arrest of a fraudster who facilitated an accused get bail through forged documents, the Commissionerate Police nabbed another fake bailer from the district judge court premises here, Thursday. The accused was identified as Baman Charan Samantray alias Dwivedi of Kapilneswar under Airfield police limits.

Documents seized from the possession of Baman also revealed that he is a resident Jajpur district. The cops seized three Aadhaar cards and other incriminating documents from him. Badagada police registered a case (395/23) against Baman and produced him in the court that sent him to judicial custody.

129 WEOs inducted to ST&SC Devpt dept

Bhubaneswar: As many as 129 welfare officers joined ST & SC Development department Friday at a 'Nijukti Parva' organised at the convention centre of Lok Seva Bhawan. On the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik advised the new officers to be proactive in ensuring the services reach the beneficiaries and be sensitive to people. Congratulating the new officers, the Chief Minister said, "Welfare extension officers have a significant role at the grassroots level for enhancing the quality of life of a majority section of our state."

1 more arrested in Barang land fraud

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 21: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested a fraudster who in connivance with several others allegedly duped a man of ₹25 lakh on the pretext of selling a plot of land at Barang on the outskirts of the City.

The accused, identified as Gour Prasad Mohanty, was nabbed from Puri Thursday. He is a resident of Pallahat in Khurda. Earlier, the EOW had arrested two persons in connection with the case.

The complaint in the case was lodged by victim Swosti Ranjan Pani, a resident of Sailashree Vihar area here. Subsequently, a case (8/23) was registered by EOW under Sections 419, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of Indian Penal Code (IPC) March 2, 2023.

Pani in his complaint had alleged that in 2021 Gour Prasad along with two of his associates - Sabita Das and Aditya Kumar Sahoo - persuaded him to buy a piece of land measuring around 4 acres at Bacchapur in Barang area of Cuttack. The land comprising five large plots is owned by one Rangalata Swain, a 75-year-old woman of the same village.

The fraudsters allegedly asked Pani to pay ₹25 lakh as token money for buying the land which was valued at ₹2 crore. Following the receipt of the money, the accused went incommunicado by switching off their mobile phones.

EOW learnt that the fraudsters had prepared forged Aadhaar, PAN and resident certificate in the name of Rangalata.



Case so far

March 2: Swosti Ranjan Pani of Sailashree Vihar lodged a complaint with EOW regarding the fraud

He alleged one Gour Prasad and 'others' persuaded him to buy 5 plots at Baranaga in Cuttack district

The scammers impersonating the original land owner allegedly duped Swosti of ₹25 lakh

March 5: EOW arrested Sabita and Aditya Kumar

July 20: Absconding Gour Prasad nabbed from Puri

They had affixed a photo of the accused Sabita in place of the septuagenarian to sell the said land illegally without the latter's knowledge.

Sabita also opened an account in a private bank impersonating Rangalata by using the forged KYC documents.

Later, they executed an agreement with one Sripati Badajena and took ₹20 lakh as advance to sell the land to him. Meanwhile, they contacted Pani and duped him of ₹25 lakh too. Of the ₹25 lakh, an amount of ₹10 lakh was transferred to the account of Gour Prasad.

Sabita and Aditya were arrested by EOW in March this year.

Sundargarh sees flight of industrialists

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 21: Sundargarh, once regarded as the hub of industrialisation in Odisha, is witnessing the flight of entrepreneurs from the district. The main reasons cited by them are lack of land, organised environment groups and above all lack of government support in many issues.

Sunil Kayal, president of the Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI), was of the opinion that land remains the biggest issue. "This is a scheduled district and you cannot purchase or take on lease or rent land from the tribal. Then how do we get it because there is not enough government land or land owned by general caste available," said Kayal.

The dawn of the millennium

saw the entry of one medium unit in the name of Adhunik Steel and now Liberty Steel. Besides, the district witnessed the sponge iron units' growth as at one point in time there were over 42 such plants functioning. Now, Liberty Steel is not operating at its full capacity and the majority of sponge iron units have shut down. One of the sponge iron unit owners said, "Apart from other reasons, we dread the appearance of environmental groups or activists. They are like organised gangs and act like extortionists."

Another industrialist who has a unit in neighbouring Chhattisgarh said, "The government is promoting Western Corridor for industries and the advertisement promises 3,000 acre land bank. I am from Sundargarh. Where is the land

holding it is in need of urgent medical attention, explained a lawyer about the intricacies of the law. "And again the person must keep five acres of land with himself and rest he can sell. And if someone has less or just that much land then what?" he asked.

Another former president of RCCI Binod Sharma said, "The government should intervene here with a little change of laws as it did in the case of highway construction. Pay them four times the land cost and all transactions should take place through banks as is happening these days."

Many agreed with his idea and one added, "These days you cannot hide things as easily as was happening before. So this can be done. We are ready to pay four times the land cost but where is the land?"

RATNA BHANDAR OPENING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 21: Renowned sand artist and member of Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee Sudarshan Pattnaik has sought the intervention of temple panel chairman and Puri Gajapati Maharaja and Puri Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb in opening of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar.

Writing a letter to the King, Pattnaik said the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee should request the government to open Ratna Bhandar as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has given a requisition August 8, 2022 for inspection of inner Ratna Bhandar.

"Why this matter is not brought to the notice of the Managing Committee through

Sudarshan seeks Puri King's intervention

the agenda for discussion, as it is a matter of safety and security?" he asked the Gajapati Maharaja.

The sand artist also urged Deb to intervene in reopening of the other three gates of the temple, which remained closed since Covid-19 pandemic. "We all are aware that there is a huge discontentment among the devotees and the locals regarding the closing of three doors. During Covid-19 pandemic, three doors were closed for the devotees, but why the same have not been opened for the devotees?" he said in his letter.

He also asked the Puri king to inform the devotees about the reasons for not opening the three gates. "If there is any reason behind not opening other doors, we should inform devotees in a



The sand artist also urged Deb to intervene in reopening of the other three gates of the temple, which remained closed since Covid-19 pandemic

proper manner," he said. He demanded that at least one door should be opened immediately for the locals.

Pattnaik urged the Gajapati Maharaja to take the necessary

steps to resolve these issues. Meanwhile, Mamata Sahu, a resident of Bhubaneswar and a native of Puri, said, "I have heard about the miraculous tales of the Lord and it never stops to amaze me. It is all about our beliefs and if our forefathers have believed that it's better not to open the temple treasure, then I think we should abide by them. But if most of the devotees feel it should be opened then it should be done."

Mamata also mentioned about the inconvenience faced by devotees at the temple everyday due to the three closed gates. It delays their chores and routine. "The opening of the three gates will definitely reduce the rush at Singhadwar. The committee should at least open one door for the time being," she said.

FOCUS G-20 MEETING

CONSENSUS ELUDES



In the run-up to the summit in September, India should continue to harp on ending the war and Russia and Ukraine coming on to the negotiating table while reiterating a no-war strategy in dealing with bilateral problems

discussing at this stage at all. Our priority is developmental issues, inclusive and sustainable growth and progress, more finance from multilateral institutions, sustainable development goals (SDGs), technological transformation and gender equality."

To be sure, avoiding a reference to the war while discussing its consequences is not a prudent methodology for an authentic discussion. The critical link of the war with economy cannot be lost on the managers of the G-20 in Delhi. It is true that lack of consensus on Russia's invasion of Ukraine has blocked any joint statement after the G-20 meetings so far. In the G-20 Declaration in Bali last year, similar divergences among the members were evident but they agreed on the use of or threat of nuclear weapons and sought "peaceful resolution of conflicts".

The Summit in India should do better in closing the gap on the war. The best would be to nudge Ukraine and Russia and their respective allies - formal and informal - to end the war. India should diplomatically pull all stops in accomplishing this objective.

All in all, it would have been a great diplomatic heft for India to have been able to build consensus on the causes and consequences of the Ukraine war. In the run-up to the summit in September, India should continue to harp on ending the war and Russia and Ukraine coming on to the negotiating table while reiterating a no-war strategy in dealing with bilateral problems.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism

@INF

Not unexpectedly, consensus eluded the meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) of the G-20 countries in Gandhinagar on 17th and 18th July. The divergence between Russia-China bloc and the US-led alliance on Russia-Ukraine war persists. The meeting ended without issuing a joint statement. Many observers would have perhaps anticipated a consensus statement under the current chairmanship of India known for her inherent strength of accommodation and balance. However, that was not to be. New Delhi's posture of 'neutrality' on the Ukraine war should have helped develop a consensus. On the contrary, no G-20 meeting in India has so far ended with a consensus document.



DK Giri

IT IS TRUE THAT LACK OF CONSENSUS ON RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE HAS BLOCKED ANY JOINT STATEMENT AFTER THE G-20 MEETINGS SO FAR

Instead, India released a document which is called the Chair Summary that records the discussions and disagreements taking place in the meeting. According to the Chair Summary, China and Russia objected to the mention of Ukraine war, in particular the phrases like "immense human suffering" and "exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy". Several members condemned the war and the tragic consequences it has been causing in terms of shortages of food, fuel and fertilizers which come largely from Ukraine and Russia.

They specifically referred to Russia refusing to extend a deal to allow Ukrainian grain export through the Black Sea. Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman briefing the press after the meeting said of the majority view that, "food passing through the Black Sea should not have been stopped or

suspended." Although India has so far remained neutral in the Ukraine war, it has expressed deep concerns about the gravity of the conflict in terms of its impact on developing countries. New Delhi had set its focus as the current chair of the Group on the need to help countries grappling with food shortages and debt crises following the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian war.

The majority of the low-income countries is in debt distress. Before the meeting, on 16th July, the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, had said, "A key priority this week is to redouble our support to Ukraine as it continues to defend itself against Russia's illegal and unprovoked attack... ending this war is first and foremost moral imperative and the single best thing we can do for the global economy".

The Outcome Document comprising 26 paragraphs and two annexes, released by the Chair indicated the majority opinion on the war. It stated that the war was constraining economic

growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity and elevating financial stability risks. There were also different views on war situation and sanctions. While recognising that the G-20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, it acknowledged that security issues can have significant consequences for the world economy. Let us note that India is aspiring to be the voice of the Global South. New Delhi is certainly utilising the opportunity as the Chair of the G-20 to move towards accomplishing such aspiration. During the G-20 process, India has been trying to mobilise support for reforms of multilateral banks, other financial institutions to facilitate the development in low-income and vulnerable countries.

After the third G-20 meeting at Hampi in Karnataka, India's G-20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, said that India's focus was on development issues. He underlined, "there will be a contentious issue (read the Ukraine war) and that will be the issue of geo-politics which we are not

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Changing the culture at the World Bank

Ajay Banga, the newly-appointed President of the World Bank, is taking the helm at a pivotal moment. The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have impeded progress in developing countries and pushed 124 million people into extreme poverty. Consequently, the Bank projects that economic activity in emerging economies will not return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024.

Low- and middle-income countries need the World Bank to spearhead global efforts to reduce extreme poverty and enhance living standards. By helping them to reduce their debt burdens and combat climate change, the Bank could also help to improve their air and water quality, increase their access to clean energy, and bolster their food security.

But skepticism about the Bank's capacity to address the challenges facing developing countries is running high. In a recent speech, Banga said that the World Bank needs a "new playbook" for engaging with the developing world. While this is undoubtedly true, any updated strategy must acknowledge a fundamental truth: the Bank is unlikely to have enough capital to finance the investments required to address the enormous challenges facing poor countries. Given this, it must mobilize its knowledge and relationships, as well as its capital, to encourage investments that enhance growth

and employment while also facilitating the green transition. But first, Banga must guide the institution toward complete transparency.

Fostering transparency starts with acknowledging the obvious. The debt crisis currently engulfing emerging economies was exacerbated by the pandemic, but these countries were on a perilous path long before. Today's debt conundrum is the result of borrowers and lenders - including the Bank itself - pursuing low-return projects that could not cover their costs. To avert future debt crises, multilateral institutions must stop financing economically unsustainable projects.

The first step toward a more effective World Bank has already been taken by the Bank's partners during the recent Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. With roughly 1.2 billion people in poor countries lacking access to electricity and another billion living more than a mile from an all-season road, infrastructure investments could foster sustained growth, help reduce debt, and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Bank's technical teams, working closely with other multilateral lenders, must estimate the additional output that each dollar invested in such projects could generate. For example, consider a project that contributes 30 cents to GDP for every dollar of investment, resulting

in a 30% rate of return. For such a project to be deemed economically viable, the borrowing cost would need to remain below 30%.

As the Bank increasingly evaluates partner project proposals based on expected returns, it will likely encounter pushback against climate-related projects whose benefits cannot be captured by GDP alone. While the Bank's assessment process should emphasize that many climate projects can deliver high rates of return, it is crucial to recognize that there are valid reasons to invest in projects that may not yield short-term economic benefits. At the same time, to mitigate risks to debt sustainability, economic and non-economic investments must be carefully balanced.

To this end, the Bank should adopt a two-tiered assessment process. The first tier would comprise projects approved solely on the basis of projected returns, and the second tier would include projects whose anticipated environmental benefits outweigh their cost. Projects approved on the basis of economic merit could be further divided into two groups: high-return projects that could attract private-sector financing and lower-return projects that require concessional funding.

As one of us (Henry) recently wrote, the Bank has the financial and human resources to implement a data-driven investment approach. But to succeed, it must

produce estimates of expected returns on prospective projects, ensure that estimates are independently reviewed and verified, and make this information freely accessible to governments, investors, and the general public. Publishing this data would enable governments to identify infrastructure projects with the greatest potential to boost growth, help private investors make informed financing decisions, and allow civil-society groups to hold leaders to account.

By cultivating a culture of transparency regarding the costs and benefits of the Bank's investments, Banga could boost its credibility. Increased trust would encourage shareholders to consider capital increases, and engagement with the private sector and other development institutions would generate scale and momentum.

To be sure, changing the World Bank's culture will not be easy. But many people around the world have been waiting for such an effort, and they would likely support Banga in transforming a lethargic institution into a powerful force promoting a just and sustainable future.

Bertrand Badré is a former managing director of the World Bank while Peter Blair Henry is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

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Bertrand Badré and Peter Blair Henry

TO AVERT FUTURE DEBT CRISES, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS MUST STOP FINANCING ECONOMICALLY UNSUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

If you do not feel your responsibility and if you are not always alert and painstaking, then Nature will play mischief with you.

THE MOTHER



Breach of Protocol

The recent case involving K Srinivasan, a 2005-batch IAS officer, in Jharkhand, has evoked a lot of interest in babu circles. The state government has issued four show-cause notices to Srinivasan for "tampering with the contents" of a Cabinet note twice, which is a serious breach of protocol. Sources have informed DKB that the said approved Cabinet note outlined the extension of operations for six Eklavya schools. However, Srinivasan allegedly added two additional sentences without proper authorization, potentially impacting the outflow of funds and raising suspicions of misuse. Further, sources say that by not responding to the show-cause notices, Srinivasan was removed from the post and is currently awaiting his posting.

Senior babus say that government decision-making adheres to established procedures and protocols, ensuring checks and balances to prevent unauthorized modifications. In this case, the addition of two sentences without the requisite approval is a serious deviation from governance practices.

Tampering with the Cabinet note is a serious issue and though it was immediately noticed, and the issue raised at various levels, clearly the incident is a wake-up call for the Jharkhand government to review its processes to prevent similar instances in the future.

What's the next chapter in the ED story?

Terming the third extension to Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Mishra as illegal and fixing his tenure up to the last day of this month was a difficult decision for the Supreme Court. The court not only upheld the Parliament's decision on the CVC Act and DSPA but also contradicted its previous ruling regarding Mishra's removal. This outcome seems to have satisfied both the petitioners and the government, although it may not have been the court's original intention.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Mishra, who had comfortably settled into his role as the ED chief following his third extension, had elevated the ED's influence, surpassing even that of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and positioned it as a strategic player in the government's power play. Now, looking ahead, his future remains uncertain. Sources have informed DKB that there have been discussions about entrusting him with a key responsibility, such as becoming the Governor of a state in the Northeast or South, serving as the high commissioner of India to the UK, or even being appointed as a Union Minister! Such conjecture underscores the consensus on Mishra's competence and his indispensability to the Modi sarkar.

As for Mishra's successor, several names are being considered. Pravin Kumar, recently appointed as a Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) member, is reportedly a frontrunner for the coveted post. Pankaj Kumar Mishra, former Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit and an empanelled secretary-level officer is also a strong contender, while Seemanchala Dash, a former principal special director in the ED, has also emerged as a potential candidate. Another probable is a highly trusted lady officer who is currently with the SSB.

While an IAS officer may be appointed as the next ED chief, it seems improbable given the ED's current momentum, especially in the lead-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Regardless of who succeeds Mishra, senior babus concur that filling his shoes will be daunting.

New dilemma for retired babus

The recent introduction of stringent measures by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to prevent retired babus from disclosing classified information has raised the question of the delicate balance between national security and democratic principles.

Undoubtedly, there have been instances where retired IAS, IPS and IFS babus have made sensational disclosures in their books, revealing information that should have remained under wraps, either because of its confidential nature or because of its potential to embarrass the government by exposing its flaws or misgovernance. While the need to curb such practices is instinctive for those in power, how can we ensure that the regulations implemented do not become tools to stifle dissent and limit the public's access to information?

The All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement-Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2023, raises serious concerns about the government's intentions. The amended rules link pension entitlement to maintaining good conduct and empower the Central government to suspend the pension of those convicted of serious offences or found guilty of post-retirement misconduct. Additionally, retired officers who have served in intelligence departments now have to seek permission before disclosing any information.

The big question here, for which there is no easy answer, is how the government proposes to determine the severity of the offence. The new set of rules seems more like a warning to critics to fall in line or pay the price of their dissent.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- There is No Failure. It's Only Un-Finished Success.** RAJA RAVI VARMA
- Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.** VINCENT VAN GOGH
- It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child.** PABLO PICASSO

WORDSWORTH

Austerian

Economists and politicians who believe the only way out of a financial crisis is through painful spending cuts - were in the news in May 2013. In Britain it was because of an impending visit by officials from the International Monetary Fund, which had declared in April 2013 that the austere policies of the British coalition government were damaging recovery. More widely it had been topical because errors had been found in research by the economists Ken Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart on the relationship between high ratios of debt and GDP, research that was the basis of much of the policies of austerity worldwide. An isolated example of austerity is on record from 1996 but it seems to have been reinvented around June 2010. Its popularity rose sharply in 2013 - in the UK, it had appeared in print more often in the first three months of that year than in the whole of the previous three. The word was given greater visibility through the writings of the Nobel prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, who opposes austere policies, calling them "delusional". Though austere appears to be a no more than a derivative of austerity, it has been claimed that it was coined as an insiders' joke, a pun on Austrian, a reference to the school of economic thought typified by Friedrich Hayek and Ludwig von Mises.

India shamed

Sir, Whether he has done it with good intention or bad intention, the entire nation has to be thankful to the one who made the video clip of two of the hapless women being paraded naked and all the atrocities committed against them by a mob of inhuman hooligans in Manipur. It is only this clip that went viral in the media that has touched the conscience of the Supreme Court to warn both the Central government and the BJP-run state government in Manipur to act against the mayhem in Manipur, failing which they will initiate action, which in turn has made Prime Minister Modi, who was tight-lipped for over 70 days on this burning issue, break his silence and condemn the dastardly and heinous acts against the women in question. Though his speech had been confined only to this particular incident and there was no appeal for peace, one only hopes that, realising the grievous situation that prevails in Manipur, he will come forward to make a longer statement in Parliament with the details of the efforts taken by his government to bring normalcy to this state, which has been burning for more than two months and the situation has gone out of control.

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

Supreme Court whip

Sir, This refers to the news report "YOU ACT OR WE WILL SC"(Orissa POST- July 21). Facing the wrath of the apex court, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has finally thought of speaking to the media on the Manipur violence after a long lapse of 79 days. He spoke of pain, anger, and shame over the Manipur assault, which hardly justify his sense of responsibility in addressing a burning problem before it goes out of control. The PM maintains his legacy by keeping mum on matters of National importance. Had he been a responsible Prime Minister, he would have taken appropriate action long before against wrongdoers, besides removing the inefficient Chief Minister N Biren Singh. Since his own party is ruling the state, he preferred to remain silent for so long, but the whip of the apex court has forced him to speak out. The PM thinks, he can stage manage everything, but he will prove him wrong soon.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Heavy rains pummel Mumbai, suburbs

Most parts of the city and suburbs witnessed a heavy spell of rains, which caused waterlogging in some low-lying areas at Andheri, Kurla, Ghatkopar, Chembur and some other places

AGENCIES

Mumbai, July 21: Heavy rains lashed Mumbai Friday, inundating low-lying areas and disrupting vehicular traffic in the city and its suburbs. Most parts of the city and suburbs witnessed a heavy spell of rains, which caused waterlogging in some low-lying areas at Andheri, Kurla, Ghatkopar, Chembur and some other places. The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Ltd diverted buses on more than 12 routes due to waterlogging in Sion in the afternoon, an official said.



“moderate to intense spells of rain are very likely to occur at isolated places” of Mumbai in the next three to four hours, a civic official said. However, the city recorded 30 mm average rainfall in 24 hours ending 8 am, even as a warning of heavy to very heavy rains was issued for Thursday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) data revealed.

The island city, eastern and western suburbs received an average rainfall of 27.50 mm, 29.90 mm and 27.49 mm respectively in 24 hours ending 8 am, the civic body’s data showed. Earlier Friday, the IMD Mumbai predicted “heavy rainfall in the city and suburbs with possibility of very heavy rainfall at isolated places” with occasional gusty winds reaching 45-55 kmph, for 24 hours, the official said.

HP to get heavy rains till Sunday

AGENCIES

Shimla, July 21: Himachal Pradesh is set to get heavy rains till Sunday onwards even as most roads in the interiors of the state remain closed to traffic after last week’s torrential rains and landslides. The government has advised people to avoid unnecessary travel across the state due to heavy rain forecast.



He said isolated spells of very heavy rainfall in Chamba, Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Solan and Sirmour districts and heavy rainfall in Una, Hamirpur, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts in the next 24-48 hours. Subsequently, light to moderate precipitation associated with thunderstorms and lightning is likely to continue in most parts of the state for the subsequent three-four days. “The average maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be normal during the next four-five days,” he said. In view of expected rainfall, there could be disruption of traffic and other essential services in the state. The Met office said flashfloods in Kangra, Chamba, Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Sirmour, Solan, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts are expected. Since the onset of the monsoon in the hill state on June 24, as many as 138 people have died in rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, and road accidents, according to the Himachal Pradesh State Emergency Response Centre. The state has suffered a loss of ₹4,986 crore. A total of 586 houses have been damaged completely and 5,030 partially. Damaged properties also include 234 shops and 1500 cowsheds in the state. About 605 roads are still closed in the state, according to the centre. A team sent by the Centre is visiting rain-hit areas in the state to assess the losses, officials said.

The government has advised people to avoid unnecessary travel across the state due to heavy rain forecast.

Farmer loses 400 kg of tomatoes to theft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, July 21: A farmer in Maharashtra’s Pune district has approached the police, alleging theft of 400 kg of tomatoes, whose prices have skyrocketed across the country in recent weeks, an official said Friday.



The farmer told the police that he lost nearly ₹20,000 due to the theft. The red, juicy kitchen staple is selling between ₹100 and ₹200 a kilo in several states. Complainant Arun Dhome told the police that he harvested tomatoes from his farm Sunday and brought the vegetables to

his home in Shirur tehsil in a vehicle with the help of labourers. Dhome said he had planned to sell the tomatoes in the market. However, when Dhome woke up Monday morning, he discovered 20 crates of the precious vegetable weighing 400 kg missing. “After realising that his toma-

atoes had been stolen, Dhome approached the Shirur police station and lodged a complaint,” said the official. A senior official from the police station said they have registered a case and are probing the matter. Another farmer from the Pune district recently hit national headlines for selling 18,000 crates of tomatoes for ₹3 crore.

HP sees 40% increase in NDPS cases: DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur, July 21: The number of cases registered under the NDPS Act in Himachal Pradesh has seen an increase of 40 per cent as police are making efforts to root out drug menace from the hill state, Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said Friday. Due to an intensive drive against drug peddlers and addicts, the state has also seen a 32 per cent rise in arrests made under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, he said.

Talking to the media persons here, Kundu said over ₹20 crore properties have been seized under NDPS cases. The police department has also given a message to the people under the ‘Pradhav campaign’ to avoid drug addiction. According to the DGP, maximum consignments of chitta (adulterated heroin) come from Nurpur.



A damaged road at Jagatsukh following cloudburst in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh

Conduct survey to identify orphans in HP: Bureaucrat directs officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 21: Himachal Pradesh Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary M Sudha Devi Thursday directed all field officers to conduct a survey to identify orphans in the state and submit a report within 21 days. She gave the order while reviewing the Mukya Mantri Sukh Aashray Yojna (MMSYA) in a meeting held with all district programme officers and district child protection officers. The secretary asked the officers to submit the details of the identified orphans to the concerned Deputy Commissioner.



The bureaucrat also instructed officials to speed up the rendering of benefits promised to orphans under the scheme, such as quality education, mentorship, clothing allowance, festival and marriage, annual educational tours, coaching, higher education, self employment, and start-up assistance. The Himachal Pradesh government had launched the Mukya Mantri Sukh Aashray Yojna and constituted a ‘Mukhya Mantri Sukh Aashray Kosh’ with an aim to educate orphan children and Ekal Naris. According to the government, so far, 6,000 orphans in Himachal have been named ward of the state.

Won’t notify ‘FCU’ against fake news till Sept 4: Centre to HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 21: The Centre Friday informed the Bombay High Court that it won’t notify till September 4 the ‘Fact Check Unit’ (FCU) under the recently amended Information Technology (IT) Rules to flag fake content on social media against the government.



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought a division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale to adjourn the earlier dates set by the court for the Centre to put forth its arguments justifying the Rules. The bench has been hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the amended IT Rules. Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, the Editors Guild of India and the Association of Indian Magazines have filed petitions in the HC against the Rules, terming them arbitrary and unconstitutional and claiming that they would have a chilling effect on the fun-

damental rights of citizens. The petitioners’ advocates have completed their arguments after which the court posted the matter July 27 and 28 for Mehta to argue. On Friday, Mehta sought the court to post the matter at the end of August. “My difficulty is that the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court will commence hearing arguments in matters pertaining to Article 370 (which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir) from August 2. I need to make some preparations for that,” Mehta said. The bench agreed and posted the petitions for hearing August 31 and September 1.

Mehta said the statement made by the Union government that the FCU would not be notified shall stand extended till September 4. In April this year, after the petitions were filed, the Centre had told the court that it would not notify the FCU till July. This month, the statement came to be extended from time to time when the court started hearing arguments in the pleas.

On April 6 this year, the Union government promulgated certain amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, including a provision for a fact-checking unit to flag fake, false or misleading online content related to the government. The three petitions sought the court to declare the amended Rules unconstitutional and direct the government to restrain from acting against any individual under the Rules.

Shimla records 11 new cases of scrub typhus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 21: With the onset of monsoon, 11 cases of scrub typhus have been reported in Shimla, officials said. Shimla Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Surekha Chopra has cautioned the people regarding the disease and asked them to immediately go for a check-up if symptoms like persistent high fever, skin lesions and rashes, along with massive size of lymph nodes are noticed. People working in fields and bushes should keep their body, especially legs and hands covered and take care of hygiene, she said, adding that the facility of testing for scrub typhus is free and available at



■ Also known as bush typhus, the infectious disease scrub typhus is instigated by bacteria and illness that could lead to death if symptoms are not promptly reported and timely medical treatment is not provided

■ The disease spreads with bite by larva and the symptoms appear after 10 to 12 days

all health care institutions. People have been advised to keep the surroundings clean, and maintain personal hygiene, immediately eliminate rodents, like mice and rats that carry mites, chiggers, in and around the place of dwelling and avoid going to places where cases of scrub typhus have been reported in considerable numbers.

HIMACHAL APPLE ROW

CM, Horticulture minister take different stands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, July 21: Confusion prevails over the sale of apples in Himachal Pradesh as Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Horticulture minister Jagat Singh Negi have taken different stands on the issue. Earlier, apples were sold on a box basis but this year the new system of selling apples per kg with a cap of 24 kg was introduced by the state government after consultations with all the stakeholders. So far, about one lakh boxes of apples have been sold.



A uniform carton for sale would be introduced next year. Apple is ₹5,000 crore economy in Himachal. Talking to reporters Friday, the horticulture minister termed the strike without notice by the commission agents as unjustified and

said that arthiyas went on strike as action was being taken against those dealing with boxes and not per kg. When asked about the chief minister’s assurance, the minister said that it is not in my knowledge and our stand is clear that fruits especially apple would be sold on weight (per kg) and notification in this regard has been already issued.

He said that in case arthiyas are adamant, the government have options to rope in Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation, arthiyas from outside the state would be invited, pending licence would be issued to arthiyas willing to sell and purchase apples in kilogrammes and a new mandi would be opened if needed. He said that our teams are monitoring the situation and strict action would be taken against violators not following the prescribed norms. Referring to the statement of commission agents that it is impossible to weigh the produce as there is no space, he said that the new mandis in Parwanoo, Solan and Parala (nearing completion) would be given but apple would be sold as per kg.

The growers are confused due to a communication gap and reports of arthiyas purchasing apples by boxes are pouring in from mandis. If the CM had talks with commission agents, he should have also heard apple growers who are requesting to meet him since January 21 this year, he said and added that the profit margins of arthiyas have reduced and now they are trying to fail the system. “A commission agent takes a six per cent commission for the sale of apples. Earlier, the grower used to get a price of ₹24 per kg for 34-36 kg weight but under the new system the growers get the right price,” Sanjay Chauhan, an apple grower, said, adding that this year the early variety ‘Tideman’ fetched ₹2,400 per box in comparison to ₹1,200 last year.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER ANGUL (T) FOREST OFFICER
Ltr.No.4167, Dated. 21.07.2023

Tender for Sealed Quotation High Mast Electric Light

No.MM-104:Sealed tender quotation Call are invited for high mast electric light to this office latest by 07.08.2023. For detailed tender notice go through this office website: www.angul.nic.in & www.odishaforest.in.

Divisional Forest Officer Angul Division
OIPR-08027/11/0006/2324

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender No. 15-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24

NAME OF WORK: EXECUTION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF 214 BAYS PLATFORM SHELTERS AT 08 STATIONS (ANGUL, DHENKANAL, TALCHER, TALCHER ROAD, MANCHESWAR, MERAMANDALI, LINGARAJ TEMPLE ROAD, KENDUJHARGARH) OF KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.

Advertised Value : ₹2,26,75,913.39, EMD : ₹2,63,400/-, Period of Completion : 180 Days.

Bidding Start Date : 27.07.2023
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1300 Hrs. of 10.08.2023.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website http://www.iimps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-363/O/23-24 Khurda Road

OFFICE OF THE SR. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL) UPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, MUKHIGUDA
DIST: KALAHANDI-766026, E-mail:sgme_luihep@ohpcitd.com

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
Regd. Office OSPH & W.C. Building, Vanivihar Chhak, Janpath, Bhoingarh, Bhubaneswar- 751022
Tel:91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826, Fax:2542102, E-mail:ohpc.com@gmail.com/md@ohpcitd.com
WEB: www.ohpcitd.com, CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.UIHEP-22/2023-24, DATED:21.07.2023

No.CAD-1397:Sealed Tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from the reputed manufacturers/ authorized dealers/ channel partners/ reputed suppliers for supply of the materials as mentioned below.

Description of Work	Cost of tender paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD in shape of DD/ Banker's Cheque (Refundable) in Rs.	Period of Sale/ download of tender document	Last date & time of receipt of tender	Date & Time of opening of Techno commercial Bid
Procurement of Hot Weather Contingency for UIHEP, Mukhiguda	708/- (inclusive of GST @18%)	2,100/-	From 27.07.2023 to 08.08.2023 upto 12.00 Hrs.	08.08.2023 (upto 13.00 Hrs.)	08.08.2023 at 16.00 Hrs.

For details of the tender documents, terms and conditions please visit our website www.ohpcitd.com
OIPR-04008/11/0027/2324 Sd/- C&P Head, UIHEP, Mukhiguda



An aerial view of the Hussain Sagar Lake following heavy rains in Hyderabad



Labourers work near the sitting Maravijaya Buddha marble statue in Naypyitaw, Myanmar



A Trinamool Congress supporter during the party's Martyrs' Day rally, in Kolkata. TMC observes Martyrs' Day on July 21 every year to commemorate the killing of 13 people in police firing in a Youth Congress rally against the then Left Front government in 1993



AICC General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the party's 'Jan Aakrosh' rally in Gwalior



Water pumps in use to drain out the floodwater from the Mahatma Gandhi memorial at the Raj Ghat in New Delhi



Israel team competes in the team free final of artistic swimming at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan



Students being shown the launch of Chandrayaan 3 mission through VR sets at a school in Jammu

national

of the day quote

On the heels of (the) BJP shedding crocodile tears on a gruesome incident that shocked the world, a prowling predator who takes advantage of female wrestlers is granted anticipatory bail. Another rapist masquerading as a godman is released on parole. The message from the ruling party is clear -- 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' isn't worth fighting against sexual molesters who secure (the) BJP's political interests

Flood of support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further enraged against the BJP to come together

As part of the reforms in higher education, we need to work on including augmented reality, virtual reality and related subjects into the curriculum and introducing necessary verticals like AI in every course in majority schools and colleges for turning our students into experts of various emerging technologies

SHORT TAKES

Man beheads sister in UP

Barabanki (UP): In a shocking incident, a youth severed the head of his sister following an argument between the two. The incident took place in Mithwara village. After committing the crime on Friday afternoon, the accused was seen walking out of the village, carrying his sister's severed head in his hands. The villagers who saw him informed the police, after which he was taken into custody. The police also took the body of the deceased and sent it for post mortem. The accused is currently being questioned in the matter.

'Over 87,000 gave up citizenship'

New Delhi: As many as 87,026 Indians renounced their citizenship till June this year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Lok Sabha Friday. With this, more than 17.50 lakh people have given up their Indian citizenship since 2011, the minister said in a written reply.

ED conducts raids in C'garh

Raipur: The Enforcement Directorate Friday conducted searches against some IAS officers, a Congress politician and a group of hawala operators in Chhattisgarh as part of an investigation in a fresh money laundering case, official sources said. More than 15 premises linked to Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Ranu Sahu, some other bureaucrats, Chhattisgarh Congress leader and PCC treasurer Ramgopal Agarwal, contractors and hawala dealers in Raipur and other cities were being raided, the sources said.

Man dies in police custody

Begusarai: A 50-year-old man died in police custody in Bihar's Begusarai district, hours after being arrested for allegedly opening fire on and setting ablaze a neighbour's house, a senior official said Friday. A magisterial probe has been ordered into the death of Hiralal Yadav, who fell ill on Thursday evening and was declared dead by doctors at the hospital where he was rushed to by police personnel, said Superintendent of Police Yogendra Kumar.



A spell of President's rule is desirable in Manipur. There must be a neutral administration for enabling Meiteis and Kukis to stop the violence and talk to each other

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

QUAKES JOLT JAIPUR

Three quakes in a span of around half-an hour jolted Jaipur in the early hours of Friday, waking people up and some running out of their homes. According to the police, there was no information of any loss of life



MANIPUR SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

Another suspect's house torched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal/New Delhi, July 21: As the chorus of protests against the sexual assault of two women in Manipur grew louder, the four arrested men were remanded in 11-day police custody on Friday while the house of another suspect was set on fire by angry locals in the second such incident in connection with the case.

Proceedings in both the Houses of Parliament were paralysed for the second consecutive day over the issue of the ethnic violence in Manipur even as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in the Lok Sabha the government was ready for a discussion on the matter. Opposition members demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement followed by a debate.

As the Manipur police launched a massive manhunt to nab all the culprits, an FIR filed in the sexual assault case on June 21 detailed how an armed mob, nearly a thousand strong, had attacked a village in Kangpokpi district and allegedly torched, looted houses, killed and raped wantonly before abducting the two tribal women.

A 26-second video that surfaced on Wednesday and went viral showed the two women stripped naked, groped by a violent mob and taken towards a paddy field on May 4, a day after violence erupted in the north-eastern state, sparking a nationwide outrage. As the opposition parties escalated their attack on the Centre over the Manipur issue, the Congress demanded that President Droupadi Murmu exercise her powers to dismiss the state government. Police said the four accused in the sexual assault case, who were arrested, were remanded in police custody till July 31 by a court in Thoubal district. It may be recalled that the complaint in connection with the case was lodged around a



Members of Mahila Congress during a protest over sexual violence against women and the on-going ethnic violence in Manipur, in Guwahati

month ago - June 21 - at Saikul police station in Kangpokpi district. The house of another suspect, who is yet to be arrested, was vandalised and torched by angry locals on Friday afternoon, police said. According to police, the suspect's house was located at Wangjing in Thoubal district.

"The suspect is yet to be arrested. He possibly fled home after coming to know that police were looking for him," an official said. The house of the accused in the case was torched on Thursday, hours after he was arrested by police. According to police, he was seen in the video prominently directing the mob at B. Phainom village of Kangpokpi district. Manipur Chief Minister N

Biren Singh said people of the state consider "women as their mother" but the miscreants who disrobed the two tribal women have "tarnished the state's reputation." The chief minister said protests were launched across the state to condemn the incident.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded that the prime minister make an elaborate statement in Parliament on the Manipur situation, saying he could have dismissed the state chief minister instead of making "false equivalence" with Congress-governed states if he was angry over the matter.

"If the country now has any hope it is from President Droupadi Murmu ji. We want

to urge you to use your special powers and dismiss the government in Manipur," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara told reporters.

Amid the political slugfest, BJP MP Locket Chatterjee broke down as she cited a number of cases of crime against women, including alleged disrobing, in West Bengal during and after the recent panchayat polls. "The situation in Manipur also prevails in West Bengal," she told reporters in Delhi, as she hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Targeting the Centre over the Manipur sexual assault case, Banerjee, who is also the TMC supremo, said the BJP's 'Beti Bachao' scheme has now turned

into 'Beti Jalao' (Burn our daughters). Eminent personalities in Manipur that included a film maker, musician, academician and entrepreneur termed the incident as "barbaric, shameful and against the human race" and demanded "strictest" punishment for the culprits.

Different tribal organizations in Jharkhand took out a protest march in capital Ranchi against the violence and alleged torture on women in Manipur. Leaders and cadres of the Assam Congress unit organised a 'Bonti Projolon Karjyaxuchi' (earthen lamp lighting programme) at the state party headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan in Guwahati as a show of support for the two women victims in Manipur.

Yasin creates flutter in Supreme Court

Malik appeared in the top court when a bench headed by Justice Surya Kant was hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation against the September 20, 2022 order of a trial court in Jammu in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta wrote to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla Friday flagging a "serious security lapse" after Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, serving life term in Tihar jail, was brought to the Supreme Court for attending a case proceeding.

"It is my firm view that this is serious security lapse. A person with terrorist and secessionist background like Yasin Malik who is not only a convict in terror funding case but has known connections with terror organisations in Pakistan could have escaped, could have been forcibly taken away or could have been killed," Mehta wrote.

He said that even the security of the Supreme Court would have been put to a serious risk if any untoward incident were to happen. Mehta highlighted that there is an order passed by

the Ministry of Home Affairs with regard to Malik under section 268 of the Criminal Code of Procedure which prevents the jail authorities to bring the said convict out of the jail premises for security reasons.

"In any view of the matter so long as the order under section 268 of CrP Code subsists, jail authorities had no power to bring him out of jail premises nor did they have any reason to do so," he said, adding, "I consider this to be a matter serious enough to once again bring it to your personal notice so that suitable action/steps can be taken at your end."

Malik appeared in the top court when a bench headed by Justice Surya Kant was hearing an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the September 20, 2022 order of a trial court in Jammu in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Defamation case: SC to hear Rahul's plea Aug 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, July 21: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from former Gujarat minister Purnesh Modi and the state government on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's appeal challenging the high court verdict that declined to put on hold his conviction in a defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and P K Mishra listed the matter for further hearing on August 4 and issued notices to Purnesh Modi, who had filed a criminal defamation case against Rahul Gandhi over his "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" remark made during a poll rally at Kolar in Karnataka on April 13, 2019, and the Gujarat government on Gandhi's appeal.

"The limited question at this stage is whether the conviction deserves to be stayed," the bench observed. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, said the Congress leader has suffered for 111 days, lost one Parliament session and is about to lose another session. Singhvi said the only urgency is that by-election for Wayanad constituency from where Gandhi was elected and was later disqualified from Lok Sabha upon his conviction and two-year sentence in the defamation case, can be announced at any moment.

At the outset Justice Gavai made it clear that his late father RS Gavai though not a Congress member was closely associated with the party for more than four decades and was Member of Parliament and MLA with its support.

India, Sri Lanka agree to boost ties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: India and Sri Lanka Friday adopted a vision document to significantly expand connectivity and economic ties even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to the island nation's President Ranil Wickremesinghe the need to ensure a life of dignity for the Tamil community in that country.

Following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Wickremesinghe, the two sides announced a raft of initiatives including expediting work to connect their electricity grids, begin talks on an economic and technology cooperation pact, a feasibility study for a petroleum pipeline and check viability of a land bridge to boost connectivity between the two neighbours. An agreement between NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Lanka Pay for acceptance of the UPI application in Sri Lanka and an MoU for cooperation in the field of renewable energy were among five key pacts signed between the two sides.

In his media statement, Modi said the security interests and

The two sides decided to start passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankasanturai in Sri Lanka

The Prime Minister said the issues relating to the livelihood of fishermen figured in the talks and it was agreed that it should be dealt with a humane approach

development of India and Sri Lanka are "intertwined" and that it is necessary to work together keeping in mind each other's security interests and sensitivities, in remarks that came against the backdrop of concerns in New Delhi over China's attempts to expand influence over Colombo.

The Prime Minister said the issues relating to the livelihood of fishermen figured in the talks and it was agreed that it should be dealt with a humane approach.

The two sides also decided to start passenger ferry services between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankasanturai in Sri Lanka.

Armed man held near Mamata's residence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 21: An armed man was arrested Friday near Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kolkata's Kalighat area, police said.

The man, identified as Sheikh Noor Amin, was arrested after he allegedly tried to drive a car that had a 'police' sticker towards Banerjee's residence on Harish Chatterjee Street, they said.

Banerjee was at home when the man, in a black coat and tie, was intercepted at the crossing of Hazra Road and Harish Chatterjee Street, they added.

"He was carrying firearms and a kukri. Ganja and identity cards of different agencies, including the BSF, were found with him. He wanted to meet the CM. Our officers intercepted him when he was trying to enter Harish Chatterjee Street," Kolkata Police commissioner Vineet Goyal said.

"Considering the fact that the CM is a Z-category protectee, this is a serious issue," he added. Initially, the man said he is from Anandapur area of the city, then he claimed he is from Paschim Medinipur, Goyal told reporters.

Officers of the Kolkata Police's Special Task Force (STF), Special Branch and the Kalighat police station were interrogating him, another officer said. The black car, which Amin was driving, was seized, he said.

A preliminary investigation found that Amin is a resident of Aliganj village in Kotwali police station area of Paschim Medinipur district, police said.

A case has been filed against him under different sections of the IPC, including those related to impersonating public servant and criminal conspiracy, besides the Arms Act, they said.

Gehlot sacks minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, July 21: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Friday sacked Rajendra Gudha as minister of state, hours after he cornered the state government over law and order in the Assembly.

Gudha held charge as Minister of State for Sainik Kalyan (Independent Charge), Home Guard and Civil Defence, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. A Raj Bhawan spokesperson said, "Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recommended Governor Kalraj Mishra to dismiss member of council of ministers Rajendra Gudha in the evening. The governor has accepted this recommendation with immediate effect."

Gudha Friday questioned his own government's performance in reining in crimes against women, even as his peers slammed the Manipur violence. During the discussion on the Rajasthan Minimum Income Guaranteed Bill, 2023, in the Assembly, Congress MLAs waved placards on the Manipur violence. The protest, however, did not go down well with Gudha, who sought accountability from his own government on crimes against women.

"The way we have failed to provide security to women in Rajasthan and atrocities on women have increased, instead of raising the issue of Manipur, we should introspect," Gudha said in the assembly.

Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore latched onto Gudha's statement and slammed the state government, saying Rajasthan tops the chart for crimes against women. Rathore later asked Gehlot, who is also the home minister, to take responsibility for the "poor" state of law and order in Rajasthan. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal responded to the charges, saying that the state government has supplied the House with the statistics that show that the maximum number of atrocities were committed on women during BJP rule.

international

of the day quote

Whether we are talking about hardware or software, in the same way there are concerns around telecom or TikTok, there are concerns around transportation technologies

PETE BUTTIGIEG | US TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

I urge our judiciary to take a stand and stop this complete violation of our fundamental rights and blatant victimisation of members of Pakistan's largest political party

IMRAN KHAN | PAKISTAN'S EX-PM

The Russian government has so far declined our request to access the areas under its temporary military control

UN HUMANITARIAN | COORDINATOR FOR UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

12 migrants found inside 18-wheeler

Houston: Twelve migrants were discovered packed inside an 18-wheeler during a police chase in Texas, local media reported. Police officers tried to pull over the driver of the stolen truck, which led to a short chase in Bexar County near the US-Mexico border, Xinhua news agency quoted the local WOAI-TV as saying in a report. The driver, who carried a gun, finally stopped and was taken into custody. Investigators found 10 men and two women, including one pregnant, inside the trailer. The migrants were from Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, report said.

1 dead, 3 injured in stabbing spree

Seoul: A knife-wielding man stabbed at least four pedestrians on a street in the South Korean capital, Seoul, Friday, killing one person, police said. They said a man in his 30s with a criminal record that wasn't specified was arrested. The motivation behind the attack wasn't immediately clear.

Cambodia's ruling party holds rally

Phnom Penh: The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Friday held a massive rally to mark the end of a three-week campaign for the general election set to take place July 23. During the rally held at the Diamond Island in Phnom Penh, Hun Manet, the future Prime Minister candidate for the CPP, said that if the CPP wins the election, their party-led government will launch the Pentagon Strategy Phase I for 2023-2028 in a journey to achieve their vision of becoming a high-income country by 2050, reports Xinhua news agency.

France declares cabinet reshuffle

Paris: The French presidential office has announced a newly-reshuffled government still being led by Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne, with the leadership of most main ministries remaining unchanged. Aurelien Rousseau, who was Borne's chief of staff for one year, takes over Francois Braun as the health minister, reports Xinhua news agency. Pap Ndiaye, a historian appointed as education minister last year, will leave the government, to be replaced by Gabriel Attal, who was named budget minister in 2022 and had served as government spokesperson for two years before that.



The termination of the Black Sea grain deal will have a series of consequences, ranging from the increase in global food prices to scarcity in certain regions and, potentially, leading to new waves of migration

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

SOCIAL MEDIA CRAZE

Nearly five billion people, or slightly more than 60 percent of the world's population, are active on social media, according to a recent study. That represents an increase of 3.7 percent over the past year, according to calculations by digital advisory firm Kepios in its latest quarterly report



QURAN DESECRATION IN SWEDEN

Thousands take to the streets to express outrage

The protests in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran that followed weekly prayers were controlled & peaceful, in contrast to scenes in Baghdad Thursday, when demonstrators occupied the Swedish Embassy compound for several hours and set a small fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, July 21: Thousands of people took to the streets in a handful of Muslim-majority countries Friday to express their outrage at the desecration of a copy of the Quran in Sweden, a day after protesters stormed the country's embassy in Iraq. The protests in Iraq, Lebanon and Iran that followed weekly prayers were controlled and peaceful, in contrast to scenes in Baghdad Thursday, when demonstrators occupied the Swedish Embassy compound for several hours and set a small fire. The embassy staff had been evacuated before the storming, and Swedish news agency TT reported that they were relocated to Stockholm for security reasons. For Muslims, any desecration of the Quran, their holy

text, is abhorrent. Under scorching heat Friday, thousands gathered in Baghdad's Sadr City, a stronghold of influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr, some of whose followers took part in the attack on the Swedish Embassy. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had called on protesters and security forces to ensure that the demonstrations remained peaceful. In the southern suburbs of Beirut, thousands more gathered at a protest called by the Iran-backed militia and political party Hezbollah, also brandishing copies of the holy book and chanting "with our blood, we protect the Quran."

Some burned Swedish flags. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a video address Thursday night called on Muslims to demand their governments expel Sweden's ambassadors.

Iraq cut diplomatic ties with Sweden earlier that day. In Iran, thousands marched in Tehran and other cities across the country, demonstrations that were aired on state television. The demonstrations come after Swedish police permitted a protest Thursday in which an Iraqi of Christian origin living in Stockholm — now a self-described atheist — threatened to burn a copy of the Quran.



China agrees to reschedule \$2 billion debt of Pakistan

Islamabad: China has agreed to reschedule over \$2 billion debt of Pakistan for a period of two years, providing a major relief to the cash-starved government, which is in the process of rebuilding foreign exchange reserves through fresh loans. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar Thursday, approved the revised terms of the agreement reached between Islamabad and Beijing, according to senior Pakistani officials, the Express Tribune reported. Pakistan has built two nuclear power plants in Karachi that have a combined generation capacity of 2,117 megawatts.

Russia hits Ukraine's grain for fourth day

AGENCIES

Kyiv, July 21: Russia pounded Ukrainian food export facilities for a fourth day in a row Friday and practised seizing ships in the Black Sea in an escalation of what Western leaders say is an attempt to wriggle out of sanctions by threatening a global food crisis.

The attacks on Ukraine's grain, a major part of the global food chain, followed a vow by Kyiv to defy Russia's naval blockade on its export ports after Moscow's withdrawal this week from a UN-brokered safe sea corridor agreement. The UN warned that millions of people in poor countries around the world were at



Boys dressed as soldiers wait for the start of an Independence Day military parade in Bogota, Colombia. Colombia is marking 213 years of independence from Spain

Sunak's Conservatives face heavy losses in two by-polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 21: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was dealt a major political blow Friday as the governing Conservatives suffered a bruising in two key by-elections but averted a complete whitewash as the party held on to his former boss Boris Johnson's seat in London.

Thursday's three-way-by-election was widely pitched as a report card on the 43-year-old British Indian leader's handling of the economy and wider prospects as party leader going into a general election, expected in the second half of 2024.

The Tories' narrow victory in the suburban seat of Uxbridge, which they won by 495 votes, spared Sunak the humiliation of being the first PM for 55 years to lose three by-elections in one night. Conservative Steve Tuckwell



just about holding on to Uxbridge and South Ruislip, Johnson's seat, until he stepped down in the wake of a parliamentary inquiry into party gate inquiry last month, was the only bit of good news for the party. During a visit to Uxbridge soon after the results Friday morning, Sunak said the victory there showed that the next general election was not "a done deal". Asked what the defeats meant for his party, Sunak replied: "The message I take away is that we've got to double

down, stick to our plan and deliver for people."

The Opposition Labour Party overturned a massive Tory majority of over 20,000 to decisively clinch the Selby and Ainsty constituency in northern England, a by-election triggered by the resignation of close Boris Johnson ally Nigel Adams.

With the big win, his namesake 25-year-old Keir Mather overtook Indian-origin Labour MP Nadia Whittome as the so-called "Baby of the House" to become the youngest member of Parliament. It will be a long wait, though, for him to take his seat in the House of Commons, which is now on its summer recess and resumes only in early September.

In a second bruising for the Sunak-led Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats swept the Somerset and Frome by-elections in southwest England.

TRIAL IN TRUMP CLASSIFIED DOCUS CASE SET FOR MAY '24

AGENCIES

Washington, July 21: A federal judge in Florida has scheduled a trial date for next May for former President Donald Trump in a case charging him with illegally retaining hundreds of classified documents.

The May 20, 2024, trial date, set Friday by US District Judge Aileen Cannon, is a compromise between a request from prosecutors to set the trial for this December and a bid by defense lawyers to schedule it after the 2024 presidential election.

If the date holds, it would follow close on the heels of a separate New York trial for Trump on dozens of state charges of falsifying business records in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor.



It also means the trial will not start until deep into the presidential nominating calendar and probably well after the Republican nominee is clear — though before that person is officially nominated at the Republican National Convention. In pushing back the trial from the December 11 start date that the Justice Department had asked for, Cannon wrote that "the Government's proposed schedule is atypically accelerated and inconsistent with ensuring a fair trial."

She agreed with defense lawyers that the amount of evidence that would need to be sifted through before the trial, including classified information, was "voluminous."



greater risk of hunger and starvation from the knock-on effect for food prices.

"Some will go hungry, some will starve, many may die as a result of these decisions," UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told the Security Council. In Ukraine, local governor Oleh Kiper said

Russian authorities detain hard-liner

Moscow: A prominent Russian hard-liner who accused President Vladimir Putin of weakness and indecision in Ukraine was detained Friday on charges of extremism, a signal the Kremlin has toughened its approach with hawkish critics after last month's abortive rebellion by the Wagner mercenary company. Igor Strelkov, a retired security officer who led Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and also was implicated by the Netherlands in the downing of a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet that year, has argued that a total mobilisation is needed for Russia to achieve victory.

The UN climate financing arrangement is based on the principle that rich countries have a greater responsibility to tackle climate change, because they have contributed the bulk of the CO2 emissions heating the planet since the industrial revolution.

The United States' historical cutting emissions, according to Li's office.

injured, Kiper said, while officials reported seven dead in Russian air strikes elsewhere in Ukraine.

Moscow has described the attacks as revenge for a Ukrainian strike on a Russian-built bridge to Crimea - the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula seized by Moscow in 2014.

Climate change: Which countries will foot the bill?

REUTERS

Brussels/Beijing, July 21: Record-breaking heat in China. Wildfires forcing Swiss villages to evacuate. Drought ravaging Spanish crops. As the costs of climate change rack up, a debate is surging among governments: who should pay?

The question has been in the spotlight amid this week's climate talks between the US and China, where the world's two biggest economies tried to find ways to work together on issues ranging from renewable energy deployment to climate finance ahead of this year's UN climate summit, COP28, in Dubai.

Given China's rapid economic growth and increasing emissions, pressure has grown on Beijing to join the group of countries providing this funding. During the talks in Beijing, US climate envoy John Kerry said the two sides would con-

tinue to discuss climate finance over the next four months, before the COP28 conference starting November 30.

The EU, today the biggest contributor of climate finance, has lobbied to expand the pool of donor countries that provide it. Climate finance refers to money that wealthy countries pay toward helping poorer nations reduce CO2 emissions and adapt to a hotter, harsher world.

So far, the few dozen wealthy countries obliged to make these payments have not delivered cash in the amounts promised. That list of financing nations was decided during UN climate talks in 1992, when China's economy was still smaller than Italy's.

Now, some countries are calling for China to contribute. US officials including Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen have noted that Chinese contributions would boost the efficacy of the UN climate fund.



Other countries under similar pressure include Qatar, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, three of the world's richest nations in terms of GDP per capita. So far, China has resisted calls that could group it alongside wealthy nations.

In a meeting with Kerry Tuesday, Chinese Premier Li Qiang stressed that developed countries should deliver their unfulfilled climate finance commitments and take the lead in

COUNTRIES AT ODDS OVER WHICH SHOULD PAY CLIMATE FINANCE

EU WANTS CHINA TO CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE FUNDS

CHINA AMONG COUNTRIES NOT CURRENTLY OBLIGED TO PAY

CO2 emissions are bigger than those of any other country but China today is the world's biggest CO2 emitter in terms of pollution produced each year.

Countries will face the question of historical responsibility at COP28, as they aim to launch a new fund to compensate vulnerable states for costs already being incurred in climate-fuelled natural disasters.

The EU dropped its years-long resistance to that fund last year, but on the condition that a larger group of countries pay into it. Countries have not yet decided who will contribute.

The United States has been cagey about making payments that could be seen as reparations for climate change.

Some countries not obliged to contribute to UN climate funds have done so anyway, including South Korea and Qatar. Others have begun channelling aid through other channels.

China launched the South-South Climate Cooperation fund in 2015 to help least developed countries' tackle climate issues, and so far has delivered about 10% of the \$3.1 billion pledged, according to think tank E3G.

Some vulnerable countries, frustrated with the flagging finance to date, are looking to new sources for cash. The Barbados-led Bridgetown Initiative is pushing for a revamp of multilateral development banks so they can offer more support for climate projects. Other nations have rallied behind a global CO2 levy on shipping to raise funds.

business

of the day quote

The removal of retaliatory tariffs or cuts in import duty with the US does not result in a loss to India

ANUPRIYA PATEL
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Auditors should follow the due process rather than just rely on expert opinions

AJAY BHUSHAN PRASAD PANDEY | CHAIRPERSON, NFRA

With the industry maintaining the growth in Q1 FY '24, we have been able to post excellent results with focused market performance while reining in costs. We have continued to grow our market share in Q1

DHEERAJ HINDUJA | EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, ASHOK LEYLAND

Q1 RESULTS

JSW Steel rises 3X

New Delhi: JSW Steel Friday posted about three-fold jump in net profit at ₹2,428 crore for June quarter 2023-24 on account of higher income. It had posted ₹839 crore net profit in the corresponding period of 2022-23, JSW Steel said in a regulatory filing. Total income also rose to ₹42,544 crore from ₹38,275 crore in the year-ago quarter, it said. Expenses were at ₹39,030 crore as against ₹36,977 crore earlier. JSW Steel is the flagship business of diversified JSW Group, which has presence in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, cement, paints, sports, and venture capital.

Reliance dips 11%

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd Friday reported an 11 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit largely due to weak oil-to-chemical (O2C) vertical and higher interest and depreciation cost. Net profit was ₹16,011 crore, or ₹23.66 per share, in April-June - the first quarter of current 2023-24 fiscal year - compared with ₹17,955 crore, or ₹26.54 a share, earning a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing. The net profit was also lower quarter-on-quarter when compared with record ₹19,299 crore earnings in the preceding three months ended March 31.



Today both PACS and CSC are getting united. This will not only increase the facilities of the poor, but also will give new energy and new strength to the rural economy
AMIT SHAH | HOME & CO-OPERATION MINISTER

SBERBANK TO OPEN IT CENTRE

Russia's largest lender Sberbank's branch in India has received permission from the Reserve Bank of India to establish an information technology unit in Bangalore, where it plans to employ up to 200 IT specialists



'28% gaming tax to cost India \$4bn'

CENTRE'S TAX PLAN TO HURT \$4BN INVESTMENT IN 3-4 YEARS, CLAIM GLOBAL INVESTORS

New Delhi, July 21: Tiger Global, Peak XV and Steadview Capital are among 30 foreign and domestic investors asking Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review a 28% gaming tax, saying the levy would adversely impact \$4 billion in prospective investments, a letter showed.

India last week announced the tax on the funds that online gaming companies collect from their customers. Games such as fantasy cricket have become increasingly popular in recent years, but have also raised concerns about addiction among players.



28% GST put \$2.5bn investment at risk
GST burden will increase by 1,100%

Despite industry's pleas, Indian government has said many ministers in the government tax panel viewed bets on online gaming platforms as a "social evil", and there was no need to further consult the gaming industry on the matter

The tax decision "has caused shock and dismay, (and) will substantially and meaningfully erode investor confidence in the backing of this or any other sunrise sector in the Indian tech ecosystem," said the letter, signed by the investors and seen by Reuters. The decision will "adversely

impact prospective investments to the tune of at least \$4 billion in the next 3-4 years and hence the growth of the gaming sector in India," added the letter; the first instance of direct lobbying by investors against the tax move. Modi's office did not respond to a request for comment. The tax

DGCA permits Go First to restart ops with conditions



The airline's resumption plan for operating 15 aircraft and 114 daily flights gets green flag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: Aviation regulator DGCA Friday said it has approved Go First's plan to restart operations with 15 aircraft and 114 daily flights, subject to certain conditions.

Budget carrier Go First, which stopped flying on May 3, is undergoing an insolvency resolution process.

In a release, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the airline's resumption plan for operating 15 aircraft and 114 daily flights has been reviewed and accepted.

"The acceptance is subject to the outcome of the writ petitions/ applications pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi & Hon'ble NCLT, Delhi," it said. Go First may resume sched-

uled flight operations on the availability of interim funding and approval of flights scheduled by DGCA, the release said.

Further, the regulator has directed Go First to ensure compliance with all the applicable regulatory requirements and the continued airworthiness of the aircraft engaged in operations.

The airline's Resolution Professional (RP) submitted the resumption plan to DGCA June 28, and subsequently, the regulator conducted a special audit of the carrier's facilities in Mumbai and Delhi.

"DGCA has ensured that the findings of the special audit have been adequately addressed by Go First," the release said, adding that the resumption plan was amended July 15.

The cash-strapped airline stopped flying operations in May and was granted bankruptcy protection after it plunged into a financial crisis, sparked by what it called "faulty" Pratt & Whitney engines that grounded about half its 54 Airbus A320neos.

D-ST SNAPS RECORD RUN

Sensex, Nifty snap 6-day winning run, drop 1% as Infosys tumbles on weak outlook



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 21: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent Friday, snapping their six-day record-breaking run as IT behemoth Infosys tanked over 8 per cent after it slashed the FY24 growth outlook.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 887.64 points or 1.31 per cent - its biggest single-day slide in over four months - to settle at 66,684.26. During the day, it plummeted 1,038.16 points or 1.53 per cent to 66,533.74.

The NSE Nifty fell by 234.15 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 19,745, cutting short its six-day winning run. As many as 36 Nifty shares closed in negative while 14 advanced.

The indices have closed at record-high levels in the past six trading sessions. While Sensex rallied 2,178 points or 2.86 per cent in the past six ses-

The weak guidance from Infosys cast a shadow over the outlook of the Indian IT sector, causing a delay in Nifty's pursuit of the 20,000 mark

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJOIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

sions to Thursday, Nifty spurted by 594 points or 3.84 per cent, scaling new highs.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys tanked over 8 per cent after the company reported a lower-than-expected 11 per cent rise in net profit for the June quarter and delivered a shocker as it slashed its FY24 growth outlook to 1-3.5 per cent on delayed decision-making by clients amid global market uncertainties.

A decline in shares of market bluechip firms Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services also added to the bearish trend in equities. Hindustan

SENSEX TANKS 1.31%, BIGGEST SINGLE-DAY SLIDE IN OVER FOUR MONTHS

NIFTY FELL BY 1.17% TO END AT 19,745

SENSEX RALLIED 2.86% IN THE PAST SIX SESSIONS, NIFTY SPURTED BY 3.84%

Unilever, HCL Technologies, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra were the other major laggards.

On the other hand, Larsen & Toubro rose the most by 3.88 per cent after it bagged an order of worth over Rs 7,000 crore from the bullet train project.

NTPC, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti and Bharti Airtel were also among the gainers.

The BSE benchmark had jumped 474.46 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at its fresh all-time closing high of 67,571.90 Thursday, extending its winning momentum to the sixth day. During the day, it rallied 521.73 points or 0.77 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 67,619.17.

The Nifty had climbed 146 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its record closing high of 19,979.15. During the session, it had soared 158.7 points or 0.80 per cent to reach its fresh record high of 19,991.85.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs 3,370.90 crore, according to exchange data.

Coal output grows 8.55% in April-June

New Delhi: India's coal production increased by 8.55 per cent to 223.36 million tonne in the April-June quarter of 2023-24 compared to the year-ago period, an official statement said Friday. Coal production was 205.76 million tonne (MT) in the same period during FY 2022-23, the Ministry of Coal said. Coal India Limited (CIL) registered 175.48 MT production between April and June 2023, marking a commendable growth rate of 9.85 per cent in comparison to 159.75 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year. The rest came in from other captive mines. While coal imports increased by 16.76 per cent in April-May 2023 as compared to the same period in the previous year, it is important to note that this rise is primarily attributable to the substantial decline in coal import prices, the ministry said. Import prices for coal have plummeted by over 60 per cent in the first quarter of FY24, compared to the year-ago period. India has set a coal production target of 1,012 MT for FY 2023-24.



iPhones see 68% growth in India in H1

New Delhi: Apple iPhone shipments saw a 68 per cent (year-on-year) growth in India in the first half of 2023, driven by the iPhone 14 and iPhone 13 series. In the second quarter (April-June period) alone, there was a strong growth uptick in Apple iPhone shipments and the company registered a stupendous 70 per cent growth in shipments in the country, according to data provided by CyberMedia Research (CMR). Alongside, Apple iPad posted a modest 6 per cent year-over-year growth, driven by consumer need for productivity and leisure on-the-go, and at home. Apple is well-positioned to capitalise on the market demand and maintain its positive momentum in India, and is likely to garner 7 per cent market share in 2023, according to CMR.



India aims power trade with Southeast Asia

INDIA ALREADY EXPORTS SOME POWER TO BANGLADESH, NEPAL AND BHUTAN ALONG WITH VERY SMALL AMOUNTS TO MYANMAR THAT WOULD BE STEPPED UP MASSIVELY UNDER THE NEW PLAN

REUTERS

Bambolim, July 21: India is considering trading power with Southeast Asian countries through Myanmar and Thailand, five sources briefed on the matter said, as New Delhi looks to use its growing renewables capacity to boost regional diplomatic engagement.

The grid linkages, which an industry official said could take at least four years to complete, follow India's effort to begin trading power with Middle Eastern countries such as the United Arab Emirates.

The sources, who also include four power ministry officials, declined to be identified as the previously unreported plan has not been made public. India's federal power ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been trying to promote closer political and economic ties with its neighbours, pushing back against China's growing regional influence.

Indian energy officials are



holding separate and group discussions with some countries on advancing regional power grid interconnections at ongoing Group of 20 (G20) ministerial meetings in the Indian state of Goa, the power ministry officials said.

Support from G20 members is seen as key to winning backing from bankers and developers in making investment decisions, one of the ministry officials said.

India has engaged France's EDF to prepare a regulatory framework that would address key challenges including pricing,

the industry official said. EDF is expected to complete the report by the end of this year, the official added.

"Once we are able to connect India's national grid to Burma (Myanmar), we should be able to strengthen the grid there and further transmit to Thailand and even Asia's east," the industry official said.

While cross-border grid linkages have drawn investment and government interest in regions from Europe to Southeast Asia, the rising cost of building sub-sea cables, surging prices of raw materials needed to upgrade

grids and geopolitical tensions have raised questions about the viability of such projects.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been trying for decades to form a regional grid to facilitate multilateral power trade, but progress has been limited to bilateral deals between countries.

India plans to boost its renewable and big hydropower capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, from 177 GW currently. Solar parks are expected to account for much of the new capacity.

The effort could help ease fossil fuel dependence by making solar power available for more hours of the day, the ministry officials said.

Transmission charges on power supplied using an interconnected regional network is a key challenge, the second of the ministry officials said.

Interconnections would be both under the sea and on land, with integration of renewable energy boosted by pooling resources from across the region, the same official added.

Chinese mobile companies evade ₹9,000-crore in tax

The government has recovered ₹1,629.87 crore from the firms between 2018-19 and 2022-23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: Chinese smartphone makers, including Oppo Mobile, Vivo India and Xiaomi Technology, have been found evading taxes worth ₹9,000 crore in India, Parliament was informed Friday.

Data shared by the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Rajya Sabha showed tax evasion of around ₹9,000 crore, comprising customs duty and GST, has been detected between 2018-19 and 2022-23.

The government has recovered ₹1,629.87 crore from the companies during the period.

According to the data, Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd has been found evading ₹5,086 crore in taxes which includes ₹4,403 crore in customs duty and ₹683 crore in the form of GST.

Vivo has evaded taxes worth



- Oppo evades ₹5,086cr in taxes
- Vivo evades taxes worth ₹2,923.25cr
- Tax evasion of ₹851.14cr by Xiaomi

₹2,923.25 crore comprising ₹2,875 crore in customs duty and ₹48.25 crore in GST, according to the written reply by Chandrasekhar. Tax evasion of ₹851.14 crore has been detected in the case of Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd comprising ₹682.51 crore in customs duty and ₹168.63 crore in GST.

Chandrasekhar shared that customs duty evasion of ₹4,389 crore was detected in 2019-20 in the case of Oppo Mobile India Pvt Ltd, out of which ₹450 crore has been recovered.

Vivo India Mobile Pvt Ltd was found to be evading customs duty of ₹2,217 crore out of which ₹72 crore has been recovered in 2020-21.

In 2019-20, Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd was found to be evading custom duty of ₹653.02 crore out of which ₹46 lakh has

been recovered. In 2022-23, Vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd was found evading ₹658 crore. According to the official data, Lenovo has evaded ₹42.36 crore GST. Government has been able to recover ₹1,214.83 crore from Oppo, ₹168.25 crore from Vivo and ₹92.8 crore from Xiaomi, as per the official data.

The minister was replying to a question on the number of Chinese handset companies which have evaded taxes and made illegal remittances in India. Chandrasekhar said that cumulative turnover of Chinese mobile handset companies in 2021-22 was estimated to be ₹1.5 lakh crore in India.

"The total direct employment generated by them in their manufacturing operations is more than 75,000. They also have sales and operational workforce of around 80,000 workers," the minister said.

Kohli ton leads India to 438



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Port of Spain, July 21: The peerless Virat Kohli capped off his 500th international appearance with a 76th hundred (121, 206b, 11x4) Friday as India were bowled out for 438 in their first innings for the fifth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (61, 152b, 5x4).

Both were dismissed in quick succession as Kohli fell short of his crease and West Indies' best bowler Kemar Roach (2/86) accounted for Jadeja. India went to lunch with 373/6 on the board.

Post lunch, India lost wickets at regular intervals. Ravichandran Ashwin (56, 78b, 8x4) played his part though, scoring a half century before being dismissed as the visitors' last batter to fall.

However, the first session on second day belonged to Kohli, who was hardly troubled by any of the West Indies pacers, having taken 77 runs in singles, dou-

bles and triples apart from the 11 boundaries in all.

Starting the day at 87, Kohli reached his century in the first half an hour while dispatching a Roach delivery wide of point. The wide grin while raising his bat and then taking a bow said it all.

The satisfaction of scoring his first overseas Test hundred in half a decade was palpable, having last scored a ton on foreign soil in Perth in 2018.

Kohli's greatness lay in his game awareness as the cornerstone of his innings was 45 singles and 13 doubles in energy sapping conditions. Kohli got an able ally in Jadeja, who got his 19th half-century and reaffirmed his status as a batting all-rounder in overseas conditions.

BRIEF SCORES: India 438 at tea (Virat Kohli 121, Ravindra Jadeja 61, R Ashwin 56; Jemel Warrican 3/86, Kemar Roach 2/104) vs West Indies. Match to continue.

MATCH SCHEDULE

2nd Test, Day 3

Time: 7:30 pm

Telecast: DD Sports

Streaming: Jio Cinema

Wood, Bairstow put England in command

REUTERS

Manchester, July 21: A hostile spell of bowling from Mark Wood (3/17) helped restrict Australia to 113/4 in their second innings on day three of a thrilling fourth Ashes Test, still trailing England by 162 runs as the hosts close in on a win that would level the series.

Looking to extend their first innings lead, Jonny Bairstow produced a blistering display with the bat to finish unbeaten on 99 (81b, 10x4, 4x6) as he helped England post a colossal 592 in front of a raucous Old Trafford crowd Friday.

With rain forecast for the weekend and England holding a 275-run lead, it was clear Australia were playing for a draw that would help them to retain the Ashes.

After a steady start, Wood struck to dismiss Usman Khawaja (18) and after David Warner (28) had played onto his own stumps, the Durham fast bowler removed Steve Smith (17) and Travis Head (1) to put England on the verge of a fa-



mous victory. Marnus Labuschagne (44 batting) and Mitch Marsh (1 batting) were at the crease at stumps.

Earlier, England resumed the day on 384/4 and continued to dominate right to the end of the innings as Bairstow and James Anderson shared a 66-run part-

nership for the 10th wicket.

Anderson got only five of those runs and was trapped leg before wicket by Cameron Green to leave wicketkeeper-batter Bairstow stranded on 99. The only other Ashes batter to score 99 not out was Australia's Steve Waugh in 1995 at Perth.

Pat Cummins (1/129) got the first wicket in the morning by bowling counterpart Ben Stokes (51, 74b, 5x4) to leave England on 437/5 and a lead of 120. Australia delayed taking the new ball for 10 overs, balancing the threat of England accelerating the run rate against the reward of more wickets.

Josh Hazlewood then dismissed Harry Brook (61, 100b, 5x4) as England were already 157 runs ahead. Hazlewood had Chris Woakes and Mark Wood to complete his fiver (5/126).

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 317 & 113/4 (Marnus Labuschagne 44 batting; Mark Wood 3/17); England 592 (Jonny Bairstow 99 n o, Harry Brook 61, Ben Stokes 51; Josh Hazlewood 5/126). Match to continue.

MATCH SCHEDULE

4th Ashes Test, Day 4

Time: 3:30 pm

Telecast: Sony Sports Network

Streaming: Sony LIV

Asian Games' trials set to be conducted behind closed doors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: The IOA appointed ad-hoc committee has decided to conduct the Asian Games wrestling trials behind closed doors after parents of some of the wrestlers got into a heated argument with panel members at the IG Stadium Friday.

Angry wrestlers and their family members threatened to boycott the trials in protest of the exemption given to Bajrang Punia (65 kg) and Vinesh Phogat (53 kg). The families of wrestlers reached the trial venue and argued with the ad-hoc panel alleging that the decision was "unfair" and "unjust".

Parents of Antim Panghal and another wrestler Vikas Kaliraman's father Subhash got into a heated argument with the ad-hoc panel members. Sensing trouble, the ad-hoc panel decided that no spectators will be allowed inside the wrestling hall. Each wrestler will be accompanied by his coach and masseur.

Satwik-Chirag pair in semifinals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yeosu (Korea), July 21: Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the semifinals of the Korea Open Super 500 tournament with a straight game win over Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi here Friday. The World No.3 Indian com-

of PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth among others.

Playing their first tournament since winning the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month, it was a neck and neck affair till the first six points before the Indians surged ahead pocketing four straight points.

Once ahead, Satwik and Chirag managed to keep their nose in front to bag the first game easily. The Indians made a slow start in the second game as they trailed 3-6, but lifted their game just in time to claw back to grab six consecutive points to lead 14-9.

The Japanese pair, however, were in no mood to give up without a fight. They played aggressively and were also helped by some unforced errors by the Indians to draw level at 16-16. But Satwik and Chirag stepped up on the accelerator at that point to win the game to assure themselves a place in the last-four stage.

INDIAN TEAMS TO BEGIN FIH PRO LEAGUE CAMPAIGN IN BHUBANESWAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 21: The Indian women's hockey team will take on China while the men will face Spain in their respective opening matches of the FIH Pro League 2023-24 season in Bhubaneswar.

Following the announcement of the fifth Pro League season calendar by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Thursday, the Indian players expressed excitement as they believe the exposure during this outing will help in preparations for next year's Paris Olympics.

Both the teams will begin their campaign in home games scheduled to be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Birsamunda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.

The Indian women's team, who was promoted after being crowned champions of the FIH Nations

League, will take the field first against China on February 6 at the Kalinga Stadium.

This will be followed by matches against Netherlands, Australia, and USA before it moves to Rourkela, where it will play against China, Netherlands, Australia, and USA again.

After the home matches, the Indian women will play away games in Antwerp, Belgium and Lee Valley, Great Britain where they will face Argentina, Belgium, Germany and Great Britain respectively.

Meanwhile, the Indian men's team will face Spain in their first match February 10 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

India will take on Spain, Netherlands, Australia, and Ireland in home games and play against Argentina and Belgium in away games at Antwerp, Belgium, Germany and Great Britain at Lee Valley.




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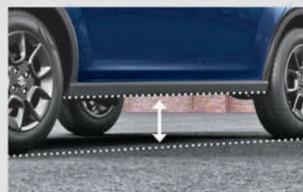
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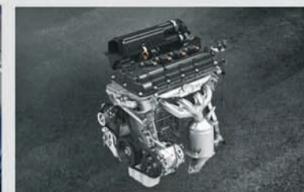
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