



Disappearance secret
Actor Rimi Sen, in a recent interview, shares her reasons behind stepping away from the Hindi film industry

LEISURE | P2



Kenya protest
Police opens fire on demonstrators trying to storm Kenya's Parliament Tuesday, killing at least five protesters, and injuring dozens

INTERNATIONAL | P10



'K-shaped' inflation
Just like the post-pandemic recovery, the Indian inflation story is also 'K-shaped' and is hurting certain sections more than others

BUSINESS | P11



Scripting history
Afghanistan qualify for their maiden semifinal in the T20 World Cup with an 8-run victory over Bangladesh

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SHORT TAKES

No Nabajouban darshan this year

Puri: Devotees this year will be deprived of having Nabajouban darshan of Lord Jagannath and His siblings, held a day before Rath Yatra. Usually, the deities of Srimandir appear in youthful avatar after spending a fortnight in the Anasara Gruha (sick room), a day before the grand event of the Rath Yatra. However, this year, all three rituals - Netra Ustav, Nabajouban darshan and Rath Yatra - will be held on a single day, July 7. P3

Manoj Ahuja back in Odisha; likely to be CS

New Delhi: Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja, a 1990-batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, was Tuesday sent back to his cadre state, where he may be appointed as the next Chief Secretary. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS (OR:90), Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to his parent cadre on the request of Government of Odisha," an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. Incumbent Chief Secretary PK Jena's extended tenure is till June 30.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The only way to prevent an Emergency-like situation is to always elect a minority government

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	78053.52 ↑ 712.44
NIFTY	23721.30 ↑ 183.45
DOLLAR	83.43 ↓ ₹0.05
EURO	89.48 ↓ ₹0.04
GOLD	₹71,212 ↓ ₹300
SILVER	₹87,363 ↓ ₹1636

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	37.9°C	36.4°C
Min Temp	28.4°C	27.0°C
Humidity	80%	79%
Rainfall	0.9mm	Nil

FORECAST: GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY

JULIAN ASSANGE FREED FROM JAIL

London, June 25: Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange, who has been fighting against his extradition to the US on espionage charges for over a decade, has been freed from prison and flown out of the UK under a plea deal with the American authorities. The 52-year-old Australian national was lodged at Belmarsh high-security prison in London since 2019 when he was taken into custody from the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he had sought asylum. It was revealed overnight Monday that he has been freed. Assange will return to Australia, UK media reports said, citing a letter from the US Justice Department.



WATER CRISIS: A boy drinks water as other people wait to collect drinking water from a tanker amid the ongoing water crisis in the national capital, Tuesday

Election for Speaker

The Congress-led Opposition bloc has decided to enter into a direct contest with the ruling NDA coalition over the Speaker's post. However, chinks have started appearing in the Opposition unity with Mamata Banerjee's TMC raising a red flag over the Congress' 'unilateral' decision to break conventions by bringing the bi-partisan Constitutional chair to a point of contest. The INDIA bloc has fielded seven-time Congress MP from Kerala K Suresh against NDA nominee Om Birla for the Speaker's election. Nevertheless, it seems buoyed by their increased strength, the Congress and some of its allies have decided to go on a warpath against the Union government from the outset

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: The ruling BJP-led NDA Tuesday maintained its streak of continuity in its third term by fielding previous Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for the crucial parliamentary position again, but its bid for a consensus was thwarted by the Opposition which forced an election by nominating Kodikunnil Suresh as its candidate.

The Opposition's last-minute decision to go for a rare contest came after senior BJP leaders did not agree to its precondition that the INDIA bloc must be of



Om Birla



Kodikunnil Suresh

ferred the post of Deputy Speaker in lieu of supporting Birla, who is the clear favourites in case of an election.

A brief interaction involving Congress leader K C Venugopal and DMK's TR Baalu from the opposition side and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and J P Nadda, who is also the BJP president, at Singh's office in Parliament to evolve a consensus ended in acrimony as both sides stuck to their position.

Both Opposition leaders walked out, with Venugopal accusing the government of not following the "convention" of an Opposition candidate for the Deputy Speaker's position and announcing the decision to field a candidate against Birla.

Union ministers Piyush Goyal of the BJP and Lalan Singh of the JD(U) accused the Opposition of resorting to pressure politics and putting forth preconditions

despite senior ministers' assurance that its demand will be considered when the time to pick the Deputy Speaker comes.

The scheduled day for picking the Speaker is Wednesday and if an election occurs, it will be only the third time in Lok Sabha's history, official sources said.

With the NDA having 293 MPs in its kitty and the INDIA bloc 233, numbers clearly favour Birla in Lok Sabha, which currently has 542 members after Rahul Gandhi resigned from one of the two seats he was elected from. At least three independent members also support the Opposition.

When TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee was asked about his party's stand on the issue, he said they have not been contacted over it yet. "No one contacted us, there have been no talks, unfortunately this has been a unilateral decision," he said. "Our party leadership, Mamata ji will decide," he added.

CBI heat on Kejriwal

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 25: Trouble mounted for arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after the Delhi High Court Tuesday stayed the trial court order granting him bail, while the CBI - which questioned him in Tihar Jail on the excise policy case Monday - is likely to arrest him.

On Tuesday, the Central agency moved an application before a special court seeking a production warrant for Kejriwal, which was later issued by the

court. The CBI has, as per reports, got permission to produce Kejriwal in the court concerned, Wednesday

Incidentally, the Supreme Court is slated to hear the AAP chief's plea against the Delhi High Court stay order, Wednesday. Kejriwal is currently in jail after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case related to the now-scrapped excise policy. Meanwhile, reacting to the reports, AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh termed it a conspiracy by the CBI to prevent Kejriwal's release from jail. P8

City to have no traffic lights

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Traffic lights here will be removed to ease congestion, and alternatives like overbridge or approach/service roads will be planned to streamline vehicular movement, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushana Chandra Mahapatra said Tuesday.

Addressing media, Mahapatra said that department-level discussions are being held to implement the changes. "People returning home from office, or the general public, often get stuck at traffic signals for hours. They also start two



hours early from home to be able to reach offices in time. We will look into alternatives to manage the vehicular flow and relieve commuters of long wait at an intersection for the red signal to turn green. To ensure ease in commuting, a plan will be prepared to remove bottlenecks at places that witness traffic snarls," he said.

The minister said along with doing away with the "red light"

from traffic signals to ease congestion, efforts will also be made for controlling crime in various corporations in the state.

Meanwhile, sources said the 60-km-long National Highway from Puri to Bhubaneswar will be made hassle-free keeping in mind the fact a large number of visitors use the road every day. Official sources said all the intersections and market areas along the NH will be illuminated with high mask lights while electric poles will be relocated at least 10 feet away from the road.

It has been observed that many vehicles crash into roadside power poles, causing fatal injuries and even deaths.

Norway starts stockpiling grain citing pandemic, war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen (Denmark), June 25: The Norwegian government Tuesday signed a deal to start stockpiling grain, saying the COVID-19 pandemic, a war in Europe and climate change have made it necessary.

The deal to store 30,000 tons of grain was signed by Agriculture and Food minister Geir Pollestad and four private companies. The wheat that will belong to the Norwegian government will be stored by the companies in facilities across the country.

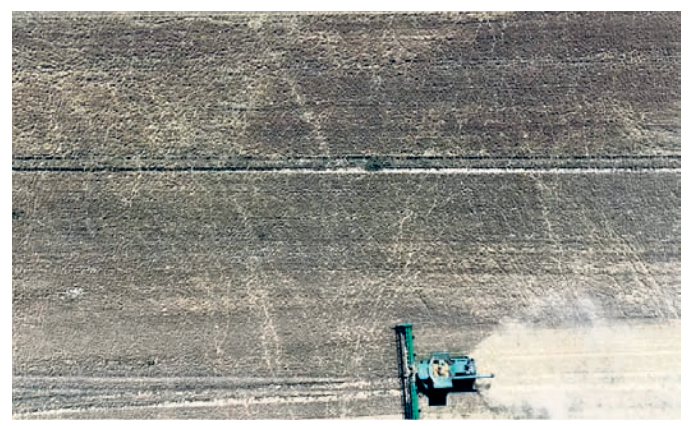
In a statement, Norway's ministry for agriculture and food said "the building up of a contingency stock of food grains is

about being prepared for the unthinkable."

Norway will sign further stockpiling contracts in the coming years, with the goal of building up the reserve until 2029. The aim is to have some 82,500 tons of grain in store by the end of the decade "so that we then have enough grain for three months' consumption by Norway's population in a crisis situation that may arise," Pollestad told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

As of the first quarter of this year, Norway has 5.6 million inhabitants.

Last year, the Scandinavian nation said that it would spend 63 million Kroner (USD 6 million) per year on stocking up on grain.



Norway had stored grain in the 1950s but closed down its storage sites in 2003 after deciding they were no longer needed.

However, following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Norway set up a commission to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses

of its emergency preparedness systems which recommended stockpiling grain products.

The oil-rich country, which has supported Ukraine, also houses the Global Seed Vault in its Svalbard archipelago, some 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) from the North Pole.

Since 2008, gene banks and organizations around the world have deposited nearly 1 million samples of seeds at the vault to back up their own collections in case of human-caused or natural calamities.

The Norwegian government funded the construction cost, while an international nonprofit organization pays for operational costs.

Rahul Gandhi to be LoP in Lok Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will occupy the post of Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha and a letter about the decision has been sent to the pro-tem Speaker by Congress, sources said, Tuesday.

The decision on Rahul's appointment as the LoP was announced soon after a meeting of the floor leaders of INDIA at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence. AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal said CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi has written to the pro-tem Speaker about the decision of the Congress.

leisure



SWIFT REVEALS SHE'S A HUGH GRANT 'STAN'

American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift has revealed she is a Hugh Grant 'stan' and considers him a vital part of her culture after the actor thanked her for an 'incredible show' at Wembley Stadium, London.

SEAN PENN WILL NEVER HAVE HIS HEART BROKEN

Hollywood star Sean Penn recently shared his perspective on romance. "I'm just free. If I'm going to be in a relationship, I'm still going to be free. I'll never have my heart broken by romance again," added Penn, who was previously married to Madonna from 1985 to 1989.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you will be perplexed by some inexplicable and fantastic event. Either that, or you may experience an unforeseen but favourable incident. It may not be earth-shaking, but it will definitely make you assess things. Besides, you could have difficulties meeting deadlines. However, Ganesh advises you to tell people about the importance of your work.

TAURUS

You have an easy carefree day ahead. There will be no woes or worries, says Ganesh. But to will be inclined to take up too many things at one time, more than you can handle. This may, in turn, get you stressed and uptight. You are advised to be practical and not to over-do things. If you do get into a fix, a moment's reflection will show you that you alone are to be blamed.

GEMINI

You will ponder over religious and social issues and discuss and debate the issue with your family members and make your opinions known to them. This apart, you will probably discuss on issues like law, education, social obligations, and culture with those close to you, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You may have to give more priority to your job. You will swiftly finish the task entrusted to you with concentration. Your zeal for work will be high. You will give so much importance to friends that you will go out of way to meet them.

LEO

Be it a job or business, you will face severe competition today. You will need to be extra cautious today. You will need to be more serious about whatever it is that you are doing. You will become more influential in your social circle or amongst your colleagues as a result, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Today may prove to be a turning point for you. You will explore the opportunities to secure the money needed to make your future bright. Matters regarding relationships will be on the top of your priority list today. You may feel inclined towards spirituality, and Ganesh says as such you may try doing meditation or yoga.

LIBRA

Ganesh says your friend who is very influential will be lucky for you. You will be able to start a new joint venture business with out any obstacles. Your efficiency and hard work will be appreciated.

SCORPIO

You reveal your true avatar of being adventurous today, feels Ganesh. It's a favourable day for businessmen as they would make plans that would yield them huge profits. With your great communication and convincing power, you are going to impress your superiors today.

SAGITTARIUS

According to Ganesh, money is likely to slip-off your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.

CAPRICORN

You may feel utterly disappointed as all of your hard-work and planning will go in vain. You will have difference of opinion with others and at times these differences may turn into heated arguments, predicts Ganesh. Such disharmonious environment will add to your anxiety, but don't lose hope. There is light at the end of the tunnel and you'll surely get through these turbulent times.

AQUARIUS

You have been turning a blind eye towards the pending work you are loaded with. But, today you will take up the challenge of getting done with the pile of work. You may clean your desk at work or room, make payments and purchases, and clear the mess.

PISCES

It is important to plan your finances in life, and you will devote your energies towards the same today. You might turn stingy with your money all of a sudden. An unexpected illness in the family will leave you worried. But it is likely to be a crisis which will blow over soon.

Janhvi makes her int'l runway debut

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor made a splash at the Paris Haute Couture week. The actor made her international runway debut with a mermaid-inspired gown designed by Rahul Mishra. A video of Janhvi walking the ramp was uploaded by Instagram account Diet Sabya Monday night.

The *Mili* actress paired the blue mermaid-style gown, which had a long train, with a bustier, embellished top. The actor was seen walking her way through the ramp with other models in the creations that were inspired by the theme of the collection named Aura.

Mishra gave a detailed look at the collection via his Instagram, and wrote: "Predominantly black and greyscale, the collection represents depth and mystery associated with aura as it appears to be emanated from the silhouette. The collection becomes an attempt to articulate through couture clothing, how the said omnipresent aura may interact with a living body. And how the living body becomes a vessel for a part of this energy, and draws its greatness from it."

Meanwhile, the reactions to Janhvi's walk were mixed. Many loved the dramatic design but were not as impressed by the actor's walk.

AGENCIES

Rimi on her sudden exit from showbiz

Mumbai: Rimi Sen, known for her roles in hit films like *Dhoom*, *Golmaal*, *Garam Masala*, and *Phir Hera Pheri*, was a well-recognized face in the Hindi film industry. Despite her numerous appearances, she gradually disappeared from the film industry. In a recent interview, the actress shared her reasons for stepping away from show business.

The actress said, she became frustrated with being typecast, particularly in comedy roles where she felt her contributions were minimal. She said, "I was tired of doing comedy, there used to be not much of a role for me there. I was like a furniture. I had a good role in only a few, like *Hungama* and *Johnny Gaddaar* (2007). The latter didn't work, and that's the kind of work I wanted to do."

Rimi felt that her roles in comedy films were often insignificant and repetitive. This dissatisfaction with the type of work she was getting led to her decision to leave the industry.

She mentioned that her life had become monotonous, and she did not enjoy the attention that came with being an actress. Even during her stint on the reality TV show *Bigg Boss* in 2015, Rimi expressed her preference for staying aloof and quiet.

During her active years in the industry, Rimi worked with several leading actors, including Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan, Salman Khan, and Ajay Devgn.

However, she revealed in an interview that she is not in contact with any of these actors today. Rimi's statement reflects her belief that in the highly competitive industry, talent alone isn't enough; knowing how to handle people and manage public relations is equally important.

AGENCIES

Junaid about his debut movie 'All's well that ends well'

Mumbai: As the historical drama *Maharaj* was released Friday, Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan, who debuted in the film, shared his feelings about the overwhelming positive feedback. In a conversation with a news agency, Junaid said, "I'm very grateful for the by and large positive response that Maharaj has received. So yeah, it's quite satisfying. I guess all's well that ends well."

Speaking about the initial attraction to the script, the actor shared, "When Sid and Adi Sir called me for this story, I found it very appealing. I really liked Sid's part. The Yash Raj banner is significant, so taking on this project was an obvious choice."



When asked about receiving advice from his father, Junaid added, "He normally lets us do what we want to do unless we ask for something very specific; then he gives advice. But he liked the film. He saw the film a few months ago and he quite liked it."

Directed by Sidharth P Malhotra and produced by YRF Entertainment, *Maharaj* delves into the 1862 Maharaj Libel Case, starring Junaid Khan alongside Jaideep Ahlawat and Shalini Pandey, with a special appearance by Sharvari. The historical drama is based on one of the greatest legal battles in Indian history: the 1862 Maharaj Libel Case. AGENCIES

When Madan Mohan's unused tunes were used in Veer-Zaara

Mumbai: One of the most illustrious composers of Hindi cinema—Madan Mohan Kohli—was born a 100 years ago June 25. Despite an unsuccessful phase in the first seven years of his career that began in 1950 with *Ankhen*, he took off in the real sense with *Dekh Kabira Roya* (1957) and never looked back, easily becoming one of our most reputed composers.

Having cottoned on early in his career that his weighty melodies scored high, the composer focused on quality work, is now considered a master of the ghazal in the movies and his compositions remain timeless and do not sound dated at all.



He penned hundreds of memorable songs in his life time. But not many know that some of Madan Mohan's



unused tunes, preserved by the composer in his own voice, became the complete soundtrack of Yash Chopra's

2004 hit, *Veer-Zaara* and were filmed on Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, Hema Malini and Amitabh Bachchan. The late filmmaker was introduced to these melodies by Madan Mohan's son, Sanjeev Kohli, after he reportedly was not getting the soulful melodies he wanted for his cross-border romance.

Chopra got Javed Akhtar to write situational lyrics for Madan Mohan's tunes and RS Mani as arranger, and the soundtrack became the biggest score of that year. Besides Madan Mohan's muse and raakhi sister, Lata Mangeshkar, singers Udit Narayan, Sonu Nigam, Jagjit Singh, Roopkumar

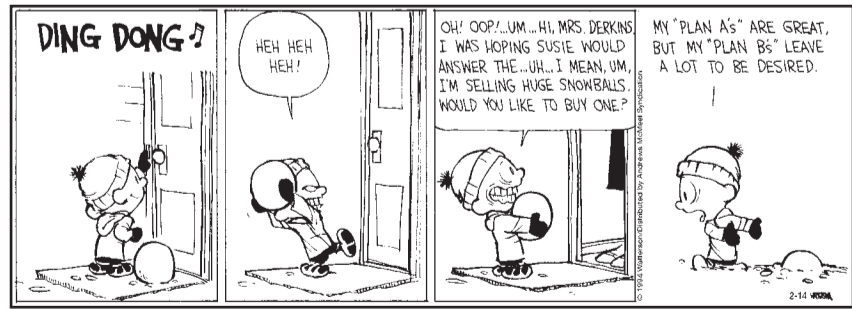
Rathod and other voices were also a part of the soundtrack.

But the timelessness quotient does not end here: not only is the Talat Mahmood ghazal, *Phir wohi shaam* (*Jahan Ara* / 1964) still popular but even a few concerts on this genre of music have been named with this title! And there is barely any current coin composer, lyricist or singer (or listener!) who does not adore songs like Mohammed Rafi's beautifully layered and orchestrated *Tum jo mil gaye ho* (*Hanste Zakhm*) or get gooseflesh after listening to the pathos and patriotic passion of the same singer's *Ab tumhare hawale watan saathiyon* (*Haqeeqat*).

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

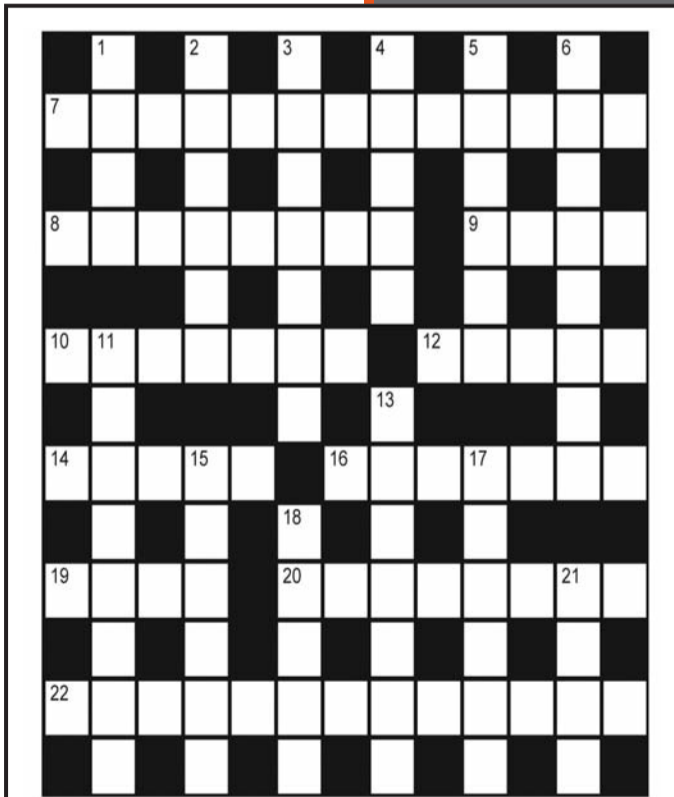


BREVITY



FUN post

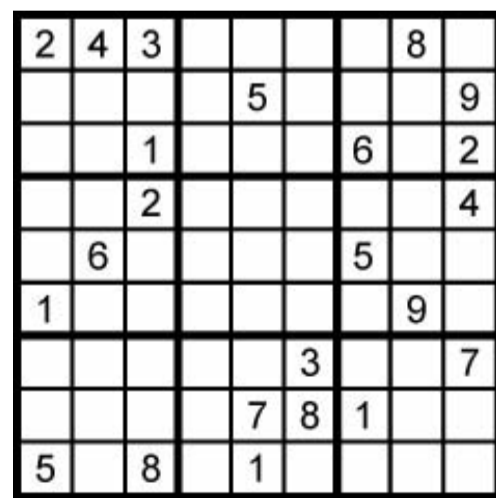
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Hilarious
 - 8 Kind of instinct
 - 9 Leave out
 - 10 Division
 - 12 Tweak
 - 14 Floor it
 - 16 Tartness
 - 19 Pizazz
 - 20 Stretch
 - 22 Sundry
- Down
- 1 Prima donna
 - 2 Building material
 - 3 View
 - 4 Sir or madam
 - 5 Saunter
 - 6 Poverty-stricken
 - 11 Stress
 - 13 Quick learner?
 - 15 Morals
 - 17 Level
 - 18 E-mail option
 - 21 Unbending

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.

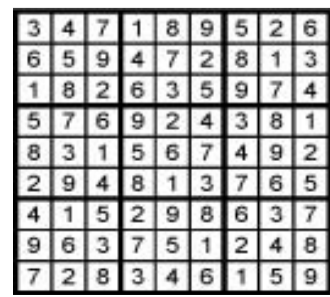


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling interacting with a patient during his visit to the Surgery ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Tuesday

downtown

Quarters revamp needed for party workers: Bobby



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Following an escalating row over demolition of structures inside government quarters allotted to former BJD MLA Pranab Prakash Das, aka Bobby Das, here, the BJD leader Tuesday said that temporary extensions were made at the quarters to accommodate the party leaders and workers who used visit him earlier.

Clarifying about the demolition activities, Das, in a video message, said that the quarters are in his possession till July 15. He also said that he has received a notice from the General Administration (GA) department to vacate the quarters by July 4.

He said, "I was the organisational secretary of BJD. Many of our party leaders and workers used to meet me at the official quarters. So, to accommodate them, a temporary extension was built in the official residence which is now being removed."

Das further said that the quarters would be returned to the

done in steel structure on the basement at 200 sq ft. We've clicked the photos and will check whether permission was taken for the construction and will take action accordingly. As per rules, if someone has done anything unauthorised, we can cancel the quarter allotment."

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal Tuesday said the visuals that have emerged from Das' residence 'are not just disturbing but extremely unfortunate'.

"The footage of undergoing demolition work that has emerged has not only exposed the BJD's corrupt practices but also the highhandedness of its leaders who continue to abuse power," he said.

Biswal also said that the former MLA's parental house was not very far from this government quarters which further raises questions about the need to tear down a government residence and carry out luxurious extensions. "And if the extension is being carried out to accommodate people coming to visit him, what was the need for using Italian tiles and creating a Spanish-style swimming pool? There are also conjectures about objectionable activities that were taking place in the underground space and if one is to believe some of them, plans were afoot for an artificial snowfall installation. How can such opulence be justified and that too when a leader is not even in power and there has been a change of government? It just shows how the BJD has been ruling for the last decades," Biswal added.



GA department in the condition in which they were allotted to him by eliminating the new structures that were raised during his occupation.

Das was allotted the government Quarter No- VIIIIMR-1 at Unit 6 here in June 2019 as per rules, after he was elected to the Assembly from Jajpur.

When the news about the demolition activities spread, three officials of the GA department Tuesday reached Das' quarters to take stock of the situation, said sources. Sources said the GA department officials were made to wait for at least 1 hour outside Das' quarters. They could enter the premises only after police arrived. Officials said, "We checked the quarters and no damage was done to the original structure and demolition was



SETTING STAGE: Construction of chariots in last leg as state gears up for Rath Yatra in Puri, Tuesday

PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

NO NABAJOUBAN DARSHAN THIS YR

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, June 25: This year, lakhs of devotees will be deprived of having Nabajouban darshan of Lord Jagannath and His siblings— Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra— held a day before Rath Yatra.

In normal years, the presiding deities of Srimandir appear in youthful avatar after spending a fortnight in the Anasara Gruha (sick room), a day before the grand event of the Rath Yatra. However, this year, all three rituals—Netra Ustav, Nabajouban darshan and Rath Yatra—will be held on a single day, July 7.

Srimandir managing committee, in its meeting Tuesday, approved the Rath Yatra schedule prepared and proposed by the Chhatisha Niyog and the sub-committee for temple rituals.

Since the Anasara period this year, as per the temple almanac, has been reduced to 13 days against the normal 15 days, Nabajouban darshan ritual has been dispensed with.

This year, proceedings are being done as per the 1971 Rath Yatra when a similar situation arose.

Temple sources said many rituals will be advanced and ob-

served simultaneously on the day of the Rath Yatra.

The three chariots will be veering from the construction yard to the Lion's Gate on the previous night.

The consecration of the three chariots will be completed by 11am. The ceremonial Pahandi of the deities will begin by 1:10pm and will be completed by 2:30pm. Thereafter, Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb will perform the Chherapahanra ceremony at about 4pm.

The pulling of the three chariots will begin with Taladhwa of Lord Balabhadra, followed by Darpadalan of Devi Subhadra,

and Nadnighosha of Lord Jagannath by 5pm.

In 1971, only Taladhawaja was pulled to a small distance to respect the tradition, while the next day, all the chariots were pulled to their destination. The same may be repeated this year.

The Gajapati presided over the managing committee meeting, while Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief administrator Vir Vikram Yadav presented the Chhatisha Niyog proposals for Rath Yatra, Bahuda, Suna Besha and Niladri Bije.

The meeting after discussions approved the festival schedule.

Man nabbed for dowry torture

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Lingaraj police here Tuesday arrested a 66-year-old man for allegedly subjecting his daughter-in-law to harassment for more dowry which forced the woman to commit suicide.

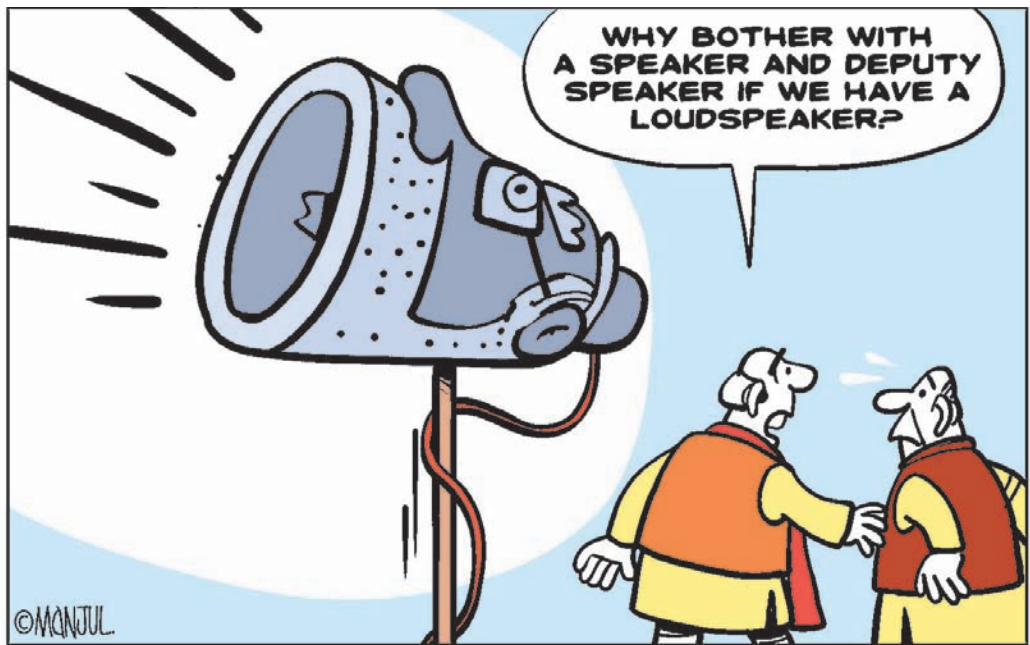
A senior police official said the woman hanged herself to death in 2020, a year after her marriage. Her husband was arrested two days after her death. However, the sexagenarian had been evading the police for nearly four years, he added.

Inspector in-charge (IIC) of Lingaraj police station Purna Chandra Pradhan said the arrested has been identified as Kumar Palei, 66, a native of Badamba area in Cuttack district. He is residing in Old Town area here.

According to a complaint lodged by the parents of the deceased, the marriage took place in 2019. But after a few days, her in-laws started torturing her and demanded additional dowry of ₹2 lakh. Unable to bear the physical and mental torture, she committed suicide, July 1, 2020. Acting on the complaint Lingaraj police registered a case and arrested her husband July 4.

Meanwhile, Kumar has been under Sections 498 (A), 302, 304 and others under IPC, along with Section 4 of Dowry Prevention Act. Kumar was produced in a local court Tuesday.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Pay ₹4L to Keonjhar woman for medical negligence: NHRC to state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 25: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the state government to pay ₹4 lakh as compensation to a woman who suffered serious health complications due to medical negligence by an Ayush doctor at the community health centre (CHC) in Keonjhar in 2022. The apex rights body also di-

rected the Chief Secretary to ensure payment of the amount to the victim and submission of its compliance report within six weeks.

"The Government of Odisha, through its Chief Secretary, is recommended to release ₹4,00,000 to the victim Gurubari Mahanta, wife of Pradeep Patel of Sendkap in Keonjhar Sadar block, and submit the compliance report along with the proof

of payment to the Commission within six weeks," reads the NHRC order.

The state government, in its reply to the apex rights body, has agreed to the suggestion regarding deduction of the compensation amount from the salary of the erring Ayush doctor, Ashok Kumar Sahoo.

The Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Keonjhar, in an inquiry report, stated that

as per the guidelines of the state government, the Ayush doctor should have referred the woman to the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital (DHH), which is just 12km away from Padmapur, after providing basic treatment.

The woman, who experienced profuse bleeding after the delivery of her baby girl, was admitted to the CHC, Padmapur August 13, 2022, and the doc-

tor, instead of referring her to the Keonjhar DHH, stitched her urinary bladder, the CDMO report said.

"Repairing of extensive tears in the vagina, including anal tear, is beyond the capacity of an Ayush doctor. But Dr Sahoo ventured stitching without assessing the gravity of the situation and without realising the follow-up complications," it noted.

Govt to extend digital crop survey to all districts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Digital crop survey, which began in four districts, on a pilot basis, will be extended to all the districts in the state. This was revealed during a review meeting chaired by Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment (DA&FE) Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who is also Deputy Chief Minister, at Krushi Bhavan here Tuesday.

The minister reviewed PM Kisan, digital crop survey and priorities of the new government

regarding the agriculture sector. Department's Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee and directors of DA&FE, along with senior officials, were present at the meeting.

On the occasion, the minister unveiled a booklet on 'Knowledge Sharing for Effective Administration' (K-SEA).

A discussion was held on digital crop survey with the director emphasising the enabling personalised service delivery to farmers. Achievements in digital crop survey in its pilot phase during Kharif-2023 were also



discussed. Based on the learnings derived from pilot project, it will further be conducted in all 30 districts of the state in Kharif-2024, it was said. The development of a mobile application and web portal for digital crop survey

was also discussed.

Digital crop survey was launched by the Centre in 12 states, including Odisha, on a pilot basis in 2023. The Odisha government had conducted digital crop survey in Nuapada,

Nayagarh, Deogarh and Bhadrak.

The review meeting further progressed with the Deputy CM taking cognisance of the priorities of the new government for the agriculture sector. The Principal Secretary also briefed him about the success stories realised due to the efforts of the department including the Odisha Millets Mission.

Sharing his experience of farming in his hometown during Covid-19 pandemic, the minister expressed his pleasure at becoming a part of the Agriculture department. On learning about

Ama Krushi providing knowledge dissemination and advisory to farmers via the helpline number 155333, the minister called the helpline number and spoke with the Ama Krushi representative to understand the services and the solutions offered to farmers. Speaking on agriculture being an important part of the economy, Singh Deo said, "We need to strive to promote and involve each and every household in agriculture. People are moving away from it and we need to enable them to learn and earn their livelihood."

One dies, another critical in bee attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, June 25: An elderly man died while his grandson sustained severe injuries after they were stung by a swarm of honeybees at Barangbadi village under Machhkund police limits in Malkangiri district Tuesday.

According to sources, the elderly man along with his grandson had gone to a nearby forest to graze cattle when they were stung by the honeybees. They were rescued by locals and rushed to a hospital where the elderly man died during treatment.

His grandson, who is undergoing treatment at the hospital, is in a critical condition, said sources. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained till the last report came in.



Boat Pulling Regatta hosted at INS Chilka



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chilika, June 25: INS Chilka hosted a Boat Pulling Regatta for January 1, 2024 batch of Agniveer trainees here recently. The competition was aimed at instilling in trainees a spirit of adventure, enhance watermanship skills and develop mental and physical strength.

The race took place in the scenic waters of Chilika Lake, with teams navigating traditional 27-foot-long 'DK Whalers'. Each Whaler was manned by a crew of pullers (rowers) and one coxswain (helm)

A total of 12 teams, consisting of eight trainee divisions and four teams from Ship's Company competed for the prestigious Regatta trophy, traditionally called 'The Cock'. The race took place in the scenic waters of Chilika Lake, with teams navigating traditional 27-foot-long 'DK Whalers'. Each Whaler was manned by a crew of pullers (rowers) and one coxswain (helm). The team from Angre Division won the Pulling Regatta and was awarded the coveted 'Cock Trophy' by Commodore NP Pradeep VSM, Commanding Officer, INS Chilka. The runner-up teams were also felicitated on the occasion. The Boat Pulling Regatta remains one of the most prestigious and traditional sporting activities in the Indian Navy highlighting the naval tradition of teamwork and synergy.

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ACCOMMODATION
Free accommodation for Senior Citizen & mentally ill person with all facilities. Contact- 9337160036, 7325991853.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit No.- SI- 239, dated 24.06.2024 before Notary Public, Cuttack, I, **KOBAGAPU NAGAMMA**, aged about 57 years, W/o- K.Lakshman Rao, At- Uppersahi, Sikharpur, P.O.- College Square, P.S.- Chauliganj, Dist.- Cuttack do hereby state that in Passport my name has been wrongly mentioned as **KABAGAPU NAGAMMA**. Hence I shall be known as **KOBAGAPU NAGAMMA** for all future purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar on Dated 25th June 2024, I, **Mrs. KALIPE JAYA LAKSHMI**, W/o KalipeDillip Kumar Rao, resident of at Plot No. 762, Barikisahi, Ratha Road, Old Town, Bhubaneswar-751002, Dist.- Khordha, Odisha declare that I have changed my name from "K. JAYA LAKSHMI" to "KALIPE JAYA LAKSHMI". Henceforth, I shall be known as "KALIPE JAYA LAKSHMI" for all purposes. **KALIPE JAYA LAKSHMI**.

Heavy rain to lash as cyclonic circulation forms over Bay: IMD

CAPITAL MAY EXPERIENCE PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH ONE OR TWO SPELLS OF RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: A cyclonic circulation has formed over the Bay of Bengal (BoB), which may trigger heavy rain in some part of the state from Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed Tuesday. "Incessant rain will continue in the state for the next five days under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, which has formed over east central BoB," said IMD's Manorama Mohanty. According to the weather agency, thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Balangir, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Bargarh till 8:30am Wednesday. Bhubaneswar may experience partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers. There is a yellow warning of heavy rain for Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and Sundargarh during the subsequent 24 hours. Thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by

gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph may also occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Nuapada, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh and Bargarh districts. June 27, heavy rainfall is likely at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Bolangir, Nuapada, and Bargarh. Thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph may also occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Nuapada, Bolangir, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Subarnapur and Nuapada. The IMD has warned of heavy to very heavy rain at one or two places in Sambalpur and Bargarh while heavy rainfall may occur in Angul, Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Subarnapur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts June 28. Thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty surface windspeed reaching 30-40 kmph is also likely at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Angul and Dhenkanal during this period. June 29, heavy rainfall may continue at one or two places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Sundargarh districts.



Deputy CM Parida plants sapling at Tourism dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Tourism Minister Pravat Parida, under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, planted a 'Baula' sapling in Paryatan Bhawan and Panthanivas here, Tuesday. During her visit, Parida took note of various arrangements inside the Panthanivas premises. Later, in a review meeting with the department officers, she advised them to set a new benchmark in hospitality and ensure better service facilities to tourists.



Tourism director Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav, OTDC general manager Lalatendu Sahoo and other senior officials and staff were present in the meeting.

Good edu priority of government: Gond

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Good education in all government and government-aided schools is the priority of the state government and various programmes will be taken in this direction, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond said during a review meeting held in the department's conference hall, Tuesday.

Emphasising on infrastructure, education environment and school management, Gond said the standard of education will be enhanced in all government and government-aided schools. Additional secretaries, joint secretaries, academic advisors and senior officers attended the meeting.

On this occasion, the Minister was briefed by, Commissioner-Secretary Aswathy S on various schemes, programmes, initiatives and activities undertaken by the department. In the meeting, it was decided to review government and government-aided schools which have been closed due to



Gond informed that Asset Management Software is being developed which will bring a big change in the education sector

various reasons. Gond instructed the officials to ensure implementation of aspirational curriculum in every school with emphasis on coding, project-based curriculum, life skill-based learning and linguistic creativity. Along with this, the Minister

also directed the officials to ensure that the study materials reach every block of the district on time in the coming academic year. The review meeting discussed how the students can get better quality education along with the development of the infrastructure of primary schools. A decision was taken to speed up the various works initiated by the department towards the establishment of foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) classrooms. The Minister informed that Asset Management Software is being developed which will bring a big change in the edu-

cation sector. He said that under the S&ME department, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV) will be given a facelift and facilities for students will be strengthened. "On the basis of the local area, the approach is being taken to convert the high schools (HS) into higher secondary schools (HSS)," the Minister said adding "Web publishing of e-content will be done for the convenience of all students in higher secondary education. Also, textbooks will be made available through the official website." Gond said various plans are being taken up in the coming days to train the teachers. Teacher training institutes will be made more efficient. He invited various proposals from the departmental officials on how to solve the problems of the teachers. Along with developing the infrastructure of this institution, auditoriums will be constructed in each District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET). Each institute will be developed into centres of excellence, he added.

Bus services for country's religious places soon: Jena

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, June 25: The state government will launch bus services to various prominent religious places across the country soon, state Transport and Commerce Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena said in a review meeting here recently.

Following the meeting at Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) office, Jena addressed the media and saying, "Bus services to religious places such as Ayodhya, Tirupati, Mahakaleswar, Varanasi and Vrindavan will be started soon".

The Minister also said that buses to these religious places will be rolled out from various cities like Puri, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, and Rourkela. Besides, he also hinted at re-naming the much-hyped Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme. The Transport Minister noted that services will be provided in places which lack proper transportation facilities. Jena said, "Bus services will be provided from all the 314 block headquarters to the pilgrim city, Puri, during the Rath Yatra."



FETED: Poet and writer Soubhagya Kumar Mishra receives the 'Ananta Pattanaik Srujan Samman' from linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak on the occasion of Ananta Pattanaik Annual Memorial Evening at Sriram Chandra Bhawan in Cuttack, Tuesday

Workshop on manufacturing opportunities for MSMEs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 25: Hindalco, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL), organised a workshop here, Tuesday.

The workshop focused on manufacturing opportunities for MSMEs in the downstream aluminium industry, highlighting state's growing prominence as a global hub for aluminium manufacturing. Essar Minnet Limited CEO, Shashi Sekhar Mohanty, in his inaugural address, emphasised the essential role of MSMEs in the aluminium industries value chain. "MSMEs require the security of raw materials, technological support, operational efficiency, fi-

nancial backing, and effective marketing to complete the value chain. The large aluminium downstream industries can provide these critical elements, enabling MSMEs to thrive," he stated. Hindalco advisor Bibhu Mishra deliberated upon the theme and highlighted the company's significant presence in the state. Hindalco, a global leader in aluminium, produces downstream products that serve as inputs for diverse end products, from food packaging to battery enclosures. "The market for these innova-

tive products is expanding, offering substantial growth opportunities for Odisha-based businesses," Mishra explained. The workshop saw the participation of notable figures, including SNM group chairman Pradipta Mohanty, IIMT director Ramanuj Narayan, and UCCIL vice president Sanjeeb Mohapatra. The participants collectively underscored the critical role of MSMEs in driving innovation, employment, and regional economic development in the downstream aluminium sector.



WORLD VITILIGO DAY

Stigma reason for depression among vitiligo patients

Vitiligo, a condition causing white patches on the skin, can have a profound impact beyond physical appearance. Societal stigmas are increasing the risk of depression among the patients, said doctors on World Vitiligo Day Tuesday. World Vitiligo Day is observed every year June 25 to raise awareness about vitiligo and related issues. Vitiligo is a skin condition characterised by the loss of skin colour in patches. It occurs when melanocytes, the cells responsible for producing melanin (the pigment that gives skin its colour), are destroyed or stop functioning.

The exact cause of vitiligo is not fully understood, but it's believed to involve the immune system attacking pigment cells. A combination of genetic, autoimmune, stress and environmental factors such as sunburn are likely to contribute to the condition. It manifests as white patches on the skin, anywhere on the body, sometimes including hair, eyes and the inside of the mouth. "Vitiligo can lead to social isolation and discrimination due to the visible changes in skin pigmentation. This negativity from society can significantly impact self-esteem and contribute to feelings of depression," Pankaj B Borade, Consultant



Psychiatrist, Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune, told IANS. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical

Association (JAMA) Dermatology, showed that 89 per cent of vitiligo patients in India report moderate to high de-

pressive symptoms. The high mental stress among patients was due to the prevalence of a negative perception of vitiligo, revealed the study. Pankaj said that this mental distress can disrupt daily life, affecting everything from social interactions to clothing choices. "The study suggests social stigma might be particularly strong in India, potentially explaining the higher depression rates. The appearance of vitiligo patches can be stressful and affect a person's body image. This can lead to anxiety, social withdrawal, and feelings of isolation, all of which are risk factors for depression. "Beauty standards in India

that place a high value on fair skin make vitiligo even more challenging for patients," the doctor said. Sunil Kumar Prabhu, Consultant - Dermatology, Aster RV Hospital, told IANS that there's no cure for vitiligo, but management strategies with regular consultations with a dermatologist can significantly improve quality of life. "Treatment focuses on restoring colour or creating a more even skin tone, with options ranging from topical creams and light therapy to surgical procedures in severe cases," he said adding that sun protection, stress reduction, and avoiding skin injuries are key ways to prevent. IANS

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Decision to cut trees draws flak



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, June 25: This town which is also the headquarters of Subarnapur district is known for its extreme heat conditions. Temperatures rise to such an extent in summer that life becomes unbearable. In this backdrop, the decision of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to cut 258 trees for construction of a bridge has attracted flak. Strangely, the Forest department has approved the proposal.

This development comes five years after 1,165 trees were felled for construction of a four-lane road from New Town Hall to Mahanadi bridge in this town. Locals pointed out that the original bridge over the Tel river was constructed 51 years back on NH-57. It was instrumental in developing communications between Subarnapur and Boudh districts as well as other parts of eastern and western Odisha. However, with time the bridge developed wear and tear. The demand for a new bridge over the Tel river grew and the NHAI accepted it.

Sickle Senna (Chakunda), babool, neem, pongame oil tree (Karanja) and golden shower (Sunari). Trees that grow big, provide green cover and cool the atmosphere substantially. Locals said that cutting down of so many trees will again lead to an unbearable summer next year. Environmental outfit, 'Green Subarnapur' has opposed the move and submitted a memorandum to District Collector Anya Das and divisional forest officer (DFO) Manohar Lal Sharma on the issue. They have also pointed that when the NHAI had destroyed more than 1,000 trees while constructing the four-lane road, it had promised to plant a large number of saplings. However, nothing has been done. It is one of the main reasons behind the spiraling heat-wave in the district and this town, residents pointed out.

Locals also stated that trees more than 100 years old should either be preserved or re-located, not completely destroyed. As cutting off such trees would affect the climate balance.

Postmaster 'swindles' ₹50L, absconding

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, June 25: In yet another incident of embezzlement of depositors' money by postal staffers, the postmaster of Kumbharia post office under Biramitrapur police station is allegedly absconding after siphoning off over ₹50 lakh from different postal savings accounts. The postmaster, identified as Kuntilata Ganju, has gone into hiding for more than a month which has led to a public outrage. Tuesday, the depositors became agitated and did not allow other staffers of the post office to enter the office. When the protest escalated, Kuanmunda police intervened and pacified the mob. The protesters alleged that the postmaster has siphoned off over ₹50 lakh of their deposits and has been absconding since May 8, 2024.

ited the post office to withdraw money and the postmaster started dilly-dallying on the process of withdrawal. On not getting any satisfying answer, the woman went to the main post office at Kuanmunda and found her account balance zero. She immediately filed a complaint with Biramitrapur police. Later, when the news spread like wildfire, other depositors also thronged the post office to know about the status of their accounts. However, much to their dismay, they also learnt the same thing following which they started agitating. Assistant superintendent Rourkela Postal Division has assured the depositors that their money would be paid back after a departmental enquiry. "We came to know about this a month back and the departmental enquiry is going on. I assure that the guilty will be punished. The depositors will get back their money," he said.

Time lost in sorcery; snakebite victim dies

Hatadihi: A youth bitten by a poisonous snake died after family members took him to a sorcerer, instead of a hospital, at Jabipur village under Nandipada police limits in Keonjhar district, Tuesday. The victim was identified as Manas Munda, 30, son of Mathura Munda in the village. On being informed, Nandipada police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations were on. The incident occurred when a poisonous snake bit Manas while he was asleep at home Monday night. However, driven by superstition and lack of awareness the poor tribal family took him to a sorcerer. The sorcerer spent around four hours in "treating" him. They rushed him to Salania hospital first and later shifted him to Anandapur sub-divisional hospital when his condition deteriorated where he died.

Doctor duped of ₹34 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, June 25: A doctor posted at the headquarters hospital here in Mayurbhanj district has lost more than ₹34 lakh while dealing in shares on an online trading app, police said Tuesday. They said that victim Dr Biswanth Das lodged a complaint at the Cyber Police station here which registered a case and launched an investigation, Tuesday. Police said that the doctor had joined the WhatsApp Group of an investment firm identified as 'Carlyle Group India Equity Finance Club' which was managed by Tarun Jain and his assistant Ram Sharma. As per the instructions, the doctor transferred money to various accounts between May 3 to June 7 for purchase of shares and stocks. A total of ₹34.44 lakh was transferred to nine accounts. However, Dr Das found that the firm was dealing in fake shares when he tried to sell off some of those worth ₹30,000. He tried to contact Jain, Sharma and other members of the group. However, he found out that the app wasn't working and all his calls went unanswered. He realised he had been duped and lodged an FIR.

Night curfew stays in Balasore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, June 25: Night curfew in Balasore town will continue until further notice, the district administration said, Tuesday. With gradual improvement in the law and order situation, day curfew has been totally lifted. Curfew was clamped in the town



following a group clash, June 17. "As areas under Balasore municipality are limping back to normal, day curfew has been lifted. Night curfew, however, will continue in areas under the jurisdiction of both Sahadevkhunta and Town police station areas from 9pm to 5am," Balasore Collector Ashish Thakare said in a post on X. To restore confidence among people, a micro-level peace committee is being planned comprising ward members, eminent citizens and administration officials, he said. SP Sagarika Nath said so far 24 cases have been registered and 91 people arrested.

REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property) (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, ए ३, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur, भुवनेश्वर ७५१०२३ / Bhubaneswar-751 023 Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453 E-mail: roez.bsr-mef@nic.in

No.5-ORC481/2021-BHU 28th May 2024 To The Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & CC Deptt., Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751 001. Sub: Diversion of 12.728 ha of forest land for laying of Tailing and water pipeline, Power and communication cables from Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil to proposed tailing pond site at village Sankari under Banspal of Keonjhar District by M/s ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.). Sir, I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0137-2021-20057/FE&CC dated 17.11.2021, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion 12.728 ha of forest land for laying of Tailing and water pipeline, Power and communication cables from Beneficiation plant at Dubuna under Barbil Tahasil to proposed tailing pond site at village Sankari under Banspal of Keonjhar District by M/s ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. (Formerly known as M/s Essar Steel India Ltd.), was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 15.12.2021, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 28.12.2021, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank. Concerned Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrajpur, Sambalpur - 768003 APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable property) i) The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance on FRA, 2006 as per Forest (Conservation) Rules and guidelines issued from time to time. ii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required. iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that NPV of the above proposal has been realized from user agency as per Ministry's direction from time to time. iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted, CA and additional CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency. v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

FOCUS EDUCATION

THE TESTING FIASCO



Millions of our youth are wasting the prime years of their youth with a psychological burden, and gruelling study with repeated attempts, to crack exams, where the odds of winning are worse than a lottery

benefit should have been made available to all, and not a select few only. This seems unfair. And what about the suspicion on mass leaks, and compromising of NTA's exam machinery? There seems to be a big cheating scam, and some arrests have been made in Bihar and Gujarat. The saga is not over, nor is the untold stress for students and parents.

This fiasco calls for a massive overhaul and reforms. Tests which use Optical Marks Recognition (OMR) require printing, transporting sealed packages and ensuring of tamper proof packaging. Such a system is obsolete. Indeed, a prominent government owned testing agency in Maharashtra migrated to screen-based system almost fifteen years ago. With tools like AI, and live proctoring software, we don't need to use OMR and all with the attendant risks. The software and AI basis allows dynamic and randomised sequencing, and even paper setters will not know the full exam, until it is actually administered. These are all tech-based solutions, which are tried and tested and used even in many places of India. Secondly, we have to find ways to reduce the excessive premium on the one exam, and one national testing body. Either have multiple (at least two) competing standards (for tests), or allow a few private players. Let them compete on the basis of reputation and rigour and integrity. The third long term reform is to reduce the massive demand-supply gap, by working on both sides of the equation. This also means unshackling the education sector, allowing greater freedom and autonomy to institutions of higher education, in deciding curricula, courses, faculty hiring and salaries, student fees and programmes. Otherwise, millions of our youth are wasting the prime years of their youth with a psychological burden, and gruelling study with repeated attempts, to crack exams, where the odds of winning are worse than a lottery.

The writer is a noted Pune-based economist.
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About twenty-five years ago, when Professor Suhas Sukhatme had just completed his term as Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay his interview was published in a national daily. One of the questions that he was asked was what some of the highlights of his five-year tenure as Director were. He promptly gave a one-line answer, "Nobody called me to seek admission for their ward." This answer has deep significance. Firstly, it shows that you can't get admission by influencing the Director. Secondly nobody in the "system" even thinks of calling and using influence. Whether it is ministers, industrialists, politicians or elites, getting IIT admission by any other means apart from an entrance exam was unthinkable. This was simply an unwritten rule, or a norm, that had got implicitly codified over the years. And everyone abided by it. This norm endured because of the trust in the sanctity of the Joint Entrance Exam, and because its integrity was inviolate. In fact, some other institutions like regional engineering colleges piggy backed their admission systems on the JEE ranking because of its integrity. Such a system lasted for about four decades when there were only five IITs, and the number of admissions as well as applicants was manageable, and the exam was administered totally end to end by the IITs themselves by rotation.

Successive generations of IIT faculty ensured that the sacred norm was sustained, and integrity was not compromised. But that did not last. The gap between supply and demand widened. The premium of getting into IIT zoomed sky high. The coaching class industry made out like bandits. This called for an increase in seat supply. Eventually the number of IITs proliferated, admissions increased, applicant numbers zoomed. And around 2013 there was intense policy discussion about introducing "one nation, one test" for all the major engineering and medical seats in the country. The motivation was to reduce the hassle for students and

parents of running from pillar to post, appearing for multiple entrance exams. It was also to create a uniform standard across the country. There was grave concern about the non-level playing field created by the coaching class industry, and the huge profits that they were skimming.

So finally, we did switch over to the "one test" model, with the JEE being split into two stages. A separate agency was set up called the National Testing Agency in 2017, and now the NTA is in charge of conducting the four big exams, namely National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the gateway to medical seats, the JEE for engineering seats, the University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) and the Centralized University Entrance Test (CUET). The experience of the last few years has not been without hiccups for all these tests. These have led to great anxiety for students and parents. And not to forget the Kota suicides phenomenon related to the inhuman stress on those preparing for competitive exams, whether JEE or NEET.

This year there is a major controversy about two of the big exams, NEET (undergraduate) and UGC-NET. The latter was scheduled for 19 June and abruptly cancelled with barely one day's notice. About 0.9 mil-

lion students across 317 cities were to appear for this exam. The NTA cancelled it because they were concerned about paper leaks. This cancellation came days after the still raging controversy on the NEET-UG whose results were announced on 4 June, the same day as results of the Lok Sabha elections. This exam was taken by 2.4 million students across 571 cities and 4750 centres. But the results seemed absurd. Marks which would have got a rank around 6000 last year, got a rank of 21000. Or marks ranked around 28000 now ranked beyond 80,000. Besides 67 students got a perfect score, with six of these in one same sequence, from the same centre. All this created a lot of disquiet. When scores were shared by parents and applicants on social media, another very unusual phenomenon was discovered, which had not been disclosed by NTA. That 1563 students had received grace marks for which no prior condition had been announced. Grace marks can be given to students with a disability for certain reasons, but in this case, they were given because question papers reached very late.

By now everything has landed in the Supreme Court. The grace marks have been cancelled, and a retest ordered. But the question remains whether such a



Ajit Ranade

WITH TOOLS LIKE AI, AND LIVE PROCTORING SOFTWARE, WE DON'T NEED TO USE OMR AND ALL WITH THE ATTENDANT RISKS

Revisit Manipur

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER



Now that the hurly burly is done and the battle fought - time will tell whether it was lost or won - it is time to rivet the nation's attention on Manipur, the traumatised state in the north-east. That Manipur is clamouring for an end to months-long ethnic blood-letting became clear when massive peaceful protests were held across the state 24 June coinciding with the first Lok Sabha session of the new NDA Gov't. Both the valley-dominant Meitei community and the hill-dominant Kuki-Zo tribes, who have been fighting each other since May 2023, took to the streets.

The so-called double engine BJP governments at the Centre and the state miserably failed to stop the bitter and brutal ethnic strife in Manipur because of the partisan handling of the conflict by the state Chief Minister N Biren Singh belonging to the Meitei community. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his intent clear by not visiting the trouble-torn state even for once when women were gang-raped, men killed and homes set on fire. The communal divide was clear with the ruling party siding with one group and letting down the other. In the just concluded Lok Sabha polls the people of Manipur punished the BJP for its obvious neglect of their problems by ensuring defeat of the party's candidates in both the parliamentary seats of the state.

The problem stems from the fact that the general category Meiteis want to be included in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category as they claim to be essentially and historically a tribe. This is but a ploy to grab land. The Kuki tribals, on the other hand, want a separate administration or "Kukiland" carved out of Manipur. They have been agitating for it for decades, citing the need for a homeland for the scattered tribes who share ethnic ties with tribes in neighbouring Mizoram and Myanmar's Chin State.

The only silver lining visible now is that a common demand of both the groups in the 24 June protests was the call to end the violence that has been dragging on for over a year.

In the state capital Imphal valley, hundreds of women marched in silence holding placards asking the Centre to remove some central forces that they alleged have not done enough to check the growing menace of Kuki insurgents. The protesters said the Manipur issue should be discussed in Parliament, and resolved as soon as possible before more lives are lost.

In Kuki-dominated areas, including Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts, hundreds of people gathered to participate in marches and speeches by Kuki MLAs and civil society leaders. They urged the Centre to create a "separate administration," or a Union Territory by merging all Kuki-dominated areas in Manipur. There are 10 Kuki MLAs, including some from the ruling BJP, in Manipur's 60-member Assembly.

The two-year-old Churachandpur-based Kuki organization Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) in a statement has announced it would lead a nonviolent protest to demand creation of a Union Territory for the Kukis. Other Kuki and Zo tribe groups have endorsed the ITLF's call.

The ethnic strife, that began last year has, so far, claimed over 220 lives, while nearly 50,000 people have been internally displaced. The conflict assumed brutal proportions after armed militias joined both sides. Things went out of control after the state government failed to recover a huge cache of arms and ammunition looted from the constabulary. These were used in ethnic cleansing. Manipur watchers said the administration's soft corner for the majority group was responsible for the situation drifting out of control.

The people of Manipur seem to have spoken their mind in the Lok Sabha poll. They want the government at the Centre not to continue the status quo, but respond to their call for change of attitude at the Centre and leadership in the state.

WISDOM CORNER

I have long thought that anyone who does not regularly - or ever - gaze up and see the wonder and glory of a dark night sky filled with countless stars loses a sense of their fundamental connectedness to the universe.

BRIAN GREENE

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

All the evidence that we have indicates that it is reasonable to assume in practically every human being, and certainly in almost every newborn baby, that there is an active will toward health, an impulse towards growth, or towards the actualization.

ABRAHAM MASLOW

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1906: The first Grand Prix car race is held. The competition was held on a circuit around Le Mans, France and organized by the Automobile Club de France (ACF). Renault's Ferenc Szisz won the competition.
- 1925: Charlie Chaplin's film "The Gold Rush" receives its premiere. The comedy featuring Chaplin in his famous Little Tramp role is a classic of the silent film genre. The English star actor repeatedly stated that this is the film he wants to be remembered for.
- 1963: U.S. President John F. Kennedy holds his iconic "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. The speech was a welcome gesture of support for the people of West Berlin. East Germany had erected the Berlin Wall just two years earlier to stop mass emigration to the West.
- 1976: Opening of CN Tower. CN Tower, which opened to the public this day in 1976, was—at 1,815 feet (553 metres)—the world's tallest freestanding structure until being surpassed in 2007 by the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- 1979: After almost 20 years of professional fights, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali announced his retirement from boxing.
- 1997: J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (also called Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone) was first published, in London; the book launched the hugely popular series about a boy wizard.

LOL

GROWING CHICKENS

A New York City yuppie moved to the country and bought a piece of land. He went to the local feed and livestock store and talked to the proprietor about how he was going to take up chicken farming. He then asked to buy 100 chicks. "That's a lot of chicks," commented the proprietor. "I mean business," the city slicker replied. A week later the yuppie was back again. "I need another 100 chicks," he



said. "Boy, you are serious about this chicken farming," the man told him. "Yeah," the yuppie replied. "If I can iron out a few problems." "Problems?" asked the proprietor. "Yeah," replied the yuppie, "I think I planted that last batch too close together."

IN JEST THIS

How to survive when you're too hot



Melvin Durai

IT'S SO HOT IN NEW DELHI THAT APARTMENT DWELLERS ARE ABLE TO BOIL WATER FOR RICE IN JUST TWO MINUTES, BUT ONLY WHEN THERE'S A POWER OUTAGE

The Daily Mirror in Britain recently sent out a heat alert that sparked laughter around the world: "UK to be blasted by 48 hour 26°C heatwave with five cities in England the hottest."

People in India were quick to respond on social media: "26°C is not a heatwave. That's what we call 'winter'."

It's not quite winter, of course, but 26°C (about 79°F) is a very comfortable temperature, especially compared to the real heatwave that's currently scorching parts of North America, North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

How hot is it? It's so hot in New York City that many kids are immersing themselves in public pools and many police detectives are immersing themselves in cold cases.

It's so hot in New Delhi that apartment dwellers are able to boil water for rice in just two minutes, but only when there's a power outage. It's so hot in Dubai that people

are going on vacations to New Delhi.

In Saudi Arabia, temperatures have reached 50°C (122°F), which, according to the World Meteorological Organization, is just 25 degrees less than the highest temperature ever recorded in hell.

"The temperature in hell can never be so hot that people die," said meteorologist Ron Shaffer. "If they die in hell, where would they go? North Korea?"

But for many people around the world, the temperature is quite hellish.

Teenage girl: "Why the hell is it so hot?"

Mom: "Stop using the word 'hell.' If you keep saying hell, you will end up going to hell!"

Teenage girl: "Why the Taylor Swift concert is it so hot?"

Mom: "I don't know. Global warming? Maybe it's because your dad drives a car that's wider than Sri Lanka."

Heatwaves are nothing new, so we can't blame it all on global warming, but there's no ques-

tion that average global temperatures are rising gradually and the polar ice caps are melting faster than ever. Even more conclusive, from 1974 to 2024, scientists in New York City recorded a sharp rise in the number of people saying, "F*#@ this weather!"

Perhaps it doesn't surprise folks in Iceland, but many people prefer cold weather to hot. Just ask Ronald, a middle-aged man in Chicago. "When it's cold, I can wear more clothes," he said. "When it's hot, what can I do? I can't take off my skin."

Taking off your skin is not an option, but there are certainly things you can do to stay cool in the hot weather. Here are just a few:

1. Use an air conditioner or fan. If you do not have an air conditioner, go to your bathroom, grab your hair conditioner and delete the 'h.' Then splash it on yourself whenever you're hot.

2. Wear minimal clothing outdoors, and even less in-

doors. Make sure your clothing is both light and light-coloured. Don't wear three layers just to be fashionable, unless you're trying to catch the eye of a doctor in the emergency room.

3. Keep your curtains, drapes or blinds pulled or closed during the day. This not only helps to keep the sun out, it also keeps neighbours from seeing what clothes you're not wearing.

4. Drink lots of fluids. This does not mean you should make several trips to the liquor store. Just one will do. But make sure you're hydrating mostly with water. Health authorities advise you to drink one cup (250 ml) of water every 15 to 20 minutes if you're working outdoors, and one cup every 90 minutes if you're watching your spouse work outdoors.

5. Avoid using appliances that produce heat, such as your stove or oven. If you have the urge to do some baking, just go outside and lie in the sun.

Substance abuse

Sir, Substance abuse disorder spares no age group though it basically is a problem faced by the youth. The United Nations (UN) observes the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (IDADAIT) on 26 June to focus on the grave danger posed by drugs. Socioeconomic status of a society cannot be enhanced by unhealthy and unproductive members that is why dangers of drug abuse are manifold. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is like a UN watchdog that keeps a tab on international drug addiction. Making healthy choices, and valuing oneself, go a long way and these were indeed the themes of the UN in the past on IDADAIT. Cocaine and heroin sell like hot-cakes in many countries because of their easy access, and slack laws.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Water sharing

Sir, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's two-day visit to India highlighted the tight relationship between the two countries. The two countries signed ten agreements and memoranda of understanding, but the agreement struck on India's plan to send a technical team to conserve and manage the Teesta River garnered special notice. This accord is regarded as critical in terms of mitigating China's desire to increase its influence on India's neighboring countries. The distribution of Teesta River water has been viewed as a problematic issue between the two countries. The two countries agreed on a formula for sharing Teesta water in 2011, but the talks were halted due to opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Considering this, China began to express interest in the management and conservation of Teesta in 2020. All parties were aware of the sensitivity of the situation, given India's reservations about it. As a result, the situation did not go forward very quickly. However, in December last year, the Chinese envoy to Dhaka raised the issue again. This time, China provided a revised proposal to Bangladesh, showing that the cost was lower than before. However, given India's good relations with Bangladesh, the issue over Teesta water sharing did not raise suspicions and animosity between the two countries.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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School buses to be equipped with GPS: West Bengal govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 25: All school buses and pool cars transporting children in Kolkata should be fitted with vehicle location tracking devices, panic buttons and speed limiting devices, according to an advisory issued by the West Bengal government.

The maximum allowable speed for school buses and pool cars is 40 kmph, the state Transport department informed all educational institutes.

The advisories were issued by Transport Secretary Saumitra Mohan to reinforce the safety and security of school-going children.

The advisory said, "All school buses should be painted in mustard yellow colour with a navy blue band and the name of the school shall be inscribed on the band in white."

The words 'SCHOOL BUS' should be written on the front, rear and sides of the bus.

The advisory which was issued recently said school buses should not be fitted with curtains or glasses having films and sufficient white-lighting inside the buses to ensure that activities inside the buses are visible

Advisories mandate safety measures for school buses, including paint color specifications, emergency equipment, and contact details display

Stakeholder consultation and strict regulations on vehicle features and capacity aim to enhance child safety during transportation

from outside.

Suitable school bag racks protected with grill should be provided in the bus, fire extinguisher and first-aid box should be made available inside and every seat shall be provided with a seatbelt.

The contact details of the school authority including the cell numbers with the designation of the competent person, the number of the control room of the local police station and the Child Line Helpline shall be displayed inside and outside the bus prominently in a conspicuous place.

No soft top vehicle shall be allowed to be used as a pool car, it said, adding that fixation of additional seats, other than the approved capacity on a pool car, shall not be allowed.

The advisory was framed in consultation with different stakeholders - the Transport department, school Education department, police, school authorities, bus operators and pool car operators, civil society organisations, guardians and students.

GANGA WATER TREATY Centre refutes Mamata's claim



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 25: The Centre Tuesday claimed that the West Bengal government was kept well-informed and actively involved in the review and renewal process of the 'India-Bangladesh Treaty'.

Its assertion was, however, rejected by the Mamata Banerjee administration stating that there was no formal or informal policy consultation regarding the water-sharing issue.

A senior official of the department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, said West Bengal government officers participated in the meetings, held between August 2023 and April 2024, to review the 'India-Bangladesh Treaty' of 1996.

"There are communications which revealed that the West Bengal government was not only informed but there were repre-

sentatives who also actively participated in the process by providing critical data necessary for the water sharing treaty's renewal considerations. These actions unequivocally show that the state government was kept well-informed and actively involved in the treaty's review and renewal process," the official told PTI from New Delhi.

He said that July 24, 2023, a committee was constituted to carry out an internal review of the India-Bangladesh Treaty of 1996 on the sharing of waters of the Ganges and to formulate India's strategy for its renewal or extension beyond 2026.

"The committee included a representative of the West Bengal government, who is not below the rank of chief engineer. The presence of this representative in this committee ensured that the state's concerns and inputs were considered during the review."

"This demonstrates a deliberate and structured effort by

the central government to include West Bengal in the critical discussions and decision-making processes related to the treaty," said the official who did not wish to be quoted.

He said that August 23, 2023, the Chief Engineer (Design and Research) of the West Bengal Irrigation and Waterways department was nominated to represent the state in the proposed committee for carrying out the internal review of the treaty. The India and Bangladesh governments signed a Treaty December 12, 1996, for sharing the waters of the Ganges at Farakka during the lean season.

The water of the Ganges is being shared at the Farakka Barrage, which is the last control point on the river Ganga in India, during a lean period, from January 1 to May 31 every year, on a 10-day basis as per the provisions of the Treaty.

Banerjee Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing "strong reservation" over the Centre excluding the state government from discussions held with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit to New Delhi regarding water-sharing issues relating to the Ganges and Teesta rivers.

The West Bengal CM also urged the PM not to hold any such discussion with the neighbouring country without involving the West Bengal government.

Boundaries of three UP cities to be expanded

The state Cabinet has passed the Uttar Pradesh Public Examination Ordinance 2024 Tuesday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Lucknow, June 25: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has decided to expand the boundaries of the state's three big cities -- Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Prayagraj, an official said.

According to a government spokesperson, a number of villages will be included in the Development Authorities of these cities.

In another important decision, the proposal to give life imprisonment to those who leak the question paper in Uttar Pradesh has also been approved by the Cabinet.

Under this, a fine of up to ₹1 crore will be imposed on those found guilty of leaking the paper. For this, the ordinance of the proposed law has been approved by the Yogi Adityanath-led government.

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has also approved the proposal to allot free land near Shakumbhari Devi temple to the Tourism department.

Along with this, the proposal to lease Rahi tourist house in Amethi, Bulandshahr; Barabanki and Sitapur has also been passed.

The Cabinet has passed the proposal to build helipads on PPP model in Lucknow, Prayagraj and Kapilvastu.

The proposal to reuse ancient heritage (Barsana Jal Mahal Mathura, Shukla Talab Kanpur) on PPP model has also been passed.

The Yogi Adityanath government has further approved the proposal to give land to Paramhans Yogananda Sthal in Gorakhpur to make it a tourist destination.

In Ayodhya, the Tata Group will build a temple museum at a cost of about ₹750 crore from CSR fund and the Tourism department will give land for free on lease for 90 years.

Both these proposals have also been passed by the Cabinet.

Advanced traffic management in Bundelkhand expressway

According to the action plan, a Traffic Management Command Centre will be established on the expressway to strengthen the traffic monitoring and management process



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, June 25: As part of its ongoing efforts to make expressways smart, the Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to equip the Bundelkhand Expressway with the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), officials said Tuesday.

The Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has called for applications through Requests for Qualification (RFQ) and Requests for Proposal (RFP) to carry out this project, an official statement issued here said.

According to the action plan prepared to make Bundelkhand Expressway Integrated Traffic Management System enabled, a Traffic Management Command Centre will be established on the expressway to strengthen the traffic monitoring and management process.

The Traffic Management Control (TMC) unit will be equipped with 360-terabyte recording server storage. Additionally, there will be 240-ter-

abyte recording server storage for backup recordings, it said.

The TMC unit will feature a facility monitoring system controller, graphic displays, internet and SMS servers, fibre channel hosts, and USB joystick-controlled PTZ cameras.

It will also be equipped with 890 cameras, including emergency telephone helpline console, Aadhaar-enabled biometric fingerprint scanner machine for staff, surge protection device, lightning protection unit, advanced driver advisory system and GPS tracker, it added.

To enable ATMS on the Bundelkhand Expressway, 150 cameras will be installed at 50 different locations. These specialised cameras will be solar-powered and can operate for up to 96 hours on a single charge. As part of the plan, PTZ cameras with CCTV controllers will be installed along the expressway, they said.

Motion detection surveillance cameras and vehicle speed detection systems will be installed on both sides of the Bundelkhand Expressway, it said. This will allow for alerts to be issued for over-speeding vehicles, enabling the control room to track them immediately, it added. Speed detection radars with a 90-metre range will be installed, and the process for their installation will be completed alongside the implementation of a digital transmission system.

MAHA KUMBH 2025 AI-tech for crowd management



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, June 25: The Uttar Pradesh government will use artificial intelligence-based technologies and tools for crowd management at the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the state Police department to embrace the technology for the mega event.

The Chief Minister said that the scale of the event was expected to be unprecedented and therefore it was essential to create a benchmark in terms of security, cleanliness and convenience.

"The Kumbh is an interface between India's rich religious and cultural heritage and the world. Therefore, there is a need to ensure safety, convenience and cleanliness at the event," he said at a meeting of senior officials at his residence.

Claiming that the mela will be an opportunity to boost brand UP and brand India, the Chief Minister told officials to engage

professional agencies to organise the event and spread the word on it so that pilgrims and tourists from all over the world can come over and become a part of history.

"The Police department and other stakeholders must leverage the advantage of technology for effective crowd management to avert any untoward incident. A detailed action and contingency plan must be drawn up. AI-based equipment and techniques must be used to keep an eye on crowd density so that any possible clustering may be dispersed before the group upsets order in any pocket," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the Ganga and Kalpvasis were the spirit of the Maha Kumbh and directed officials to ensure that the mela was organised around the green theme.

He also said the departments concerned must ensure a clean Ganga from Bijnor to Ballia.

Officials, who attended the meeting, said that compared to 2019,

"The Kumbh is an interface between India's rich religious and cultural heritage and the world. Therefore, there is a need to ensure safety, convenience and cleanliness at the event"

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UP

when the Kumbh was spread across 3200 hectares, the 2025 Mela would be organised in an area of 4000 hectares.

The Chief Minister also directed police to train and sensitise the personnel for the mela duty.

"They must be warm, soft-spoken and dignified, yet affirmative while dealing with pilgrims and visitors," he said and also scanned through Tourism department projects taking shape in the wake of the mela.

"The corridor connecting Akshay Vat, Saraswati Koop, and Patalpuri Temple should be completed at the earliest and help from the Indian Army unit in Prayagraj may be sought to accelerate the progress of the project," he said.

He also directed organisers to ensure that adequate arrangements are made for international VIP and VVIP guests.

The Urban Development department said that over 1.5 lakh toilets will be made on the ground for the convenience of the pilgrims. They added that more than 10,000 sanitation workers will be engaged to ensure that these toilets remain functional.

The mela will be an opportunity to boost brand UP and brand India

PIR PANJAL RANGE

The expedition, conducted by Sonarpur Arohi - a climbers' club at Sonarpur in Kolkata's southern outskirts and led by mountaineer Rudra Prasad Halder, reached the Gupt Parvat summit at around 8.45 am following a nearly eight-hour summit push

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 25: A team of nine climbers from West Bengal Tuesday conquered a never-before-climbed peak, Gupt Parvat, that stands at an elevation of 5,988 metres in the Pir Panjal Range of Himachal Pradesh's Lahul dis-

Bengal climbers conquer virgin peak



trict, organisers said.

The mountain derives its name from its virtual invisibility on account of a unique geographical position amid other peaks of the Himalayan range rendering it nearly impossible to even photograph, experts said.

The expedition, conducted by Sonarpur Arohi - a climbers' club at Sonarpur in Kolkata's southern outskirts and led by mountaineer Rudra Prasad Halder - reached the Gupt Parvat summit at around 8.45 am following a nearly eight-

hour summit push, members of the supporting team confirmed.

While the team comprised ace climber Satyarup Siddhanta, the Guinness Record holder for becoming the youngest mountaineer in the world and the first from India to climb both the Seven Summits in each of the continents and Seven Volcanic Summits, as its deputy leader, it also included a female member, Diposree Paul.

The team started from Kolkata June 3 with a dual goal to summit

Mt Shikar Beh (6,200 metres) and Gupt Parvat, but had to abandon hopes of summiting the former in the wake of an avalanche that came crashing down after the climbers had managed to open a route to the top destroying vital climbing equipment, it was learnt.

Undaunted, the team then focused on scaling Gupt Parvat.

"The team set up the summit camp at 5,285 meters and had plans of reaching the summit through the mountain's west wall. However, owing to incessant snowfall for the last three days, the climbers were waiting for a summit window and finally planned their summit push to start at 1 am June 25," said Dipanjan Das, a member of the expedition support team.

Till reports last received, the climbers had successfully descended to summit camp and were planning to further head down

to camp one.

"No doubt I am happy about their achievement today. But more than that, I am hugely relieved that all team members are safe despite the odds they kept facing on those upper reaches. These climbers move heaven and earth to collect the money needed for such expeditions and it's their passion for the mountains that keeps them going," said Gayotri Siddhanta, the septuagenarian mother of Satyarup.

The achievements of the Sonarpur Arohi club members include the scaling of Mt Everest from both its north and south faces, climbing Mt Kanchenjunga, Ganga Sagar in east India to the Rann of Kutch in the west coastal line trek, a trans-Himalayan cycling expedition and a cycling expedition to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa, the club website proclaimed.

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HIRING OF PROJECT ACCOUNTANT ON FIXED REMUNERATION UNDER ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE-II

No.MM-48: The DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Athmallik Divisional Management Unit (DMU) invites application from suitable candidates for hiring, one post of Project Accountant for DMU, Athmallik on fixed remuneration basis under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II.

Interested candidates may obtain Term of References and Application may download from the <https://www.ofsds.in> website. Duly filled in application along with demand draft of Rs.500/- (Non-refundable) in favour of DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Athmallik from any Nationalised Bank and Xerox copy of all relevant certificates should reach the undersigned on or before 4 PM of Dt.20.07.2024.

Sd./ DFO-Cum-DMU Chief,
Athmallik Forest Division, Athmallik
OIPR-08125/11/0002/2425

Date: 24.06.2024

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BONAIGARH Dist-Sundargarh

Letter No.2000 Date: 24.06.2024

Tender Call Notice No. / 2024-25

No.I-09: Sealed Tenders are invited from the interested bidder for the civil work under BDO, Bonaigarh of Sundargarh district. The detail of works, eligibility, estimated cost and cost of tender paper has been uploaded in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in. The bidder should be B' class contractor only. They have to submit the bid document to the undersigned in the address of office of the B.D.O., Bonaigarh, AT/PO. Bonaigarh, Pin-770038, Dist- Sundargarh (Odisha) through Registered Post/ Speed Post only on or before 06/07/2024, up to 5:00 PM. The sale of tender paper will be from dated 24/06/2024 to dated 05/07/2024 in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. The tender will be opened on dated 08.07.2024 at 11.00 AM in the office of the undersigned in the presence of the bidders or his/her authorized representatives.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Bonaigarh
OIPR-19333/11/0002/2425

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.PWDK-04/2024-25
No.G2/5025, Dt.25.06.2024

No.B-44: e-mail: eeppwdkeonjhar@yahoo.com

1. No. of the Work	: 01 No. Box Cell Culvert Work
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.37.49 Lakh
3. Period of Completion	: From 4 (Four) Calendar Months
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal	: From 10.00 Hr. 04.07.2024 to 17.00 Hr. of 15.07.2024
5. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	: 17.00 Hr. of 15.07.2024
6. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	: 11.30 Hr. of 16.07.2024
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer (I/C) Superintending Engineer Keonjhar (R&B) Division Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>."

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer (I/C) Superintending Engineer Keonjhar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34004/11/0004/2425



Today is remembered as the black day as those elements had throttled the voice of 80 crore people to save their chair
JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

AIR INDIA BOMB THREAT HOAX

A London-bound Air India flight received a bomb threat Tuesday but it turned out to be a hoax and a 29 year-old man suspected of making the threatening call has been apprehended here by authorities, an official said. Security personnel conducted extensive checks on the aircraft and found no danger, allowing the flight to proceed as planned, a Cochin International Airport spokesperson said



of the day quote

From tomorrow, we are beginning 'badlav jansamvad'. Under this, we will go to every village and speak to public on various issues concerning them
SANDEEP PATHAK | RAJYA SABHA MP

Land is an important resource for industrial development and availability of plots will create opportunities for existing industries and new entrepreneurs can acquire non-functional industries
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

All our three MPs are very experienced and intelligent. They are well aware of the issues of Punjab. They know how to get things done
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Court rejects Abu Salem's plea

Mumbai: The special TADA court here Tuesday rejected gangster Abu Salem's plea opposing his planned transfer from the Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai. Salem is undergoing life sentence at the Talaja prison in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case. The decision to shift him was a "conspiracy to kill him" as he was likely to be released in a few months, Salem's application claimed. The current prison was safe for him and he could be attacked by members of the rival gangs in other jails in Maharashtra, it said. The jail administration told the court it wanted to relocate Salem as his current cell needed reconstruction.

Heavy rain lashes 3 Arunachal districts

Itanagar: Heavy rain lashed Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada, Siang and Lower Siang districts triggering landslides that blocked roads, an official said. A landslide that occurred near Siji bridge point has completely blocked the strategically important Likabali-Basar-Aalo-Mechuka and Likabali-Basar-Daporijo road, the official said. Talking to PTI over phone, Lower Siang deputy commissioner Rujum Rakshap said that a massive landslide occurred near Siji bridge point area.

Demolition at mosque: Protests in Mangolpuri

New Delhi: Protests erupted in northwest Delhi's Mangolpuri area, where portions of a mosque were demolished due to alleged encroachment, amid heavy deployment of police and paramilitary forces, officials said Tuesday. The demolition drive, however, had to be halted after the situation escalated as a large mob gathered, forming a human chain to obstruct the entry of JCBs into the area, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which carried out the drive, said in a statement. Additionally, the presence of women protesters, who sat on the unauthorised structure, complicated the law and order situation in the area, it added.

Southwest monsoon reaches Rajasthan

Jaipur: The southwest monsoon reached Rajasthan Tuesday, according to the Met Centre here. The weather office said that the monsoon has further advanced into some more parts of the North Arabian Sea, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and parts of southeast Rajasthan. The Northern Limit of monsoon passes through Mundra, Mahesana, Udaipur, Shivpuri, Siddhi, Chaiabasa, Haldia, Pakur, Sahibganj and Raxaul.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

HC stays Kejriwal's bail

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 25: In a blow to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi High Court Tuesday stayed the trial court order granting him bail in the money laundering case arising from the alleged excise scam, holding that the lower court did not "appropriately appreciate" the material placed before it by the Enforcement Directorate.

A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said the ED's contentions assailing the bail order required serious consideration. "The Vacation (trial) Judge while passing the Impugned Order did not appropriately appreciate the material/documents submitted on record and pleas taken by ED and the averments/grounds as raised in the petition under section 439(2) of the Code require serious consideration," it said. "Accordingly, the present application is allowed and the operation of the Impugned Order is stayed," the court said.

The trial court, presided over by vacation judge Niyay Bindu, had granted bail to Kejriwal June 20 and ordered his release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. The ED moved the high court the very next day and contended that the trial court's order was "perverse", "one-sided" and



"wrong-sided" and it was passed without granting it adequate opportunity to argue the case. In the 34-page order on the ED's application seeking a stay on the operation of the bail order, Justice Jain asserted that every court is under an obligation to give sufficient opportunity to the parties to present their respective case and, in the instant case as well, ED ought to have been given adequate opportunity to advance arguments on Kejriwal's bail application.

Justice Jain said the trial judge not only did not discuss and consider the arguments made by the anti-money laundering agency, including those advanced in the written submissions, it also did not discuss and record its view with respect to the "twin condition" requirement under section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) while granting bail.

Under section 45 of PMLA, an accused can be granted bail

AAP to move SC

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Tuesday said it disagrees with the Delhi High Court order staying the bail granted to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the trial court and will challenge it in the Supreme Court. The trial court had granted bail to Kejriwal June 20 in the money laundering case stemming from the alleged Delhi excise policy scam and ordered his release on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh. The high court stayed the trial court order Tuesday. A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain said the trial court failed to appreciate the material placed before it by the Enforcement Directorate and did not apply its mind while deciding the AAP leader's bail plea. The judge also said the trial court ought to have given adequate opportunity to the agency to argue its case. Reacting to the development, the AAP said they will approach the apex court.

subject to the "twin conditions" that the court is prima facie satisfied that he is not guilty of such offence and the prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for bail.

The issue regarding Kejriwal's vicarious liability as the head of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also did not find any place in the bail order, the court added.

SC asks Delhi HC to decide Jain's bail plea July 9

New Delhi: Observing that bail matters should not be adjourned unnecessarily, the Supreme Court Tuesday said it hoped the Delhi High Court will decide the bail plea of jailed former AAP minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case at the next hearing. A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and SVN Bhatti made the observation while disposing of Jain's plea against the high court's decision of adjourning the hearing of his bail application for six weeks. "It goes without saying that bail matters are not to be unnecessarily adjourned. Therefore, we hope and trust that the high court shall take its call on the next date of hearing," it said. The high court has listed Jain's bail plea for hearing July 9.



Owaisi raises 'Jai Palestine' slogan after taking oath as MP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi raised the slogan of "Jai Bhim, Jai Mim, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine, Takbeer Allahu Akbar" after taking oath as the Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha Tuesday. The Hyderabad MP began his oath with a few Quranic verses.

He took the oath in Urdu and in the name of Allah.

When Owaisi came to the podium for the oath, the BJP MPs raised slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai".

After the oath, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President said: "Jai Bhim, Jai Mim, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine, Takbeer Allahu Akbar."

Owaisi, who was elected to Parliament for a fifth consecutive term in the elections held last month, later defended raising the slogan 'Jai Palestine'.

"When reporters drew his attention to the criticism from the BJP, he asked which provision of the Constitution he violated. 'Have you not heard what they were saying? You should also listen to what others said. I said what I had to,' Owaisi said.

Talking about Palestine, the AIMIM chief said they were oppressed people. "Read what Mahatma Gandhi had said about Palestine," he said.



Nationalist Youth Congress (Sharad Pawar group) workers take part in a 'pakoda' protest against the Central government over the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG results in Solapur, Maharashtra

NEET PAPER LEAK ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: The Education Ministry's panel on exam reforms will engage with parents and students to understand their concerns and challenges about the examination process, amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams NEET and NET, according to officials.

"The first priority for us is to elicit from the students and parents in the country their concerns and suggestions. We are going to engage with them as far as possible in person, or through electronic media. And in the next fortnight, we would like to consolidate this," Radhakrishnan told reporters Tuesday.

"The next priority for us is to quickly build a robust system for starting the tests. We are also looking at the future, especially to develop in this country a robust system, a tamper-proof sys-

Centre's panel to interact with students, parents



tem, a system with zero error and a system that will lessen the difficulties and stress for the students with adequate flexibility built into it," he added. "The panel was apprised of the

current processes and functioning of the agency. The panel also looked into the statistics provided by the NTA about the multiple exams conducted by it and the number of candidates appearing for each

exam," a source said. During its meeting, the committee is also believed to have discussed cybersecurity issues and challenges posed by the dark-net, where the UGC-NET exam

Pune Porsche crash: Accused teen released



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 25: The teenager involved in the Pune Porsche crash that killed two people was released from observation home Tuesday following the Bombay high court's order.

Earlier in the day, the HC had said the continuation of the minor accused in the fatal case is "illegal", directing his release from the home.

The teenager, who had got bail hours after the accident May 19 but was sent to the observation home three days later following an outcry, was released in the evening following the HC order.

A division bench of Justices Bharati Dange and Manjusha Deshpande said it was the court's bounden duty to prioritise justice above everything else, and it was not swayed by the uproar created because of the ghastly mishap which resulted in the loss of two innocent lives.

"Fiat Justitia Ruat Caelum, a latin phrase which connotes, 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall,' clearly convey a principle in law, that justice must be realised regardless of consequences and just decisions may be made at whatever cost it

comes," the court said. "We have all sympathies for the victim and their families, but as a court of law, we are bound to implement the law as it stands," the HC said. The order was passed on a petition filed by the 17-year-old boy's paternal aunt, who claimed he was illegally detained.

As per the police, the teen was drunk and driving the luxury car belonging to his father, a real estate businessman, when it hit a two-wheeler in Kalyani Nagar area of Pune city in the early hours of May 19, killing a man and a woman, both IT professionals and 24 years old.

The HC Tuesday quashed the orders issued by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) remanding the minor to the observation home.

"We allow the petition and order his release. The CCL (Child in Conflict with Law) shall be in the care and custody of the petitioner (paternal aunt)," the court said.

The JJB's remand orders were illegal and passed without jurisdiction, the high court said, while also giving an earful to the police for the manner in which the entire situation was handled.

question paper was first leaked forcing the Education Ministry to cancel it the day after it was conducted.

According to ministry officials, the reforms suggested by the panel are likely to be implemented by the next exam cycle.

In the line of fire over the alleged irregularities in medical entrance examination NEET and PhD entrance NET, the Centre had on Saturday notified the panel to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations through the NTA.

While NEET is under scanner over several irregularities, including alleged leaks, UGC-NET was cancelled as the ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam was compromised.

Two other exams -- CSIR-UGC NET and NEET PG -- were cancelled as a pre-emptive step.

The panel will make recommendations on reforms in the mechanism of the examination process, improvement in data security protocols and the structure and functioning of the NTA.

The panel also includes former AIIMS Delhi director Randeep Guleria, Central University of Hyderabad Vice-Chancellor B J Rao, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Madras K Ramamurthy, People Strong co-founder and Karmayogi Bharat board member Pankaj Bansal, IIT Delhi Dean of Student Affairs Aditya Mittal and Ministry of Education Joint Secretary Govind Jaiswal.

The seven-member panel headed by former ISRO chief R Radhakrishnan had its first meeting Monday evening. According to sources present in the meeting, the committee took stock of the current situation and challenges faced by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

of the day quote

Received Ambassador of China Xu Feihong this evening. Discussed our bilateral relationship and our common interest in its stabilization and progress. Wished him a successful tenure

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

I have been CM myself, such a decision would not be possible without the CM's approval, especially in the Congress party

JAI RAM THAKUR | LEADER OF OPPOSITION OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The BJP and Congress governments did not implement the Mandal Commission report providing reservation benefits to Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

X POST OF THE DAY

Genius from Pappu Yadav Came to take oath as MP wearing a RE-NET Tshirt. Concluded his oath by saying Re-Net, Special status to Bihar, Samvidhaan Zindabad. BJP MPs got up and started crying.

@ROSHANKRRAI

SHORT TAKES

Senthil Balaji's remand extended

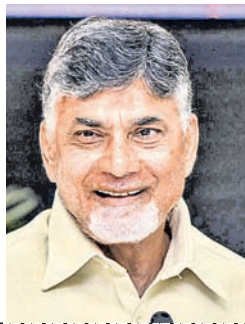
Chennai: A sessions court Tuesday extended the remand of former Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji, arrested by the ED in a money laundering case, till July 1. Principal Sessions Judge S Allli, before whom Senthil Balaji was produced by the prosecution through video-conferencing from the Central Puzhal Prison here, also extended his judicial custody till July 1. When the case came up for hearing Tuesday, the ED filed its counter affidavits to the three petitions filed by Senthil Balaji. The judge posted to July 1, further hearing of these petitions.

Fire at Safdarjung Hospital building

New Delhi: A fire broke out in a store room in the old emergency building of the Safdarjung Hospital here Tuesday, Delhi Fire Services (DFS) officials said. No one was injured in the incident. A nurse was rescued from the third floor of the building, they said. DFS chief Atul Garg said the department received information about the fire around 10.40 am. "The fire was at gate no. 6 of the old emergency building of the Safdarjung Hospital. Seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire broke out in the building's store room," he added.

Pune bar case: 2 accused held

Pune: The Pune police probing the alleged use of drugs at a local bar have arrested two men - one each from here and Mumbai - taking the count of those held in this case to 16, an official said Tuesday. The duo, identified as Nitin Thombre and Karan Mishra, was seen with a drugs-like substance in a video captured at the bar that went viral earlier, he said.



I came to meet you and take your blessings. I am indebted to you. These five years I promise to repay you and develop in all possible ways

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER SCARE

With 160 more pigs killed by the African Swine Fever (ASF) infection in the past two days, the death toll of pigs following the outbreak of the disease in Mizoram since February has crossed 3,350, officials said Tuesday



SUKHBIR BADAL FACES REBELLION

THE SAD FACED A DRUBBING IN THE GENERAL ELECTIONS AS IT MANAGED TO WIN ONLY ONE OF THE 13 LOK SABHA SEATS IN PUNJAB. BADAL'S WIFE AND FORMER UNION MINISTER HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL RETAINED THE BATHINDA SEAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



led to its current position. They also discussed ways to revive the party. He said it has been decided to seek forgiveness for the "past mistakes and shortcomings" at the Akal Takht July 1. A letter in this regard will be submitted to the office of the Akal Takht, which is the supreme temporal seat of the Sikhs. A 'Shiromani Akali Dal bachao' movement will also be launched on that day, he further said.

Chandigarh, June 25: A section of senior Shiromani Akali Dal leaders Tuesday revolted against Sukhbir Singh Badal, demanding that he should step down as party chief following the SAD's debacle in the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting in Jalandhar, he also announced that a 'SAD bachao' movement would be launched next month. The rebel leaders met in Jalandhar when SAD chief Badal was holding a meeting with the district presidents and other leaders in Chandigarh to review the party's performance in the Lok Sabha polls. The party called the rebel leaders "frustrated elements sponsored by the BJP" to weaken it. The SAD faced a drubbing in the general elections as it managed to win only one of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab. Badal's wife and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal retained the Bathinda seat.

SAD's 10 candidates lost security deposits in the polls while its vote share dropped to 13.42 per cent from 27.45 per cent in 2019. After around five-hour-long meeting, the rebels asked Badal to step down as party president. Talking to reporters, former Akali MP Chandumajra said they held a detailed discussion on the party's "past mistakes and shortcomings" which have

Modi's dig at Cong on Emergency anniv

As the BJP and the Congress crossed swords on the 49th anniversary of imposition of Emergency, Modi said that its dark days are a reminder of how the Congress subverted basic freedoms and trampled over the Constitution which every Indian respects greatly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bhopal, June 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said those who imposed Emergency have no right to profess their love for the Constitution, as top BJP leaders trained their guns on the Congress with two party chief ministers demanding apology from the main Opposition party.

The Congress hit back at Modi and accused him of enforcing an "undeclared emergency" in the last 10 years which caused a "deep trauma" to democracy.

The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi June 25, 1975, declared a state of Emergency in the country, suspending civil liberties, jailing Opposition leaders and dissidents and effecting press censorship. Emergency was lifted March 21, 1977.

In a no-holds-barred attack on the Congress, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Opposition party crushed the spirit of the Constitution several times for the sake of "maintaining a certain family in power".

He said the Emergency was the biggest example of the opposition party's long history of killing democracy and harming it repeatedly. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav while demanding an apology from the Congress said the Emergency was a "dark period" which caused shivers even after five decades.

"It was such a dark period that even today the whole country shivers on remembering it. The Congress should apologise for it. Many families were destroyed due to their excesses."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the country will not pardon the Congress and demanded that the Opposition party apologise to



the people. The BJP held programmes coinciding with the anniversary of the Emergency to "expose" what it called the Congress "authoritarianism" and its disregard for the Constitution. In posts on X, Modi said that just to cling on to power, the then Congress government disregarded every democratic principle and turned the nation into a jail. "Socially regressive policies were unleashed to target the weakest sections."

"These are the same people who have imposed Article 356 on innumerable occasions, got a Bill to destroy press freedom, destroyed federalism and violated every aspect of the Constitution."

"The mindset which led to the imposition of the Emergency is very much alive among the same party which imposed it. They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but the people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time and again," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the anniversary Tuesday is a day to pay homage to all those great men and women who resisted the Emergency.

"Those who imposed the Emergency have no right to profess their love for our

Constitution," he said. Kharage said the prime minister is raking up the past only to hide his "failures".

"Narendra Modi ji, the country is looking forward to the future but you keep scratching the past to hide your failures. In the last 10 years, you made 140 crore Indians realise what 'undeclared emergency' is, which caused a deep trauma to democracy and the Constitution," Kharage said in a post in Hindi on X. "Breaking parties, toppling elected governments through the backdoor, misuse of agencies like ED, CBI, IT against 95 percent of Opposition leaders, putting chief ministers in jail, and using the official machinery before elections and disturbing the level playing field, is this not undeclared emergency?"

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Emergency was a black chapter in Indian democracy which cannot be forgotten. Dictatorship and misuse of power were on brazen display during the period, Singh said on X, adding that it raises a big question mark on the commitment to democracy of several political parties.

BJP president JP Nadda reminded the Congress of the "dark days of Emergency" and said those who insulted and ignored the Constitution several times have declared themselves as protectors of the Constitution.

Senior BJP leader Vikram Verma, a former union minister, said Rahul Gandhi should publicly express regret for the Emergency imposed by his grandmother.

Congress leader P Chidambaram said the people of the country have voted for the 18th Lok Sabha in such a manner that no "divine ruler" can change the basic structure of the Constitution.

SNIPPETS

Mian Qayoom held in 2020 conspiracy to kill advocate

Srinagar: Mian Abdul Qayoom, former president of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, was arrested Tuesday for his alleged involvement in the murder conspiracy of fellow advocate Babar Qadri in 2020, officials here said. Qayoom, a prominent figure in Kashmir associated with the All Party Hurriyat Conference and the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, was taken into custody after the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police collected evidence against him, the officials said. Qadri, a human rights expert who frequently appeared on television debates, was fatally shot at his residence in the Hawal area of downtown in September 2020. He had narrowly survived an assassination attempt in 2018.

Hooch tragedy: NHRC issues notices to TN govt, DGP

New Delhi: The NHRC Tuesday said it has issued notices to the Tamil Nadu government and police chief in connection with the hooch tragedy in Kallakurichi district and sought a report in a week. Till Monday, 58 people had died in the district after consuming illicit liquor. As many as 219 people have been admitted to various hospitals. In a statement, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that several people lost their lives after consuming spurious liquor in Kallakurichi. Reportedly, a large number of people including women are under treatment in hospitals and some of them are in critical condition. The content of the news report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of the right to life of the victims, it said. States have the exclusive power to regulate the production, manufacturing, possession, transportation, purchase and sale of liquor.

Nandini milk price to go up by ₹2

Bangalore: The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) Tuesday announced a hike in milk prices with effect from June 26, which has led to the Opposition holding the government responsible for the price hike while the Siddaramaiah-led dispensation says it had nothing to do with KMF's independent decision. The rise in milk prices comes days after the Karnataka government hiked sales tax on fuel, following which petrol prices have gone up by ₹3 per litre and diesel by ₹3.5 per litre in the state. While the price of milk has been increased, KMF said the quantity too would be raised by 50 ml. Currently, the 500 ml toned milk packet of Nandini costs ₹22. With this hike, the 550 ml packet will now cost ₹24. Similarly, the 1000 ml (1 litre) packet was priced at ₹42 and will now be sold as 1,050 ml at ₹44.



Police personnel use water cannons to disperse Muslim Youth League (MYL) activists during their protest march over the shortage of Plus-I seats in the Malabar region in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Atishi's hunger strike ends with her hospitalisation

Atishi, who holds multiple portfolios in the Delhi government, was admitted to the emergency ICU at the Lok Nayak Hospital and her condition is stable now, with doctors saying she will take a couple of days to recover

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Delhi Water Minister Atishi's indefinite hunger strike to demand water for the national capital amid its ongoing scarcity came to an end after she was hospitalised due to her worsening health conditions in the early hours of Tuesday.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva wished good health and happiness to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, even as he said "she should stop misleading the public".

Giving an update on Atishi's health, the hospital's Medical

Director, Dr Suresh Kumar, said her condition is stable but she is in the intensive care unit (ICU).

"She was advised hospitalisation Monday evening after her sugar levels fell and the presence of ketones was detected in her urine. She had declined hospitalisation. However, at midnight, as her condition deteriorated and she was drowsy, she was admitted. She is currently stable and in the ICU. Her blood tests were done and things are fine. She is conscious," the senior doctor said.

He said Atishi is being given liquids and is on intravenous



therapy. Her sugar levels had fallen to 36mg/dL. Explaining the consequences of the sharp decline, Kumar said if a person's sugar level goes below 50 mg/dL, it can have serious consequences.

"Brain cells need glucose and if glucose does not reach them, it causes drowsiness and un-

consciousness. If not given medical attention on time, a patient can go into a hypoglycaemic coma. A fall in the blood sugar levels can also lead to multiple organ failure. Hypoglycemia is a medical emergency for brain cells and other organs if not addressed in time," he added.

The normal sugar levels in

the blood are between 70 mg/dL and 100 mg/dL. Atishi had begun her hunger strike June 21.

AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the minister ended her indefinite fast after she was hospitalised.

At a press conference here, Singh said Atishi's health deteriorated after being on fast for nearly five days and she was admitted to the LNJP hospital around 3:45 am. He said all MPs of the AAP will write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Delhi gets its rightful share of water from Haryana. The issue will also be raised by the AAP and its political allies in Parliament, Singh added.

Over the last three weeks, Haryana had reduced Delhi's share of Yamuna water by 100 MGD. However, it has increased the amount of water released

in the last two days and the shortfall is 90 MGD now, Singh said.

A post on X from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official handle said the people of Delhi "will definitely give a reply to the injustice that the BJP government (at the Centre) is doing" to the national capital. The post on the microblogging platform was made by Kejriwal's team.

Former Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal, who has levelled charges of assault against Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar, also wished Atishi a speedy recovery. She said the strength to go on a hunger strike comes only from the struggle on the ground and not from speaking lies. Echoing similar sentiments, Sachdeva said the essence of "satyagraha" is to fight for the truth.

international



This (India-US) is a relationship that isn't just additive. It's not just the US plus India. It's multiplicative. It's the United States times India

ERIC GARCETTI | US ENVOY TO INDIA

LUNAR PROBE SUCCESS

China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe landed in the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia, making the country the first to bring back samples from the moon's far side



of the day quote

Basically, we are confronted nowadays with a near total breakdown of law and order in Gaza. It's becoming more and more complicated to deliver aid

PHILIPPE LAZZARINI | COMMISSIONER-GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

The visit was short but very fruitful. I think this visit will play a very pivotal role in strengthening the existing excellent relations between India and Bangladesh

SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESH PM

Sri Lanka Tuesday approved the debt restructuring deal with creditors committee while the negotiations with international sovereign bondholders are to be continued further

BANDULA GUNAWARDENA | CABINET SPOKESPERSON, SRI LANKA

SHORT TAKES

US, allies clash over Iran's N-programme

United Nations: The United States and its key European allies clashed with Iran and Russia over Tehran's expanding nuclear programme, with the US vowing "to use all means necessary to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran" in a UN Security Council meeting Monday. The US, France, Britain and Germany accused Iran of escalating its nuclear activities far beyond limits it agreed to in a 2015 deal aimed at preventing Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, and of failing to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Hong Kong court to sentence activists

Hong Kong: A Hong Kong court on Tuesday began mitigation hearings for prominent pro-democracy activists who were convicted under a national security law and now face up to life in prison. The activists were among 47 democracy advocates who were charged with conspiracy to commit subversion in 2021 for their involvement in an unofficial primary, in the biggest case brought under the Beijing-imposed national security law. They were accused of attempting to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing a legislative majority and using it to block city budgets.

China detains knife attack suspect

Beijing: Chinese police have detained a man suspected of wounding three people, including two Japanese nationals, in a knife attack on a bus used by a Japanese school in the eastern city of Suzhou, local authorities said Tuesday. Police arrested the suspect, an unemployed man in his 50s whose family name is Zhou, on the spot after Monday's attack, local police said in a statement, adding that he was under investigation. The wounds of the two Japanese are not life threatening, while the Chinese citizen who was the most critically wounded is still undergoing treatment, the statement added.

Heavy rain kills 24

Abidjan: Flooding and landslides in Ivory Coast's largest city of Abidjan have left at least 24 people dead following a week of heavy rains, four times the usual volume in some cases, authorities said Tuesday. The flooding and landslides have also caused "significant" damage across the city, flooding houses and roads, said the Ivory Coast National Office for Civil Protection. At least 271 people who were trapped after the rains have been successfully rescued, it said.

Kenyan cops open fire

Protests and clashes takes place in several other cities and towns across the country, with many calling for President William Ruto to quit office as well as voicing their opposition to the tax rises

REUTERS

Nairobi, June 25: Police opened fire on demonstrators trying to storm Kenya's legislature Tuesday, with at least five protesters killed, dozens wounded and sections of the parliament building set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed legislation to raise taxes.

In chaotic scenes, protesters overwhelmed police and chased them away in an attempt to storm the parliament compound. Flames could be seen coming from inside.

Police opened fire after tear gas and water cannon failed to disperse the crowds.

A Reuters journalist counted the bodies of at least five protesters outside parliament. A paramedic, Vivian Achista, said at least 10 had been shot dead.

Another paramedic, Richard Ngumo, said more than 50 people had been wounded by gunfire. He was lifting two injured protesters into an ambulance outside parliament.

"We want to shut down parliament and every MP should go down and resign," protester Davis Tafari, who was trying to



enter parliament, told Reuters. "We will have a new government."

Police eventually managed to drive the protesters from the building amid clouds of tear gas and the sound of gunfire. The lawmakers were evacuated through underground tunnels, local media reported.

Internet services across the country also experienced severe

a third reading by lawmakers. The next step is for the legislation to be sent to the president for signing. He can send it back to parliament if he has any objections.

Ruto won an election almost two years ago on a platform of championing Kenya's working poor, but has been caught between the competing demands of lenders such as the International Monetary Fund, which is urging the government to cut deficits to obtain more funding, and a hard-pressed population.

The finance bill aims to raise an additional \$2.7 billion in taxes as part of an effort to lighten the heavy debt load, with interest payments alone consuming 37% of annual revenue.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga called for the Finance Bill to be immediately and unconditionally withdrawn to make way for dialogue.

"I am disturbed at the murders, arrests, detentions and surveillance being perpetrated by police on boys and girls who are only seeking to be heard over taxation policies that are stealing both their present and future," he said in a statement.

Ex-Mossad chief urges IDF Chief of Staff to quit

AGENCIES

Tel Aviv, June 25: Tamir Pardo, a former Mossad chief, has urged IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi to step down, emphasizing the importance of doing so even if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not.

Speaking at Reichman University's Herzliya Conference, Pardo said, "I have known Herzi for 30 years. He is a great commander. What happened [on October 7] is not connected to him as a commander. But it is not right to continue nine months after" the IDF failed to prevent Hamas' October 7 invasion.

"It is not good for the country or the IDF. On October 9, it was expected that the government would resign and then the operational level [like Halevi] would resign," but given that this has not happened, Pardo said, Halevi needs to resign to restore public faith in the IDF.

In a direct attack on the prime minister, the former Mossad chief said, "I am embarrassed to be Israeli [when Netanyahu] speaks this way to the country that gave us the greatest backing ever."

Pardo was referring to a video released by Netanyahu, in which



he criticised the Biden administration for delays or suspensions in supplying weapons to Israel during the ongoing conflict. This move was seen as a tactic to pressure Jerusalem into following American advice regarding the battle of Rafah and the overall war effort. Numerous military and political figures have denounced Netanyahu for his actions, arguing that his public criticism could jeopardise Israeli security and potentially impact future arms shipments. Former IDF Chief and National Unity MK Gadi Eisenkot suggested that Netanyahu's public rebuke resulted in the postponement of a crucial US-Israel meeting on Iran-related threats, an issue that the prime minister has consistently emphasised as his top priority.

Assange on his way to enter a plea deal

WikiLeaks' founder expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Regardless of the views that people have about Assange's activities, the case has dragged on for too long. There's nothing to be gained by his continued incarceration and we want him brought home to Australia

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

Bangkok, June 25: A plane with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange departed Bangkok after refuelling Tuesday and he is on the way to Saipan to enter a plea deal with the US government that will free him and resolve the legal case over the publication of a trove of classified documents.

The chartered flight from London that Assange's wife, Stella, confirmed was carrying her husband left Don Mueang International Airport, according to the FlightRadar24 plane tracking app. Airport officials told The Associated Press the plane was scheduled to continue on to Saipan, the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Pacific, where Assange is expected to appear in court Wednesday.

He's expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain

and disseminate classified national defence information, according to the US Justice Department in a letter filed in court.

Assange is expected to return to his home country of Australia after his plea and sentencing. The hearing is taking place in Saipan because of Assange's opposition to travelling to the continental US and the court's proximity to Australia, prosecutors said.

British judicial officials confirmed that Assange left the UK Monday evening after being granted bail at a secret hearing last week.

"Thirteen-and-a-half years and two extradition requests after he was first arrested, Julian Assange left the UK yesterday, following a bail hearing last Thursday, held in private at his request," said Stephen Parkinson, the chief prosecutor for England and Wales.



Britain's King Charles III, left and Japans Emperor Naruhito ride in a one carriage during the ceremonial welcome for the State Visit to Britain of the Emperor and Empress, in London, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

ICC issues arrest warrants for Russian officials

REUTERS

The Hague, June 25: The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Sergei Shoigu, the former Russian defence minister, and leading Russian general Valery Gerasimov Tuesday for alleged crimes committed during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Shoigu was removed from his post of defence minister last month, and appointed Secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council, in the most significant changes Russian President Vladimir Putin made to his military command since the start of the war in 2022.

The Hague-based court said Shoigu and Gerasimov were sus-



pected of having committed war crimes and crimes against humanity for directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects in Ukraine.

Judges had found there were "reasonable grounds to believe that the two suspects bear responsibility for missile strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces against the Ukrainian electric infrastructure from at

least 10 October 2022 until at least 9 March 2023", the ICC said in a press release.

Russia, which is not a member of the ICC, has repeatedly said Ukraine's energy infrastructure is a legitimate military target and denies targeting civilians or civilian infrastructure.

Ukraine is also not a member, but has granted the ICC jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed on its territory.

The warrants for Shoigu and Gerasimov bring the total of arrest warrants issued against senior Russian suspects since the beginning of the invasion to eight. These include Putin, suspected of a war crime over the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia.

Iran's top decision-maker dominates Prez election

RAISI WAS WIDELY SEEN AS A POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR TO KHAMENEI. HIS SUDDEN DEATH HAS SPARKED A RACE AMONG HARDLINERS

REUTERS

Dubai, June 25: Iranians choose a president Friday in a tightly controlled election following Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash last month, with the outcome expected to influence the succession to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's top decision-maker.

With Iran's supreme leader now 85, it is likely that the next President will be closely involved in the eventual process of choosing a successor to Khamenei, who has ensured candidates sharing his hardline views dominate the presidential contest.

The election coincides with escalating regional tensions due to the Israel-Hamas conflict, increased Western pressure on Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear programme, and grow-

ing domestic dissent over political, social, and economic crises.

However, the looming succession to the fiercely anti-Western Khamenei is the overriding concern among Iran's clerical elite.

The Guardian Council, a hardline vetting body of clerics and jurists aligned to Khamenei, has approved five hardliners and one low-profile moderate candidate from an initial pool of 80.

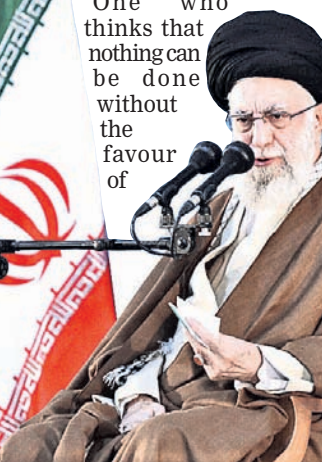
Prominent among the hardliners are Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, parliament speaker and former head of the powerful Revolutionary Guards, and Saeed Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator.

The sole moderate candidate, Massoud Pezeshkian, has the en-

dorsement of Iran's politically-sidelined reformist camp that advocates detente with the West.

The fiercely anti-Western Khamenei has not backed any candidate publicly. However, in a televised speech Tuesday he said:

"One who thinks that nothing can be done without the favour of



America will not manage the country well."

His adviser Yahya Rahim Safavi has urged voters to elect "a President whose views do not conflict with those of the supreme leader," state media reported.

"The people should choose a President who considers himself the second in command. The President should not create division," said Safavi, a former chief commander of the Guards.

While the President's role has a high international profile, real power rests with the supreme leader, who has the final say on state matters like foreign or nuclear policies and controls all branches of govern-

ment, the military, media and the bulk of financial resources. Raisi was widely seen as a potential successor to Khamenei, and his sudden death has sparked a race among hardliners seeking to influence the selection of Iran's next top leader.

DIVIDED NATION

An Iranian insider close to Khamenei, who asked for anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the Supreme Leader "has no tolerance for political infighting when cohesion among those in power is essential".

"A President, who is loyal and aligns completely with the supreme leader while also a trusted ally of the Revolutionary Guards, can significantly contribute to a seamless transition of power," said the insider.

While devout supporters of the clerical establishment are

expected to vote for hardliners, many Iranians may choose to abstain amid limited electoral options, discontent over a crack-down on dissent, and anger over worsening living standards.

The five hardline candidates have largely avoided discussing social and political freedoms during their campaigns and television debates, while acknowledging the country's economic woes without offering specific plans to tackle the crisis.

Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old former health minister, advocates social freedoms and has spoken up for the rights of women and ethnic minorities. He has pledged to foster a more pragmatic foreign policy. If no candidate wins at least 50 percent plus one vote of all ballots cast, including blank votes, a run-off round between the top two candidates will be held.



I am of the view that infrastructure should be developed by the contractors
NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

A FOURTH RECALL FOR CYBERTRUCK

Tesla is recalling its futuristic new Cybertruck pickup for the fourth time in the US to fix problems with trim pieces that can come loose and front windshield wipers that can fail. The new recalls, announced in documents posted Tuesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, each affect more than 11,000 trucks.



of the day quote

Organizations make better choices when they understand the factors shaping the future



JEREMY JURGENS | WEF MD

As the Indian weddings are getting glitzier and people are celebrating the various occasions, we have expanded our store footprint by taking Ethnix by Raymond to the length and breadth of the country



GAUTAM HARI SINGHANIA | RAYMOND CMD

I appeal to big industry players to engage with small players in India



GIRIRAJ SINGH | TEXTILES MINISTER

In a first, Sensex breaches 78,000



TOP GAINERS

- 3.40 → Axis Bank
- 2.48 → ICICI Bank
- 2.32 → HDFC Bank
- 1.80 → Tech Mahindra
- 1.56 → L&T

TOP LOSERS

- 1.64 → Power Grid
- 1.24 → Tata Steel
- 1.16 → Asian Paints
- 0.56 → Nestle India
- 0.52 → Maruti Suzuki

NIFTY AT RECORD HIGH AS PRIVATE BANK SHARES SHINE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 25: Benchmark Sensex breached the historic 78,000 level for the first time while Nifty settled at a new record high Tuesday on buying in blue-chip bank stocks and Reliance Industries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 712.44 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 78,053.52. During the day, the benchmark soared 823.63

points or 1 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime high of 78,164.71.

The Sensex breached the 77,000 mark for the first time June 10.

The Nifty went up by 183.45 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a fresh record high of 23,721.30. During the day, it climbed 216.3 points or 0.91 per cent to hit an intra-day lifetime high of 23,754.15.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries and Infosys were the biggest gainers.

Power Grid, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Nestle, Maruti and

JSW Steel were among the laggards.

"A rally in the banking stocks pushed Nifty to hit another record - 34th time this year though a host of other sectors ended in the negative," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.26 per cent while the small-cap index dipped 0.03 per cent.

"A positive news from the market perspective is the current account turning surplus in Q4 FY24. This will take away the pressure on the rupee and pave the way for FII inflows when clarity emerges on the Fed

SHORT TAKES

NTPC may raise up to ₹12,000cr

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC on Tuesday said its board June 29 will consider a proposal to raise up to ₹12,000 crore through the issuance of bonds. The board of directors is scheduled to meet in New Delhi Saturday, June 29, to consider issue of "secured/unsecured, redeemable, taxable/tax-free, cumulative/noncumulative, non-convertible debentures up to ₹12,000 crore", subject to approval of shareholders in the ensuing Annual General Meeting, a BSE filing said. NTPC is India's one of the leading power-generating companies. Total income of the NTPC group for FY24 was ₹1,81,166 crore against ₹177,977 crore in the previous year.

TaMo partners Bajaj Finance

New Delhi: Tata Motors Tuesday said it has partnered with Bajaj Finance Ltd for offering financing solutions across its entire commercial vehicle portfolio. The company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Finance Ltd, part of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, for the same and customers will benefit from the latter's wide reach, competitive interest rates, flexi loan and digitally-enabled loan processing, Tata Motors said in a statement. "We are confident that their (Bajaj Finance) inaugural venture into commercial vehicle financing will allow them to tap the immense potential that the transportation sector brings in, and this partnership will benefit entrepreneurs across the country," Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles Vice President & Business Head - Trucks, Rajesh Kaul said.

Adani CFO says Sebi notices procedural

Ahmedabad: Adani group CFO Tuesday termed Sebi notices to its half a dozen listed companies as procedural and trivial and said the conglomerate was compliant with regulations. Seven out of the 10 listed firms of the Adani group in May disclosed that they had received show cause notices from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for alleged violation of related party transactions and non-compliance with listing regulations. "Some (notices) are trivial," Chief Financial Officer Jughesinder Singh told reporters. One of the notices pertains to share trading history, while another seeks to know the reasons for disclosing peer audit a couple of days later than the March 31 deadline, he said. There was no wrongdoing, and the group was fully compliant with all regulations, he said.

Sebi to tighten rules for derivatives trading

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 25: India's markets regulator is likely to tighten rules for stocks to be eligible for derivatives trading and ask brokers and mutual funds to stop enlisting unregistered financial influencers for their marketing campaigns, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

These steps, aimed at preventing market manipulation following the explosive growth in trading of complex financial instruments, are likely to come at the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) board meeting Thursday, said the sources, who declined to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Earlier this month, the markets regulator said in a discussion paper that stock derivatives should have sufficient liquidity and trading interest from market participants, a move expected to weed out derivatives linked to illiquid stocks.

SEBI did not immediately reply to a Reuters email seeking comment.



The notional value of options - derivative contracts that give investors the option of buying or selling a security at a fixed price at a future trade - traded in India more than doubled in 2023-24 to \$907.09 trillion from the year before.

Most of the options trading in India happens on index options contracts. While the regulator has so far not taken any steps to regulate index options, it is considering a series of technical tweaks, Reuters had reported earlier this month.

A surge in retail investors' participation in equity markets during the COVID-19 pandemic led to a proliferation of influencers pushing financial advice

on social media platforms.

To ensure financial influencers do not mislead investors, the markets regulator has proposed that brokers and mutual funds stop associating with unregistered influencers.

More broadly, the regulator has formed a group of exchanges, brokers and mutual funds this week "to suggest any additional changes needed to remove risk of manipulation and ensure retail investors are protected against risks in options contracts," one of the sources said.

Thursday, the board of the markets regulator will also consider changes to delisting rules to make it easier for companies to exit from stock exchanges.

Rise in value-seeking customers: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 25: Certain sectors including beauty products, personal care, consumer electronics and consumer durables may face a tempering of growth, according to a report from consulting firm Deloitte.

The decline is on account of the high volume of purchases post-pandemic that have created a high base for FY25, according to Deloitte's "Future of Retail" report. The report also highlighted a significant shift in consumer spending patterns with a rise in value-seeking buyers, which is evident across consumer businesses.

While the consumer may increase their spending on leisure activities, suggesting a good performance for the aviation and hotel industries in FY2024-25, it added. "Yet the growth in premium products has outpaced entry-level products in several sectors, including electronics and personal care. Companies will benefit from understanding the preferences of their customers for premium prod-

ucts and using them to drive growth," it said.

Based on the survey, the report said a large section of customers across sectors reported that replacement purchases would be a significant driver for purchases in FY25.

It has suggested the companies "capitalise on this trend to retain their loyal customer base and encourage replacements where product performance or perceived value of products is expected to improve by replacement or upgrades".

The report further said Indian retailers can achieve an incremental growth of between 8-20 per cent by sweating their investments in customer, product, channel and experience despite a plateauing demand scenario.

The key challenge and opportunity for retailers would be to grow like-for-like businesses by maximising the potential of existing assets and investments. "In our experience, through the execution of the right interventions, businesses can achieve incremental like-for-like growth ranging between 8 to 20%," it said.

Digital currency transactions slump

REUTERS

Mumbai, June 25: Usage of India's digital currency, the e-rupee, has slumped to just a tenth of the peak hit in December, four sources said, reflecting the struggles several countries have experienced in trying to generate public support for digital currencies.

The Reserve Bank of India started a pilot for the e-rupee, devised as a digital alternative to physical cash, in December 2022, and successfully reached a target of 1 million retail transactions per day by December 2023.

The achievement came only after banks were asked to push up transactions by offering incentives to retail users and disbursing a portion of bank employees' salaries using the e-rupee.

But now that the push has diminished, daily transaction numbers have fallen to about 100,000, said two of the sources, who are directly involved in the pilot.

This shows there is little organic demand to use the e-rupee, said a third source, a banker involved in the project.

The Reserve Bank of India started a pilot for the e-rupee, devised as a digital alternative to physical cash, in December 2022, and successfully reached a target of 1 million retail transactions per day by December 2023

The sources declined to be identified because they are not allowed to speak to media. The RBI did not respond to an email seeking comment and the data on retail transactions via the e-rupee is not publicly disclosed.

The transactions that are continuing are in part due to banks disbursing benefits to their employees via the e-rupee, all four of the sources said.

This has helped to push up transactions to about 250,000 to 300,000 per day towards the end of each month, the two sources cited earlier said.

The RBI had asked banks to boost transactions to at least 1 million per day by late 2023 because it wanted to "test the system's resilience at scale," but that push has now stopped, the second of the two sources said.

The RBI is not planning to rapidly expand the pilot and the current focus is on testing the technology and developing use cases for the digital currency, the source said.

"Adoption should grow as more use cases develop," the source added.

Globally, among 86 central banks surveyed by the Bank of International Settlements, a third are running a pilot for a central bank digital currency (CBDC).

Even those that have been launched, like in the Caribbean by the Bahamas and Jamaica, have had only limited success, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City said in an April note.

"We have observed that to spur adoption, consumers may need more than just (retail) CBDC technology. They may need the (retail) CBDC to add value relative to cash."

Weddings now a \$130bn industry in India

ACCORDING TO JEFFERIES, INDIA'S WEDDING MARKET IS NEARLY DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE MARKET IN THE US (\$70 BILLION), BUT STILL SMALLER THAN THAT OF CHINA (\$170 BILLION)

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 25: Indian weddings have always been a grand affair and now, an Indian family is spending, on average, more than ₹12 lakh (nearly \$14,500) on ceremonies which is five times the GDP per capita (\$2,900) and more than three times the average annual household income of ₹4 lakh, a new report has revealed.

Touted as the largest wedding destination worldwide, at least 80 lakh to 1 crore weddings are happening in the country every year, according to global bro-



kerage Jefferies.

In fiscal 2023-2024, the Indian wedding market reached a whopping \$130 billion (around ₹10 lakh crore), second only to the food and grocery sector in the overall \$681 billion retail market.

The report said India's wedding spending-to-GDP ratio is significantly higher than that of other countries. "Weddings have a deep cul-

tural significance in India and drive large consumption spending, often disproportionate to income levels," according to the report.

Wedding-related spending, in fact, is sized at \$130 billion, spread across a wide range of products and services including jewellery, apparel, event management, catering, entertainment, etc, the report mentioned.

According to Jefferies, India's wedding market is nearly double the size of the market in the US (\$70 billion), but still smaller than that of China (\$170 billion). The spending contrast underscores the deep cultural significance placed on weddings, where lavish celebrations are often seen as a cultural and societal expectation, it noted.

GRITTY AFGHANS CREATE HISTORY

AFGHANISTAN FINISH 2ND IN GROUP, AHEAD OF AUSTRALIA KNOCKING THE LATTER OUT



RASHID KHAN

going past New Zealand's Tim Southee.

Das remained a thorn in Afghanistan's side, standing firm and hammering the ball over square-leg to bring up his half century. However, with wickets falling at the other end, Das was left alone

as Naveen returned to remove Bangladesh's No.9 and No. 10.

As the Afghan players began their emotional celebrations, it marked the beginning of a new era for the team, that have missed out on crucial international exposure due to Australia's refusal to host the squad, citing the Taliban takeover and poor state of women's rights in the country.

BRIEF SCORES

AFGHANISTAN 115 FOR 5 (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 43, Rishad Hossain 3/26) beat **BANGLADESH 105 IN 17.5 OVERS** (Litton Das 54 n o, Rashid Khan 4/23, Naveen-ul-Haq 4/26) by 8 runs (DLS method).

PTI PHOTO

picked up wickets upfront.

Farooqi sent Tanzid Hasan (0) packing in the second over which was followed by Naveen's spectacular over in which he claimed the scalps of Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (5) and Shakib Al-Hasan (0).

Rashid introduced himself into the attack with the opposition score 46/3 and worked his inimitable sorcery. He picked two wickets off his consecutive overs but Bangladesh continued their fearless approach and were ahead on the DLS par score.

However, the Afghan skipper was having none of it and went on to snare two wickets off consecutive balls, to also become the fastest to 150 T20 wickets,

national cricket since becoming a full ICC member only in 2017. They produced a gritty bowling performance, spearheaded by Rashid who was well-supported by pacer Naveen-ul-Haq (4/26).

Their heroics ensured a successful and historic defence of the low score as Bangladesh were bowled out for 105 in 17.5 overs. Litton Das (54 n o, 49b, 5x4, 1x6) was the lone warrior for Bangladesh.

Afghanistan have relied on their opening pair with the bat and bowlers to set up victories and the script was no different Tuesday. While Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran forged a crucial 59-run stand with the bat, Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Afghanistan's batting stumbled to a below-par 115/5 as Bangladesh bowlers made the most of a tricky pitch, bowling as many as 66 dot balls. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain (3/26) bowled well for Bangladesh while opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (43, 55b, 3x4, 1x6) held the innings together for Afghanistan. Rashid (19, 10b, 3x6) added some valuable runs in the last couple of overs.

The match was eventually truncated to 19-overs-a-side due to frequent rain interruptions and Bangladesh was given a revised target of 114.

Afghanistan then showed just why and how they have managed to come this far in inter-

Naveen-ul-Haq celebrates with teammates after dismissing a Bangladeshi batter Monday at Kingston

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kingstown, June 25: The redoubtable Rashid Khan (4/23) led the way as Afghanistan qualified for their maiden T20 World Cup semifinal with an eight-run win over Bangladesh in a rain-hit Super 8 match here Monday. It is a golden chapter to their cricketing history which has survived war, political ostracization and lack of even a base at home. The Afghan cricket team trains in Gurugram.

In the process, Rashid's maverick team knocked out 2021 champions Australia after having humbled them in their previous Super 8 match. The Afghans will now face South Africa in the last four stage June 27.

Win huge inspiration for youth, says Rashid



People in Afghanistan capital Kabul took to the streets in thousands to enjoy the victory Tuesday

AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

Kingstown, June 25: Skipper Rashid Khan said Monday that Afghanistan's maiden T20 World Cup semifinal qualification, following spectacular wins over New Zealand and Australia, is a momentous feat that will inspire the youth of the strife-torn nation. Afghanistan scripted history by defeating Bangladesh here.

"I think the semifinal is going to be a massive inspiration for the youngsters back home in Afghanistan. The fact that we have entered the semis for the first time will be a huge boost for them," Rashid said after the game. "It is unbelievable, Super 8 for the first time and then the semis also," stated the skipper.

With the feat, Afghanistan showed how much they have progressed in the white ball formats. At last year's ODI World Cup, they upset defending champions England and former winners Sri Lanka and Pakistan. They are continuing their giant-

slaying run at the T20 World Cup having beaten heavyweights New Zealand and Australia.

"The cricket we have played in the whole tournament so far - I think we deserve to be in the semis. The way everyone took the responsibility of getting into the game and performing best for the team," pointed out Rashid.

"So, I don't know how I can describe my feeling but it's a massive achievement for us as a team and as a nation to be in the semis and now looking forward to the game," Rashid added.

The Afghanistan cricket team are a group of individuals who have honed their skills by plying their trade in T20 leagues around the world. But when they come together to play for their country, it's hard to find a more passionate bunch. In Jonathon Trott, they have found the perfect head coach

who balances things out with his calm and composed demeanour.

Talking about the game against South Africa, the Afghan skipper said it all boils down to self belief. "You need to have that kind of self-belief that we are capable of beating any side as long we do the right things," Rashid asserted.

Meanwhile Afghanistan erupted in jubilation after the epoch-making feat. The moment Mustafizur Rehman was trapped leg before by Naveen-ul-Haq, the streets in Khost, Paktia and Kabul began to overflow with fans to celebrate the historic day.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) posted pictures from these cities on 'X'. "Look, what this success means to us!" posted ACB, attaching pictures from Kabul and Jalalabad.

We don't have any superstars in the side, the skill-set is the same. Taking the right decision at the correct time makes all the difference

RASHID KHAN

SHORT TAKES

Agarwalla qualifies for Paris Olympics

New Delhi: Asian Games medalist Anush Agarwalla will represent India in the dressage event of the Paris Olympics after pipping close contender Shruti Vora on better average, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said Tuesday. Agarwalla bagged gold in team dressage and bronze in individual dressage events at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games. He was picked ahead of Vora after a careful evaluation of the recent performances of the two contenders.

DLS co-founder dead

New Delhi: English statistician and one of the inventors of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, Frank Duckworth has died at the age of 84, according to a report in a cricket-specific website. He passed away June 21. The Duckworth-Lewis method, devised by Duckworth and fellow statistician Tony Lewis, was introduced to determine results in rain-affected cricket matches. The method was first used in international cricket in 1997 and was formally adopted by the ICC a couple of years later.

Personal milestones don't matter: Rohit

AGENCIES

Gros Islet (St Lucia), June 25: He fell short of a potentially record-shattering hundred, but milestones 'don't matter' to India skipper Rohit Sharma, whose sole aim while batting is to 'put bowlers under pressure' by hitting them.

Rohit's 92-run knock that came off 41 deliveries Monday steered India to a 24-run win over former champions Australia. Expectedly adjudged player of the match for the effort, the 37-year-old Rohit said his focus was only on maintaining the 'tempo' of the match.

"It was a good wicket, and you want to try and back yourself to play those kinds of shots. I've been trying to do that for a few years now, and I'm glad it came off today. The 50s and 100s do not matter, they are just individual milestones. I wanted to bat with the same tempo and carry on," Rohit stated. "You want to make big scores, yes, but at the same time you want to make the bowlers think where the next shot is coming, and I think I managed to do that today. You need to put the bowlers under pressure, and you need big scores for that. I tried to ac-



ARSHDEEP LAUDS BUMRAH EFFORTS

cess all sides of the field, not just one side," Rohit added. Rohit played some delectable strokes on the off side. With wind a perpetual hindrance, Rohit said he had to play more strokes on the off side to negate the impact.

"I thought right from over number one, there was a strong breeze blowing across. They (Australia) changed their plan, bowling against the breeze, so I realised I had to open up the off side as well," he said. "When you keep an open mind and not just think of one shot, you can access all areas of the field," Rohit pointed out.

Georgetown: The pinpoint accuracy of Jasprit Bumrah allows other bowlers in the Indian team to go for wickets even in extreme pressure situations, said pacer Arshdeep Singh. The 25-year-old left-arm pacer is among the leading wicket-takers in the T20 World Cup with 15 scalps in six games and economy rate of 7.41 runs per over. Bumrah, on the other hand, has taken 11 wickets in the same number of games, conceding just 4.08 runs per over. "I guess a lot of credit goes to Jasprit because he puts a lot of pressure on the batters. Batsmen are coming hard against me and there are a lot of chances of getting wickets as they are taking risks," Arshdeep stated.

ITALY, SPAIN IN KNOCKOUTS

AGENCIES

Dusseldorf, June 25: An early Ferran Torres strike gave Spain's second-string side a 1-0 win over Albania here Monday night as the three-time champions finished the Euro 2024 group stage with a perfect record and the defeat eliminated their opponents.

More importantly however, a 98th (added on time) goal by substitute Mattia Zaccagni enabled defending champions Italy qualify for the knockout stage. Had Italy lost the game, they would have gone home and Croatia would have qualified. The result was described by Croatian midfielder Luka Modric as 'this is how football kills'.

In the Spain-Albania game Barcelona winger Torres finished off a fine move in the 13th



Mattia Zaccagni

minute to puncture the atmosphere in a stadium filled with a majority of noisy Albanian fans. Despite their best efforts, Albania go home after picking up only one point and finishing bottom of a difficult section.

At Leipzig, Modric turned villain to hero in a couple of min-

Austria, France seal last 16 spots

Dortmund: Austria and France sealed their last 16 spots in the Euro 2024 football tournament Tuesday. France were held to 1-1 draw by Poland while Austria stunned former champions the Netherlands 3-2. Kylian Mbappe returned to action for France and scored from a penalty in the 56th minute. However, Robert Lewandowski restored parity for Poland from the spot in the 79th minute. This was the first time Mbappe took the field with a protective face cover after he suffered a broken nose in the first game.

goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to become the oldest goal-scorer ever at the tournament.

Modric, at 38 years, 289 days Monday, broke the record held by Ivica Vastic, who was 38 years, 257 days, when he scored for Austria against Poland at Euro 2008.

However, Zaccagni swept a brilliant shot inside the far post in the eighth minute of added time to cap a furious finale from the defending champions.

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic was unhappy so much time was added after a battling performance from his side. "You can't have eight minutes of added time after that game, it's nonsense," Dalic said. "There weren't so many breaks in play, or so many fouls to justify that."