



KAJOL'S PARENTING TIPS

Kajol believes in letting her children make their own decisions to become responsible adults

LEISURE P2



RHODES WILDFIRE

A large wildfire tearing through the Greek island of Rhodes forces thousands of tourists to flee their hotels

INTERNATIONAL P10



STUNNING VICTORY

Satwiksairaj and Chirag bag their 4th title of the year by winning men's doubles at Korea Open

SPORTS P12

MANIPUR MAYHEM

Sedition case against civil society group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, July 23: The Assam Rifles has registered a sedition and defamation case against the chief of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an influential civil society group in Manipur's capital.

A highly-placed defence source said an FIR was registered against COCOMI July 10, after the outfit gave a call to people "not to surrender weapons."

"We have registered an FIR against COCOMI, against Jitendra Ningomba, convener of COCOMI, at Churachandpur police station, under Section 124 A of IPC, pertaining to sedition; Section 153 A IPC, promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc," a police officer confirmed.

Sources alleged that many women protesters were assaulted by the Army in Moirang of Bishnupur June 30. The Army, however, has denied the allegation.

Question leak: OSSC cancels JE (Civil) Main written exam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: On the basis of a report submitted by Balasore SP Sagarika Nath that confirmed question paper leak, the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Sunday cancelled the JE (Civil) Main written exam that was held July 16 and scheduled it for September 3.

A press release issued by the Commission said, "On the basis of the report of SP, Balasore, in connection with Sahadev Khunta police station case No. 303, and in terms of Clause 11 of Detailed Advertisement for Combined Technical Services Recruitment Examination - 2022 for Group B state cadre posts in different offices under Government of Odisha conducted on July 16 has been cancelled." A fresh Main written examination for JE (Civil) will be conducted September 3, the Commission said.

Balasore SP Sagarika Nath said that following an investigation into the issue it is clear that question papers were leaked before the exam.

"Question papers seized before the examination match with the original question papers. We have informed the same to OSSC. Nine persons have been arrested in this connection," the SP said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The violence is spreading because of fake news & rumours. We'll soon control it with fake news & rumours

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.7°C	33.5°C
TEMP. MIN	26.2°C	26.0°C
Humidity	89%	87%
Rainfall	10.8	4.4
Forecast		
Light to moderate rain		



VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: Children from the Meitei community who were displaced by violence in Manipur watch television at a relief camp in Imphal, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Snakebite claims 3 students

INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WHEN FOUR STUDENTS, ALL MINORS, WERE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR OF A PRIVATE COACHING CENTRE'S HOSTEL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, July 23: At least three students including two girls died and another has been fighting for life after being bitten by a poisonous snake at a private students' hostel run by a coaching centre at Nischintpur village under Champua block in Keonjhar district, late Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Raja Nayak, 10, son of Manoj Kumar Nayak of Nayagarh village under Bamebari police limits, Shehashree Nayak, 9, daughter of Chhatish Kumar Nayak of Uchhabali village under Joda block and Elina Nayak, 8, daughter of Gobardhan Nayak of Badaberabada village under Ghatagaon block. Akash Nayak, 12, son of Ranjan Nayak of Thakurani village under Barbil police limits is undergoing treatment in a critical condition at a Cuttack hospital, police said.

The incident took place Saturday night when four students, all minors, were sleeping on the floor in the coaching centre's hostel at Nischintapur, the police said. District Collector Ashis Thakare has ordered for a probe over allegations of illegal functioning of the hostel.

SLITHERING DISASTER

- In Odisha, 6,351 people died from snakebite between 2015 and 2021
- Among the districts, Ganjam (307) had the highest number of snakebite deaths, followed by Keonjhar (297) and Balasore (293)
- The least number of snakebite deaths was reported from Gajapati (18), Boudh (24) and Kandhamal (27)
- In 2015, Odisha became the first state in the country to declare snakebite a 'disaster'

Additional Tehsildar Ramesh Chandra Nayak, assistant district education officer Gobind Chandra Sahu, Narendra Kumar Nayak and Bhuinpur revenue inspector Alekh Majhi rushed to the spot and conducted a probe. They interacted with the teachers and staff of the coaching centre and hostel to prepare a report which they will submit to Champua Sub-collector Sukant Majhi.

The incident triggered panic among the guardians and many of them took away their wards to their homes from the hostel.

They claimed that they were paying ₹20,000 towards hostel fee per annum for their wards. However, the hostel authorities were keeping them in unhygienic and hazardous condition under an asbestos roof.

Sources said a retired teacher Khageswar Mohanta was teaching the students by housing them in a private hostel with 116 inmates. Many inmates were sleeping on the floor by spreading mats as they were not provided beds.

Some of the students who had come out Saturday night noticed a poisonous snake slithering out from a room and alerted the hostel staff.

The hostel staff beat the snake to death and rushed all the four students in critical condition to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced three of them dead and shifted Akash to Cuttack.

District Education Officer Purna Chandra Sethi said they will prepare a list of all coaching centres and private hostels and issue guidelines for them.

Mohanta termed the incident as unfortunate and said he too was sleeping on the floor with the students like on any other day.

Ecologists red-flag amendments to FCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: As the Lok Sabha prepares for a crucial vote on the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill 2023 during the ongoing Monsoon session, environmentalists and other stakeholders across the Himalayas are sounding the alarm over the potential ramifications of the Bill in its current form.

Key amendments proposed to the Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA), 1980 include limiting its applicability to land recorded as forest in government records, and exempting certain categories of land from its purview.

The amended bill also exempts forest land up to 10 hectare for constructing security-related infrastructure and the area falling within 100 km of IB, LoC and LAC for "strategic and security-related projects of national importance."

Environmentalists say areas in the hilly region close to the international borders and LAC/LoC are known for their geological instability and are prone to natural disasters such as heavy rainfall, landslides, flash floods and cloud bursts. "Unregulated and large scale diversion of forests for non-forest activities" will exacerbate

CLEARANCE FOR HAZARD

- Conservationists argue that limiting the applicability of the FCA to land recorded as forest in government records would effectively invalidate the Supreme Court's 1996 judgement
- Exemption of forest land up to 0.10 hectare alongside roads and rail lines for public amenities from the requirement of forest clearances could lead to unchecked deforestation and ecological degradation
- The proposed amendments could contradict the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, and the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, which were enacted to protect rights of marginalised communities

the risks to communities and ecosystems, they argue.

Environmentalist Ravi Chopra cautioned, "Bills like these come at the behest of making strategic or public utility projects 'better'... The government will tell you it is being done scientifically, but it is not. The job is carried out by a local contractor who just wants to finish the job and move to the next one. This is why our towns like Joshimath sank."

Adieu to 'all the birds': Twitter to replace iconic logo

■ Under Musk's tumultuous tenure since he bought Twitter in October, the company has changed its business name to X Corp, reflecting the billionaire's vision to create a 'super app' like China's WeChat

REUTERS

San Francisco, July 23: Elon Musk said Sunday that he was looking to change Twitter's logo,

tweeting: "And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually, all the birds."

In a post on the site, the social media platform's billionaire owner added: "If a good enough X logo is posted tonight, we'll make (it) go live worldwide tomorrow."

Musk posted an image of a flickering 'X', and later in a Twitter Spaces audio chat replied 'Yes' when asked if the Twitter logo will change, adding that "it should have been done a long time ago."

Under Musk's tumultuous tenure since he bought Twitter in

October, the company has changed its business name to X Corp, reflecting the bil-



lionaire's vision to create a 'super app' like China's WeChat.

The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Twitter's website says its logo, depicting a blue bird, is "our most recognizable asset." "That's why we're so protective of it," it added.

The bird was temporarily replaced in April by Dogecoin's Shiba Inu dog, helping drive a surge in the meme coin's market value.

The company came under widespread criticism from

users and marketing professionals when Musk announced early this month that Twitter would limit how many tweets per day various accounts can read.

The daily limits helped in the growth of Meta-owned rival service Threads, which crossed 100 million sign-ups within five days of launch.

Twitter's most recent complication was a lawsuit filed last Tuesday claiming the firm owes at least \$500 million in severance pay to former employees. Since Musk acquired it, the company has laid off more than half its workforce to cut costs.

7-year-old dies of dengue in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23 : A seven-year-old girl of Khandagiri Dharma Vihar died of suspected dengue fever at a private hospital here Saturday.

The girl, a student of Saraswati Sishu Vidyamandir at Dharma Vihar, was suffering from fever for the last few days. Later, she tested positive for dengue, sources said.

The girl's parents, meanwhile, have alleged medical negligence for her death.

The girl's parents had allegedly deposited ₹45,000 while admitting the patient at the private hospital. They had planned to shift the girl elsewhere as there was no improvement in her condition. But, the hospital authorities reportedly assured them of better treatment.

The hospital authorities declared the girl dead and reportedly sought ₹2 lakh from her parents to release the body. The body was later handed over to the family following Khandagiri police's intervention.

Sujata Chhotray, corporator of Ward 63, said that people must go to government hospitals instead of private hospitals in case of dengue as government hospitals are better equipped.

The state has reported about 200 dengue cases in 16 districts.

Hirakud releases first floodwater

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, July 23: The authorities of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district Sunday released the season's first floodwater to downstream of river Mahanadi, officials said.

The water was released following a steady rise in the water level in the reservoir due to heavy rain in upstream of river Mahanadi.

The authorities of certain bargages in neighbouring Chhattisgarh have released floodwater which went to Hirakud reservoir taking its water level to 613 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet.

The officials said the floodwater was initially released from sluice gate number 7 of the dam at 9 am. Four more gates will be opened later in a phased manner.

The release of water will lead to a rise in the water level in river Mahanadi and its tributaries.

The state government has issued an alert to the districts in the Mahanadi downstream and cautioned people not to venture into the river as flood water may reach soon.

There are 98 gates to release floodwater from Hirakud. While 64 are sluice gates, the rest 34 are crest gates. Each sluice gate can discharge 16,440 cusecs of water when the reservoir level is at 630 ft. Each crest gate can discharge 16,238 cusecs of water.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has forecast rains across the state for four more days as a fresh low-pressure area is likely to be formed July 24.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesha says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers.

TAURUS Ganesha sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do.

GEMINI You are on your way to falling in love. Your parents or children are likely to fetch you substantial gains, financially or otherwise. You may want to make a few changes at work, probably a new business strategy.

CANCER You will not only make plans, but will also act on them. So you can save money, time and energy for creative pursuits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accomplishments in career or business.

LEO You will need to work hard to achieve your goals today. Those who are serious about their work will be easily able to tide over the day. You need to be cautious today. Not only at work, but even in personal relationships, you need to be on guard.

VIRGO Issues regarding religious beliefs and spirituality will surface today. Pursue your goals single-mindedly to attain success in the field of your choice, and exploit your abilities and talents to the hilt, advises Ganesha. You will be more logical and calculative, rather than emotional, in matters of your relationships.

LIBRA Ganesha says that today in your office you should be very careful in your work. It is likely that your superiors will not be happy about your work or your ability today. Those of you who are businessmen should try and delay sending off tenders today. Those who have given their job interviews may not get a favorable response to it.

SCORPIO At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-lion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop, even when winning, counsels Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesha. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

CAPRICORN The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesha. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either.

AQUARIUS The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

PISCES For you, today may all be work and no play, says Ganesha. This, however, will not stop you from putting in extra efforts to finish your pending projects and to meet your deadlines. But then who else but a Pisces is known to handle the pain nonchalantly without bemoaning the lack of pleasure?



MARGOT COMPARED BARBIE TO JURASSIC PARK TO GET FUNDING

Actress-producer Margot Robbie, who stars as the famous doll in Greta Gerwig's much-hyped new film, pitched *Barbie* as a billion-dollar movie as she tried to convince studios to make the picture by comparing it to *Jurassic Park*, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

AI MORE DANGEROUS THAN NUCLEAR ARMS, FEARS NOLAN

Christopher Nolan, the renowned director, discusses the rising utilization of artificial intelligence in films and reality, emphasizing its perils. His biopic *Oppenheimer*, dominating theaters, explores nuclear weapon themes, while Nolan asserts AI surpasses nukes in danger, reports *aceshowbiz*.



Kajol's idea of ideal parenting

Mumbai: Actress Kajol talked about her children Yug and Nysa on the occasion of Parents Day said that with her kids she believes it is important to let them be at times as it would help them to become responsible adults.

The *Tanhaji* actress said, "I have always believed that everyone should have the freedom to make their own decisions. With my kids, I believe it is important to let them be at times as it would help them to become responsible

adults. As a mother, I have guided them on what is right and wrong."

She added, "While I am always there to back them up in any case, they should make their own mistakes and learn from them as well. In *The Trial*, my character Noyonika is also quite similar. She is extremely protective of her daughters, but she also knows that her kids deserve to know the truth."

Kajol married her actor-filmmaker husband Ajay Devgn in 1999 and welcomed their daughter Nysa in 2003 and son Yug in 2010.



Sara treats every chance like her last chance

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan, who delivered a scintillating performance opposite Vicky Kaushal in the recently released *ZHZZB*, has revealed how she discusses her movies with her parents, Saif Ali Khan, and Amrita Singh, who are well-established actors themselves.

In an interview with media, Sara said, "I discuss movies with my mother and father. The advice that both of them give me is that ultimately your heart has to connect to the character and the script. That's a very personal selection process. So, they both always encourage me to develop my own instinct about what films I want to be a part of and which I don't." Adding further she said, "When I step out to do a movie, I treat every chance like my last chance and give every film my hundred percent."

Sara further spoke about the overwhelming response her movie, *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*, and also explained why it felt like her second debut, she said, 'It's been almost three and a half years since

my film received a theatrical release, hence it felt like a debut. And honestly, every Friday, I feel we have to re-earn the audience's love and hearts. When one has been kept away from the theater experience post the pandemic, and personally the stakes for me were so high, it was very important that *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* gets the love that it has. As an actor, every film, every experience should make you grow, and in-shallah, I hope that process continues for me.'

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sara Ali Khan will soon be seen in *Murder Mubarak*, *Ae Watan Mere Watan* and *Metro In Dino*.



Alia talks about her tryst with acting

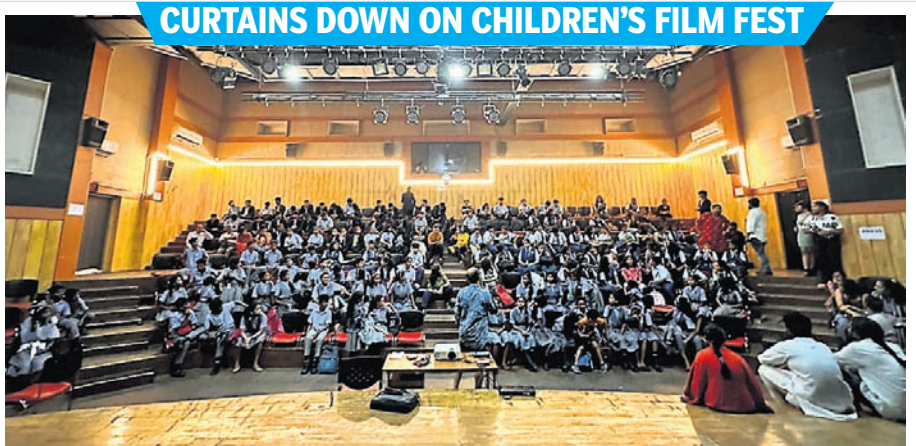
Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt, who has been ruling the hearts of millions with her stellar performances, said that her tryst with acting actually started at school.

The team of the upcoming movie *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* — were interacting with students for India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) Back To School series.

When asked about her school memories, the *Badri Ki Dulhania* actress said, "I made some of the best memories in school... sometimes I like going back to my school days — hanging out with my friends by the water cooler, bunking class and whatnot. My tryst with acting actually started from there... I did theatre, took part in all possible competitions."

"It feels great to be back to school, I feel nervous around my teachers and principal... I'd wish them good morning and stay out of their way, because I am actually very naughty at heart," added Alia.

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani marks the first collaboration between Ranveer and Karan. Also starring Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi in key roles, the film is set to hit the theatres on July 28.



CURTAINS DOWN ON CHILDREN'S FILM FEST An interactive session following the screening

Odia film A B She enthral students

Bhubaneswar: The much-awaited Children's Film Festival, organised by Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), concluded here Saturday.

On the last day, many students of Loyola School (both the English and Odia medium schools) and the KIIT International School (both from Bhubaneswar) were present to watch the screening of Hayao Miyazaki's Japanese film *The Wind Rises* (2013), sparking diverse questions and insightful interactions among the students. The festival aimed at fostering reflection and engagement by working with the same group of children throughout the three-day event.

An engaging workshop on making a Clay Animation (Claymation) was also organised during the day.

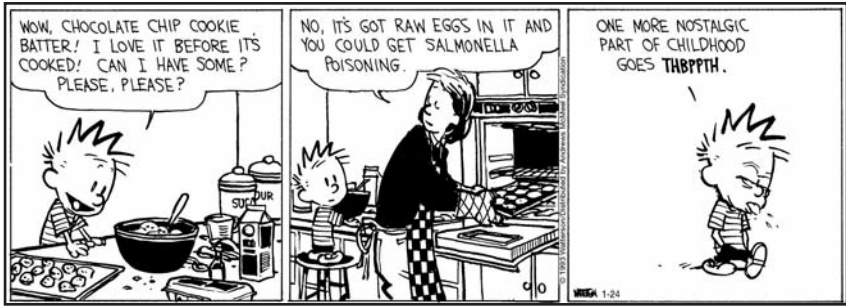
The day culminated with the screening of Odia film *A B She* directed by Subas Das which received a positive response from the students, sparking discussions about education and pedagogy.

"We are thrilled to see the sustained energy among our young audience on the final day of the Children's Film Festival. Our selection of films for today's screenings is thoughtfully curated to engage, entertain and encourage meaningful discussions among the children," said Festival Director Subrat Beura.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

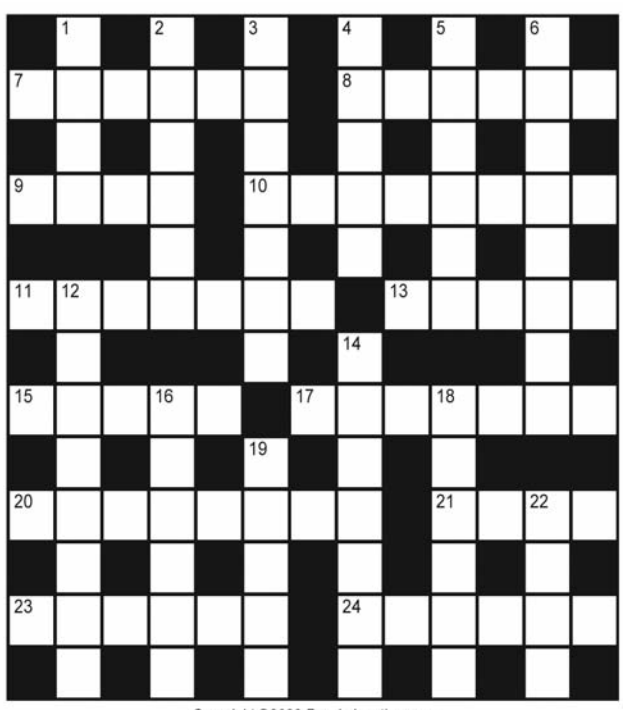


BREVITY



FUN post

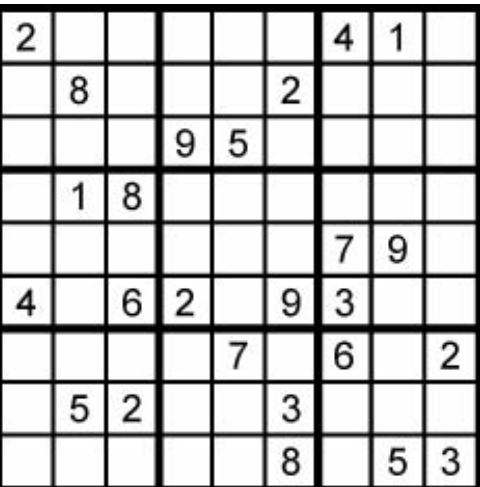
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Cane material
 - 8 Certain television show, briefly
 - 9 Turkish official
 - 10 Port-of-Spain locale
 - 11 Earthquake aftermath, at times
 - 13 Small sample
 - 15 Bakery supply
 - 17 Analyse
 - 20 Hairdresser
 - 21 Lackluster
 - 23 Young shoat
 - 24 Sombre
- Down
- 1 Canine tooth
 - 2 Acquire
 - 3 Play apparel
 - 4 Up and about
 - 5 Number one
 - 6 Type of book or movie
 - 12 Words to a laggard (4,2,2)
 - 14 Wander
 - 16 Securely
 - 18 Equestrian gear
 - 19 Small-minded
 - 22 Andes capital

SUDOKU

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

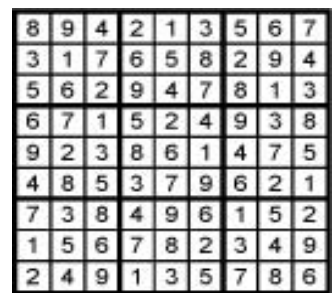


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

5,000 judges posts vacant in lower judiciary: LawMin

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: As many as 5,388 posts of judicial officers are vacant in the district and subordinate courts across the country, according to the Ministry of Law and Justice. Responding to a question raised by MP Ashok Nete and other members of Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session, the ministry said 19,858 judges are working in the district and subordinate courts across India against the sanctioned strength of 25,246. “A total of 5,388 posts of judicial officers are lying vacant in the lower judiciary,” the ministry said.

According to the Ministry of Law and Justice, 15,115 judicial officers were working in the lower judiciary against the sanctioned strength of 19,518 as of December 31, 2013. There were 19,858 judges in the district and subordinate courts across the country against the sanctioned strength of 25,246 judges as of July 14, 2023, it said.

However, it clarified that filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the state governments and High Courts concerned.

With respect to the Supreme Court and High Court it said that from 2014 to 2023, 58 judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court. 919 new judges have been appointed and 653 additional judges were made permanent in the High Courts, according to the official data.

“Sanctioned strength of judges of High Courts has increased from 906 in May 2014 to 1,114 currently,” it added.

Lok Adalats have disposed of 9,09,14,024 cases (6,82,32,800 pre-litigation and 2,26,81 pending) in the last three years, it said.

“As 1,27,88,037 cases (72,06,294 pre-litigation and 55,81,743 pending) were disposed of in 2021, while the figure stood at 4,19,26,010 (3,10,15,215 pre-litigation and 1,09,10,795) in 2022. Upto June 17 of this year, Lok Adalats disposed of 3,61,99,977 cases (3,00,11,291 pre-litigation and 61,88,686 pending ones),” the ministry said.

Over 25,000 cases have been disposed of by the Supreme Court till July 15 this year.

“The Supreme Court has disposed of 20,670 cases in 2020 and 24,586 cases in 2021. While 36,436 cases were disposed of by the top court in 2022, the figure stood 25,959 till July 15 this year.

The data provided on High Court wise disposal of cases in 2023 till July 17 shows that Madras High Court has disposed of the highest number of cases followed by Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa High Court.

FAKE BAILERS NEW POLICE HEADACHE



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 23: More than regular crimes and investigations, what has sent the Commissionerate Police into a real tizzy is the recent spate of incidents of fake bailers, who are helping prisoners walk out of jail through forged documents. The recent arrest of two fraudsters who had helped prisoners in availing bail is a case in point.

According to sources, the Commissionerate Police has informed about launching a drive to weed out fake bailers from Bhubaneswar court premises.

“Many such fake bailers are operating from the City court. They take money to stand as surety by impersonating somebody else and submit forged documents including the proof of identity, residence and land documents before the court,” said a city-based lawyer.

The accused even arrange gullible persons from Puri, Khurda and adjoining areas for the purpose. A fake bailer earns around ₹40,000 to ₹50,000 a month by standing as surety for accused persons, especially those from outside the state, he added.

Speaking to Orissa POST, senior lawyer Chittaranjan Dash said, “None is following the guidelines issued by the Orissa High Court in this regard. Our state should make law for registered bailers as existed in other states. It is hard to find a local bailer or relatives having property earmarked as cultivation land. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has strictly directed that none should be denied bail because of absence of surety. If anyone doesn’t have landed property should he rot in jail then? It is not possible to completely stop the practice of fake bailers. The court should release a prisoner on personal bond to

stop it.”

Notably, Commissionerate Police nabbed a fake bailer, Baman Charan Samantray alias Dwivedi, from the district judge court premises here, Thursday.

A police team in plain clothes reached the court and enquired about persons with Samantray surname interested to stand as surety and submit forged documents so that their relative could secure bail. As soon as Baman Charan volunteered to become a false bailer, the cops in disguise nabbed him.

Another fake bailer, Bauribandhu Pati, was arrested from the Special CBI court here for helping a prisoner secure bail from court by impersonating Keshab Pradhan, who had passed away long ago. Pati also submitted the ‘Record of Rights’ or Patta of a land registered in the name of Keshab located at Sundarpada.

Fake bailers take money to stand as surety by impersonating somebody else and submit forged documents and help release the prisoners

The Commissionerate Police nabbed a fake bailer, Baman Charan Samantray alias Dwivedi, from the district judge court premises in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Another fake bailer, Bauribandhu Pati, was arrested from the Special CBI court in the Capital city Wednesday for helping a prisoner secure bail from court by impersonating Keshab Pradhan, who had passed away long ago

PREZ VISIT AHEAD

Workers busy refurbishing a pavement at Netaji Birthplace Museum in Cuttack, Sunday, ahead of the visit of President Droupadi Murmu scheduled for July 26



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Mystery over doc death in Cuttack

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Police Sunday recovered the decomposed body of a doctor from a house, closed from inside, in Chauhiaganj area of Cuttack under mysterious circumstances.

Police identified the deceased as M Venkat Chandrasekhar. The doctor, posted at Salipur community health centre, was staying in a rented house at Chauhiaganj. Police broke open the house and recovered the body after it was informed about a foul smell emanating from the house.

Though the reason of the physician’s death is not yet known, it is suspected that he might have died following a cardiac arrest.

The cause of the death would be known only after post-mortem report comes, said the police.

4 LEOPARD HIDES SEIZED; 3 NABBED

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Forest officials arrested three wildlife smugglers and seized four leopard hides and three mobile phones from their possession during a raid at Bahalada village under Khunta police station of Mayurbhanj district Sunday.

Sources said acting on a tip-off, Baripada divisional forest officer (DFO) and deputy director of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project conducted a raid and arrested the three smugglers.

Further investigation is in progress, said the Forest department sources. Notably, the Special Task Force (STF) had arrested one wildlife criminal



Baripada DFO and Similipal Tiger Conservation Project deputy director conducted a raid and arrested the three smugglers

and seized three leopard hides, as many deer skins, and other incriminating materials from his possession during a raid near Madanpur Rampur in Kalahandi district here, police said Saturday. The accused was identified as Khageswar Putel, 56, of Gunangbeda area under M Rampur police limits.

Srimandir West Gate to reopen today

AGENCIES

Puri, July 23: The West Gate of Srimandir here will be reopened for locals from July 24, Monday, said district Collector Samarth Verma, Sunday.

“The West Gate of the Srimandir will be reopened for the people of Puri city from tomorrow. The residents of the Holy City can enter the 12th century shrine through the West Gate by producing their identity proof,” said the Collector.

Notably, devotees, locals and several people’s representatives had earlier urged the state government and the SJTA to reopen all the four gates of the shrine to ensure smooth darshan of the deities.

Earlier, devotees were allowed to enter and exit Srimandir through its four gates. A few years ago, the SJTA had allowed entry through Lions’ Gate.

2 Odisha community radios bag nat’l award

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, July 23: Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Anurag Thakur conferred National Community Radio Awards on 10 stations, including two from Odisha, during an event at Indian Institute of Mass Communication to mark National Broadcasting Day here, Sunday.

A total of 12 awards in four categories were given. The first, second and third prizes of National Community Radio Awards carry an amount of ₹1 lakh, ₹75,000 and ₹50,000 respectively.

Radio Hirakhand of Sambhalpur bagged the first prize under the ‘Sustainability Model Awards’ category and second prize for its programme ‘Adhar O Poshan Bigyan’ under ‘Thematic Awards’ category.

Cuttack’s Voice of SOA bagged the first prize for its programme ‘Asmita’ under ‘Promoting Local Culture Awards’ category.

Acknowledging their role, Thakur said community radio stations provide service despite challenges including human re-

source shortage, financial strains and lack of external support, and for this spirit of nation service they ought to be commended. While the awards encourage the stations, the minister said, they also recognise the importance of community radio in education, awareness generation and problem solving in the remotest corners of India. He expressed hope that the awards will encourage others to foray into this field.

The minister delved into the efforts of the Centre towards ‘Ease of Doing Business’ in the field. “Where earlier acquiring a license was a time consuming and tedious process taking around four years and involving 13 processes, today it has been reduced to eight processes and a license can be acquired within six months,” Thakur said, adding application process is now online on Broadcast Seva Portal and is connected to Saral Sanchar Portal.

In a bid to expand radio’s reach, the Centre would auction of 808 channels in 284 cities under the third batch of e-auction, he said.

Craving for junk food behind diabetes spiral

CONTINUOUS CONSUMPTION OF ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS LEADS TO OBESITY AND KEEPS BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS CONSISTENTLY HIGH, INCREASING THE RISK OF DEVELOPING TYPE 2 DIABETES, AS PER EXPERTS

Consumption of junk food, also called ‘fast food’, has increased significantly in recent decades, characterised by its high caloric content, excessive sugar, unhealthy fats, and low nutritional value. Unfortunately, this trend has had dire consequences on public health, contributing to alarming rise in type 2 diabetes.

Once considered a disease of middle-aged and older adults, type 2 diabetes is now affecting people of all ages, including children and adolescents.

The relationship between surge in junk food consumption

and incidence of type 2 diabetes has raised alarm among health professionals and researchers.

“It is a known fact that junk food leads to consumption of more calories. This causes people to gain weight because junk food is calorie-dense and has a high quantity of fat and carbohydrates,” Sunil Kumar Mishra, Senior Director, Endocrinology and Diabetology, Medanta, Gurugram told IANS.

“To manage sugar levels in the body, pancreas tries to increase insulin in the body but when a mismatch happens, diabetes develops. While junk food can affect both adults and children, I feel children are more at risk of developing diabetes because the rates of childhood obesity are increasing steadily,” he added.

According to a new study led by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and published in journal ‘The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology’, India is home to a whopping 315 million people with hypertension, and 101 million with diabetes.

The study also showed that 136 million Indians are pre-diabetic, 213 million people live with high cholesterol, 185 million



suffer from high LDL cholesterol or bad cholesterol, while 254 million live with generalised obesity and 351 million have abdominal obesity.

These non-communicable diseases were also behind 65 per cent of deaths in India, and 40 per cent of hospitalisation, a study by Apollo Hospitals had revealed in April.

Experts are witnessing an increasing number of cases of type 2 diabetes in children, particularly among adolescents aged 12-18 years and younger people.

They believe there is a high chance that those who develop obesity as children, will continue to be obese as adults.

Additionally, in young people with type 2 diabetes, there is a chance of complications as they grow older.

Recently, a food influencer was threatened by Cadbury after he exposed in a viral post on Instagram that their nutritional drink Bournvita contains added sugar and colours which can be unhealthy.

According to health professionals, people who can afford to eat a good diverse diet, which includes a good amount of vegetables or non-vegetarian foods, and fruits, actually need not take additional nutritional drinks.

“Continuous consumption of

ultra-processed foods leads to obesity and keeps blood sugar levels consistently high, increasing the risk of developing type 2 diabetes,” Miloni Bhandari, Clinical Dietician and functional nutritionist, Surya Hospital and child super specialty, Pune told IANS.

“Due to the presence of various flavours, flavour enhancers, colours, emulsifiers, emulsifying salts, artificial sweeteners, thickeners, and other additives such as anti-foaming, bulking, carbonating, foaming, gelling, and glazing agents, ultra-processed foods possess additive qualities to the human brain,” she added.

While both children and adults can be affected, she said children with type 2 diabetes may face a lifetime of managing the disease, which can lead to complications such as cardiovascular problems, kidney diseases, and vision impairment.

Therefore, health experts recommend that people should prioritise nutrition over taste and inculcate good eating habits in children and encourage them to play sports or just ensure a movement activity for 30 minutes a day.

IANS

Naveen pays tributes to Azad, Tilak

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 23: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid rich tributes to great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Chandra Shekhar Azad on their birth anniversary Sunday.

Taking to Twitter, he paid tribute to Azad saying, "Humble tributes to great freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary. The epitome of valour and courage inspired millions of people of the nation to join the freedom movement. His ideologies and love for the country will continue to inspire generations to come" he said.

Similarly, he also paid tribute to Tilak saying, "Rich tributes to great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his birth anniversary. He espoused Swaraj and incorporated the ideology in freedom struggle. He will always be remembered for his contribution in building political consciousness towards independence movement."



While paying tributes to Azad and Tilak, the Chief Minister termed them as great freedom fighters who inspired millions of people

Chandra Shekhar Azad was an Indian revolutionary who reorganised the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) under its new name of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) after the death of its founder, Ram Prasad Bismil, and three other prominent party leaders, Roshan Singh, Rajendra Nath Lahiri and Ashfaqulla Khan.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an Indian nationalist, teacher, and an independence activist. He

was one third of the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate. Tilak was the first leader of the Indian independence movement. The British colonial authorities called him "The father of the Indian unrest". He was also conferred with the title of "Lokmanya", which means "accepted by the people as their leader". Mahatma Gandhi called him "The Maker of Modern India".

He is known for his quote in Marathi: "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!"



A DAY FOR PARENTS: A felicitation programme in progress during 'Ama Sanskruti Ama Parichaya Mahotsav' organised by Alisha Foundation on the occasion of National Parents' Day at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

ATR sought from District Magistrate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the District Magistrate / Collector of Mayurbhanj over the horrendous incident of eating the flesh of a dead woman by two men during the funeral rituals in Bandhasahi village of the district. While hearing a petition filed by Human Rights Lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the Apex Human Rights body has sought the reply from the authority concerned within four weeks.

"The allegations leveled in the complaint, if found true, are serious violation of human

rights. The Commission takes cognizance of the matter and directs to the District Magistrate/Collector, Mayurbhanj, Odisha calling for an action taken report in the matter within 4 weeks," the commission remarked.

Tripathy, in his petition, claimed that the two accused reportedly ate the flesh of a dead Lady Madhusmita, at a cremation ground near Bandhasahi village under Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district July 12, 2023. The accused identified as Sundar Mohan Singh (58) and Narendra Singh (25) of Dantuni

'CANNIBALISM' CASE



village took away the body from cremation ground during the funeral rites and ate human flesh owing to the practice of witchcraft and sorcery.

"The 25-year-old deceased Madhusmita Singh was resident of Bandhasahi. Due to

rains, the body could not be completely burnt during cremation at the funeral ground. The accused chopped the liver of the corpse into three parts. But instead of burning them, they started eating the half-burnt human body parts. Shocked over the incident, the villagers demanded stern action against the duo for eating human flesh and violating the customs of the local community," claimed Tripathy.

He also alleged that the negligence on the part of the state officials in implementing the act related to witchcraft and

sorcery is responsible behind this shameful incident.

He alleged that the local police are reluctant to inserting provisions of The Odisha Prevention of Witch-hunting Act 2013 in the FIRs. The deceased was undergoing treatment and died in the hospital. The Police also registered one UD case in this regard. However, even if the family of the deceased is entitled for assistance under Harischandra Yojana, they were not provided with the same. There is no crematorium in the village. There is gross violation of rights of the deceased "Rights after death" as promulgated and practiced in India, alleged the petitioner.

Air cargo service to start by September

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The much-awaited air cargo services will commence from Bhubaneswar airport by September this year, informed MSME Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra.

The infrastructure development work is in progress, and it will be completed soon. After completion of construction work, the authorities of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security will visit the Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar to review arrangement for operations of cargo services. The facilities to facilitate hassle-free export of goods from the state to other parts of the world will begin by September, he said gracing a programme organised by World Trade Centre on Friday in Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi said that the target has been set to take the country's exports to 2 lakh crore USD by 2023. To

achieve that goal, goods and services exports will have to reach upto 1 lakh crore USD for which the exports will have to be increased at rate of 12 per cent per annum. Similarly, services exports will have to grow at 16.6 per cent per annum to reach 1 lakh crore USD.

Our economy provides huge opportunity to achieve the target and sunrise sector like electronics and renewable energy will help us. Odisha need investment in Pharma and plastic sectors to grow its export, he said.

Mishra highlighted various aspects of state export policy and talked about the digital initiatives being undertaken to make processes seamless for exporters. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also inked with Orissa Small Scale Industries Association (OSSIA), Cuttack to explore areas of mutual co-operation to further assist the MSMEs of Odisha to augment their market outreach and penetrate the global market.

Drivers threaten agitation for their demands

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 23: The Odisha Drivers' Association Sunday in a press meet warned that the outfit will again resort to agitations if its demands are not met by the state government before July 30.

The association strongly resented the dilly-dallying and apathetic attitude of the government in keeping its commitment previously given to the outfit. "Despite repeated agitations, the government is not paying any heed to our demands," the association president Prasanta Muduli said.

"The government has failed to take any step to fulfil the drivers' demands. If our demands are not met before July 30, we will be forced to resort to agitation again," he said.

Earlier, with normal life across the state hit by a strike by drivers, Odisha government in March has promised the agitators that it would resolve their demands within three months. A written commitment was earlier given by the state government with regard to the demands following a 'Quit Steering' protest held by the drivers March 15.

Chief Secretary also had held a discussion with the association, and a decision was taken to fulfill the demands in three months. The agitators then agreed to withdraw the strike.

The agitating drivers had staged demonstrations in the past days at various places in the state and resorted to picketing. They were seen stopping the movement of commercial vehicles on National Highways.

Formation of a welfare fund, death benefits, and social security including pension after 60 years of age are among the 10-point charter of demands of the drivers' association.

Mkt bldg shop owners, vendors clash

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 23: A clash occurred between the permanent shop owners and makeshift vendors at Market Building area Sunday. The vendors were heard hurling abusive language leading to a heated argument. This continued for quite a long time and later subsided. As per reports the clash occurred during the meeting of 50 traders' associations.

The Market Building at Unit-II in Bhubaneswar has been closed for the past one week as the traders have downed their shutters as part of their protest against the alleged inaction of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to resolve the ongoing dispute between makeshift vendors and permanent shop owners.

As per sources, the Market Building Traders' Association has been alleging encroachment by the makeshift vendors and demanding their eviction.



They alleged that the street vendors are destroying the beauty of the market area and making it crowded. The association had urged the BMC to take necessary action.

When BMC didn't take any action in pursuance of their demand, the association decided to shut the Market Building for an indefinite period. On the other hand, people are facing a lot of trouble as the Market Building has been closed for the last seven

days. "We depend upon the Market Building to buy different stuffs as those are only available at various shops on its premises. We are clueless about why it is shut for such a long period. We have no alternative but to return empty-handed," said a customer.

The Central Market Traders' Association had shut down the Unit-II Market Building in Bhubaneswar indefinitely to press for its demand to evict makeshift

stalls from the area. About 165 traders close their shops in the complex from July 17.

The permanent shop owners demanded eviction of the makeshift vendors numbering more than 200 who create chaos leading to unnecessary crowd causing inconvenience to the customers. Incidents of chain snatching and other crimes have also been reported.

Earlier, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, had a meeting with the Market Building shop owners. Kulange, while assuring the shop owners, said, "We emptied the area during Hockey World Cup yet they are all back again and I believe this can only be addressed by rehabilitating the makeshift vendors. Legal action will be taken in the next 3-4 days. But by the time we expect co-operation from the permanent shop owners. A decision in this regard will be taken after necessary legal consultation."

Parents' psychiatric diagnosis increases risk of preterm birth

Babies have an increased likelihood of being born prematurely if either their father or mother has a history of psychiatric diagnosis, a new study has shown.

According to the study published in the online journal PLOS Medicine, infants whose father or mother has a psychiatric condition have a higher chance of preterm birth than those whose parents do not, and the risk is even higher when both parents have such diagnoses.

Preterm birth has been linked to unfavourable health outcomes for newborns. Women with psychiatric diagnosis have long been known to be at a higher risk of preterm delivery, but little is known regarding the danger in

children of psychiatrically diagnosed fathers and couples with both parents having psychiatric illnesses.

The researchers analysed data on all live births to Nordic parents (parents who were born in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland) in Sweden between 1997 and 2016. The researchers noticed an earlier gestational age in the offspring of parents with psychiatric illnesses.

About 5.8 per cent of babies were born prematurely to parents who did not have a diagnosis. A paternal diagnosis increased the number of births to 6.3 per cent, while a mother diagnosis increased the number of births to 7.3 per cent.



Preterm births occurred in 8.3 per cent of cases where both parents had a diagnosis, according to the study. "Preterm birth can result in

significant lifelong complications for the infant, and in my clinical experience, the mother has traditionally been held responsible for the events," said

According to the study published in the online journal PLOS Medicine, infants whose father or mother has a psychiatric condition have a higher chance of preterm birth

About 5.8% of babies were born prematurely to parents who did not have a diagnosis. A paternal diagnosis increased the number of births to 6.3%

The researchers also found that the risk was further increased for offspring of parents -- mothers as well as fathers -- who had several co-existing psychiatric disorders

thor on the paper.

The researchers also found that the risk was further increased for offspring of parents -- mothers as well as fathers -- who had several co-existing psychiatric disorders.

"This new work demonstrates that the non-gestational biologic parent's (the father's) psychiatric history is also associated with the increased likelihood of obstetric outcomes traditionally attributed solely to the mother," Silverman said.

The researchers mentioned that children of parents with mental illness are at increased risk of being born too early and our study shows that both the mothers and fathers are important.

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Local industrialists' response lukewarm to Western Corridor

Land remains the biggest issue for industrial promotion

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, July 23: The Western Corridor, which has been planned to invite investments in MSME and large industries, is certainly an ambitious and encouraging initiative by the state government. However, entrepreneurs here have mixed feelings about the initiative.

“IPICOLED Mohanty and the Chief Secretary had been to Chhattisgarh to woo investors there but, what about us? No one bothers about homegrown entrepreneurs who have the capability to take up good projects. So far, there is hardly any interaction with us regarding this,” said one of the industrialists here who has units at Chhattisgarh and is now planning to set up another in Jharkhand.

The government has made some grandiose announcements regarding the Western Corridor in its advertisements. “There will be 15 nodal points on either side of the Biju Expressway from Rourkela to Malkangiri. The nodal points will be known as industrial parks. And our sole objective is to attract investors in thrust areas. Apart from the mineral-based industries, the thrust area has opportunities for all. But, one can set downstream units of the mineral-based plants. Anyone setting up units here will get all the benefits for up to ten years,” said IPI-

COL ED KC Mohanty over the phone from Bhubaneswar.

This corridor boasts of 3,000 acre industry-ready lands available along this stretch of expressway spanning nine districts. As per IPR 2020, all incentives are applicable in this zone. There will be a 30 per cent subsidy on capital investment in plant and machinery, 100 per cent net SGST reimbursement limited to 300 per cent of the cost of plant and machinery, ₹2 per unit reimbursement of power cost, and above all 100 per cent reimbursement towards the employer's contribution towards ESI and EPF.

Many of the businessmen here with whom **OrissaPOST** spoke had their biggest reservations about land availability in Sundargarh district. “This corridor has a stretch of nearly 100 kilometre inside Sundargarh but where is the land? The IDCO does not have adequate land anymore within the district and along this stretch, very less,” informed another industrialist. Even the president of the Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sunil Kayal said, “The entire concept seems to be very impressive and alluring. There is no gainsaying the fact that the government is serious about this side of the state. But for Sundargarh, land is a big issue. Something has to be done to relax the laws for land or else it will be very difficult.”



2 held for beating youth to death

Bolangir: Police arrested a father-son duo here for killing a youth named Bhaskar Tandi (33) by beating him mercilessly with lathis at Pandarapita village under Sadar police limits in Bolangir district and forwarded them to court, Sunday. The accused were identified as Premraj Podha and his father Magasir Podha of this village. As per reports, due to some reason an altercation broke out between Premraj and Bhaskar at Pandarapita village, Saturday afternoon. Saturday night, Bhaskar vandalised the auto rickshaw of Premraj which was kept in front of the latter's house. Seeing this Premraj and his father Magasir thrashed Bhaskar relentlessly with lathis rendering him unconscious. When Bhaskar did not return home till 10pm, his family members searched for him in the village and found him in a pool of blood. Bhaskar then rushed to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital where the doctor declared him brought dead. In this regard, Bije Tandi, brother of the deceased, filed a complaint at Sadar police station.

Workshop on faecal sludge management

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 23: A cluster-level workshop on faecal sludge management under 5T was conducted at a local hotel here, Saturday. The objective was how to maintain proper coordination between the civic bodies and the faecal sludge management centre.

The event was organised by Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC). Participants from Jharsuguda, Biramitrapur, Rajgangpur and Sundargarh municipalities were present at the workshop along with members of the Mission Shakti who manage the faecal sludge centres. RMC Commissioner Dr Subhankar Mohapatra, while speaking on the occasion, explained its objective and mission of the workshop. He also felt that it would be



GANGAHARA IN SPATE: Communication to Kuamara and over 30 adjoining villages via Maa Hingula shrine at Chandadiha was disrupted after 3-feet deep rainwater flowed over Khadikapada bridge across Gangahara river in Mayurbhanj district following incessant rainfall in the area

TPSODL neglects Raipahad, Andhra makes hay

WHILE THE RESIDENTS' HOUSES ARE LIT UP WITH POWER SUPPLIED BY ANDHRA, THE STREETS ARE BEING ILLUMINATED WITH THE SOLAR POWERED LIGHTS PROVIDED BY THE NANDAPUR BLOCK AUTHORITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nandapur, July 23: Andhra Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned to cash in on the civic problems and stake its claim in the villages bordering the neighbouring state in Koraput, a report said Sunday.

The neighbouring state has been supplying power to Raipahad village under Nandapur block in Koraput district in the absence of power supply to the village by the district administration. This has helped the neighbouring state win the favour of the villagers in order to lure them to its side.

After coming to know about this development, the block officials had installed three solar powered lights on the roads in Raipahad but that was not enough to dispel the darkness in the village.

While the residents' houses

are lit up with power supplied by Andhra Pradesh, the village streets are being illuminated with the solar powered lights provided by the Nandapur block authorities.

Reports said that the power distribution firm Tata Power South Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPSODL) is more to be blamed for lack of power supply to the village than any other department of the government or the district administration.

It is alleged that the distribution firm is neglecting in supplying power to the village despite repeated requests by the Nandapur block authorities and the district administration.

The district administration and block authorities have written letters to the TPSODL authorities urging them to immediately connect the village with power supply but the later is learnt to be not paying any heed



to the pleas.

Recently, a meeting was held at the block office which was also attended by the TPSODL representatives. In the meeting, the BDO asked the TPSODL representatives to connect the village with power supply but to no avail.

Moreover, officials of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh recently met at a meeting held at Raipahad village over border dispute. Attending the meeting, Koraput sub-collector Benuddhar Sabar directed the TPSODL engineer Bikash Choudhury to immedi-

ately connect Raipahad village with power supply. However, the power distribution firm is yet to implement the order.

The delay in power supply to the village has sparked resentment and anger among the villagers which if not addressed might lead to flare up and boost Andhra Pradesh's morale for further incursion into Odisha villages.

When contacted, TPSODL engineer Bikash Choudhury said a plan outlay has been prepared and sent to the executive engineer for his approval through the assistant executive engineer of Sunabeda.

The village will be connected with power supply after receiving the approval and sanction of funds. Locals have demanded the state government and the district administration to intervene and connect the village with power supply immediately.

HUMAN CONSCIENCE'S NEWEST LOW

MAN FORCES WIFE TO SLEEP WITH 2 MEN; 3 HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 23: Human conscience stooped to its lowest as a man forced his wife to have sexual relation with a drug peddler whom he owed money. As if that was not enough, she was further forced to sleep with yet another person and her private videos were made viral.

Following a complaint filed by the woman with Plant Site police here, the victim's husband and the other two men have been arrested Saturday by police and sent to judicial custody.

According to reports, Monjamil Hussein, 31, a resident of Jamia Colony, Panposh, got married to the woman from Narla Road area seven years back and has two children. He is a habitual alcoholic. However, he started staying at Narla Road after their marriage. Everything was going smoothly. But, his



habit of excessive drinking made their life miserable as he gradually got hooked to all other kinds of intoxication.

He developed a close relationship with a drug peddler Md Afroz Akthar alias Pappu, 38, who resides in Azad Busti. Pappu would help him from time to time during his monetary distress as he was well off allegedly owing to his illegal profession. However, unable to pay back the borrowed amount, Monjamil, according to his wife's complaint, forced her to establish physical relationship with Pappu.

Eventually, with her husband's consent, Pappu would take the woman out and would forcefully establish sexual relations with her.

On top of that another person, Danish Hussein, a resident of Jamia Colony also forced the woman, as per her complaint, to sleep with him. Danish also shot obscene videos and then started blackmailing her as she opposed their wrongdoing. In a fit of rage, Pappu, when the woman became adamant, made the videos viral.

Subsequently the woman filed a complaint with Plant Site PS Saturday. Police have arrested the trio, including the husband Monjamil, and forwarded them to court.

Plant Site IIC Jyoti R Pati confirming the arrest said, “They have been forwarded to the court and booked under §26 and 429 A of IPC among other acts.”

HERD ON RAMPAGE

Tusker tramples woman to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tensa, July 23: A woman was killed by a tusker while trying to flee from a marauding herd of elephants which had strayed into Kantarkoida Rungta Colony in Koira area of Sundargarh district, late Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Arati Munda. The incident has sparked tension in the area.

The incident occurred after a herd comprising five to seven elephants strayed into the area. The animals pulled down the house of Shanti Munda in front of Kantarkoida Rungta Colony and ate away the rice stored in her house.

Locals raised an alarm and tried to drive the pachyderms away. Meanwhile, Arati who lives nearby was trying to escape when a tusker trampled her under its feet.

Autistic lady equips disabled girl's aspiration

Having won gold and silver medals for Odisha at the national-level this year, Madhusmita, despite her financial and physical hardships, has made a name for herself in wheelchair fencing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, July 23: An autistic woman has come forward to provide sports kit worth lakhs of rupees to a differently-abled girl in Bhadrak district to help her participate in international sporting events.

Leela Tanya Choudhury has provided sports kits worth ₹3.7 lakh to wheelchair-bound fencer Madhusmita Sahu.

Bhadrak District Collector Siddeshwar Baliram Bondar handed over the kit to polio-afflicted Madhusmita at his office and wished her all success in the presence of 22-year-old Tanya and her younger sis-



ter Diksha.

“When we read the news in a website about Madhusmita seeking support to participate in an international event, Tanya showed interest to support her. We immediately contacted the news website to find out the details. They helped us connect to Madhusmita and her coach Rakhal Kumar Sethi,” said Tanya's mother Joshma Choudhury, a certified counsellor for special children.

Tanya's father P Choudhury said they reached out to the Collector of Bhadrak and expressed willingness to sponsor the kit so that Madhusmita could represent India at international competitions.

A part of the sponsorship money has been paid from Tanya's earnings which she has saved from her vocational work, Joshma said.


Madhusmita, despite her financial and physical hardships, has made a name for herself in wheelchair fencing through sheer determination and perseverance.

Earlier this year, she won gold and silver medals for Odisha at the national-level wheelchair fencing competition held at Karnal in Haryana, Sethi said.

A native of Rameshwarpur village under Dhamnagar block in Bhadrak district, Madhusmita is delighted that her prayers for equipment have been answered.

“I was not sure if anyone would help. I still cannot believe that I now have the equipment and will take part in international tournaments. For me, Tanya is like an angel,” said an emotional Madhusmita, whose father Bhagabat Sahu is a potter.

Expressing gratitude to the Choudhurys for their noble gesture, coach Sethi said Madhusmita has the potential to earn a name for India. “She can now focus on training instead of worrying about equipment,” he said.



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E-auction Sale Notice for the Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with Proviso to Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and particular to the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**, the same shall be referred herein after as **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**. The Secured Assets will be auctioned on **12.08.2023** on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis through E-auction.

It is hereby informed to General Public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>

Sl. No.	Account No. and Name of the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s. 13(2)	Description of the Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	a) Reserve Price (RP) b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) c) Bid Increment Amt.	a) E-Auction Date and Time b) EMD Submission Last Date c) Inspection Date d) Date of Possession (Status of Possession)
1.	Loan A/c. No. : X0HECUK00003066381 and X0HECUK00003773530 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Debasish Routray Nuapada, Madhupatana, Cuttack, Odisha, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 004. 2. Sushila Pattanaik 3. Jay Hanuman Industries 4. Itispita Swain All are at (2, 3 & 4) : Shantinagar, Nuapada, Cuttack Sadar, Odisha, Pin - 753 004.	11.11.2022 Rs. 67,09,683.00 as on 05.11.2022	District - Cuttack, Tahasil - Cuttack, SRO-Cuttack, P. S. - Cuttack Sadar, P.S. No. 55, Mouza - Nuapada, Mutation Khata No. 639, Plot No. 479, Area Acre 0.050 Decimal with Status - Dakhalat Satwya Bisista, Kisan - Gharabari (Homestead) which corresponding to Sabak Khata No. 190, Sabak Plot No. 397, Area Acre 0.050 Decimal out of Area Acre 0.100 Decimal. Physical. Bounded by : North - Plot No. 484, South - Plot Nos. 480, 481, East - Road, West - Plot No. 483.	a) Rs. 65,00,000.00 b) Rs. 6,50,000.00 c) Rs. 50,000.00	a) 12.08.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 5 min) b) 11.08.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 04.08.2023 & 05.08.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) d) 21.01.2023 (Symbolic Possession)

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on E-auction prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure; Contact : Jaya Prakash Reddy, Contact No.: 81420 00064, Mr. Muhammed Rahees, Contact No. : 81240 00030, E-mail ID : info@bankauctions.in, Odisha Contact No. : 98365 22775, 79787 44193.

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in E-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002)

Date : 24.07.2023
Place : Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited
Authorised Officer



For Ram’s Sake, Go

The common trait that binds Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chairperson of National Women’s Commission Rekha Sharma, a government appointee, together is their prolonged and intriguing silence on the barbarity going on in Manipur. It took a horrific video and the Supreme Court’s ultimatum that it would step in if the so-called “double-engine” BJP government at the Centre and in the state of Manipur do not act to stop the mayhem to make Modi and Sharma break their silence. Even then, the PM spoke only for 36 seconds after the video went viral and shocked the nation. It showed the bestiality of criminals who stripped two Kuki-Zomi women, paraded them in public, groped them and took them to a field to gangrape them.

The PM, who seems so adept in using communication tools and social media platforms to trumpet his and his government’s activities, kept mum for far too long as Manipur was engulfed in ethnic clashes, killings, arson and rape. His unexplained silence for over two months attracted attention inside and outside the country. But, he remained unmoved. Similarly, the NCW chief, even being a woman, sat on complaints on the horrific incident of stripping and rape for over a month. She seems to be acting like a BJP propagandist and did not speak a word even when the country’s top women wrestlers complained of sexual misdemeanour against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan. She had maintained a studied silence when criminals involved in the Bilkis Bano case were let off. Also, she courted controversy and incurred nation-wide opprobrium for her misogynistic remark on “love jihad” – a pet BJP and Sangh Parivar propaganda initiative against Moslems. This was despite the Union Home Minister Amit Shah having said in Parliament there was no “love-jihad” incident. There is hardly any doubt that she is occupying the chair to help the BJP’s divisive agenda which explains the extension she got.

The NCW received complaints, dated June 12, citing three cases of sexual assault against Kuki-Zomi tribal women by majority Meitei vigilantes. The video of the two women being paraded naked was also mentioned in that complaint. Two activists and the North American Manipur Tribal Association had spoken to survivors of sexual violence before filing the complaint with the NCW. However, they allegedly did not receive any response from the women’s panel.

The NCW Chairperson, who needs to be sacked after her criminal negligence of the worst crime that could be perpetrated against women, has the brazenness to say only after the video surfaced that the commission “had to verify the authenticity” of the complaints. She had the gumption to claim that the NCW had reached out to the state authorities, but did not get any response and took “suo motu cognisance” over a month after the video went viral. She has no answer to the question of what had prevented her for the past one month to take such action after the NCW got the complaint.

The complaints emailed directly to her office on June 12 clearly stated the crimes and abuses faced by women, such as being “disrobed, paraded naked, beaten and then encircled by a marauding Meitei mob and raped in public,” committed on May 4. There were no replies or acknowledgement from NCW of the complaints. Under her leadership, India has seen little to no progress on the women safety front and still ranks among the least safe nations in the world for women.

On the other hand, Modi’s stand on the Manipur violence till date shows the same insensitivity and callousness that he had displayed when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat and the state saw a pogrom against Moslems. This forced the then Prime Minister from his own party, Atal Behari Vajpayee, to reprimand him and ask him to perform his “raj dharma” meaning his role as Chief Minister.

Unfortunately, there is no leader in the BJP now who can utter a word against him for the authority he wields in the government and the Sangh Parivar. Being the party’s tallest leader now, it seems, he can get away with whatever he does. The international community has condemned his silence and partisan handling of the ethnic conflict in Manipur. That made the Ministry of External Affairs to lecture the European Union Parliament on not to interfere in India’s internal affairs. Now the MEA could be questioned if it has any answer to the gravest injustice done to the two daughters of Manipur, making a mockery of the PM’s pet campaign of “Beti Bachao” (save women).

The least the BJP should do is to remove the NCW Chairperson and also the Manipur CM N Biren Singh who has miserably failed to perform his “raj dharma.” But, it cannot take action against him so as not to antagonise the majority Hindoo community – Meitei - for its majoritarian vote-bank politics which is at the root of the current turmoil in Manipur. Presently Indian electoral politics has been corrupted by religion. The vote catching apparatus of the BJP is totally dependent on a majority-minority skirmish just before polls to enable it do its scheming successfully. This in turn is creating social divides that will last for decades, if not centuries. People too seem least concerned about issues regarding the nation’s economy, healthcare, education and many other vital and core sectors about which the government alone can do something. Because it remains unquestioned, the government has also started punishing anyone who dares to speak freely as in the case of the influential civil society group called ‘Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity’ against which cases of sedition have been filed by the paramilitary organization Assam Rifles. The situation is fast rolling out towards the end of democracy and establishment of authoritarianism.

WISDOM CORNER

- “The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true.”

J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER
- “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
- “Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darknesses of other people.”

CARL JUNG

WORDSWORTH

■ Maieutic

The maieutic method is Socratic: a person is engaged in a dialogue by a questioner until frustration caused by challenges to his ideas leads him to dissatisfaction with his settled convictions and makes him refine his views. The idea behind the method is that the truth is already latent in every human being but that it has to be teased out and brought to the conscious mind. In practice, the questioner knows the answers already and leads the dialogue by supplying clues to allow the other person to work them out. The word is from Greek maieuesthai, to act as a midwife, from maia, a midwife. Socrates compared himself to a philosophical midwife, who through his questioning could induce the delivery of superior understanding in the other person, because the knowledge was already present in that person’s mind. Though the word is first recorded in the seventeenth century, it has become more common in modern times, especially in discussions of philosophy, education and psychotherapy. However, it’s not widely known outside such specialist fields. *The challenger then exercises a Socratic or maieutic function, drawing out an argument from the proponent as she recognizes that his case presented so far needs further development to constitute a cogent argument or the strongest argument possible (Argument Structure: Representation and Theory, by James B Freeman, 2011).*

FOCUS RUSSIA

THE MOBSTER CODE

Russia has a long history of rule by criminals. Channeling French anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon’s famous dictum “property is theft,” the Bolsheviks emerged in the early twentieth century as a semi-criminal organisation partly financed by the “expropriation of the expropriators” – in other words, armed robbery. Young Joseph Stalin allegedly participated in these “exes,” as the Bolsheviks called them.

The story of Alexander Orlov, one of Stalin’s spies, underscores the criminal tendencies of the Soviet regime. After presiding over the controversial – and some say illegal – transfer of the Spanish gold reserves from Madrid to Moscow in 1936, Orlov defected to the West once he became the operation’s lone survivor. Before leaving, he stole the entire operational fund of the Soviet station in Spain. Yet Stalin did not have him assassinated, as one might expect, because Orlov threatened to disclose the mission and the large network of Soviet spies.

Likewise, Wagner Group boss Yevgeny Prigozhin has so far suffered negligible consequences for his short-lived mutiny. His mercenaries have continued to receive state funds, and it is rumoured that weapons and large sums of cash confiscated by the state were returned to Prigozhin. This may suggest that Prigozhin is one of President Vladimir Putin’s “wallets” or knows where Putin hides his money – or is blackmailing him.

The alleged meeting at the end of June between Putin, Prigozhin, and Wagner’s top commanders, which occurred after Putin accused Prigozhin of treason, is best understood as a mafia sit-down where disputes among crime families are hashed out.

But whatever Prigozhin’s destiny may be, the Wagner Group’s mutiny demonstrates that power in Russia is not nearly as centralised as many believe.



THE WAGNER GROUP'S MUTINY DEMONSTRATES THAT POWER IN RUSSIA IS NOT NEARLY AS CENTRALISED AS MANY BELIEVE



The alleged meeting at the end of June between Putin, Prigozhin, and Wagner's top commanders, which occurred after Putin accused Prigozhin of treason, is best understood as a mafia sit-down where disputes among crime families are hashed out

Western experts continue to view Russia as a modern state, they overlook the fact that Putin’s cronies, who represent the mingling of the security services – particularly the FSB, the successor to the Soviet-era KGB – and organised crime, control most state functions as their private domains. The Kremlin distributes property in a neo-feudal manner. Property in post-Soviet Russia is “conditional”; the suzerain can always reclaim it.

Like a matryoshka doll, Putinism – not necessarily Putin’s power, but the system he and his cronies have created – contains smaller copies of itself, such as the Wagner Group and other private military gangs. The war in Ukraine has cracked open the doll’s outer layer and granted a new degree of autonomy to the criminal organisations within. Given the vast resources under Kremlin control that are at stake, future infighting looks inevitable.

The existence of multiple private armies will make these power games more destabilising. Against this backdrop, the Russian army has become another gang vying for power and property. But as the Kremlin’s

Prigozhin’s mutiny is that Prigozhin treated Putin the same way that Putin has treated the West. Prigozhin’s march on Moscow and his hysterical aggression against his nemesis, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, recalls a mobster’s effort to scare his victim into compliance with escalating threats.

Ever since his speech at the Munich Security Conference in 2007, Putin has taken a similar approach to the West. But the groundwork was laid for this strategy during his first year as president, when the Russian government adopted a new military doctrine that included implicit nuclear blackmail. Since then, Putin has continually used the threat of nuclear aggression to demand Western compliance with his “red lines.”

The West has contributed to this dynamic by focusing excessively on Putin and giving him too much sway over global affairs. This was partly a consequence of the Kremlin’s corruption of Western politicians and intellectuals, who downplayed his authoritarianism and positioned Russia as a modern state and reliable energy partner. Even today, despite Russia’s war crimes, Western media often refer to Russia’s elite with the blind objectivity reserved for the powerful, rather than conveying their essential criminality.

Whether or not Putin can act on his threats remains to be seen. But the mobster always has the benefit of acting first and putting his targets – Ukraine, the United States, and Europe – on the defensive. In the meantime, another criminal organisation, backed by a private army, could follow in Prigozhin’s footsteps. If and when that happens, the war will come home.

The writer is Professor of Russian at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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SPECTRUM SPORTS

Cricket is on a turning wicket

The various T20 leagues mushrooming around the world will definitely cause a huge transformation in the game of cricket. In cricket parlance, one can identify it as a turning track on which one is unsure about the future and outcome of the game.

Cricket around the world has shown that the T20 format of the game is commercially and popularly acceptable and one to pursue in the future.

Fortunately, the BCCI with the prime property of the Indian Premier League, (IPL) has established itself to be the frontrunner; However, sustaining it, will be a challenge. The reason is that the pool of top-level cricketers is limited and the franchise owners of some of the leading IPL teams are now well-invested in the leagues that have cropped up recently. India may have put a stop to their players participating in other leagues. However, the lure of good financial gains can tempt the very best. Furthermore, the franchise owners are businessmen who have invested for their own gains and cricket for them is a means to do so.

Cricket is at a very crucial juncture. The sport has finally become a huge business platform attracting eyeballs from every corner of the globe. Money seems



THE CONVENTIONAL FORM OF THE GAME, TEST CRICKET, SEEMS TO NOW REVOLVE AROUND JUST SEVEN COUNTRIES

to be pouring in and the business and the corporate worlds have realised how powerful the medium is for their products and messages to be heard.

The latest entrant to the business of cricket is the T20 Major League Cricket in the United States of America, a country that had held the very first international cricket match in 1844. The advent of baseball, a much shorter and faster game, during that period in the USA, gradually brought about the demise of cricket there. However, cricket never left the shores of the country and at the beginning of this century there were 20,000 cricketers playing the game. The Asians and West Indians popularised it and the growth escalated with many of them making their home over there.

The T20 format of the game is ideally suited for countries that have grown up on the most popular sport of football, basketball, baseball and several other such short-duration sports that are less time-consuming than five days or one whole day of cricket.

Australia, England, the West Indies and South Africa have already got well-established T20 cricket Leagues in place and with the rich UAE coming into the fray, a cricketer will have

enough options to choose from. The conventional form of the game, Test cricket, seems to now revolve around just seven countries. How long will it be able to sustain itself is a million-dollar question. The bilateral series which earlier had 4/5 Test matches are being substantially reduced to 2/3 matches. The commercial viability is also being questioned and the T20 matches are now subsidising the lack of returns from hosting a Test series.

The Ashes series between Australia and England is one of the only Test cricket battles that is still surviving the onslaught of the shorter versions of the game. Tradition and history keep it alive and the importance that the players give to playing in it is a big factor in its survival.

The rest of the countries’ Test match encounters have been fortunately revived due to the World Test Championship and the points required for one to garner in order to qualify for the final. However, the aura and glamour are, unfortunately, missing.

The ODI, one feels, will gradually lose its lustre. Winning the World Cup was very important in the past. However, the 50-overs game has become a tedious affair; especially, in the 30 middle overs where batters consolidate their team’s position for a burst in the final overs. The World Cup ’23 is an important tournament for the ODI format to continue its existence. India, the host and the largest cricket market, needs to win it to keep it alive. Indian cricket fans and followers are already in T20 mode and an Indian loss in World Cup with 4 years for the next, would be a challenging proposition to keep their interest going.

In India, IPL has initiated State Associations to have their own individual league. These are turning out to be profitable for each one of them. The irony of it is that the selection for their Ranji Trophy team is based on one’s performance in these tournaments.

Cricket is moving fast towards to shorter and shorter formats. I vividly recollect a statement made by Sachin Tendulkar many years ago. He felt 10 overs of 2 innings each would be one way to boost the T20 version even more. With replacement substitutes and other changes to the rules to liven the T20 even more, one wonders whether Sachin’s suggestion does make sense. Cricket is on a turning track and how, and in which way it will survive is a thought to worry about and ponder over.

The writer is a former India cricketer.

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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
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Flying challenge

Sir, Nepal has done well by banning non-essential helicopter flights till September due to the weather conditions and in the aftermath of the deadly helicopter crash that killed five Mexican tourists along with a Nepali pilot on July 11. The country with a troubled aviation history saw the worst aviation accident in January. The latest helicopter tragedy has once again underlined the need for a foolproof mechanical and human system to keep aircraft in the Himalayan country safe. Nepal government has to overhaul its aviation system to instill a sense of security and safety among the large number of tourists. The airports there need a serious infrastructural push, and old aircraft have to be phased out. Flying in the mountainous Nepal is in itself a big challenge, and if one adds poor navigational and inadequate pilot training processes, the picture looks bleak for aviation in that country.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Justice denied

Sir, It’s a matter of grave concern that the number of cases pending in various courts of the country has crossed the 5-crore mark. While informing the Rajya Sabha, the government has cited several factors for the ever-rising pendency, including an inadequate number of judges and judicial officers, the absence of a prescribed time-frame for the disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of effective arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. There is no denying that delay in filling vacancies of judges impedes the delivery of justice. The appointment of judges in higher judiciary is a collaborative process involving the executive and the judiciary. Both these organs of the government need to ensure that the gap between sanctioned and working strength of judges is bridged in a time-bound manner and the differences of opinion over the names recommended are resolved expeditiously. However, due to inordinate delay in judiciary process many are hurt, undergo trauma, incur huge losses and even parties have died while waiting for justice for decades. It is high time authorities took necessary steps for early justice delivery as justice delayed is justice denied.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE



J'khand inches towards drought-like situation'

WITH DELAYED OR SCANT RAINFALL IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF MONSOON IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, MANY FARMERS NOWADAYS SOW CROPS TILL MID-AUGUST BUT THAT DOES NOT LEAD TO A GOOD HARVEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, July 23: Jharkhand is inching towards a drought-like situation due to 45 per cent rain deficit, leading to around 85 per cent of the arable land in the state remaining fallow in the peak monsoon season, officials said.

Kharif crops were sown in only 4.15 lakh hectares against the target of 28.27 lakh hectares till July 21 or only in 14.71 per cent of the arable land. In 2022, around 20.40 per cent of the arable land was cultivated till the corresponding date, according to official data.

Birsa Agricultural University (BAU), Ranchi, Director Research P K Singh told PTI, "The next seven to eight days are very crucial for the farmers of Jharkhand. If we get a good spell of rainfall, farmers will bring more hectares under cultivation and the impact of the drought situation will be less."

In 11 of the 24 districts, paddy was sown in less than 5 per cent of the targeted area till July 21. Only West Singhbhum district has recorded sowing of paddy in 50 per cent of the targeted land, according to the state agriculture department's data.

Ravindra Mahato, a farmer from Hazaribag, said that he had prepared his paddy nurs-



■ Sowing of the main crop of the season, paddy, was even lesser at 11.20 per cent of the target of 18 lakh hectares

■ Last year, the figure was 11.76 per cent till July 21

■ According to agricultural experts, the ideal sowing period for paddy is from July 1 to July 20

ery on time due to good rainfall since June 20 but could not start transplantation of seedlings from the nursery to farms in July due to scanty rainfall.

Agriculture Department Director Chandan Kumar said the sowing coverage is a matter of concern for the state.

The sowing coverage for other Kharif crops was also not encouraging.

Maize was being sown in 32.99 per cent of the targeted area, down from 50.28 per cent last year. Similarly, coverage of pulses was at 14.77 per cent, while it was 29.72 per cent last year and oilseeds were being sown in 20.05 per cent of the targeted area, down from 33.72 per cent last year, Kumar said.

The state received 229.3 mm of rainfall from June 1 to July 22 against normal rainfall of 414.9 mm during the period.

Twelve districts are facing a rainfall deficit of more than 50 per cent, with Chatra and Jamtara recording the highest shortfall at 75 per cent and 67 per cent respectively. Only three

districts - Sahibganj, Godda and Simdega - have recorded normal rainfall so far. Ranchi Meteorological Centre in-charge Abhishek Anand said, "Jharkhand has received good rainfall in the last two days and it will continue till July 24. Monsoon is likely to be weak till July 27 and thereafter, it may become active again. But I don't think it will help farmers much." Anand said symptoms of climate change are visible in Jharkhand and other parts of the country.

In 2022, the JMM-led government had on October 29 declared 226 of the 260 blocks of the state as drought-affected and decided to provide a cash relief of ₹3,500 to each affected farmer family under the chief minister's drought relief scheme.

The Jharkhand government had also placed a demand for a financial package of ₹9,682 crore to the Centre for drought-hit blocks in the state. However, the state has not yet received any drought package till date from the Centre, Kumar said.

Garuda to tie up with Goa agri dept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, July 23: Drone maker Garuda Aerospace will collaborate with Goa's Department of Agriculture to conduct a drone yatra, an initiative boosting the usage of drones in this sector.

The company in a statement said that the Goa Agriculture Department has invited them to collaborate in conducting the initiative of the Drone Yatra aiming to create awareness and promote the adoption of drone technology in agriculture.

"This collaboration signifies a joint commitment to harnessing cutting-edge technology for the betterment of agricultural practices in the state. Through their innovative tech-



nology, farmers can now utilize Nano Urea spraying, maximizing efficiency, and productivity," the company said.

The official said that the Drone Yatra in Goa is specially tailored to empower farmers with knowledge about the latest advancements in precision agriculture.

"By utilising Nano Urea spraying through Kisan Drones, farmers can optimise the use of re-

sources, minimise environmental impact, and ultimately increase their yield and income. The Drone Yatra will be conducted in 100 villages in the period of one month," the official said.

In 2022, Union Minister Anurag Thakur flagged off the Drone Yatra 2.0 marking a significant milestone for this ground-breaking project with an aim to cover 755 districts across India.

Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO, Garuda Aerospace said that their mission is to empower farmers with cutting-edge technology that will drive sustainable agricultural practices and boost productivity by enhancing the lives of the farmers.

Soren launches scheme to boost skill development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, July 23: To take the skill development mission up to the block level, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Saturday launched the government's ambitious Mukhya Mantri Sarathi Yojana (MMSY) at a function here.

Stating that skill development centres were mostly located in urban areas earlier, Soren said, "Rural youths used to face numerous problems to get training from such centres. So, the government decided to provide them training in their own blocks. In phased manner, BIRSA centres will be opened in all 264 blocks of the state," he said.

Soren said his government has also decided to provide travel allowance for training and employment incentive in case they did not get employment after training. Under the scheme, youths will be provided training in various skilling programmes so that they could get



The CM also kicked off the Block Level Institute for Rural Skill Acquisition (BIRSA) in 80 blocks under the Sarathi scheme, which is part of Jharkhand Skill Mission

employment or go for self-employment.

In 2023-24, the government aims to provide training to 40,000 rural youths.

If any of the trainees did not get a job after three months of training, an employment incentive of ₹1,000 to boys and ₹1,500 to girls or physically chal-

lenged trainees will be given till the end of the first year through direct benefit transfer (DBT), an official said.

Besides, the trainees will also be provided travel allowance of ₹1,000 to boys and ₹1,500 to girls or physically challenged persons during training. The eligibility for the scheme

has been divided into two categories - general and reserved.

Under the general category, youths in the age group of 18-35 will be provided skill training, while the upper age limit for the reserved category will be 50 years, the official said.

The chief minister transferred travel allowance to bank accounts of 2,178 beneficiaries and employment incentive to accounts of 1,039 beneficiaries on the occasion.

Hitting out at the Centre without taking name, the CM said the country's economy is not in good shape. Price rise is skyrocketing, which has impacted the poor as well as the rich, he added.

Soren added that the current situation of employment in the country is worrying. "Earlier, farmers' children used to go for defence jobs. After the Centre made changes in its recruitment provisions, the youths are in a catch-22 situation whether to join the defence services or not," Soren said.

9th edition of Rainforest Challenge India kicks off

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, July 23: The state of Goa will play host to India's biggest and toughest off-road motorsports event, the Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India, from Saturday till July 29 with 21 teams consisting of some of the best off-rovers from across the country taking part.

Each team, consisting of a driver and a co-driver, will undertake 26 challenges, referred to as Special Stages (SS), during the week-long competition in their specially prepared 4-wheel drive vehicles. The team with the maximum points at the end of all the SS of the competition will be announced as the RFC India 2023 Champions.

The winners of the previous editions of RFC India include Satish Kumar (co-driver Chethan



Chengappa) from Karnataka in 2022, Kabir Waraich (co-driver Dushyant Khosla) from Chandigarh in 2021, Gurmeet Virdi (co-driver Chetan Chengappa) from Chandigarh in 2019, Jagat Nanjappa (co-driver Chetan Chengappa) from Karnataka in 2018, Gurmeet Virdi (co-driver Kirpal Singh Tung) from Chandigarh in 2017 and 2016 as well as Tan Eng Joo (co-driver Tan Choon Hong) of

Malaysia, representing Force Motors, in 2015 and 2014.

The 9th edition of the mega event is back with some much-awaited adrenalin-filled off-road action. The event is organised by the Delhi-based Cougar Motorsport.

The winners of the competition will be announced on July 29 and the top Indian driver of RFC India 2023 will win a free entry to the RFC Global Series 2023 Finale to be held in Malaysia at the end of the year.

RFC India was launched by Cougar Motorsport in 2014 as the India Chapter of the Rainforest Challenge of Malaysia, which is ranked No.3 in the Five Toughest Off-Road Races in the World by Skoda Motorsport (2018) and which has regional chapters in over 30 countries worldwide.

Entry to Dudhsagar waterfall banned

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, July 23: The Goa government Saturday issued an order banning the entry of tourists, trekkers and all persons to the picturesque Dudhsagar waterfall in South Goa, which is located on Goa-Karnataka border.

Many tourists and trekkers used to visit Dudhsagar waterfall during weekends.

A Asvin Chandru, South Goa Collector, in the order has stated "Visitors shall be allowed to enter the Base of the Dudhsagar waterfall area through the prescribed routes only with permit / tickets purchased from designated entry points by Forest Department."



"There shall be a complete ban for the entry of tourists, trekkers and all other persons to

the Dudhsagar waterfall (at or near the railway bridge/ Dudhsagar railway station) either

by trekking/ by train/ walking along the track as it is not a designated tourist point except for authorised personnel of Police, Railways, Forest department and other Government officials on duty," order stated.

Last week, when unauthorised visitors allegedly walked on or along railway tracks to visit Dudhsagar waterfall, were caught by authorities and made to do 'sit-ups' while holding their ears.

According to the order, there have been incidents of drowning and missing tourists visiting the Dudhsagar waterfalls and during attempts at trekking along the railway track and other routes in the past, especially during monsoon season.

PROTEST AGAINST MANIPUR CRISIS

Human chain formed in Ranchi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, July 23: Hundreds of people from the Christian community Sunday formed a 4 km-long human chain here to protest against the incident of women being paraded naked in ethnic strife-torn Manipur.

A special prayer was also organised at St Mary's Cathedral on Ranchi's Purulia Road.

Braving rain, a large number of men and women came together and formed the human chain, which started from Ranchi's Sujata Chowk and concluded near Kantatoli Chowk. Holding posters, banners and pamphlets with messages such as 'save woman', 'stop spreading hatred' and 'give justice to Manipur', they demanded action against those involved in the incident.

The human chain protest was organised by Jharkhand Youth Christian Association (JYCA).

"Objective behind the human chain was to request the Centre

as well as the state government to bring peace in Manipur and stop the crime against women there," JYCA president Kuldeep Tirkey said.

At the St Mary's Cathedral, bishops of churches also participated in a special prayer.

"The purpose of this gathering is to pray that peace is restored in Manipur and the wounds of the people are healed," Ranchi Archbishop Felix Toppo said.

Tension mounted in the hills of Manipur after the May 4 video surfaced Wednesday showing two women being paraded naked by a mob. Till Saturday, six people allegedly involved in the incident have been arrested.

Police said all-out efforts were being made to arrest the remaining culprits by conducting raids at many suspected hideouts. Meanwhile, women workers of the Jharkhand Congress staged protests in all five divisions of the state Sunday.

Goa House okays political reservation for STs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, July 23: The Goa Legislative Assembly has unanimously adopted a private member resolution, moved by ST leader MLA Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar, recommending the government to make provision for political reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly for the Scheduled Tribes of the state.

Opposition Parties supporting the move have also urged the BJP government to push it before the Central government.

In his resolution Gaonkar stated: "This House strongly recommends the Government to make provision for political reservation in the Goa Legislative Assembly for the Scheduled Tribes of Goa State. As per the census of 2011, Scheduled Tribes (ST) constitute 10.23 per cent of Goa's population. This community deserves to be brought into the mainstream, needs support to make the community more educated as well as empowered and hence needs a larger political representation to achieve the same."

"I am very much thankful to all the members of Goa Legislative Assembly for unanimously supporting this resolution. I am sure that our Honorable CM Dr. Pramod Sawant and the BJP government at the Centre will make it happen," Gaonkar, a tall leader of the ST community said after the resolution was adopted.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, speaking over the resolution, said that letters in this regard have been sent to the Central government.

All the seven MLA of Goa Opposition parties have also supported the resolution as the demand has been pending since the last 20 years.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao said that the ST community has threatened to boycott



The ST community was voicing their demand for political reservation for the last two decades

They have also threatened to boycott the Lok Sabha election 2024 if the reservation is not declared before polls

Sanvordem BJP MLA Ganesh Gaonkar by moving the resolution has given hope to the ST community

the Lok Sabha election.

Goa Forward Party MLA Vijai Sardesai said that a double engine government should make it happen.

Congress MLA Carlos Ferreira said that he supports the reservation to empower the ST community.

Revolutionary Goans Party MLA Viresh and AAP MLA Venzy Viegas also supported the resolution.

Fighting for their rights for the

last several years, a section of the Scheduled Tribe community of Goa has threatened to boycott the Lok Sabha election 2024, if the government fails to provide them political reservation in the state assembly.

United under the banner of the 'Mission Political Reservation for Scheduled Tribe of Goa' (MPRSTG), many ST youths have dedicated themselves to achieving the goal.

Knowing the seriousness of the issue, many non-ST politicians have also supported the movement and have drawn the attention of the government by

submitting memorandums in the past.

Speaking to IANS, MPRSTG president Joao Fernandes said that he welcomes the resolution moved by MLA Ganesh Gaonkar, however the State government will have to pursue the matter with the Centre.

In the past ST community took out rallies and tried to draw the attention of the government. According to them, there are around 1.30 lakh ST voters in Goa and hence they should be given political reservation.

In May, the MPRSTG members held a meeting at Lohia Maidan in Margao and resolved to boycott the Lok Sabha election in 2024 if their demand for political reservation was not conceded by the government. The ST leaders had also held a daylong hunger strike at Lohia Maidan.

According to them, if the political reservation is granted, there will be four legislators in the Assembly by default.

Currently there are four ST MLAs in the Assembly, including Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar.



Tourists visit Tirathgarh waterfall during monsoon in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh



A Delhi Metro train moves over the bridge spanning the swollen Yamuna river, in New Delhi. The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi breached the danger mark again Sunday



Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan with martial arts students during the unveiling ceremony of Colachal Warriors status, at Pangode Military station in Thiruvananthapuram



A vendor arranges rakhis at a shop ahead of Raksha Bandhan at Dharavi, in Mumbai



Supporters of the Move Forward Party hold portraits of Pita Limjaroenrat, the leader of Move Forward Party during a protest in Bangkok, Thailand



NDRF personnel rescue a child who fell into a borewell, at Kul village in Nalanda district of Bihar



Boats anchored on the Ganga ghat due to the rise in the water level of the river, in Varanasi

of the day quote

The Gehlot government kept sleeping like 'Kumbhakarna' throughout its tenure and remained embroiled in internal political upheavals, otherwise many works related to public welfare, poverty, unemployment, backwardness could have been started by the government much earlier in public interest

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

The government will soon conduct an e-auction of 808 FM radio stations across 284 cities to further increase the footprint of radio communication

ANURAG THAKUR | INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER

The pain arising from multi-ethnic conflicts in Manipur has its genesis in faulty policies of Congress governments during formative years of the state. Repairing fault lines created by 7 decades of misgovernance will take time

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Flight returns due to AC issue

Thiruvananthapuram: An Air India Express flight from the Kerala state capital to Dubai returned, Sunday, barely a couple of hours after takeoff due to an issue with the air conditioning system of the aircraft, Thiruvananthapuram airport officials said. The flight, IX 539, which took off with 178 people onboard -- including the crew -- from here at 1.19 PM returned back and landed safely at 3:52 pm, an airport official said.

Girl attacked by stray dogs

Kannur: A girl was attacked by a pack of stray dogs in Kannur district of Kerala Sunday morning while she was about to enter her home after alighting from a vehicle, local residents said. Eleven-year-old Ayisha, a resident of Pilathara town in Kannur district, was bitten on her leg by a stray dog and was shifted to a nearby hospital. A local resident said that she got down from an autorickshaw, which came to drop her home and was walking the short distance to her house when the canines pounced on her.

TN couple held

Bangalore: A couple from neighbouring Tamil Nadu has been arrested for hijacking a truck laden with 2.5 tonnes of tomatoes here after faking an accident to extort money. The couple from Vellore, according to police, was part of a gang of highway robbers, that intercepted Mallesh, a farmer from Hiriyur in Chitradurga district, at Chikkajala on July 8 and demanded compensation claiming that his truck had bumped into their car. When the farmer refused to pay them, the gang assaulted and pushed him out of the truck before driving away with the vehicle loaded with tomatoes worth over 2.5 lakhs. Tomato prices have shot up to over Rs 100 per kg in markets across the country recently.

Panic in train

Haridwar: Rumours of a fire in the Lucknow-Chandigarh Sadbhawana Express created panic among passengers Sunday near Raisi station in Laksar area of the district. As the train stopped shortly afterwards at a railway bridge over the swollen Banganga river, the panic stricken passengers got down and crossed the bridge on foot at the risk of their lives.



Let's admit that there were incidents of violence against women in Bihar, West Bengal and Rajasthan. How does that excuse the continuing and relentless violence in Manipur?

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

RESCUE OPERATION CALLED OFF

The National Disaster Response Force has finally called off its search-and-rescue operation in Wednesday's landslide in Irshalwadi in Maharashtra's Raigad district, state minister Uday Samant said Sunday



Manipur violence: Congress targets Biren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The Congress claimed Sunday that there would be no movement towards peace in Manipur as long as N Biren Singh remains the Chief Minister as it urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to act now and not "deflect, distort and defame to cover up" the "collapse of the so-called double engine governance" in the north-eastern state.

The opposition party's attack came over a media report that claimed that an 18-year-old woman, who was abducted, assaulted and gang-raped in Manipur's Imphal East district on May 15, approached the police on July 21, after which a zero First Information Report (FIR) was registered.



Police personnel detain Congress supporters during their protest against Manipur violence in Ahmedabad

41 Meitei people reach Assam from Mizoram

Guwahati/Silchar/Kolkata: Forty-one Meitei people have reached Assam from Mizoram after an ex-militants' group asked the community to leave the state following the viral video of two women being paraded naked in Manipur, officials said Sunday. Cachar's Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said these people reached Silchar from neighbouring Mizoram on Saturday night and they have been kept at the building of the Lakhipur Development Block in Binnakandi area. "These are all well-to-do families and they came in their own vehicles. Some are college professors, while some work as senior government officials. They said that there have been no attacks in Mizoram as of now," he said. They said that the Mizoram government was providing all security to them, but they themselves did not want to take any risk and came to Assam for their own safety, he added.

In a tweet, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Every passing day as the truth of the horror of Manipur continues to trickle out, it is clear that: The law and order in the state has collapsed. Mobs, armed vigilantes and insurgent groups are running amok. Women and families have faced the worst, unimaginable atrocities."

The administration is not only complicit in the violence but

has actively fanned hate, he alleged. Ramesh said the social fabric of the state has been completely torn apart with a total breakdown of trust between communities.

"There won't be any justice or movement towards peace as long as Biren Singh remains CM. The time has long past gone for the Prime Minister to act. He must ACT NOW and not deflect, distort and defame to cover

It's clear that the state government in Manipur has failed totally. And when a state cannot control the situation, why is the Prime Minister silent? He should protect the people of Manipur. If he is concerned about the suffering of the people of Manipur, he must intervene

IROM SHARMILA | CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

There won't be any justice or movement towards peace as long as Biren Singh remains CM. The time has long past gone for the Prime Minister to act. He must ACT NOW and not deflect, distort and defame to cover up collapse of the so-called double engine governance in Manipur

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

up collapse of the so-called double engine governance in Manipur," the Congress leader said on Twitter.

More than 160 people have lost their lives and several have been injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Tension further mounted on Wednesday after a video purportedly shot on May 4 surfaced online, showing two women from one of the warring communities being paraded naked by a group of men from the other side.



Kullu police during a search and rescue operation for missing persons in the Beas river in Kullu district

PTI PHOTO

16 killed in 10 days in Vidarbha, houses damaged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur/Amravati, July 23: At least 16 people were killed in rain-related incidents in parts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in the last 10 days, where nearly 4,500 houses were damaged due to heavy rains, officials said Sunday.

The downpour in the last few days also affected nearly 54,000 hectares of agricultural land, of which more than 53,000 hectares land is located in the Amravati division alone, where 2,796 people were shifted to safer places, mostly in

Yavatmal district.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Sunday said the state government was fully alert to tackle issues caused by excessive rains. In the Nagpur division, Gadchiroli and Bhandara districts witnessed three deaths each, Wardha and Gondia two each and Chandrapur reported one death since July 13, officials said.

The Amravati division recorded four deaths on a single day on July 21 with Yavatmal topping the list with three fatalities, followed by Akola and



The Nagpur division comprises Nagpur, Gondia, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Wardha districts, while the Amravati division consists of Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal, Washim and Buldhana. Heavy rains have been lashing parts of Vidarbha since the past few days. In the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Sunday, Akola recorded 107.9 mm rainfall, followed by Yavatmal-24.0 mm, Wardha-23.4 mm, Amravati-15.6 mm, Nagpur-6.7 mm, Gadchiroli-3.0 mm, Gondia-2.2 mm, Brahmpuri (in Chandrapur)-2.4 mm and Buldhana-2.0 mm, as per the

Stalin invites Manipuri sportspersons to TN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 23: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Sunday invited sportspersons from violence-hit Manipur to train in his state, with his son and sports minister Udhayanidhi assuring all facilities for them in this connection.

Stalin's invitation drew a sharp response from the BJP, with its state unit chief K Annamalai slamming the CM saying he has "woken up from sleep" and was acting like a "politician." The Centre, which had launched the Khelo India games, "also knows how to train the sportspersons" for the tournament.

In a statement, Stalin said the situation in Manipur was not conducive for the sportspersons there to train for events like Khelo India and Asian Games. "I have directed Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin to make arrangements for the Manipur sportspersons in Tamil Nadu," he said. Udhayanidhi has assured to provide "high-quality" facilities on behalf of the Sports department.

Tamil Nadu will be hosting the 2024 edition of the Khelo India games. Manipur was known for producing "champions, especially women champions" and Tamil Nadu was viewing the current state of affairs there with "deep concern and anguish," Stalin said.

The CM said that Tamil culture was living by love and care and highlighted the saying "Yaathum oorey, Yaavarum kelir," meaning "every place is mine, all people are my relatives."

This formed the basis of his

directive on the Manipur sportspersons training in Tamil Nadu, he added. Those from Manipur willing to avail of the benefit could contact +91-8925903047 or email the details including ID proof and training requirements to sportsntr2023@gmail.Com.

Meanwhile, slamming the CM, Annamalai alleged the former has "woken up from sleep" and that "he has no idea what is happening in Manipur."

Referring to the incident of human feces being found in an overhead water tank catering to Dalit residents in Puthukottai's Vengaivayal, Annamalai said over 200 days have passed since the incident but there has been no breakthrough regarding the perpetrators.

As regards Manipur, the Centre and the state government will address the issue, even as six persons have been arrested in connection with the viral video which showed two woman being paraded naked, he told reporters here.

Calling the incident an "injustice," to the victims, Annamalai said the Manipur government has acted on the matter and pointed to chief minister Biren Singh promising efforts to ensure capital punishment for the culprits. He said Manipur had been facing problems for long and that there was "peace only after 2014," when the BJP came to power at the Centre.

"What the CM (Stalin) is doing is not just funny and strange, but also shows he is a full-time politician. We (BJP-led Centre) started Khelo India, we know how to train the sportspersons," he added.

Why BJP wants Modi, Rahul clash

Rahul Gandhi had quit the party President's post long ago and after his disqualification as Lok Sabha MP, he is no longer in the category of "Public Servant" either. He had repeatedly said that he is not a contender for the Prime Minister's post. Insiders say that he will be a contender only when the Congress gets 272 seats in Lok Sabha or somewhere near it. His only objective is to unite the Opposition parties to dislodge Modi. Yet the BJP leadership is desperate to turn the 2024 battle into PM Modi vs Rahul Gandhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah pits Rahul Gandhi against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 2024 Lok Sabha polls in his public rallies. The BJP leaders continue to mock and ridicule the Gandhi scion. Perhaps, the BJP leadership believes that Rahul Gandhi is the soft target despite the fact that he has come a long way particularly after his "Bharat Jodo Yatra." The public perception about Rahul Gandhi has also undergone a

change and gone are the days when he used to trip during public speeches. His image makeover has surprised many.

Non-aligned parties hold the key

The AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will face a tough time to defeat Centre's Delhi Services Bill replacing the Ordinance in the Rajya Sabha even as the Congress pledged its support to him. If the government doesn't have a clear majority in the Rajya Sabha, the same goes for the 24 parties' Opposition alliance too. The BJP and its allies have 105 votes in the kitty in a House of 238. The BJP will need 120 votes to ensure the passage of the controversial bill currently engaging the attention of the Supreme Court. In addition, the government has the support of five nominated and two Independents MPs taking the total to 112. If two members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha the tally can go up to 114. The Janata Dal (S) and TDP

having one MP each in RS are also in touch with the BJP. Therefore, a decision by the YSR Congress (9), BJD (9) and BSP (1) who together have the support of 19 MPs will hold the key to the fate of the Delhi Services Bill. If these parties remain absent during the time of voting, the government can sail through easily as the strength of the Rajya Sabha will come down to 219. Kejriwal will have to work hard to woo these non-aligned parties to support him in the Rajya Sabha to ensure the Bill's defeat.

No VP post for Priyanka

The AICC is agog with reports that party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra may be promoted as Vice President along with K C Venugopal who is general secretary (organization). However, Rahul Gandhi seems to have torpedoed this plan saying that no member of the Gandhi family will hold any key position. Rahul Gandhi is also of the firm view that AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge be allowed to constitute his own organization team for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It is a different

matter that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's role may be enlarged in view of her growing appeal as a star campaigner. She had made a mark in the party's win in Himachal Pradesh and also in Karnataka.

Desperate search for allies

It is a bizarre situation never witnessed before in the political arena where ruling and principal Opposition parties tried hard to rope in as many new allies as possible before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. If the BJP claims to have roped in 38 allies into the NDA, the Congress also claimed a huge figure of 26 parties in Bangalore. There is considerable surprise over BJP's desperation to get more and more allies irrespective of the fact that 24 of them didn't have a single MP in the Lok Sabha and seven have just one Lok Sabha seat. For almost four years, the BJP hardly held a meeting of the NDA even once after Modi won in May 2019. One of the reasons attributed to the allegations is that the BJP

leadership in states worked meticulously to weaken its allies to ensure a majority on its own. Be it Bihar or Maharashtra or Punjab, the BJP kept experimenting with this formula to strengthen its own vote bank. But all of a sudden it changed strategy and opened its doors for all and sundry. Even the PM sat with new found allies over the dinner table and projected as if he is their best friend. The Congress leadership is also walking an extra mile to placate more and more allies even at its own cost.



of the day quote

All Islamic scholars agree that those who desecrate the Koran deserved the most severe punishment. The duty of that (Swedish) government is to hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER

Mass illegal immigration harms each and every one of us. No one benefits from this, except criminal groups who get rich at the expenses of the most fragile and use their strength even against the governments

GIORGIA MELONI | ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration

KAIS SAIED | TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Israel PM undergoes pacemaker surgery

Jerusalem: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday underwent a successful pacemaker implantation procedure, a surgery scheduled just days before the Knesset is set to vote on a controversial judicial reform bill that has paralysed the whole country. Last week, Netanyahu, 73, was hospitalised from Saturday to Sunday after he complained of dizziness following a trip Friday to the Sea of Galilee, where he acknowledged spending several hours in the sun and in scorching heat "without a hat, without water."

11 dead in arson attack in Mexico

Mexico City: At least 11 people were killed and six others injured after a man who was removed from a bar for disrespecting women, returned and threw a lit object in San Luis Rio Colorado city in Mexico's Sonora state, said local authorities. The authorities in Mexico said that they have arrested the accused, CNN reported.

Seasonal floods hit eastern China

Beijing: Floods caused by heavy rain hit eastern China, leaving at least five dead and three missing while over 1,500 people were evacuated, state media reported Sunday. China National Radio said the massive floods swept through a village in the Fuyang district of the city of Hangzhou, engulfing many houses on Saturday afternoon.

Nine dead in bus mishap

Bogota: At least nine people were killed and 30 others injured after a bus fell into a ravine in the Colombian department of Santander, a police commander said. On Saturday, a vehicle belonging to Expreso Brasilia unfortunately lost control and rolled down a cliff between Playon and La Esperanza, approximately 25 km past Playon, police commander Jose James Roa said.

Spain votes

Madrid: Voters are going to the polls in Spain Sunday in a general election that could make the country the latest European Union member to swing to the political right. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez called the early election after his Spanish Socialist Workers Party and its far-left partner, Unidas Podemos, took a severe beating in local and regional elections in May. Sánchez has been premier since 2018.



The government would introduce a maximum retail price for fuel. Based on the pricing formula we will set a MRP

D V CHANAKA | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY OF SL

HUN SEN'S RULING PARTY CLAIMS LANDSLIDE WIN

The ruling party of Cambodia's longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen claimed a landslide victory in Sunday's general election, an outcome that was virtually assured thanks to the suppression and intimidation of the opposition in a vote critics said made a farce of democracy



Ishaq Dar to be Pak's interim PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, July 23: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party is considering proposing the name of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar as the caretaker prime minister of the cash-strapped country once the term of the current National Assembly ends next month, a media report said Sunday. The tenure of Pakistan's current government will end August 14 and the Election Commission will announce the date for the next general election, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said.

The Pakistani media has reported that the current federal government led by Prime Minister Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly August 8, days ahead of the expiry of its term. Dar's name came into focus as the Shehbaz Sharif-led government mulled changes in the Elections Act 2017 to empower the upcoming caretaker set-up to take decisions beyond its constitutional mandate, with a view to ensure continuity of the recently rolled out economic plan and expedite the process aimed at receiving foreign investment in state-owned entities, reported *The Express Tribune* newspaper.

Rhodes wildfire forces mass evacuations

AGENCIES

Athens, July 23: Some 19,000 people have been evacuated from the Greek island of Rhodes as wildfires continued burning for a sixth day on three fronts, Greek authorities said Sunday.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Civil Protection said it was "the largest evacuation from a wildfire in the country." Local police said that 16,000 people were evacuated by land and 3,000 by sea from 12 villages and several hotels.

Six people were briefly hospitalised with respiratory problems and were later released. A person who fell and broke their leg during a hotel evacuation and a pregnant woman remain hospitalised, the latter in good condition, authorities say.

Package holiday companies TUI and Jet2 have cancelled flights to Rhodes. Jet2 said it was cancelling five flights due to leave for Rhodes Sunday.

It said it would fly the five planes to Rhodes empty to bring back customers on the island. TUI said it was cancelling all its flights to the island until at least Tuesday.

British tourist Kevin Evans was evacuated twice Saturday with his wife and three young children — first from Kiotari to Gennadi, then as the fire approached to the island's capital in the northeast, he told Britain's PA news agency. Rhodes travel agent Stelios Kotiadis confirmed



A man carries a child as they leave an area where a forest fire burns on the island. Volunteers fought to extinguish a blaze that blackened the hillside and charred buildings near Lindos

to the Associated Press that the evacuation was hasty.

The British ambassador to Greece, Matthew Lodge, said the UK government was sending a rapid deployment team to support British nationals on Rhodes.

The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that personnel were on their way to Rhodes to set up a help desk at Rhodes International Airport for visitors who have lost their travel documents.

Fire Brigade spokesman Yannis Artopios said that, early

Sunday afternoon, 266 fire-fighters and 49 engines were operating on the ground, together with hundreds of volunteers.

Ten firefighting planes, including two from France, two from Turkey and one from Croatia, are operating in the area, as well as eight helicopters.

There are substantial reinforcements from the European Union.

"Over 450 firefighters and seven airplanes from the EU

have been operating in Greece as fires sprout across the country," EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic tweeted early Sunday afternoon.

In the mountainous part of Rhodes, an active front of the wildfire, firefighters have been trying to stop the blaze from spreading to nearby dense forests.

The weather remains hot in the Mediterranean country on Sunday. Before midday, temperatures had already reached 38 C (100 F). Winds were low but are

notoriously variable in Rhodes, as in other Greek islands.

Some of the evacuated, including tourists, are being accommodated in other hotels, gyms and a conference centre.

A shipping company has offered one of its ships for accommodation. Kotiadis, the travel agent, told the

Associated Press that three ships are being used. Authorities have designated an unprecedentedly large part of the mainland, the whole eastern part of central and southern

Greece, plus the islands of Evia and Rhodes as well as large swaths of the southwest, as Category 5, the highest for risk of fire outbreaks as of Sunday.

A further chunk of Greece has been designated Category 4, very high risk.

Temperatures reached 43 C (110 F) in the capital, Athens, Sunday afternoon and 45 C (113 F) in the interior plains of central Greece.

A relative respite from the heat Monday, with highs of 38 C (100 F) forecast, will be followed by yet another heat wave from Tuesday that will last until at least Friday, meteorologists have warned.

Russian air strike on Odesa badly damages Orthodox cathedral



AGENCIES

Odesa, July 23: Russia struck the Ukrainian Black Sea city of Odesa again Sunday, local officials said, keeping up a barrage of attacks that has damaged critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine in the past week.

At least one person was killed and 22 others wounded in the attack in the early hours.

Russia has been launching persistent attacks on Odesa, a key hub for exporting grain, since Moscow canceled a landmark grain deal Monday amid Kyiv's grinding efforts to retake its occupied territories.

Kiper noted that six residential buildings, including apartment buildings, were destroyed by the strikes.

In one such case in downtown Odesa, some people became trapped in their apartments as a result of the damage caused by

Missiles against peaceful cities, against residential buildings, a cathedral. There will definitely be a retaliation against Russian terrorists for Odesa. They will feel this retaliation

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

the attack, which left rubble strewn in the street and partly blocking the road, and damage to power lines.

Odesa's historic centre was designated an endangered World Heritage Site by the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, earlier this year, despite Russian opposition. The ministry said in a statement that the strikes were carried out with sea- and air-based long-range high-precision weapons, and that there are "foreign mercenaries" at the targeted sites.

Earlier Russian attacks this week crippled significant parts of export facilities in Odesa and nearby Chornomorsk and destroyed 60,000 tons of grain, according to Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry. The attacks come days after President Vladimir Putin pulled Russia out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a wartime deal that enabled Ukraine's exports to reach many countries facing the threat of hunger.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets people outside the Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas, in Kronstadt, a seaport town in the suburb of St. Petersburg, Russia

Sudan war enters 100th day as mediation attempts fail

REUTERS

Khartoum, July 23: Clashes flared in parts of Sudan on the 100th day of the war Sunday as mediation attempts by regional and international powers fail to find a path out of an increasingly intractable conflict.

The fighting broke out on April 15 as the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) vied for power, since when more than 3 million people have been uprooted, including more than



700,000 who have fled to neighbouring countries.

Some 1,136 people have been killed, according to the health ministry, though officials be-

lieve the number is higher.

Neither the army nor the RSF has been able to claim victory, with the RSF's domination on the ground in the capital

Khartoum up against the army's air and artillery firepower.

Infrastructure and government in the capital have fallen apart while fighting has spread westwards, particularly to the fragile Darfur region, as well as to the south, where the rebel SPLM-N group has tried to gain territory. Over the weekend, the RSF moved into villages in Gezira State directly south of Khartoum, where the army conducted air strikes against them, according to witnesses.

FLASH FLOODS KILL DOZENS IN AFGHAN, PAKISTAN

AGENCIES

Islamabad, July 23: Heavy flooding from seasonal rains in Afghanistan killed at least 31 people and left dozens missing over the past three days, while in neighbouring Pakistan 13 people died due to heavy rains and landslides.

Shafiullah Rahimi, the ruling Taliban's appointed spokesman for Afghanistan's State Ministry for Natural Disaster Management, said Sunday that at least 31 people were killed, 74 were injured and 41 others were missing.

Floods hit the capital, Kabul, the Maidan Wardak and Ghazni provinces. He added that the majority of the casualties were in west Kabul and Maidan Wardak.

Rahimi also said around 250 livestock perished in the floods.

The flooding brought further misery to the already suffering Afghanistan. In April, the UN's humanitarian affairs agency said the south Asian country is facing its third consecutive year of drought, its second year of severe economic hardship and the consequences of decades of war and natural disasters.

The most recent flash flood happened in the Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak province west of Kabul, killing 12 people, said Taliban government spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. At least 40 other people were missing and rescue teams were busy conducting search and rescue operations, he said.

The provincial governor's office in a statement said that hun-



dreds of homes were either damaged or destroyed and the missing are believed to be under the rubble of collapsed homes.

The statement also said that hundreds of square miles of agricultural land were washed

out and destroyed and the highway between Kabul and the central Bamiyan province was closed due to the floods.

In Pakistan, 13 people died and seven were injured due to heavy rains and landslides as

Nova Scotia declares state of emergency

Ottawa: A state of emergency has been declared in the eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia to fight severe flooding, authorities said. The Nova Scotia Government's Emergency Management Office said that the order is in place to protect the entire province as the storm progresses. Some areas in the province received up to 300 mm of rain in less than 24 hours since Friday afternoon.

monsoon season continued to affect parts of the country Sunday.

In the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, nine people lost their lives over the

last 48 hours in rain-related incidents. In the Skardu area of the Gilgit Baltistan region, four family members died when a massive landslide hit their car, according to police officer Raja Mirza Hassan.

Taimur Khan, a spokesman of the provincial disaster management authority, said heavy rainfall and thunderstorms damaged at least 74 houses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The provincial authorities declared an emergency in the Chitral district as rainfall triggered flash floods in the mountainous area.

Since the start of monsoon from June 25, the country has witnessed 101 deaths including 16 women and 42 children, according to the national disaster management authority.

of the day quote

For this year, our focus is not international. We are putting (building) blocks so that by next year, we should start looking at international. This year, we are trying to test the waters with some markets

AMAN GUPTA | CO-FOUNDER, BOAT

As the volumes grow, as we have done with every other product, we will localise them (EVs), and we will produce them (locally)

VIKRAM PAWAH | PRESIDENT, BMW GROUP

So last year our domestic sales were about 2.54 lakh units while exports stood at around 80,000 units. So we did about 3.34 lakh units overall. So this year we are looking at about 8-10 per cent growth

HARDEEP S BRAR | HEAD (SALES AND MARKETING), KIA INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Power use grows marginally in Q1

New Delhi: Power consumption grew marginally by 1.8 per cent year-on-year to 407.76 billion units in the April-June quarter, mainly due to unseasonal rains, the Biparjoy cyclone and heavy Monsoon downpours, according to the government data. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) data showed that the power consumption was 400.44 billion units (BU) in the April-June quarter in 2022 and recorded a growth of 17.6 per cent compared to 340.37 BU in the same period of 2021. The peak power demand rose to 223.23 GW in April-June 2023 from 215.88 GW in the same period in 2022. It was 193.99 GW in April-June 2021. Thus, the peak power demand growth has remained subdued in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

Reliance Retail revamps Trends

New Delhi: Reliance Retail said it is revamping Trends fashion stores across the country by adding contemporary and tech-enabled features ranging from self-checkout counters to electronic shelf labels to attract customers of younger generations. Reliance Retail is revamping around 150 Trends stores pan-India with a new brand identity. The stores will have a new look right from the façade to fixtures, lighting, ceiling and flooring, becoming more aspirational for shoppers, the retailer said.

Harley, Triumph in first gear of challenge to RE's reign

THE HD X 440 AND THE TRIUMPH 400S WERE LAUNCHED IN INDIA WITH DOMESTIC PARTNERS TO BRING PRICES BELOW ₹2,33,000

REUTERS

Bangalore, July 23: US big-bike maker Harley-Davidson and British rival Triumph have revved up India's premium motorcycle market with aggressively priced models that analysts said could dent the over half-century dominance of local champion Royal Enfield. The duo surprised the industry this month by unveiling their cheapest models globally in the largest motorbike market by sales, where their expensive imports have long struggled for market share. This time, they are making the bikes in India with domestic partners to bring prices below ₹2,33,000. The similar, near-simultaneous change in approach by two of the industry's most storied brands represents one of the biggest challenges to Royal Enfield's virtual monopoly in high-end motorcycles, coming

No special policy for Tesla

THE US-BASED ELECTRIC CAR MAKER CAN SEEK INCENTIVES UNDER EXISTING PLI SCHEMES, SAYS AN OFFICIAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: The government so far is not looking to frame a separate policy for providing incentives to US-based electric car maker Tesla, and the company can apply to avail support measures under existing schemes like PLI for auto and advanced chemistry cells, a government official has said. The government has already rolled out the production-linked incentives schemes (PLI) for advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery storage with an outlay of ₹18,100 crore and ₹26,058 crore PLI scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries. "We have told Tesla that the policies, which are already there for all, they can also apply under that PLI. They are welcome. Generally, the policy will be the same for all. For a single company, the government may not like to make separate policies. So far, there is no plan to give special treatment," the official said. Representatives of Tesla's biggest supplier of batteries Panasonic have met "us and they have stated that they want to make batteries. We have sug-

Bain Capital snaps up Adani Capital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 23: Global private equity major Bain Capital has agreed to acquire 90 per cent of the equity capital of Adani Capital, the shadow banking arm of the diversified Adani group, which lends to small businesses and for low-cost homes, but couldn't make a mark since launch six years ago. The transaction value which is undisclosed includes buying out 100 per cent of the Adani family's private investments in the company, with the incumbent chief executive Gaurav Gupta fully rolling his stake in the company and continuing to lead. However, a source told PTI that the deal is for around Rs 1,600 crore of which around Rs 400 crore will immediately flow into the company. Bain Capital has also committed \$120 million in primary capital to facilitate the company's ongoing growth. Further, Bain is also immediately making available a \$50 million liquidity line to the company in the form of non-convertible debentures, a statement from the PE major said late Sunday night. The statement also quoted Gautam Adani, the group chairman that he was happy that a credible investor like Bain is stepping in now and this will help the business grow manifold from here.

at a time of rising spending in India in premium segments across categories as varied as mobile phones and cars. Such is the threat, the back-to-back launches pushed Royal Enfield maker Eicher Motors' stock price down as much as 12.5% and prompted brokerages to flag earnings risk for at least two years - even though Harley-Davidson and Triumph sales currently pale in comparison to those of Royal Enfield. The pricing and brand cachet of the Harley-Davidson X440 and Triumph Speed 400 could cut Royal Enfield's share of India's 250 cc-plus segment to 75% from over 90%, Kotak said. Royal Enfield's nearest model is the Classic 350 starting at ₹1,93,000.

ROYAL CHALLENGE

The new models mark a return to India for Harley-Davidson and a huge step up for Triumph, but they are up against Royal



As base metals are our (company's) area of interest and lithium being one of them, we look forward to exploring the opportunities as such metals are going to be the future which will drive the new world

ARUN MISHRA | CEO, HINDUSTAN ZINC

gested them to apply under PLI ACC batteries", the official added. The government last week announced the re-bidding of production-linked incentives for 20 GWh advanced chemistry cell manufacturing. The Ministry of Heavy Industries is holding a stakeholder consultation with industry representatives July 24 for their inputs and suggestions before the start of the re-bidding process of the remaining 20 GWh capacity. The representatives of Tesla visited the country last month to meet officials of various ministries, including the Commerce and Industry Ministry. In 2021, the US-based electric car maker demanded a reduction in import duties on electric vehicles (EVs) in India. At present, cars imported as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above \$40,000. The world's largest electric car producer Tesla Inc's chief Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month in New York.

FPIs stay invested in Indian equities

Inflow in the equity market reached ₹1.2L-cr so far in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Indian equity markets continue to draw foreign portfolio investments as foreign investors put in ₹43,800 crore in July so far on stable macroeconomic fundamentals, steady earnings growth and challenges faced by the Chinese economy. With this, inflow in the equity market reached ₹1.2 lakh crore so far this year, data with the depositories showed. Market analysts are of the

HYPE DIES DOWN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: When Meta launched Threads, it was billed as a "Twitter-killer" as 100 million signed up within days of launch. But just like other rivals to Twitter, Threads seems to be losing traction. New data apps tracking firm Sensor Tower indicates the hype has died down and Threads has seen a 20 per cent decrease in active users and a 50 per cent reduction in time spent on the app, from 20 minutes to 10 minutes. Twitter had seen about a 5



Only 0.8% EVs in India out of 34cr vehicles registered

Electric vehicles constitute a miniscule 0.8 per cent of the total number of vehicles registered in the country, despite government pushing for greener vehicles since 2015. According to an official data, out of the total slightly over 34 crore vehicles registered with road transport ministry's e-vahan portal, as July 14, 2023, only over 27 lakh vehicles were registered as electrical vehicles. As many as 34,00,08,524 vehicles were registered with the transport ministry till July 14. Out of these only 27,44,019 were registered as electrical vehicles. In other words, electric vehicles are only 0.8 per cent of the total vehicles registered in the country. Also, only Delhi leads all Indian states in terms of highest number of electric vehicles registered. For an over 27 lakh electric vehicles registered in the country (as July 14, 2023), there are only 8,738 public charging stations, which are operational as June 30, 2023.

Musk, after meeting the Prime Minister, said he plans to visit India in 2024. "I am confident that Tesla will be in India, and we will do so as soon as humanly possible," Musk had said after that meeting. "We don't want to jump the gun on an announcement, but I think it's



view that the outlook for FPI inflows into Indian equities remains quite bright and broad-based. According to the data, FPIs have been continuously buying Indian equities since March and infused ₹43,804 crore this month (till July 21). This also marks the third straight month, when the net flows have surpassed ₹40,000 crore mark. It was ₹47,148 crore

LEXUS TO ENTER USED CAR BIZ; 1ST EV BY '25

Luxury carmaker Lexus from next year is looking to foray into the used car business in India, having now completed six years in the market, according to a top company official. Known for its self-charging hybrid cars, Lexus is also gearing up to roll out its first electric model in the country by 2025



SAFE HAVEN

Gold ETFs snap three-quarters of outflow in Q1

A weak dollar, strong demand by central banks, and still elevated global inflation are supportive of gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: After three straight quarters of outflows, gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) attracted ₹298 crore in the April-June period, and experts believe that investors will continue to invest some portion of their assets in the safe haven product. However, the inflows were down by almost 80 per cent compared to the year-ago period. On the other hand, the asset base of gold ETFs and investors' account or folio numbers increased in the quarter under review, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) data showed.

According to data, gold-linked ETFs have seen an inflow of ₹298 crore in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal (2023-24). This came following an outflow of ₹1,243 crore in the March quarter, ₹320 crore in the December quarter and ₹165 crore in the September quarter. Before that, Gold ETFs witnessed an inflow of ₹1,438 crore in the quarter ended June 2022. Gold, with its superlative performance over the last few years, has attracted significant investor interest and the consistent surge in its folio numbers is a testimony of the same. The folio numbers in gold ETFs climbed by 1.5 lakh to 47.52 lakh in the June quarter from 46.06 lakh a year earlier. This shows that investors have become more inclined toward gold-related funds.

GOLD ETFs ATTRACT ₹298CR IN JUNE QUARTER
80% INFLOW DIP COMPARED TO YEAR-AGO PERIOD



The flows into the category have been slowing down over the last few months. This could be largely attributed to investors drifting towards better-performing asset classes such as equities

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (MANAGER RESEARCH), MORNINGSTAR INDIA

Further, the assets under management of gold ETFs surged by 10 per cent to ₹22,340 cr in June 2023 from ₹20,249 crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal. "Most of the increase in AUM has been on account of the rally in INR gold price. Over the last one-year INR gold prices have moved up by more than 10 per cent," Sanctum Wealth's Yadav said. Gold ETFs, which track the domestic physical gold price, are passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in gold bullion. In short, gold ETFs are units representing physical gold which may be in paper or dematerialized form. One gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. They combine the flexibility of stock investments and the simplicity of gold investments.

5 of top-10 most valued firms add ₹4.23L-cr in mcap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 23: Five of the top-10 most valued firms together added ₹4,23,014.4 crore in market valuation last week, with major contributions coming in from HDFC Bank, which recently completed the merger with its mortgage financier parent HDFC. HDFC Bank Thursday became the second most valuable company by market capitalisation, overtaking IT behemoth Tata Consultancy Services. Last week, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 623.36 points or 0.94 per cent. While HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance were the gainers, Reliance, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and Bharti Airtel suffered erosion from their market valuation last week. HDFC Bank's market valuation jumped ₹3,43,107.78 crore to reach ₹12,63,070.52 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of State Bank of India zoomed ₹27,220.07 crore to ₹5,48,819.01 crore, and that of ICICI Bank jumped ₹24,575.78 crore to ₹6,97,413.50 crore. ITC added ₹21,972.81 crore, taking its valuation to ₹6,09,924.24 crore. The mcap of Bajaj Finance climbed ₹6,137.96 crore to ₹4,59,425.99 crore. However, the market valuation of Reliance Industries fell by ₹1,37,138.56 crore to ₹17,15,895.17 crore. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance remained the most valued company, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance.



These are aspirational brands. For people who were thinking of buying a Harley or Triumph earlier, the price points weren't accessible. Now, they are

RISHI VORA | AUTO ANALYST, KOTAK SECURITIES

dealer network in 2020. It sold fewer than 30,000 motorcycles - less than the number of bikes Royal Enfield sells each month. It then partnered Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest motorcycle maker, to develop and sell a range of Harley-Davidson branded bikes in India, starting with the X440.

Triumph was selling about 1,200 motorcycles annually in India when, also in 2020, it tied up with Bajaj Auto to build mid-capacity bikes, with Bajaj handling distribution. Triumph said it has received orders for over 14,000 Speed 400 bikes, exceeding its total India sales of the past decade.

No Asian games
for Ravi Dahiya

New Delhi: In a huge upset, Olympic silver medalist Ravi Dahiya was Sunday knocked out of the Asian Games trials by unheralded Atish Todkar. The latter created a flutter at the IG Stadium here by pinning the elite Indian wrestler in a pulsating 57kg bout. Dahiya, called a ‘machine’ for his tremendous skills and endurance, would not have expected such a resistance from Todkar, who hails from Maharashtra. Not only did Todkar ‘pin’ Dahiya, but also was leading by points after executing some breathtaking moves. Todkar was leading 20-8 at the time when he had Dahiya’s shoulders on the mat.

Shubhankar eyes 1st
top-10 spot in Major

Hoyleake (Liverpool): Going toe-to-toe with the best in the world, golfer Shubhankar Sharma continued to stay in the top-10 at the Major he grew up watching on television in faraway India. Sharma, who turned 27 Friday, while moving into the tied-fourth place at the 151st Open, was still in the vicinity at four-under through 36 holes. He was tied ninth, the third successive day he was in the top-10 of a Major. Landing an eagle from 36 feet besides picking 14 pars in the first 15 holes, Sharma stayed patient and out of trouble and when he did get into it he came out well enough for pars. Sharma has now played rounds of 68-71-70 for a total of three-under 209.

Close shave for Kiwi
eves football team

Auckland: New Zealand’s women’s football World Cup squad had to be evacuated from a downtown hotel here late Saturday night after several small fires broke out. New Zealand police have detained and charged a 34-year-old man with burglary and arson and for causing the fires. He will be produced at the district court here Monday. It was the second security incident within three days at the World Cup, following a fatal shooting near team hotels on the first morning of the tournament. Later Sunday, the Kiwi team said in a statement that all the players were safe.

Alcaraz continues
his winning streak

Nice (France): Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz beat No. 15-ranked Borna Coric of Croatia 6-3, 6-7(6-8) 10-5 in the Hopman Cup. The third set was decided on super tie-break with the player reaching 10 points first being declared the winner. The top-ranked Spaniard, who beat 23-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic in a five-set Wimbledon thriller last Sunday, had only three aces compared to six for Coric but saved the two breakpoints. It was Alcaraz’s second straight victory here after winning Friday against David Goffin of Belgium.

Thirimanne retires

Chennai: After a 12-year career, Sri Lankan batter Lahiru Thirimanne announced his retirement from international cricket Sunday. The 33-year-old Sri Lankan featured in 44 Tests, 127 ODIs and 26 T20Is, having made his debut in 2010. He was a member of the Sri Lankan team that won the T20 World Cup in 2014. He also led the side in five ODIs. “As a player, I have given my best, I have tried my best, I have respected the game, and I have done my duty honestly and ethically to my motherland,” Thirimanne wrote on Facebook. “It was a difficult decision to make, but I had to do it,” he added.

Silver for shooters

New Delhi: The Indian men’s trap team comprising Bakhtyaruddin Malek, Shardul Vihaan and Arya Vansh Tyagi have won a silver medal at the ongoing ISSF World Junior Championship in Changwon, Korea. This was India’s 15th medal of the event. The trio shot a combined 346, while shotgun powerhouse Italy took the gold medal with a total of 356. Earlier, none of the Indian men’s trap shooters were able to make it to the individual finals and were knocked out in qualification.

Judokas shine

New Delhi: India won five medals Sunday, including three gold medals, at the ongoing Junior Asia Cup Judo Championships in Macau, China. Asmita Dey, who competed in the women’s 48kg grabbed the gold, along with Unnati Sharma (63kg) and Arun Kumar (73kg). Yash Ghangas, competing in the 100-plus kg category, signed off with a silver medal while Shraddha Kadubal Chopade earned the bronze medal.

Chirag, Satwik win Korea Open

INDIAN PAIR STUNS WORLD NO. 1 DOUBLES TEAM EN ROUTE TO WINNING 2ND SUCCESSIVE TITLE



SHINING STARS: Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy are all smiles as they pose with their trophies after winning the Korea Open title, Sunday

PHOTO: BFI TWITTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yeosu (Korea), July 23: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty continued their dream run, clinching the men’s doubles title at the Korea Open with a gritty three-game win over World No.1 Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia in the final here Sunday. Playing their fourth final of the year, the World No. 3 Indians rallied their way to a

17-21, 21-13, 21-14 win over the two-time World Championships bronze medallists Alfian and Ardianto in a thrilling summit clash of the Super 500 badminton tournament.

“The way we played today (Sunday) in the finals, didn’t start off that well but happy that we could win that second game and keep the momentum until the very end. Yes, extremely happy that we could win consecutive titles after the

Indonesia Open.” Chirag said after the match.

The reigning Commonwealth Games champions thus extended their winning streak to 10 matches. It was another feather on their caps, following their triumph at the Swiss Open, Asian Championships and Indonesia Open this year.

“It’s been pretty good week for us. We played some amazing badminton throughout the week and I am happy with the per-

2nd ATP title of
2023 for Nagal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tampere (Finland), July 23: Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal beat Dalibor Srvcina of the Czech Republic in straight sets to clinch the Tampere Open title here Sunday. Nagal beat Srvcina 6-4 7-5 to emerge victorious.

It happens to be Nagal’s fourth ATP Challenger title in five outings, with this being his second crown this year. He had earlier won the Garden Open tournament in Rome in April.

Nagal was off to a wobbly start in the match, losing his first service game as Srvcina raced to a 3-0 lead and extended it to 4-1. However, the Indian fought back winning five games on the trot breaking his rival thrice to close out the first set quite easily.

In the second set, it was a very close affair. Nagal raced into a 4-1 lead and looked all

Poland bans
Russian player

Warsaw: Russian tennis player Vera Zvonareva has been banned from entering Poland, the country’s Ministry of the Interior said Sunday. She was to participate in a WTA 250 tournament which begins here Monday. The ministry website said that the former World No. 2 flew in from Belgrade on a French visa. She remained in the transit zone of the Warsaw airport and, Saturday, flew to Podgorica, Montenegro. Poland, which supports Ukraine in its war against Russia’s aggression, said that Zvonareva was on a banned list and has not been allowed into the country for reasons of state and public security.

set to close the match out. However, the fifth-seed Czech broke Nagal twice to come back strongly into the match.

Nagal again broke Srvcina to lead 5-3. However, serving for the match he was broken again as the Czech player restored parity at 5-5. Not to be outdone, Nagal again broke his opponent to lead 6-5 and then closed out the match by holding his serve.

The last game however, was a thrilling affair with Srvcina saving three match points. However, in the end Nagal prevailed.

Max maxes Hungarian circuit

SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE F1 WIN OF THE SEASON FOR THE DUTCHMAN

AGENCIES

Budapest, July 23: Formula One (F1) champion Max Verstappen needed only a few seconds to stamp his authority on the Hungarian Grand Prix here Sunday and win his seventh straight race of a crushingly dominant season. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton started from pole position ahead of Verstappen, who muscled the former out at the first corner and never looked back.

Red Bull’s 12th straight win, including the final race of 2022, broke McLaren’s record for consecutive team wins set in 1988.

“That was so enjoyable to drive, 12 in a row that is unbelievable,” Verstappen said. “Unbelievable. I was really enjoying that last stint,” the Dutchman added.

Verstappen is cruising toward



MAN IN FORM: Max Verstappen proudly displays his trophy and a champagne bottle after his victory Sunday at Budapest

PHOTO: F1 TWITTER

a third straight F1 title. His ninth victory overall — complete with another bonus point for the fastest lap — means the 25-year-old already leads his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez by 110

points. Verstappen’s career win total now stands at 44 — the same as Hamilton’s.

McLaren driver Lando Norris finished second and Perez was third followed by Hamilton.

Sizzling Siraj show
sinks West Indies

India take huge 183 runs lead in first innings

AGENCIES

Port of Spain, July 23: Rain played spoilsport as India went in for the kill against the West Indies on the fourth day of the second cricket Test here Sunday. After Mohammed Siraj’s second flier in Test cricket, helped India dismiss the hosts for 255 in the first innings, the Men in Blue’s efforts for quick scoring were constantly thwarted by frequent showers. India’s lead is now over 300 runs with one day left.

At the time of going to the press, India were 118 for two in their second innings with



Shubman Gill (10 batting) and Ishan

Kishan (eight batting) at the crease. The two Indian wickets to fall were that of skipper Rohit

Mohammed Siraj appeals

extended the lead to 18-12 and duly closed it out when Satwik played a lovely cross-court smash.

It was the 10 successive win for the India in international tournaments. “We hope that we can keep up the good work. We cannot relax now as qualification for the Paris Olympics is of utmost importance. We have to win as many matches we can to keep the confidence level high,” Chirag said while talking to reporters.

PAK RIDE ON TAHIR TON

Pakistan win Asia Cup defeating Boys in Blue by a massive margin of 128 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, July 23: Tayyab Tahir’s (108, 71b, 12x4, 4x6) exceptional hundred garnished Pakistan A’s march to a commanding 128-run win over India A, for a second consecutive Emerging Teams Asia Cup title, here Sunday. Once Pakistan posted a mammoth 352 for eight courtesy Tahir’s century, India’s fortunes were clearly written.

India started off well, but then collapsed to 224 all out in 40 overs to suffer their first defeat in this tournament.

From the toss, everything went south for India, who asked Pakistan to bat first — a decision which was a tad puzzling because the chasing team had lost eight matches in the tournament. However, Pakistan A, who fielded as many as eight players with international experience, were in mood to give a return gift to India A, who fielded a purely U-23 side with no experience of top-flight cricket.

Pakistan went off the blocks like a super-charged car, scoring over six runs and the run-rate subsequently crossed the seven runs per over mark. Openers Saim Ayub (59, 51b, 7x4, 2x6) and Sahibzada Farhan (65, 62b, 4x4, 4x6) added 121 runs in just 17.2 overs, fully utilising a fresh surface and hard ball. However, despite the start, India reduced Pakistan to 187 for five and it looked as the Boys in Blue had come back into the game. However, Tahir quelled



Tayyab Tahir hits out during his match-winning knock against India, Sunday

India’s hopes of bundling out Pakistan early with an innings of rare quality.

India’s success in this tournament was built around their spin troika of Suthar, Nishant Sindhu and Abhishek Sharma, but Tahir invalidated their presence with a fine array of shots. He found an able sidekick in Mubasir Khan (35, 47b, 2x4, 2x6) and the two added 126 runs for the sixth wicket in just 16 overs to take Pakistan past the 350-run mark.

Rajvardhan Hangargekar (2/48) and Riyan Parag (2/24) were the most successful among Indian bowlers.

India started off well with B

Sai Sudarshan (29, 28b, 4x4) and Abhishek (61, 51b, 5x4, 1x6) putting on 64 runs for the opening wicket in 8.3 overs. However, once Sudarshan was dismissed, wickets continued to fall at regular intervals and India were soon out of the game.

Chinaman bowler Sufiyan Muqeem (3/66) was the most successful among the Pak bowlers.

Brief scores: Pakistan A 352 for 8 (Tayyab Tahir 108, Sahibzada Farhan 65, Saim Ayub 59, Riyan Parag 2/24) beat India A 224 all out in 40 overs (Abhishek Sharma 61, Sufiyan Muqeem 3/66, Mohammad Wasim 2/26) by 128 runs.

AIFF KEEN TO SEND
SQUAD FOR ASIAD

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 23: The AIFF is bullish on sending its first team to Asian Games led by its talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri if it is able to get the green light from the Sports Ministry for participation in the continental showpiece starting September 23 in Hangzhou.

The national football team didn’t get permission to participate during the Jakarta Games in 2018. India are currently ranked 18th in Asia and the Sports Ministry’s rule states that in team sport, only those in the top-eight will get the nod.

“The current national team has seven U-23 first team players and since three over-age players are allowed, Chhetri, goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and defender Sandesh Jhingan will be kept in the squad if the team get permission,” a source said.

Vingegaard retains
Tour de France title

AGENCIES

Paris, July 23: Denmark’s Jonas Vingegaard sealed his second successive Tour de France triumph as Jordi Meeus sprinted to a surprise win on the final stage. Meeus, 25, edged out Jasper Philipsen in a photo finish here to deny his fellow Belgian a repeat of last year’s win on the iconic Champs Elysees.

Vingegaard, 26, finished seven minutes and 29 seconds clear of nearest rival, two-time winner Tadej Pogacar. Britain’s Adam Yates was third overall, one place above his twin brother Simon.

Racing in his first Tour, Bora-Hansgrove rider Meeus claimed the biggest win of his career by a rim from Philipsen, racing in the green jersey having won four stages of this year’s contest.



Meeus said: “It was a super nice experience already so far and to take the win today was an indescribable feeling.”

Vingegaard meanwhile said that he had worked very hard coming into the gruelling event. “It is one title, I have always cherished and it will take someone immensely stronger to take it away from me,” Vingegaard said.