

Pari's compassion
 Actor Parineeti Chopra, known for championing causes, gives a glimpse of her kind-hearted nature in latest social media post

LEISURE | P2

Fighting the far-right
 France's political parties build a united front to block Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally from coming to power

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Manufacturing growth up
 India's manufacturing sector output increases at a sharp pace in June as new business continues to flow in amid favourable demand conditions

BUSINESS | P11

India beat SA
 India convincingly beat South Africa by 10 wickets on the fourth and final day of the one-off women's Test

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Rahul's 'Hindu' dig evokes protests

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi took a swipe Monday at the ruling BJP in the Lok Sabha. He said those who call themselves Hindus are engaged in 'violence and hate' round the clock, drawing massive protests from the members of the Treasury benches, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that calling the entire Hindu society violent is a serious matter. Gandhi, however, retorted that he was speaking about the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Modi are not the entire Hindu society. "Our great men spoke about non-violence (but) those who call themselves Hindus talk only about hatred... aap Hindu ho hinahin (you are not a Hindu)," he said.



HOPING FOR RELIEF: People in large numbers wait Monday in front of the Grievance Cell in Bhubaneswar to meet Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi; (Right): The CM interacts with a complainant



OP PHOTOS

NIA allows Rashid to take oath as MP

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) gave its consent Monday for jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, known as 'Engineer Rashid', to take oath as MP July 5. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh will pass an order on the plea Tuesday. Rashid, the MP from Baramulla who has been arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his Parliamentary functions. A special court here June 22 had adjourned the matter and asked the NIA to file its response.

Grievance Cell reopens

The state government's Grievance Cell which remained closed since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020, reopened Monday in Bhubaneswar. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi personally met people who had come with their complaints. The closure of the cell, by the BJD-led government, had not gone down well with the public. One of the poll promises of the BJP had been that the Grievance Cell would be reopened again and the problems of the people would be addressed in a proper manner. Meanwhile the CM said that the Grievance Cell was opened to the public after 16 years.

engagement. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi revived public grievance hearings Monday after a hiatus of 16 years. Majhi personally listened to the grievances of people, issuing necessary instructions to officials concerned. "After 16 years, the chief minister's Grievance Cell was opened to the public. Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had visited the cell for the last time in 2008. People can directly come and apprise me of their problems," Majhi said in a post on 'X'. According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), more than 5,000 people visited the Grievance Cell, and 1,540 grievances were registered during the day. Majhi, along with Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and

- 1,540 complaints registered on day 1 of resumption
- CM personally meets more than 1,000 persons
- Over 5,000 people visited the Grievance Cell

the public during the tenure of the previous government. The wall has been removed, and the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell resumed its function today," Majhi said. "Now, people can apprise the government of their various problems for speedy resolution. Senior officers and district collectors have been directed to hear the grievances of people," the CM said. Majhi advised the public to first approach the authorities at the district level with their problems for quick redressal. He expressed hope that there would be fewer complaints at the state level in the coming days. The CM informed that action has so far been initiated on around 99 per cent of the grievances received on the first day and all would be resolved soon.

3 booked under new criminal law

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Three FIRs were registered under provisions of the new criminal code, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which came into effect from Monday officials of the Odisha police informed. Two of the FIRs were registered in the Odisha capital while the other was at Jagatpur police station in Cuttack district.



ened Gouranga Monday. "After receiving his complaint, a case has been registered against the accused under the new law," Rao said. In another incident, a person identified as Ramu has been booked for allegedly assaulting Zeeshan Khan. The FIR was lodged Monday by Khan himself at the Jagatpur police station and police booked Ramu under various sections of the BNS. "Jagatpur police have registered the FIR under sections 126(2), 296, 115(2) and 351(3) of the BNS," an official informed. Meanwhile DCP Prateek Singh informed later in the day that a person has been booked under various sections of the BNS at the Khandagiri police station. The three new criminal laws that came into effect Monday will ensure timely delivery of justice, Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said. "The country's legal system faced several challenges under these colonial laws. With the new laws, the legal system is expected to overcome these issues," he stated.

97% of ₹2,000 notes returned

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Monday 97.87 per cent of the ₹2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only ₹7,581 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. The RBI had announced May 19, 2023, the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of ₹2000 banknotes in circulation, which was ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business May 19, 2023, has declined to ₹7,581 crore at the close of business June 28, 2024, the RBI stated in a release.

Permit must to cut palm trees

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Cutting of palm trees will need the permission of the Forest department, Principal Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Debidutta Biswal stated here Monday. Biswal stated that palm trees can be very useful in preventing lightning-related deaths and injuries. Hence they should be preserved all over the state, he added. "In order to cut palm trees also, people will need to seek prior permission from the Forest department. Those who violate the rule will face stringent action," Biswal stated. "Palm trees can reduce lightning-related



deaths," he added. Biswal stated that the department is planning to plant 19 lakh palm trees this year alone. "A total of 19 lakh palm

trees will be planted around all the forest blocks in the state as they are good natural conductors," Biswal informed. "The entire project will cost around rupees seven crore," he added. "Because of their height, palm trees can prevent lightning strikes. We will be working in association with the Agriculture department to plant palm trees and we will complete the project as soon as possible," Biswal informed. In the last five years lightning claimed a total of 1,472 lives in Odisha while more than 1,000 were injured as per a report tabled in February during the tenure of the previous government.

Nine fall sick after inhaling toxic gas

Rourkela, July 1: Nine persons fell ill after inhaling toxic gas at the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) here Monday. Currently all are undergoing treatment at the Ispat General Hospital (IGH). While one has been released, the others are undergoing treatment, an official stated. Meanwhile Odisha Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia directed Monday the Principal Secretary of the Labour Department to investigate the gas leak at the Rourkela Steel Plant and submit a report.

Man beheads neighbour

Rourkela/Kujang, July 1: Two persons were brutally killed by their kin over suspected witchcraft practice and past enmity in separate incidents of murders in Sundargarh and Jagatsinghpur districts, Monday. In the first incident, a man identified as Salman Munda, 40, beheaded his elderly neighbour Naiman Munda, 65, over suspected sorcery and witchcraft practice at Purunapani village in Swayamba panchayat under K Bolang police limits in Sundargarh district, Monday morning. Later, Salman held the severed head in his hand and roamed around in the village creating terror among the other residents. Police rushed to the spot and arrested him and registered a case. The accused used to address the victim as 'grandfather', locals said. When contacted, IIC Smruti Ranjan Nayak said that the ac-

tual reason behind the murder is yet to be ascertained and they can comment only after the probe is completed and the post-mortem report is available. In the second incident, a youth identified as Tapan Majhi, bludgeoned his kin and a co-villager Dinabandhu Samal, 55, to death Monday noon at Gandakipur village in Jagatsinghpur district over helping his estranged wife. Tapan bludgeoned the head of Dinabandhu with the handle of an axe when the latter was walking down the village road. Dinabandhu collapsed on the spot after being hit on the head. Despite that, Tapan continued to hit him, till Dinabandhu lost consciousness. Police sent a bleeding Dinabandhu to Kujang community health centre where doctors pronounced him dead. Locals said that Tapan and Dinabandhu were related. Tapan always used to beat up his wife and Dinabandhu used to come to the rescue of his sister, they added.

Elvis shoes fetch a whopping \$1,52,000

THE SINGER HAD GIVEN THE FOOTWEAR TO HIS FRIEND BEFORE HE LEFT FOR HIS ARMY STINT

Los Angeles, July 1: In his days, he was the unrivalled rockstar in the whole world. The aura surrounding Elvis Presley was such that he was referred to as the King of Rock and Roll and was loved and adored by all. Not only did he have a magical voice, women drooled over him for his looks also. When he breathed his last at the age of 42 in 1977, the world wept. That his craze still exists among the people is quite evident when some of his collections go under the hammer. A piece of Elvis Presley's history fetched recently a hefty sum at auction. CNN reported that the King's well-worn suede shoes, which he donned both on and off stage in the 1950s, sold for a whopping \$1,52,000 at 'Henry Aldridge and Son Auction House'. These iconic shoes, worn during performances of 'Hound



Dog', 'I Want You, I Need You, I Love You' and 'Jailhouse Rock' were gifted by Presley to a friend before his US Army induction. To ensure authenticity, the shoes came with a double dose of provenance. First, a letter of authenticity was signed by Jimmy Velvet, a close friend of Presley and the founder of the

'Elvis Presley Museum'. It was accompanied by a handwritten letter from the recipient himself, Alan Fortas. In the letter, Fortas recounts the night before Presley left for the army, where they had a late-night party at 'Graceland' followed by a trip to the roller rink. Presley, expecting a change in

wardrobe upon returning from service, gifted Fortas the suede shoes, remembering the King's pre-army life. "The night before Elvis' army induction in Memphis, he had an all night party at 'Graceland' (the singer's residence)," the letter states, according to the auction site. "Afterwards we went to the 'Rainbow Roller Rink'. When we all got home, Elvis called some of us upstairs. He was giving away some of his clothes he didn't think he would be wearing or wanted when he came back from the army. That night Elvis gave me these suede shoes, size 10 1/2. I've owned these all these years," the letter added. According to 'Henry Aldridge and Son', the auction also saw another legendary outfit go under the hammer - Freddie Mercury's attire from Queen's 'I'm Going Slightly Mad' video, which sold for a staggering \$250,000.

MARKET WATCH

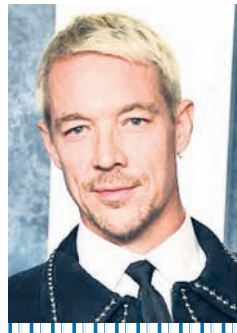
INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	79476.19 ↑ 443.46
NIFTY	24141.95 ↑ 131.35
DOLLAR	83.51 ↑ ₹0.06
EURO	89.85 ↑ ₹0.44
GOLD	₹71,250 ↓ ₹25
SILVER	₹ 87,215 ↑ ₹48

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.7°C	32.5°C
Min Temp	25.7°C	24.2°C
Humidity	95%	89%
Rainfall	11.2mm	Nil

FORECAST
 Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

leisure

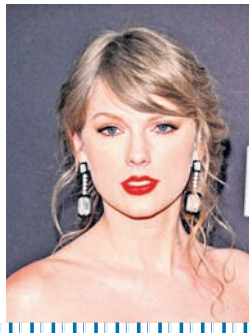


GRAMMY WINNER DIPLO ACCUSED OF DISTRIBUTING REVENGE PORN

Famous American DJ and music producer Diplo is facing sexual offence law suit in a California court. A woman known as Jane Doe is suing the Grammy-winning producer for recording and distributing sexual images and videos of her without her consent to third parties, according to court documents.

SWIFT GETS STRANDED IN STAGE MALFUNCTION

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift got stuck on a raised platform during her show in Dublin, Ireland after a technical malfunction left her stranded in mid-air. She was rescued by a dancer. The 34-year-old pop superstar brought her *The Eras* tour to the Irish capital over the weekend.

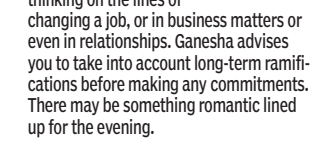


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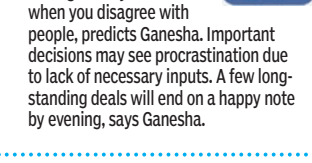
ARIES

You will have too many choices today, if you are thinking on the lines of changing a job, or in business matters or even in relationships. Ganesh advises you to take into account long-term ramifications before making any commitments. There may be something romantic lined up for the evening.



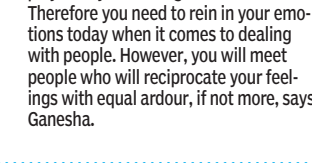
TAURUS

Today, you may not find the courage to say no even when you disagree with people, predicts Ganesh. Important decisions may see procrastination due to lack of necessary inputs. A few long-standing deals will end on a happy note by evening, says Ganesh.



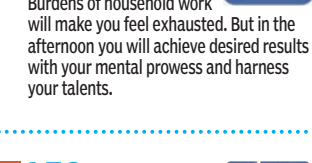
GEMINI

You will be more emotional today and people might play with your feelings. Therefore you need to rein in your emotions today when it comes to dealing with people. However, you will meet people who will reciprocate your feelings with equal ardour, if not more, says Ganesh.



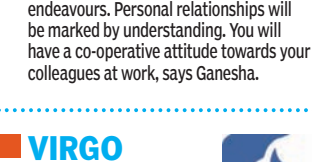
CANCER

Ganesh foresees a mixed bag of sorrows and joys. Burdens of household work will make you feel exhausted. But in the afternoon you will achieve desired results with your mental prowess and harness your talents.



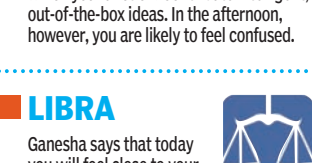
LEO

There is a possibility of falling in love at first sight for those who are looking for love. It is a good day for romantic endeavours. Personal relationships will be marked by understanding. You will have a co-operative attitude towards your colleagues at work, says Ganesh.



VIRGO

Ganesh advises you to get out of the rut and take courageous steps at your workplace, especially in the manner in which you function. Contribute intelligent, out-of-the-box ideas. In the afternoon, however, you are likely to feel confused.



LIBRA

Ganesh says that today you will feel close to your loved ones and will be able to spend the evening with them. Today you will be successful in whatever work you will take up. Your attractive personality will ensure that people will turn to you and seek your company today.



SCORPIO

It's time to make your dreams come true. The house or the vehicle, which you were dreaming of since a long time may be your today. A favourable day for such transactions, foresees Ganesh. Sincerity will help you to survive the cut-throat competition. However, you may get lesser returns in your business than expected.



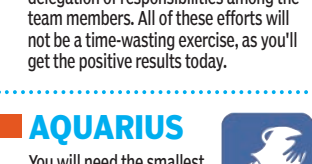
SAGITTARIUS

Today, you may feel enchanted by home and family as you seek love and joys of life from them. You may plan a getaway with like-minded people. And this time, it's going to be thrill and adventure. You never know when this adventure tour turns into a romantic one, says Ganesh.



CAPRICORN

You will be ambitious and reach out the stars in the sky. You will aim for perfection and leave no stone unturned to ensure expected results at work, says Ganesh. You will not only ideate but also plan successful execution by effective delegation of responsibilities among the team members. All of these efforts will not be a time-wasting exercise, as you'll get the positive results today.



AQUARIUS

You will need the smallest of reasons to party, today! Good news will add to the zest. The day begins on a positive note and it will continue to be like that throughout the day, says Ganesh. You will meet new people and make friends for life. Spend evening with your loved



PISCES

It is likely to be an extremely hectic day at work, but you will seize the initiative with some bold strategising. You will be busy dressing up for a party in the evening, to offset all the stress of a long hard day at work, says Ganesh.



New Delhi: Actress Nia Sharma agrees that with the digital booming, the small screen has faced the brunt. She said that Target Rating Points (TRP) have gone down by leaps and bounds, which is not a good sign for television.

With a growing love for the digital space, the small screen is paying the price, does she agree? "Of course, I agree, the TRPs are the major factor determining the fate of television today and lit-

TV facing brunt of digital boom: Nia Sharma

erally no show is kind of working. TRPs have gone down by leaps and bounds and it is not a good sign for television," Nia told this agency.

"I am sure the makers and producers are trying their best to put their best foot forward to bring the audience's love back," she added.

Nia is currently seen playing a 'witch' in a supernatural show, a genre which is not new to her as she has previously worked in the show *Naagin*.

The actress took a hiatus from the small screen for a few years before saying yes to *Suhagan Chudail*, which airs on Colors.



IAN S

Mumbai: Parineeti Chopra, who is currently exploring other aspects of her career including singing, is known for her kind-hearted people nature and often gives a glimpse of the same on her social media platform. She is often seen sharing ideas and urging people to take up endeavours to make the world a better place and also shares about making her own contributions for causes. In a recent post, she won hearts by asking people to spare 'some time' from their hectic schedules to help people in need.

Earlier today, Parineeti Chopra took to Instagram to share a video on her social media page of someone helping out another person in need and wanted to spread the same message among her followers. Sharing it on her Instagram story, she penned the caption, "YES!OMG YES. PLEASE SPARE A MOMENT TO HELP SOMEONE AROUND YOU! IT WILL BE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIFT FOR THEM. (twinning heart emojis)." Prior to this, Parineeti also took

to social media urging people to be nice to executives who travel in heavy rains to deliver people's food and other essentials while we sit in the comfort of our homes. On the work front, Parineeti was recently seen playing the role of Amarjot Kaur in Intiaz Ali's *Amar Singh Chamkila* alongside Diljit Dosanjh with the latter essaying the titular character.

AGENCIES

Pari champions a cause yet again



Sumbul's definition of fashion

ture and society," she said. The young diva further said: "While fashion is a significant aspect of my personal expression, comfort is equally important. I believe that the best fashion choices are those that strike a balance between style and comfort."

Sumbul's approach to fashion is both inspiring and relatable, she emphasises that true style is about finding the perfect blend of beauty and comfort.

"I believe that when you feel comfortable in what you're wearing, it enhances your confidence and poise. So, I choose outfits that not only look good but also make me feel good. The harmony between comfort and fashion creates an authentic and effortless style," added Sumbul.

Sumbul started her acting career with supporting roles as a child in the shows like *Har Mushkil Ka Hal Akbar Birbal*, *Jodha Akbar*, *Gangaa*, and *Baalveer*. Later on, she went on to become one of the most sought after actresses in India.

IAN S

Sunny Leone launches cosmetic line in City

Bhubaneswar: Hindi film actress Sunny Leone, accompanied by her husband Daniel Weber, unveiled her new cosmetic line, Starstruck, at an event held here at Indulge Bridal Mall, Rupali Square, Monday. The launch drew a significant crowd of fans and media, eager to catch a glimpse of the star. The event kicked off with a traditional welcome for Sunny and Daniel, who interacted with the attendees.



Expressing her excitement, the *Jism 2* actress said, "I've always believed in enhancing natural beauty, and Starstruck embodies that philosophy. I am thrilled to bring Starstruck to this wonderful city and share my passion for beauty and cosmetics with all of you."

Daniel, supporting his wife, spoke about the dedication and hard work behind creating the cosmetic line. "Sunny has

poured her heart into this project, and we are excited to see the positive response from everyone here," he stated.

The brand offers a diverse range of products, including lipsticks, eyeliners, and foundations. The line promises high-

quality, affordable beauty solutions crafted to empower individuals to feel confident and glamorous.

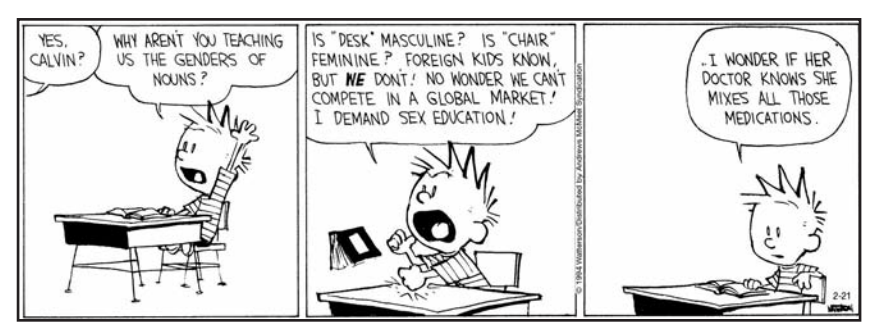
Several beauty influencers and clientele of the salon were present at the event.

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

PEANUTS



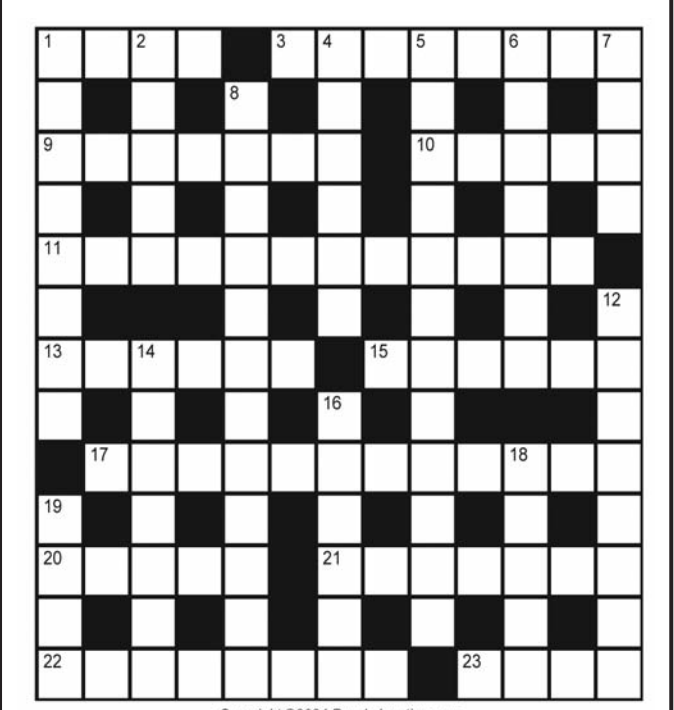
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



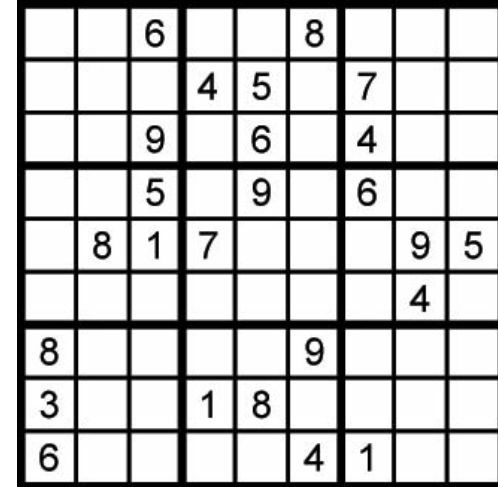
FUN post CROSSWORD



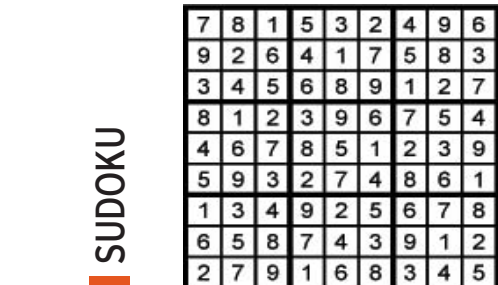
- Across**
- 1 Fair
 - 3 Scandalous
 - 9 Storm
 - 10 Kind of jar
 - 11 Disobedient plus
 - 13 Require
 - 15 Medicinal shrub
 - 17 Lacking tolerance (6-6)
 - 20 Break open
 - 21 Repairing
 - 22 Poke fun at, in the movies
 - 23 Render speechless
 - 5 Some digests
 - 6 Invetives
 - 7 Clique
 - 8 Household appliance
 - 12 Knitted jacket
 - 14 Brochure
 - 16 Hindu teachers
 - 18 Wander
 - 19 Horned goddess
- Down**
- 1 Discard
 - 2 Poison plant
 - 4 Type of balloon (3,3)

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

COURTESY VISIT

East Coast Railway General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal meets Governor Raghubar Das at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Monday



New laws to ensure timely justice: Min

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The three new criminal laws that came into effect Monday will ensure timely delivery of justice, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) have replaced the British-era IPC, CrPC, and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. Speaking to media, Harichandan said there was a national demand to reform the British-era criminal laws. "The country's legal system faced several challenges under these colonial laws. With the new laws, the legal system is expected to overcome these issues, ensuring that justice is delivered without delays, as a set time limit has been established," he said. He said the new laws will help

minimise case pendency in various courts. Senior BJD leader Pratap Keshari Deb raised concerns about the implementation of the new laws and emphasised the complexities involved in implementing it. DGP Arun Sarangi said master trainers and investigating officers in the state have received training on the new criminal laws through offline and online modes. "Additional training programmes will be conducted in future. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) platform has been upgraded to support the new laws, and the software at all police stations across the state has been updated. A helpdesk has been set up at the State Crime Records Bureau to assist officials, and several SOPs have been issued to field-level police officers, which will be updated as needed," he added.

The CCTNS platform has been upgraded to support the new laws, and the software at all police stations across the state has been updated. A helpdesk has been set up at the SCRB to assist officials, and several SOPs have been issued to field-level police officers, which will be updated as needed

ARUN SARANGI | DGP



IN LORD'S SERVICE: Construction of three majestic chariots in the last leg at Rath Yard as (inset) an Ayurvedic concoction is being prepared for the sibling deities who are shivering with fever, in Puri, Monday
PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

Docs asked to examine rape victims under BNSS

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department has directed all government and private doctors as well as registered medical practitioners to conduct medical examination of rape or attempted rape victims under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 that came into effect, Monday. In a notification to this effect, Commissioner-cum-Secretary H&FW department, Shalini Pandit said, "Under Section 184 of the BNSS, 2023, every victim woman with whom rape is alleged or attempted to have been committed or attempted shall be examined by a doctor / medical practitioner of the hospitals, public or private, whether run by the Central government, state government, local bodies or any other person with the consent of such woman or any person competent to give such consent on her behalf." The notification bars medical practitioners from causing any delay in the examination of rape or attempted rape victims. "Any victim of rape against whom rape is alleged or attempted to have been committed or attempted, produced before the doctor by a police officer shall be medically examined forthwith without any undue delay," the notification states. The delay, if any and the reasons thereof shall be mentioned in the register and in the ex-

KEY TAKEAWAYS
Under Section 184 of the BNSS, 2023, medical examination of rape/attempted rape victims will be carried out with the consent of the victim or any competent person
There should be no delay in the medical examination of the victim. If any, the reasons shall be mentioned in the register and the examination report
The examination report has to be forwarded to the IO in seven days
In case of victims under the age of 12, consent for medical examination will be given by parents/guardians



Copy of the report to be furnished to the arrested person, or any person nominated by him
Doctor/medical practitioner to face legal action in case of non-compliance of the provisions

amination report. The exact time of commencement and completion of the examination shall also be noted in the report, it adds. As per the notification, doctor/s or registered medical practitioner/s shall forward the examination report to the Investigating Officer (IO) within a period of seven days after medical examination of the victim. According to the notification, the doctor/medical practitioner shall obtain the express consent of the victim if she happens to be above 12 years. "If age of the victim woman is under 12 years, her parents or guardian present will give consent for her medical examination," it says. The report shall specifically record that the consent of the woman, or of the person competent to give such consent on her behalf to such examination, had been obtained. The doctor/registered med-

ical practitioner, to whom such woman is sent, shall, without delay, examine her person and prepare a report of examination giving the particulars. The particulars include the name and address of the victim and of the person by who she was brought, her age, description of material taken from the person of the woman, injury marks, if any, on the person of the woman, her general mental condition and other material particulars in reasonable detail, the notification adds. Section 53(3) of the BNSS, 2023 also provides to furnish medical examination report to the arrested person, or any person nominated by such arrested person, after the medical examination by the examining doctor. "Non-compliance of the above legal provisions may entail in legal prosecution," the notification, promulgated through an order of the Governor, states.

STF arrests man with leopard skin

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police has arrested a man after recovering a leopard skin from his possession in Nayagarh district, official sources said Monday. Acting on reliable information, a team of STF, with the help of Forest officials of Nayagarh division, conducted a raid near Khamarsahi on National Highway 57 under Daspalla police limits late June 30 night. "During the raid, Bairagi Behera was found in possession of a leopard skin and other incriminating items. Behera was taken into custody after he failed to come up with satisfactory answer for such possession," said an official.

Ahuja asks secretaries to execute plans of new govt

Bhubaneswar, July 1: Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has emphasized on the implementation of various plans and programmes as envisaged in the election manifesto of the newly-formed state government. During a preliminary meeting with secretaries of various departments at the Lok Seva Bhawan here Monday, Ahuja gave several suggestions regarding effective efforts for the implementation of all the plans. Stating that Odisha's administrative system has a reputation, Ahuja stressed on quick completion of works rather than



delays in the event of minor problems arising in implementing plans and programs in various departments. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the secretaries bring innovation in various activities, use of technology and accountability. He sought cooperation of all the secretaries for smooth discharge of various tasks.

The upcoming Budget presentation, smooth management of the Rath Yatra, and related arrangements for the President's visit were discussed at the meeting. Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Commissioner-cum-Secretaries in charge of various departments held discussions with the Chief Secretary regarding a string of plans and programs. Earlier, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg gave the welcome address and highlighted the long administrative experience of the new Chief Secretary.

SGST collection up by 23.56%

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The state has recorded collection of ₹2,039.71 crore of State GST (OGST+IGST settlement) during June 2024 against ₹1,650.82 crore during the corresponding period last year, registering a phenomenal growth of 23.56 per cent, official sources said, Monday. The progressive collection under State GST (SGST) up to June 2024 stands at ₹7,000.98 crore against a collection of ₹5,427.10 crore up to June 2023—a growth of 29.00 per cent, they said. The state has also recorded a collection of Gross GST (CGST+IGST+OGST+Cess) of ₹4,987.27 crore during June 2024

13.87% growth: Odisha records collection of ₹4,987.27cr Gross GST (CGST+IGST+OGST+Cess) during June 2024 against ₹4,379.97cr during June 2023

against ₹4,379.97 crore during the corresponding period in the previous year, registering 13.87 per cent growth. The progressive collection under Gross GST up to June 2024 stands at ₹15,916.31 crore against a collection of ₹13,813.44 crore up to June 23—a growth of 15.22 per cent. The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT and GST, Odisha, including OGST/IGST settlement/VAT

and Profession Tax, during June 2024 stands at ₹3,273.49 crore against ₹2,783.74 crore during the corresponding period last year. It witnessed a growth rate of 17.59 per cent. The progressive growth rate up to June 2024 under all Acts stands at 22.28 per cent, they said. During June 2024, 22.87 lakh waybills have been generated against 18.79 lakh waybills generated during June 2023, a growth of 21.71 per cent reflecting the buoyancy in the state economy. Out of the 22.87 lakh e-waybills generated during June 2024, 13.81 lakh were intra-state while 9.05 lakh were inter-state. Nationally, the Gross GST collection increased 8 per cent to ₹1.74 lakh crore in June.

Bus owners present permit-related pleas

Cuttack, July 1: Three bus owners from Balasore, Nayagarh and Cuttack presented their permit-related issues during a grievance hearing conducted at the State Transport Authority (STA) office here Monday. The hearing is being conducted under the direction of the state government. The session took place between 11am and 2pm in the presence of senior STA officials. Grievance hearings will be held every Monday. In the event Monday is a holiday, the hearing will be conducted on the next working day, a release issued by the STA said. "Immediate steps are taken to send relevant officials for resolving grievances promptly. Additionally, a seven-day timeframe is allocated for resolving these grievances," the release added.

NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

Docs face high burnout, must set clear boundaries for work & personal life

While we call them beacons of hope, heroes of life, doctors often face extensive job pressures and long hours of duty, leaving them burnt out and with physical and emotional problems. Thus it is imperative to set clear boundaries to maintain a perfect work-life balance, health experts said Monday on the 'National Doctors' Day'. National Doctors' Day is celebrated July 1 every year to appreciate the efforts of doctors, as well as to raise issues about them. "In many professions, including the medical profession, it is easier for the work pressure to crawl in the personal



schedules and the enormity of taking responsibility for the lives of others are taxing. We should prioritise our health first," Tushar Tayal, Lead Consultant, Department of Internal

Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told IANS. Citing that work-life balance is essential, the experts suggested a healthy and regular sleep-wake cycle is paramount.

Citing that work-life balance is essential, experts suggest a healthy and regular sleep-wake cycle is paramount

For good physical and mental health, the experts advised maintaining a regular schedule, avoiding skipping meals, exercising or brisk walking for 30 min daily, and developing some hobbies, among others. Meenakshi also emphasised the importance of the emotional wellness of doctors. "Medical professionals touch

the lives of so many people and inadvertently burden themselves with negative memories. Emotional expression thus is essential to build resilience and maintain well-being," the experts said. Besides Yoga and meditation, the doctors must communicate with team members, join a peer support group, and must not hesitate to utilise psychological services, if necessary. "Doctors often underestimate their symptoms and many times do not reach out for help during work pressure and other reasons. Getting regular physical and mental health checkups is essential for all medical professionals," Meenakshi said.



Apart from Monday grievance hearings, grievances related to transport services can be sent over social media and the 24-hour call centre (1800 345 1073), the release said. At Monday's grievance hearing, Additional Transport Commissioner Indramani Nayak, Lal Mohan Sethy, Deepthiranjana Patra, Joint Transport Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, STA Secretary Chinmayee Biswal, Kanakchampa Meher, Dillip Sahu, and Bijay Mishra were present.

Check veracity of docs working in PPP mode



Health secretary Shalini directed all the CDMOs, PHOs and directors to check the credential of the doctors and specialists engaged in PPP mode and submit compliance reports within a week

services," she said in the letter. Pandit directed all the CDMOs, PHOs and directors to check the credential of the doctors and specialists engaged by the agencies concerned in PPP mode. She also sought compliance reports within a week.

The letter said, "The doctors and specialists have to be present physically along with their credential documents before the CDMO & PHO and director of the concerned health institution during the verification."

The move comes after an imposter was found working as a doctor in the dialysis unit of RGH recently. According to sources, 53-year-old Padmanava Mukhi Karua was arrested for impersonating a doctor and working at RGH. He was convicted for a similar crime in the past but was out on bail to forge his way through to avail the job at RGH, investigations revealed.

tory services and PHC/UPHC management are operational in districts in PPP mode, the contract documents of these services are shared with the districts for proper monitoring and payment. The service providers have deployed doctors/specialists as per the scope of contract of these PPP services. It is the responsibility of the respective service providers to deploy the doctors/paramedics with required qualification."

"However, the credential of these personnel (doctors/specialists) deployed need to be thoroughly checked from time to time during the tenure of the contract to ensure that appropriate qualified personnel are engaged to provide the respective

services," she said in the letter. Pandit directed all the CDMOs, PHOs and directors to check the credential of the doctors and specialists engaged by the agencies concerned in PPP mode. She also sought compliance reports within a week.



RAISING VOICE: Members of CPI(ML) Liberation, Odisha State Committee, stage a protest at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, demanding postponement of new criminal laws that came into effect July 1, 2024

City AIIMS conferred with Aarogya Bhushan Award

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, July 1: The Paediatric Pulmonology and ICU Team from the Paediatrics department of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar were recently conferred with the prestigious Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar Aarogya Bhushan Award by ReTHINK INDIA for bronchoscopic intervention procedure, officials said Monday.

On behalf of the department, Rashmi Ranjan Das and Krishna



Mohan Gulla received the award in a special ceremony held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, in the presence of eminent dignitaries from various fields.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas congratulated the team for the award and encouraged the department to continue performing such innovative procedures.

The award was bestowed as a result of the team's innovative bronchoscopic intervention procedure. Utilising less invasive flexible bronchoscopy, the doctors successfully removed a four-cm long stitching needle from the left lower lobe bronchus lateral segment of the lungs of a nine-year-

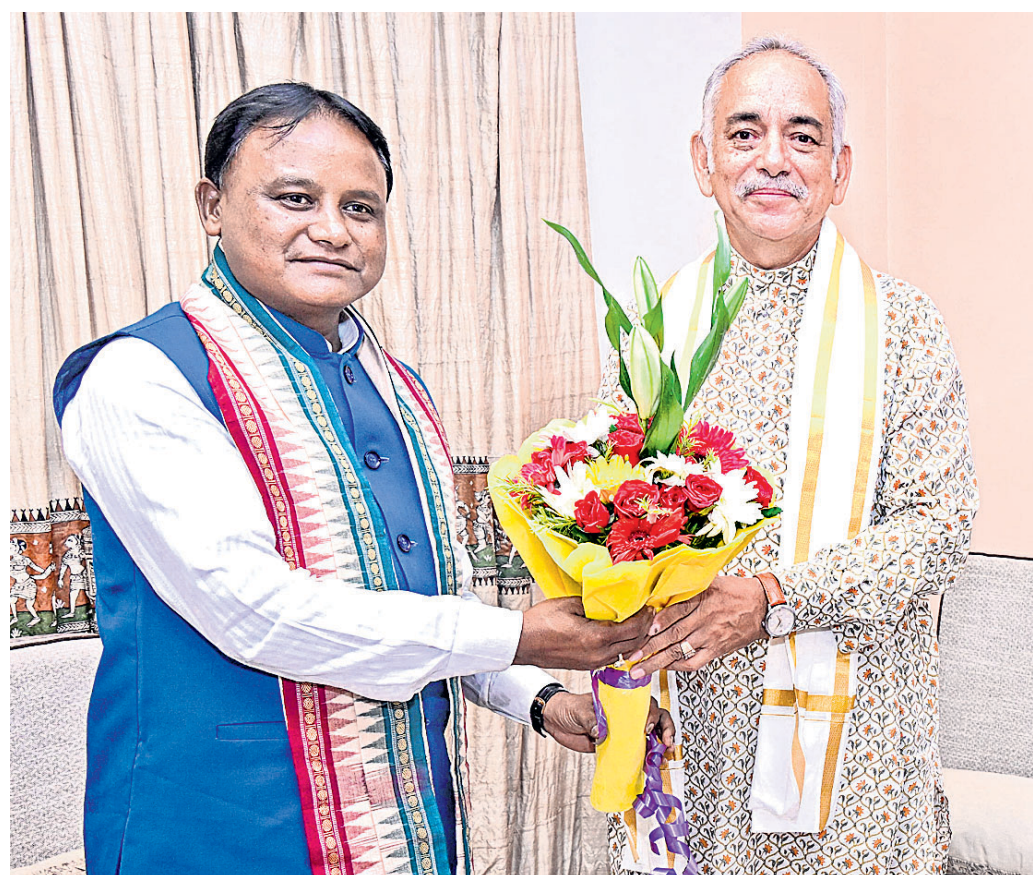
old child January 22 this year. The procedure saved the boy from a major lung surgery to remove the sharp foreign body.

It is worth noting that the department has been providing advanced paediatric services to the state and nearby regions and continues its journey of excellence at the national level.

ReTHINK India is an action-cum-advocacy platform driven by a group of devout AIIMSonians and IITians aimed at accentuating all-round national excellence.

Trains start chugging on two new tracks

Bhubaneswar: The newly-constructed broad gauge railway line of 40.934 km in Dhenkanal-Hindol Road Railway Section of Salegaon-Budhapank third and fourth line railway project and 12.353km newly-laid track in Dantewada-Kamlur Railway Section of Kottavalasa-Kirandul project have been completed and commissioned. Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspected these railway lines in the last week of June 2024 and given his sanction for commissioning of the railway lines. The CRS has inspected the safety parameters of the newly-laid railway tracks, signaling systems and bridges before declaring the new stretches of both the projects fit for train operation. A team of senior Railway officials of East Coast Railway assisted the CRS during the inspection. Altogether 86.4km third and fourth line work has been commissioned out of 170km in Salegaon-Budhapank project. Similarly, 302.55km doubling work has been commissioned out of 445.598km in Kottavalasa-Kirandul rail line project.



EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES: Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deba calls on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Odisha State Guest House in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Rain likely in some parts of state: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 1: A few districts in the state may continue to experience rain with thundershowers for next 24 hours due to low pressure, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday.

The weather agency has issued yellow warning for heavy rain at one or two places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Keonjhar. "Due to steep pressure gradient, strong surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50kmph is likely along and off north Odisha coast during next 24 hours. Fishermen are advised not to venture into sea during this period," IMD said in its bulletin.

Thunderstorm with lightning may also occur at one or two places in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, and Jagatsinghpur July 2.

Cultural resistance rises from ruins of Islamic State

A decade after Islamic State militants attempted to destroy the rich history of Iraq and Syria, the hard work to rebuild its cultural heritage continues.

Ten years ago the world watched in horror as the so-called Islamic State conquered the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. Of the many disturbing images that followed, few seemed to shock global audiences as much as their attack on Mosul's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

The militants uploaded carefully staged propaganda films documenting their attacks on places such as the Mosul Museum, where bearded ISIS members used sledgehammers to smash priceless artefacts and statues.

In April 2015, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hatra, a city that resisted invasion by

the Roman Emperor Trajan in AD 116 came under attack by Islamic State fighters. The group used assault rifles to target the city's ancient walls and reliefs.

At the ancient archaeological site of Nimrud, the former capital of the Assyrian empire and home to some of the first modern discoveries of ancient Mesopotamian art, ISIS fighters hacked apart the winged bull sculptures that marked the gates of the palace, looted what they could find, before setting off a mass explosion that sent a giant brown mushroom cloud into the sky and reduced much of the site to rubble.

These monuments to our shared human history now lost.

Beyond these prominent examples, the ISIS terrorist group also destroyed countless mosques, churches, shrines, historic buildings, libraries, artworks and artefacts — all with the view to



The ISIS terrorist group also destroyed countless mosques, churches, shrines, historic buildings, libraries, artworks and artefacts — all with the view to creating a religiously and ideologically homogeneous state

creating a religiously and ideologically homogeneous state.

Profound impact of destruction While commemorating the

and to acknowledge the efforts they have made to move forward and rebuild their heritage.

It is a difficult task to not only understand the complex motives that drive the perpetrators of such destruction, but also to gauge the profound impact such destruction has on those who survive it.

Yazidi and Christian minorities, both of which were actively persecuted by the terror group, shared their strong emotional reaction to the destruction of their heritage, describing how they wept and felt sick. Many experienced the destruction as a form of trauma, a sequence of acts so disturbing that it shattered their most personal memories and their sense of self.

Others spoke of heritage destruction as a deliberate component of the genocidal campaign of ISIS and their determination to rid the land of

SC to hear plea on OMR sheet manipulation after 2 weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The Supreme Court Monday posted for hearing after two weeks a plea alleging OMR sheet manipulation in the controversy-ridden NEET-UG, 2024.

The plea came up for hearing before a vacation bench of Justice CT Ravikumar and Justice Manoj Misra.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner, who had taken the medical entrance exam, alleged that his OMR sheet was swapped.

The bench told the counsel that the petitioner was seeking permission to appear in the retest that was held June 23.

"The exam (re-test) is over June 23," the bench said.

The petitioner's counsel said several other petitions alleging irregularities and also seeking cancellation of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024, were pending before the apex



The bench initially said it would list the plea for hearing next week.

"If you are fortunate, then you will have some order in the other matter," it said.

The counsel appearing for the National Testing Agency (NTA) urged the bench that the plea be listed for hearing after two weeks.

The apex court posted the matter for hearing after two weeks.

While hearing a separate petition June 27, the top court had asked the NTA to apprise it of whether there was any time limit for raising grievances regard-

ing the OMR sheets provided to the candidates who appeared in NEET-UG, 2024.

The other pending petitions related to the exam are scheduled to come up for hearing in the apex court July 8.

June 20, the top court had sought responses from the Centre, the NTA and others on a slew of petitions, including those seeking scrapping of NEET-UG, 2024, and a court-monitored probe, amid mounting outrage over alleged irregularities in conducting the all-India medical entrance test.

While hearing separate pleas on the exam, the apex court had June 18 said even if there was '0.001 percent negligence' on the part of anyone in the conduct of the examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country.

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Worms found in kids' halwa premix

A woman has alleged in a video that worms were found in the halwa premix packets produced by a women's federation at Alipur village under Bari block in Jajpur district within one month of manufacturing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, July 1: The state government's plan to improve health and nutritional status of children under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has gone haywire in Jajpur district as worms were found in the suji halwa premix packets meant for distribution to the children.

The halwa premix packets are meant for children aged six months to three years. It has been over 10 years since the scheme was launched. However, discovery of worms has raised serious question marks on implementation of the scheme.

The irregularity came to light after a woman alleged in a video that worms were found in the halwa premix packets produced by a women's federation at Alipur village under Bari block in Jajpur district within one month of manufacturing.

It is alleged that distribution of sub-standard sattu and halwa to the beneficiaries for the last 10 years has posed serious threat to the health of hundreds of children.

A 1.5kg packet of suji halwa premix is prepared by mixing 760g of suji, 260g gram flour, 400g sugar and 80g oil. It is advised to prepare the halwa by emptying required quantity of premix in boiled water or milk. Moreover, there is no need to add additional oil or sugar in the halwa. Children are advised to consume 60g of the halwa per day. However, when consumed, the halwa was found lacking in taste due to absence of sugar, gram flour and oil. As a result, children are unwilling to consume the halwa.

Residents said dal supplied to the beneficiaries earlier was proper while sattu and halwa

ICDS GOES HAYWIRE



have excess wheat and suji. Left with no option, children from poor households are consuming the halwa but they have failed to get any nutrition from the food. Locals alleged that

agencies are producing sub-standard food and siphoning off lakhs from the government funds on the pretext of supplying nutritious food to the children.

They further alleged that such irregularities are rampant because officials are not conducting field visits. They do not take action and remain silent in exchange of kick-backs.

Earlier, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) found distribution of sub-standard sattu apart from other irregularities during a visit to the Anganwadi centres at Kundal and Danda Haripur village under Barchara Sishu Vikash Prakalpa in Jajpur district, November 1, 2019.

Later, the DSWO issued a show-cause notice to the office bearers of the manufacturing firm. However, no action was taken against the agency as some influential persons intervened in the matter. Since then, no ex-

emplary action has been taken against any agency on charge of manufacturing sub-standard sattu and halwa premix.

When contacted, DSWO Sabita Chyau Patnaik said she is yet to receive any complaint in this regard. She assured to conduct a probe into the sub-standard halwa premix as alleged in the video and take action against the persons responsible.

Notably, ICDS aims at providing proper psychological, physical and social development of the child and in reducing the incidence of mortality, morbidity and malnutrition among the children.

Malnourished children become weak and suffer from anaemia and other diseases. Their limbs become lean, many get a bloated stomach and heads of some of the children grow larger than their bodies. The scheme aims to provide them nutritious food and save them from malnutrition. However, allegations of sub-standard food distribution have come frequently to the fore putting question marks on the scheme's implementation and success.

9 fall sick after inhaling toxic gas

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP



Rourkela, July 1: Nine persons fell ill after consuming toxic gas at the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) here Monday. While one of them, a woman was discharged after initial treatment, the condition of eight others is stated to be critical. Currently all are undergoing treatment at the Ispat General Hospital (IGH).

All eight workers are out of danger and are being treated in the ICU of the hospital, Director of Factories and Boilers Bibhu Prasad informed later in the day. Meanwhile Odisha Labour Minister Ganeshram Singh Khuntia directed Monday the Principal Secretary of the Labour Department to investigate the gas leak at the Rourkela Steel Plant and submit a report.

Describing the gas leak from the blast furnace of the steel major as most 'unfortunate', Singh Khuntia said stringent

action will be taken against those found responsible for the mishap. Official sources said nine workers, six of them contractual, fell ill during the gas leak in blast furnace number five at around 10.15am. They added that the nine were involved in some maintenance work when the accident happened. Later in the day Atanu Bhowmick, Director in-Charge, RSP visited the IGH and met all the admitted persons. RSP has also instituted an inquiry committee comprising three senior executives to find out the reasons for the accident. "The incident is being taken up very seriously and actions will be taken against the persons responsible," the release further said.



WATER WOES: Women of a tribal hamlet stand in a long queue to fetch drinking water from the lone tube well in the locality due to lack of alternative drinking water facilities in ward no-2 of Kabatghati village in Raibania panchayat of Jaleswar block in Balasore district, Monday

Dalit widow beaten to death; 2 arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 1: A Dalit widow has been beaten to death by three fellow villagers over a long standing land dispute in Kendrapara district.

The incident took place at Sahaspur village under Kendrapara Sadar police station July 29 night, IIC Saroj Sahoo said Monday.

The deceased has been identified as 65-year-old Hemalata Sethy of Sahaspur village. The IIC said Abhiram

Mohapatra, his brother Arjun Mohapatra and Sunark Mohapatra's family members along with some relatives attacked Hemalata with iron pipes Saturday night and pelted stones at her. The Dalit woman was rescued by some fellow villagers and was rushed to District Headquarters Hospital where the doctor declared her dead.

The Sadar police later seized the body and sent it for autopsy at the hospital, Sunday. Two persons have been detained in connection with the incident.

Fleeing in woman's attire, wife attacker held

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, July 1: Police Monday arrested a man who, in his bid to flee after attacking his wife and her brother, boarded a bus wearing a woman's dress, but the stubble peeping through the dupatta exposed his identity to fellow passengers.

The 42-year-old man was sitting in the bus among women passengers wearing a blue kameez and a pink legging. He also had a red bindi on his forehead and a dupatta with which

he had covered his face. However, the woman sitting next to him noticed his stubble through the dupatta and raised an alarm. As he tried to flee, other passengers stopped him and informed the police.

He was arrested later, said Pradeep Pradhan, an officer of Kendrapara district police.

The passengers were not aware that the man, identified as Bikram Das, was fleeing after assaulting his wife and brother-in-law in Madhusudanpur village under Patkura police station.

It was, however, not immediately clear why Das attacked the two. His wife was in his younger brother's place. The arrested accused was remanded to jail custody after a local court rejected his bail application, said Pradhan, the inspector of Patkura police station. Das was earlier arrested in November 2018 on the charges of killing three members of a family. But he was acquitted by a court two months ago due to lack of evidence after all 29 witnesses turned hostile, according to police sources.

Mumbai Police nabs 5 from Bhadrak in cybercrime case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, July 1: A police team from Mumbai arrested five persons in a cyber-crime case from Bhadrak town and its adjacent villages, police said Monday.

The suspects were identified as Hariram Choudhury (25), Nirakar Das (30), Rabindra Kumar Behera (22), Amar Kumar Parida (23), and Anadi Kumar Parida (29).

Two FIRs had been lodged against these persons in Mumbai's Bandra police station for allegedly defrauding one Moses Vincent of approximately ₹35 lakh through cyber-fraud, a police officer said.

A five-member team from Bandra police arrived in Bhadrak three days ago. They traced the suspects using mobile tracking and conducted raids with the assistance of local police, the officer said. Bhadrak Rural police station inspector in-charge Amitabh Das said the accused were produced before Bhadrak SDJM court to obtain permission to take them to Bandra for further investigation.

2 die in separate elephant attacks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, July 1: Elephants trampled two persons to death Monday in separate incidents under different forest divisions in Sundargarh district.

While one person was killed in Koira forest range under Bonai division, another was killed near Sona Parbat, under Rourkela forest division, sources said.

Samuel Sainda, a resident of Jhirpani village under Koira range,

had gone to relieve himself early in the morning. Unfortunately, he came in front of one male elephant. Samuel tried to escape but the elephant caught him with his trunk. Soon he was trampled and left dead on the spot.

The Forest department later recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. "Samuel's family has been given the initial amount for cremation and after the official report they will get full compensation," a Forest official said.

For the last couple of days a herd, which has strayed from Jharkhand, has made life miserable for the villagers. Despite the best effort of Forest personnel, they keep coming back.

In the second incident one Sukramani Samasi, 75, resident of Sona Parbat area, was trampled by a tusker while she had gone to collect forest produce. Her relatives informed that she came face to face with a tusker. She tried to escape but fell down and died.

Hadagarh dam locked for tourists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi/Keonjhar, July 1: Strong resentment is brewing after Hadagarh dam in Hatadihi block, a prominent tourist spot in Keonjhar district, has been locked for the visitors. Situated on Salandi river flowing through a green and hilly landscape, the dam attracts lakh of tourists every year.

It is well known as a tourist destination and visitors from Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak districts through here throughout the year to enjoy its natural environment.

"Tourists have been denied access. This has led to intense dissatisfaction among them and local residents. Besides, tribal people staying in the forest surrounding the villages, who use the dam road, are also facing difficulties," said Budhiram Purty, a local tribal leader.

According to local residents, tourists enjoy the blue waters of Hadagarh dam as they go on walks in the dam area. Picnickers feast on the banks of the river below the dam area. With so many tourists coming to this area, many small traders of the locality earn a livelihood. Even the traders in Hadagarh



market do good business. According to data from the Water Resources department, some students of Bhadrak area came to visit the dam June 12. Two students had gone for a bath near the zero point at the end of the dam and drowned. Zero point area is under the Forest department. Since then, the Irrigation department has locked the dam.

Assistent Engineer of Irrigation department, Pradeep Kumar Mohapatra told to the media that this decision has been taken as per the guidelines of the department. It will remain closed till the department's further order. While the tourist area of

Hadagarh brings a unique experience to tourists due to its natural beauty, there is a question about how justified it is to keep it locked and out of bounds for tourists. There is a demand to open it immediately by local people's representatives like Nirupma Nandy, Sarpanch of Hadagarh GP and Jayanthi Samal of Sadha GP. Anandapur MLA Abhimanyu Sethy said, "I will discuss the matter with the Forest and Water Resource department for its early opening."

Department of Water Resources
Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division
Ganjam-II, Berhampur
Engineering School Road, Berhampur, 760010.
E-Mail: m2_exe_engr@yahoo.co.in
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
ABSTRACT OF E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
RFB No.: OIIPRA-W2-GM-II-2024-25 Date: 07.06.2024

Name of the work	Civil Construction Works (Rehabilitation of Minor Irrigation Projects under OIIPRA).
Total No. of work	9 Minor Irrigation Projects.
Estimate Cost of Work (₹)	Varies approximately from Rs. 9.41 lakhs to Rs. 52.81 lakhs (Total estimated cost of the 9 Nos of works Rs. 229.75 Lakhs).
Cost of Bid Document	Free of cost
Time for completion	Refer to DTCN
Availability of Bid documents	From 01.07.2024 at 10.00 Hrs to 31.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs in the e-procurement website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)
Date of Pre bid meeting	10.07.2024 From 11.30 Hrs to 12.30 Hrs As per Part-7 of DTCN
Period for receipt of bid (s)	From 01.07.2024 at 10.00 Hrs to 31.07.2024 up to 15.00 Hrs
Payment of Bid cost / Bid security	Shall be paid online through the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha.
Date of opening of the technical bid	On Dated 31.07.2024 at 15.30 Hrs
Date of opening of financial bid	To be intimated online after off-line evaluation of technical Bid.
Digital signature certificate of Bidder	The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or III.
Details about the tender	Available in website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)
Name / Address of the OIT	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division Ganjam II Berhampur, in front of Depaul School, Engineering School road Berhampur, Pin - 760010

07.06.2024
Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
M.I. Division, Ganjam-II
Berhampur
OIIPR-32043/11/0002/2425

Directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha
Revised Timeline for e-Admission into Higher Secondary Schools of the State for the Session 2024-25

Sl#	Activities	Datelines
1)	Previous Last date for submission of on-line Common Application Form (CAF) by the applicant at Student Login (www.samsodisha.gov.in)	06.07.2024 (11.45 PM)
2)	Revised Last date for submission of on-line Common Application Form (CAF) by the applicant at Student Login (www.samsodisha.gov.in)	12.07.2024 (11.45 PM)
3)	Commencement of Class-X	01.08.2024

For more details:
a) Regarding publication of merit list along with the admission datelines, please visit www.samsodisha.gov.in
b) Contact Sanjog Helpline (Toll Free) number 155335, 1800-345-6770, e-mail: sams.dhse@gov.in

Changes to the dateline (if occurs) will be notified in the newspapers & website as well

OIPR-11020/11/0001/2425

Bank of Maharashtra
ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX,
Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022,
Email Id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower/Directors/Guarantors that the following credit facilities has been sanctioned to you by **Bank of Maharashtra, Berhampur Branch**. That you have executed the necessary documents in favour of the Bank in consideration of the said credit facilities availed and also created charges and securities in favour of the Bank. In spite of our repeated Demands, you have not Paid the outstanding amount in your Account. Therefore, due to non-payment of installment/interest/Principal debt, the account(s) have been classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines. Demand Notice was issued by the authorised officer against the following Borrower/Directors/Guarantors of **Bank of Maharashtra, Berhampur Branch** but the same could not be Served on the below mentioned Parties which was sent by Regd.post A.D. The details are given below:

BERHAMPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower / Directors/Guarantors	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA / Date of Demand Notice / Outstanding	Details of Properties Mortgaged
Borrower: Aum Arogya Hospitals Private Limited, Represented Through its Directors, Address-1: Plot No.: 1896/8481, Khata No.: 1166/6234, Bhaba Nagar, Berhampur, Ganjam-760001, Address-2: Plot No.: 98, Harsha Vihar, 4 th Lane, Sriram Nagar, Aska Road, Berhampur, Ganjam-760002 / Directors: 1) Mr. Ramesh Chandra Barata (Managing Director/Guarantor), Address: Plot No.: 98, Harsha Vihar, 4 th Lane, Sriram Nagar, Aska Road, Berhampur, Ganjam-760002, 2) Mrs. Nishi Priyadarshini (Director/Guarantor), Address: Flat No.: 106, Radhakrishna Enclave, Aska Road, Sriram Nagar Square, Berhampur, Ganjam-760002, 3) Mr. Babru Bahan Patra (Additional Director), Address: C/o.: Jaleswar Patra, Gadasrirampur, Khordha-752100, 4) Mr. Sashi Bhusan Mohanty (Additional Director), Address: Krishna Ballava Mohanty, Gopalpur, Dist.: Ganjam-761002, 5) Mrs. Swapna Barata (Additional Director), Address: Plot No.: 98, Harsha Vihar, 4 th Lane, Near Devi Mandir, Berhampur Sadar, Ganjam-760002	1) MAHA-DOC+PRI (Term Loan) / ₹3,95,25,000/- 2) MAHA-DOC+PRI (Term Loan) / ₹1,04,75,000/- Total: ₹5,00,00,000/-	06.06.2024/ 07.06.2024 / ₹3,10,74,057.30 as on 07.06.2024 + subsequent interest thereon	1) Hypothecation of Medical Machineries, Equipments & all Furniture and Equipments created out of term Loan Standing in the name of Aum Arogya Hospitals Private Limited, Through its Managing Director: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Barata, 2) All those pieces and parcels of the Land situate being lying at Village/Mouza: Goullundi, in the Registration Dist.: Ganjam and Sub-Dist.: Berhampur, admeasuring Area: 4182 Sqft. and bearing CTS/Survey/Khata No.: 1166/4302, Mutation Khata No.: 1166/6234, Plot No.: 1896/8481 together with the Building and Structures/Block Constructed to/ to be constructed thereon admeasuring 11440 sq.ft (carpet) i.e. 11440 Sq.Ft (Built up) in aggregate consisting of Ground plus 3 floors Building and all the fixtures annexed thereto, Standing in the name of Aum Arogya Hospitals Private Limited, Through its Managing Director: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Barata, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 61, West: Land, North: Municipality Lane, South: Road, 3) All those pieces and parcels of the Land situate being lying at Village/Mouza: Goullundi, in the Registration Dist.: Ganjam and Sub-Dist.: Berhampur, admeasuring Area: 1132 Sqft., Khata No.: 1166/5581, Mutation Khata No.: 1166/6235, Plot No.: 1896, Standing in the name of Aum Arogya Hospitals Private Limited, Through its Managing Director: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Barata, Bounded by East: Building of Aum Arogya Hospitals Private Limited, West: Road, North: Municipality Lane, South: Road

Hence in exercise of Powers conferred on the Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) and without prejudice to the rights of the Bank, the Bank hereby Calls Upon you to repay the amount in Full mentioned above plus future interest and other charges thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which in addition to and without prejudice to the other rights available to the Bank, the Bank shall be entitled to exercise and /or all of the powers under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the aforesaid Act in respect of these securities/properties enforceable under the Act, in which case you shall also be liable to further pay all costs, charges and expenses or other incidental charges. The Powers available under the Act inter alia include: a) To Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. b) To Take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets. c) To Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor. d) Require at any time by notice in writing to any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the borrower, to pay the bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt. Please take a note that as per Sec.13 (13) of the Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from disposing off or dealing with the above securities without our prior written consent. **That attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.07.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

FOCUS NATION

WEEDY, UNWIELDY GROWTH



As the world turns more careful and looks to build with caution and care, the Indian State is going berserk in multiple directions with the goal of showing its strength outside India while Indians are getting the rough end

quality of development is critical in India today. On the one hand is economic development seen mostly in a number, like the GDP growth of a nation, desperately seeking development as an objective concept to drive people to higher standards of living – a notion long challenged and since dismissed globally. On the other is a broader idea of development (the well-being dimension of growth) that includes health, education, environmental protection, worker safety nets and also material consumption. This broader approach gives us the UN's Human Development Index, by which standards India sits at rank 134 out of 193 countries, below countries such as Bangladesh, South Africa, Sri Lanka. Similarly, India's NFHS draws attention to development indices, like measuring how many of our children are anaemic, which would be an indication of poor health and the tendency to a higher U5MR number (Under Five Mortality Rate). Just seven Indian states (Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand, West Bengal) report less than 50% of children under the age of five years as anaemic. India cannot have sustainable growth with this kind of NFHS statistics.

"has won political freedom, but it has yet to win economic freedom, social and moral freedom." Political freedom was easy, he argued – it was right in front as a goal to be achieved. But other freedoms "are harder than the political, if only because they are constructive, less exciting and not spectacular," and so the hard work in building India was all waiting to be done. He raised then what remains the burning question of today: "How to get out of the weedy and unwieldy growth?" The Father of the Nation had warned that this would be a "difficult ascent to democracy ... leading to corruption and the creation of institutions, (which were) popular and democratic only in name."

That is the precise picture unfolding in the India of today. As the world turns more careful and looks to build with caution and care, the Indian State is going berserk in multiple directions with the goal of showing its strength outside India while Indians are getting the rough end. In this light, the mishaps in Delhi and Ayodhya represent the smashing of the showcase and they signal the coming collapse of the story of growth. The pain and destruction that follow will have to be faced by the ordinary people. This debate on the kind and

In the classic 'Freedom as Development', Amartya Sen noted: "Development requires the removal of major sources of unfreedom: poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as systematic social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or overactivity of repressive states. Despite unprecedented increases in overall opulence, the contemporary world denies elementary freedoms to vast numbers – perhaps even the majority - of people." This wisdom is well studied and age-old by now. India will do well to heed it.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. @THEBILLIONPRESS



Jagdish Rattanani

THE MISHAPS IN DELHI AND AYODHYA REPRESENT THE SMASHING OF THE SHOWCASE AND THEY SIGNAL THE COMING COLLAPSE OF THE STORY OF GROWTH

One way to make sense of the shocking roof collapse at Terminal 1 of New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, or the monsoon flooding and road cave-ins in and around areas of the hastily-inaugurated Ram mandir in Ayodhya, is to inquire into the idea of development that has taken root in India, broadly since liberalisation in 1991 and more particularly over the last 10 years that the BJP has been in power at the Centre. Given the political investments in the temple project, or the high visibility of the airport and the class of people who get hurt or inconvenienced, events like these hit the headlines. They bring attention to shoddy and hastily-designed development plans, which is good. But they equally distract attention from a host of development-led disasters that have been unfolding, slowly and quite unspectacularly, delivering disastrous changes in slow motion. These changes mostly go unnoticed because they appear so routine, so disconnected from each other and come across as so unspectacular.

For example, in Mumbai, the rush of gated community constructions has inevitably brought flooding in areas surrounding the new and high-priced apartments in these complexes, many built by influential and well-connected builder groups.

In Bangalore, once noted as India's "garden city" and now the IT services hub powering India's global business presence, water leakage was reported at Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport after unusually heavy rains in May this year, a day that also saw water-logging across the city and a spate of tree collapses that also endanger life. Delhi has its own disasters seen in the flooding on its main roads, in the Gurugram development belt and in the most recent incident, the flooding of the Pragati Maidan underpass. The overall thrust of devel-

opment is to get it done, to get it done now and to move ahead in a nation that is supposed to be racing on the path to growth amid an economic boom and supposed global dominance. Scale and speed are the favoured words, but in the absence of an understanding of and consensus on development, and what kind of development India ought to have, we have fancy airports and failing bus services sitting side-by-side, or gleaming malls where lakhs are spent in a day and garbage dumps where workers have no protective gear or health insurance.

Worker protection in factories, haphazard construction in hilly terrains or sensitive ecological zones, fancier cars on logjammed roads, the story of rising NPAs and slackening banking services for ordinary customers while "wealth" customers get special attention are all reflections of a growth story that isn't going well and cannot end well for India in the long term.

Mahatma Gandhi called this "weedy and unwieldy growth" and he had warned against it long before the dangers were visible to anyone at a time India became Independent. In remarks dated 27 January, 1948, three days before he was assassinated, Gandhi noted that the nation

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

What climate-vulnerable countries need

A problem as unprecedentedly large and destructive as climate change demands bold new thinking and urgent action. Yet since the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, geopolitical tensions have dominated the global agenda, hindering collective efforts to address this existential challenge.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently reminded us, there is an 80% chance that the global average temperature will temporarily rise by more than 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels in at least one of the next five years. The battle to keep global warming below the threshold established by the Paris climate agreement will be won or lost in the 2020s. The necessary investment and innovation needs to be happening now.

Countries like Nigeria and Sierra Leone are developing green growth plans and launching investment packages focused on renewables and climate-resilient infrastructure; and Barbados has just introduced its own 2035 investment plan to achieve prosperity and resilience. But these efforts all require financing. The Bridgetown Initiative's proposals for reforming the global

financial architecture can drive the kinds of changes we need. The G20 has already responded by seeking a wealth tax that could unlock around \$250 billion in new finance, and we could mobilize up to a trillion dollars more in low-cost lending by leveraging multilateral development banks' (MDBs) balance sheets. Moreover, with climate clauses added to debt contracts, developing countries can preserve the fiscal space they need to respond to major climate shocks.

But we must do more. In May, the International Monetary Fund's board approved the use of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs, the IMF's unit of account) as hybrid capital, which will allow MDBs to expand their balance sheets. That is a good start, but G20 countries must commit the SDRs needed to capitalize on this financial innovation.

We also must ensure that concessional finance (loans with accommodative terms) continues to flow to the most vulnerable and climate-afflicted countries. One-third of the countries eligible for support from the World Bank's International Development Association are now poorer than they were on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IDA countries have significant economic potential. They account for about 20% of global production of tin, copper, and gold; most are well-positioned to take advantage of solar energy (owing to abundant sunshine); and many possess deposits of minerals essential for the energy transition. But they are energy-poor and will need technical and financial support to provide electricity to 300 million people who lack it, as envisioned by a new program launched by the World Bank and the African Development Bank. To achieve an ambitious replenishment of the IDA fund later this year and unlock \$120 billion in grants and loans to make this possible, World Bank shareholders must step up with new resources.

Middle-income countries – especially the Vulnerable 20 (which now includes 68 countries) – also urgently need more access to grants and long-term capital. Small island developing states should not be penalized for good performance by being forced to "graduate" from the IDA. That will put them at the mercy of capital markets when they still need quick, affordable finance to build resilience and maintain

insurance against persistent climate shocks.

We must continue to reduce the cost of capital for all countries seeking to invest in the energy transition. Our own countries face a premium when borrowing on capital markets, partly because credit rating agencies do not fully account for the conditions we face. The situation is not only unjust but also unwise. A good first step toward reducing borrowing costs and making investments commercially viable would be to reform IMF surcharges, which cost indebted borrower countries \$1.9 billion in 2023 alone.

We also must continue to provide liquidity for developing countries through a new issuance of SDRs. This is a no-brainer, because it would stabilize currencies and help manage debt burdens without contributing to inflation. And finally, we must get carbon markets working to deter pollution and channel resources toward cleaner energy. Our collective stake in the planet's future requires us to act both now and at scale.

Mia Amor Mottley is Prime Minister of Barbados. Wake Edun is Finance Minister of Nigeria. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

Much-needed win

Sir, Can anyone ask for a more thrilling world cup final than the India-South Africa tie? In a sea-saw tussle at Bridgetown, Barbados when the pendulum swung quite a few times, the Men in Blue held their nerves to pull off an incredible 7-run win over the Proteas to win the T20 World Cup for the second time after a gap of 17 years. It was a match that will be etched in memory for lifetime. It was a match that will be remembered long for Suryakumar Yadav's sensational 'juggling over the rope' catch that effectively sealed the win for India. The title-win is a much-needed one not only for Indian cricket, but also for millions of its fans across the world, who were down in the dumps on India's loss to Australia in the finals of the 50-over world cup tournament at Ahmedabad just seven months ago. The month of June has always been special for India cricket, as Kapil's Devils stunned the mighty West Indies to win their first world cup in this month 41 years ago. And now Rohit's men scripted an outstanding T20 world cup win in the same month now. It was heartbreak again for the Proteas who looked to finally end their world cup jinx.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Maintain sanctity

Sir, Since a good amount of money is spent for running a Parliament session, it should be the duty of both the ruling and the Opposition parties to ensure that disruption does not take place leading to the adjournment of both the Houses. Both the benches should maintain the sanctity of the House and the Speaker must give ample opportunity to the Opposition to ventilate their grievances in an orderly manner. If law points are involved in any matter, the same instead of passing by voice vote should be referred to a committee so that Opposition parties do not leave the House dissatisfied. The Leader of the Opposition must have full control and command over the members so that decisions taken by him reflect the wishes of the latter.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

THE MOTHER



Irresolute Resolution

There could be a debate on whether it was politically correct for the newly-elected Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Om Birla, to move a resolution on the first day of the new session to condemn an event that had happened half a century ago – Emergency, clamped by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. What is important is its timing and relevance. By trying to project the Congress as a real threat to the country's Constitution and not the BJP as campaigned by the Congress in the recent LS elections, the ruling BJP has only confirmed how it has been shaken to its depths by its failure to form the government on its own. It is widely believed that the BJP could not get even a simple majority because the voters were seemingly convinced by the Congress campaign that the country's Constitution was in danger and the threat was from the BJP. It was verbalised that the Constitution would be changed and dictatorship imposed if the BJP crosses the 400-mark as desired in the party's slogan.

BJP now seems to be in a state of dread over the fact that there was a convincing narrative that created a public perception that the saffron party under PM Modi was a threat to the Constitution. This is something that may cause an existential crisis for the brand of politics that the RSS-controlled BJP represents. Over the past 50 years, opponents of the Congress have made enough political-electoral capital gains out of the Emergency Indira Gandhi imposed in 1975 for about 21 months. There is hardly any juice left in this lemon. Especially after Indira and her party faced ignominious defeat right after the elections, proving the power of the Indian voter and his rejection of the Emergency. However, the fall of the Janata Party Gov't occurred when Charan Singh split and sought help from the Congress to form a minority Gov't at the Center. The Congress withdrew that support, Lok Sabha elections were held again and the Congress came back to power in 1980 and Indira was blessed by voters yet again, in a way washing away the Emergency sins after voters rejected the Janata Party. That marked democratic forgiveness and enabled the Congress to be born again.

The recent resolution brought forth in Parliament was politically loaded and it stated that dictatorship imposed by Indira Gandhi crushed the country's democratic values and freedom of expression was strangled. During that "dark period" of Emergency, several people lost their lives at the hands of the "dictatorial" Congress government, it said and called on the members to observe two minutes' silence in memory of the dead.

There is no doubt that the Emergency imposed in June, 1975 represents a dark chapter in post-independence history of India. The country can never condone Indira Gandhi's rule by decree, suspension of civil liberties and free speech, arbitrary actions of the government, vindictive arrests of dissenters and Opposition figures using draconian preventive detention laws. Future generations need to learn the right lessons from the trauma the country lived through during that period.

But, using the first day of the new 18th Lok Sabha and the first day of the parliamentary session for this purpose is not only a breach of propriety, but shows the Speaker's office in poor light. In a sense, the actions of the same Speaker in the last Lok Sabha smacked of authoritarianism and as such sermons from the Chair on upholding democratic principles do not inspire much confidence. Om Birla has earlier indiscriminately used his powers to suspend bulk of the Opposition MPs which could only have happened at the behest of the Gov't. Seen in this light the Speaker's resolution makes the whole exercise suspect.

The Parliament's track record during the past 10 years makes its concerns for subversion of laws during Emergency insincere. Mere resolutions from the Chair, not backed by transparent and democratic functioning of the government, are nothing but lip service in the cause of strengthening democracy.

WISDOM CORNER

- Be like the bird who, pausing in her flight awhile on boughs too slight, feels them give way beneath her, and yet sings, knowing she hath wings. **VICTOR HUGO**
- We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology. **CARL SAGAN**
- The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1839:** A slave rebellion occurred on the ship *Amistad*, and in their trial the following year the mutineers, who were deemed to be kidnap victims rather than merchandise, were acquitted—a victory for American abolitionism.
- 1881:** Shot on this day, U.S. President James A. Garfield died several weeks later on September 19.
- 1900:** The first flight of a zeppelin took place as the airship departed a floating hangar on Lake Constance near Friedrichshafen, Germany. The rigid aircraft named after Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, the inventor of the dirigible and founder of the Zeppelin Airship Construction Company, made its first flight over Lake Constance in Germany. Unlike blimps or balloons, Zeppelins are built by stretching material over a rigid framework, usually made of metal. Zeppelins can be steered and they were used by the German Air Force to conduct aerial attacks during the First World War.
- 1937:** American aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan are heard for the last time before disappearing. They were attempting to make the first around-the-world flight in a Lockheed Model 10 Electra. Neither they nor the plane has ever been found and that has led to speculation about what happened to them. An accomplished pilot, Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
- 1962:** American businessman Sam Walton opened the first Walmart (then known as Wal-Mart) store, in Rogers, Arkansas; it was the start of what would become the largest retail sales chain in the United States.

LOL

Drunk at the bar

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible DUI violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he

started his engine and began to pull away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyzer test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."



Rain wreaks havoc in Assam, Arunachal

Over 43 pc forest camps in Kaziranga submerged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Golaghat/Jorhat (Assam), July 1: With worsening flood condition in Assam, rising water levels have impacted more than 43 per cent of the 233 forest camps at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, an official report said Monday.

As a significant portion of wildlife habitat is now submerged, scores of animals have started crossing the National Highway 715 in search of higher ground towards the southern direction in East Karbi Anglong district. However, no death of animals has been reported as of now due to floods or accidents while crossing the highway.

Floodwaters have submerged a total of 101 forest camps, of which six have been vacated, across Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to a flood report. It said 35 camps in Agoratioli range, 21 in Kaziranga, 10 in Bagori, five in Burhapahar range and nine in Bokakhat are submerged.

Besides, 21 forest camps in

Biswanath Wildlife Division of the national park have been inundated, the report added.

Kaziranga National Park is well-prepared for the upcoming flood season with comprehensive measures in place to ensure the safety of wildlife, staff and visitors. Continuous monitoring and timely interventions will be prioritised to mitigate the impact of flooding, the report said.

It said that herds of elephants have begun moving towards East Karbi Anglong through Hati Dandi corridor and animal sensors are in place to detect the movement.

Joint patrolling by commando action groups and forest teams is being conducted regularly. Additional staff from neighbouring divisions have been deployed to intensify patrolling. Joint patrolling in the fringe areas of the park is being carried out by Forest and Police Departments, the report said.

The Kaziranga National Park (KNP) authority has set up a dedicated floodwater gauge station with support from the



Villagers use a boat to cross a flood-affected area along with their belongings, in Assam's Morigaon district, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Central Water Commission, while rescue teams and veterinary care units are on standby for immediate deployment.

Boats, boatlines, barricades, raincoats, rescue materials and medicines have been procured and are already deployed. Country boats, speedboats and mechanised boats have been strategically deployed in key areas for swift response.

Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration Sunday evening issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC to safeguard the animals crossing the NH-715, which passes through KNP.

Stating that the highway attracts huge traffic, Golaghat DM Vivek Shyam Pangyok said, "Plying of vehicles during active flood attracts unwarranted risk and a cause for imminent threat to wild animals."

He said the animals use the corridors to temporarily migrate to the natural highland (hillocks) for shelter falling under Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council.

Accordingly, a set of orders have been issued for traffic management along NH-715 passing through the KNP with effect from Monday.

Life out of gear in Arunachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, July 1: Incessant rains triggered landslides and floods in several districts of Arunachal Pradesh Monday, throwing life out of gear, officials said. All the major rivers in the state are in spate and flowing above the danger mark, they said.

The overflowing Kameng river swept away several houses at Seppa, the headquarters of the East Kameng district. However, there was no report of any casualty.

A landslide that happened in the Division IV area of the state capital damaged several buildings and buried a car. A woman who was driving the car managed a miraculous escape, police said. The important Kurung bridge was washed away Sunday, snapping connectivity to the Kurung Kumey district. Koloriang MLA Pani Taram said.

A flood alert was issued for Namsai district and Wakro circle of Lohit district as water



Assam Rifles personnel carry out a rescue operation in flood hit villages of Diyun circle, in Changlang district

levels of all the rivers have crossed the danger marks, officials said.

Thirty-four villages in Namsai and Wakro have so far been affected by the flood, they said. People have been advised to remain alert and take all precautionary measures. They have also been advised to refrain from venturing into the rivers or riverbanks, officials said.

In the East Siang district, the water levels of the Siang river, its tributaries and other peren-

nial streams are in spate. Incessant rains triggered landslides along the Pasighat-Yingkiong and the Pasighat-Aalo highways, disrupting communication.

Flood waters submerged low-lying areas of Pasighat, Ruksin, Mirem and Bilat areas of East Siang, and parts of Lower Siang district, officials said. The weather is also hindering the construction work of the Murkongselek-Pasighat railway line, they said.

The IMD issued a red alert for Changlang, Namsai, Lohit, Lower Dibang Valley, East Siang and Lower Siang districts, forecasting heavy to very heavy rains over the next two days.

Heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, is likely in Anjaw, Papum Pare, Tirap, East Kameng, Kurung Kumey, Leparada, Longding, West Kameng and West Siang Tuesday, it said.

All schools in Itanagar and nearby areas have been shut for five days, in view of the weather conditions, according to an order.



Deer cross a National Highway near the flood-affected Kaziranga National Park, in Nagaon district, Monday

PTI PHOTO

FIRs registered in Kashmir districts under new laws

AGENCIES

Srinagar, July 1: As three new criminal laws come into effect across the country, Jammu and Kashmir police registered cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in several districts of Valley.

The first FIR under the BNS was registered at Bijbehara Police Station of Anantnag in south Kashmir. Police said the case, documented as FIR No. 143/2024, has been registered under Section 125(a) and 281 of the BNS 2023.

"This sets a vital precedent for the implementation of the new criminal law framework and underscores the swift and decisive action taken by the Anantnag Police to uphold the law and ensure justice for all," a police statement said.

In the Baramulla district of north Kashmir, police registered the first FIR under BNS against illegal mining. Baramulla Police registered the FIR at Kreeri Police Station, marking a significant milestone in the Kashmir Zone, police said. The FIR No. 93/2024, filed under Sections 303(2) and 329(3) of the BNS 2023, demonstrates the police's commitment to

From now on, all FIRs will be filed under the provisions of BNS. However, cases registered before July 1 will continue to be tried under IPC

combating illegal mining and upholding the law, they added. In Kulgam district of south Kashmir, J&K Police registered a case at Yaripora Police Station. Police said a written complaint was received at Yaripora Police Station through Rifat Ara stating therein that one person Mohd Umer, and others attacked and beat her up ruthlessly resulting in injuries.

"Regarding the incident, a case vide FIR No 47/2024 U/S 74, 115(2) BNS stands registered at the Police Station and an investigation has been taken up," police said.

From now on, all FIRs will be filed under the provisions of BNS. However, cases registered before July 1 will continue to be tried under IPC (Indian Penal Code), CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code), and Indian Evidence Act until their Final disposal.

Biren denies report on resignation, asks media not to spread rumours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, July 1: Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Monday described a report on his resignation as unfounded and asked the media not to spread rumours.

Singh also claimed that it is an attempt by political rivals who want to take advantage of the prevailing situation in the state which has been in the grip of violence since May last year.

His statement came three days after a media outlet reported that Singh is likely to resign soon.

"Manipur is passing through a troubled time. In such a crucial time, the leaders of Manipur can't afford to be weak. We are fully confident of our abilities," the Chief Minister said.

Addressing the Manipur issue is more important, Singh told reporters after attending a programme in Imphal on the implementation of three new criminal laws across the country.

"The rumours (on resignation) are possibly spread by those who want to be CM and minis-



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh

ters, as well as the opposition," he said.

The Chief Minister said that his government communicates regularly with the PMO and the Union Home Ministry on the Manipur situation.

"If we leave, who will lead the people? More chaos will be created. We have to guide the people," said Singh who heads a BJP government in the north-eastern state.

Singh also called on media

outlets not to publish unfounded reports.

Panic situation might be created if speculative reports are published without verification. Publications of such unfounded reports may give pleasure to some people. However, chances are 90 per cent of the people in the state would start panicking, he said.

He asked media outlets to come to Manipur and take stock of the actual situation to help bring peace to the state.

Ethnic conflict between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and hill-based Kukis has led to the deaths of over 200 people since May 3, 2023, and rendered thousands of people homeless.

Earlier, addressing a gathering, Singh said, "The new laws allow registration of zero FIRs anywhere and also give scope for registration in local language or dialect."

"Law against mob justice commences today with punishments of life imprisonment and even death...I want to appeal to the people of Manipur to give up mob justice," Singh said.

NIA nod to let Engineer Rashid take oath as MP, court order tomorrow



AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 1: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday gave its consent for jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, to take oath as MP July 5. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh will pass an order on the plea Tuesday.

Rashid, an Independent MP from Baramulla who has been arrested in a 2017 Jammu and Kashmir terror funding case, had moved the court seeking interim bail, or custody parole in the alternative, to take oath and perform his parliamentary functions. On June 22, a special court here had adjourned the matter and asked the NIA to file its response.

On Monday, the NIA's counsel said Rashid's oath taking be subject to some conditions like not speaking to the media. He also said Rashid, who is in Tihar Jail, must complete everything within a day.

Rashid has been in jail since 2019 after he was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for his alleged involvement in a terror funding case.

The former MLA's name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoor Watali, arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir valley.

The NIA had filed a chargesheet against several in-

dividuals, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin in the case. Malik was awarded life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

Hours after the NIA gave its consent, several Kashmiri mainstream politicians sought his release. Former Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said there would be a lack of effective representation of the people of Baramulla.

"He will take the oath now inside the Parliament Speaker's room. But unfortunately, the people of Baramulla constituency will not get an effective representation," Omar told reporters in Srinagar. "He can take oath, but will not be able to work as the representative of the people of Baramulla."

People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti said the Government of India must release Engineer Rashid.

"It's a shame that Engineer Rashid has been behind bars since 2019 on baseless charges. Relieved to know he's been allowed to take oath as Member Parliament but his imprisonment itself is an utter travesty of justice in the first place. GOI must release him immediately along with countless other Kashmiri men languishing in jails," Mehbooba posted on X.

Pulwama's snow peas farmers overjoyed with newfound fame

AGENCIES

Srinagar, July 1: Farmer Abdul Rashid Mir from Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama has felt an extra beat of his heart since Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned that 'snow peas' crop sowed by Mir has been exported to London.

Hailing from village Chakoora, 12 km from Pulwama town in South Kashmir, Mir said all farmers associated with the crop are elated after the PM mentioned 'snow peas' during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme Sunday. The crop has been a big hit in Europe.

"I have no words to express my joy after Prime Minister Modi mentioned the new Kashmiri crop in the Mann Ki Baat and that too has been exported to foreign countries in great demand," Mir said.

In his monthly radio programme, Modi said Jammu and Kashmir achieved a big milestone when the first consignment of 'snow peas' was sent to London from Pulwama district last month.

The snow pea is an edible-pod pea with flat pods and thin pod walls. It is eaten whole, with both the seeds and the pod, while still unripened.

Mir said that a Delhi based 'Next on Foods Private Limited Company' approached the farmers in village Chakoora and suggested providing a new variety of species peas seeds with high benefits for farmers.

He said the company even suggested that the crop has to be harvested before the seeds. They assured the prices would be satisfactory for the growers from the first to last drop.

He said the company repre-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

sentatives said that this crop has a tremendous demand in Europe and farmers will benefit.

"Accordingly the crop was sowed in around six sq km of the Chakoora village including Malangpora, Quail, Wasur, Babgoam or chandgam and Neelora in November and in the end of March the crop was fully ready and farmers started harvesting," Mir said.

Meanwhile, the company had



also tied up with the local government here and the Director, Agriculture department helped us with required knowledge during this period.

Mir, however, rued lack of rain and snow during the winters as it affected the yield.

The company experts visited the village and picked up harvest from doorstep and the Director, Agriculture provided the space for collecting it at a place in the

national



There is no evidence of migration in the Bundelkhand region. However, the problem of getting labourers is gradually increasing throughout the state due to the increased income of the people. The department is promoting agricultural mechanisation to address this situation

RAJESH KUMAR SHUKLA | BJP MLA

'BHANDARAS', PLANTATION DRIVE ON AKHILESH'S BIRTHDAY

The Samajwadi Party started a week-long sapling plantation drive and organised 'bhandaras' (community feasts) and blood donation camps to mark the birthday of its president Akhilesh Yadav's birthday Monday. Yadav was born July 1, 1973



of the day quote

Venkaiah Naidu-garu is the master of acronyms, alliteration, and ready wit which stings but does not hurt. He created many challenging situations for the Opposition while he was Chairman of the Rajya Sabha but, as they say, absence does indeed make the heart grow fonder

JAIRAM RAMESH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

I will try to achieve better synergy between the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. It will protect the national interest. I assure the country and all the citizens that the Indian Army is ready and capable to face all current and future challenges

GEN UPENDRA DWIVEDI | ARMY CHIEF

Nitish Kumar resolved and put forth the SCS demand for Bihar before Prime Minister Narendra Modi but Naidu is not even opening his mouth on SCS for Andhra Pradesh

YS SHARMILA | CONGRESS PRESIDENT, AP

SHORT TAKES

1 of 2 missing children found

Pune: Rescue teams Monday morning recovered the body of one of the two missing children, who along with three other family members got swept away at a waterfall near the Bhushi Dam in Pune's Lonavala area, officials said. Police, Navy divers and other rescue teams Monday resumed the search for the two missing children and recovered the body of Mariya Ansari (9) from a reservoir near the accident spot, a senior official from Pune rural police said. Search was still on for the other missing child - Adnan Sabhat Ansari (4), he said.

Sleepwalker falls from building, dies

Mumbai: A 19-year-old man having the sleepwalking condition died after falling from the sixth floor of a building in Mumbai, police said Monday. The incident took place at around 5 am Sunday at the Aqua Gem Tower on Nesbit Road in Mazgaon area in south Mumbai, an official said. Mustafa Ibrahim Chunawala was found lying unconscious at the podium on the building's third floor, he said. After receiving information, police reached the spot and rushed the man to Saifi Hospital where doctors declared him dead before arrival, the official said. Chunawala was having the issue of 'sommambulism' (sleepwalking), he said.

HC dismisses Kavitha's bail pleas

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday dismissed BRS leader K Kavitha's bail pleas in two cases of corruption and money laundering linked to the alleged excise policy scam. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, who had reserved the order on the two bail pleas of Kavitha May 28, rejected the petitions. A detailed order is awaited.

3 killed, 1 injured in road mishap

Ahmedabad: Three persons were killed and one was critically injured when a speeding Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) rammed into another car in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city Monday morning, police said. The accident took place at a 'T' junction on the Sardar Patel Ring Road at around 5 am, they said. Visuals showed beer cans in the SUV and some lying scattered near the car wreckage.



A poster depicting the implementation of three new criminal laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam -- being put by Delhi Police to raise awareness, in New Delhi, Monday

India, Pak exchange lists of prisoners, fishermen in each other's custody

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year January 1 and July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India and Pakistan Monday exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said and added that 2,639 Indian fishermen and 71 civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014 as a result of New Delhi's sustained efforts.

Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on Consular Access 2008, such lists are exchanged every year January 1 and July 1, the MEA said in a statement.

"India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody," it said. India has shared the names of 366 civilian prisoners and 86 fishermen in its custody who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani.

Similarly, Pakistan has shared the names of 43 civilian prisoners and 211 fishermen in its custody who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian, the MEA added.

The government of India has called for "early release and repatriation" of civilian prisoners, fishermen along with their boats and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody, the ministry said.

"Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 185 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sentence. In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to the 47 civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistan's custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far," the statement said. Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian

prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India, it said.

The MEA said India remains committed to addressing, on priority, all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody.

"In this context, India has urged Pakistan to expedite the nationality verification process of 75 believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in India's custody, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirmation from Pakistan," the statement said.

BJP slams Rahul for his 'not Hindus' jibe

Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at the ruling BJP in the Lok Sabha, saying those who call themselves Hindus are engaged in "violence and hate" round the clock

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The BJP Monday protested inside and outside the Parliament after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said in Lok Sabha that ruling party members are "not Hindus" as they promote division and violence.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is a serious matter that neither has he understood the mandate of 2024 (his third successive loss) nor does he have any humility," he posted on X.

Nadda said Gandhi "lied" on many counts including matters that concern the country's "hard-working farmers and brave armed forces."

But he was "duly fact-checked" by Union ministers for making "false claims" on the MSP and the Agri-vest scheme, the health minister said. "For his own cheap politics, he won't even spare our farmers and security forces."

Nadda said discussion on the President's Speech is about a "healthy debate" but the Opposition, in its "misplaced triumphalism", continues to be



worst show! Lies + Hindu hatred = Rahul Gandhi Ji in Parliament. Third Time Fail LoP has a knack for agitated, flawed logic. His speech today has shown that neither has he understood the mandate of 2024 (his third successive loss) nor does he have any humility," he posted on X.

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But he was "duly fact-checked" by Union ministers for making "false claims" on the MSP and the Agri-vest scheme, the health minister said. "For his own cheap politics, he won't even spare our farmers and security forces."

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NEET-UG

NTA announces retest result

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The National Testing Agency announced the revised rank list for the medical entrance exam NEET-UG on Monday, officials said.

The revised list was announced after a retest was conducted for candidates who were earlier awarded grace marks to compensate for loss of time as the exam May 5 started late at six centres.

For the retest conducted at seven centres June 23 following a Supreme Court order, 48 per cent of the 1,563 candidates did not appear.

National Testing Agency (NTA) officials reported that 813 of the 1,563 candidates appeared for the retest while the others opted for the marks without the grace.

Centre-wise, Chandigarh -- which had just two candidates - registered zero attendance. The under-scanner Jhajjar centre registered 58 per cent attendance, with 287 of the 494 candidates tak-

ing the retest.

Allegations arose that the grace marks inflated scores, leading to six candidates from a single Haryana centre achieving a perfect 720, along with 61 others. Consequently, the top court ordered the cancellation of the grace marks and provided an option for a retest.

At least 52 per cent -- 813 out of 1,563 candidates -- appeared for the retest. No candidates appeared in Chandigarh while the numbers were 291 from Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from Haryana, and 234 from Meghalaya, a senior NTA official earlier said.

The students, who have been staging a sit-in at the Jantar Mantar here against the irregularities in NTA held examinations -- NEET UG, PG, and UGC NET, have called for a march towards the Parliament Tuesday to press their demands.

The indefinite sit-in strike of the protesting students entered the sixth day Monday.

KERALA RESEARCHERS' BREAKTHROUGH

Coconut husk-derived carbon for supercapacitors

The coconut husk biowaste-derived activated carbon holds immense promise for sustainable and efficient green solutions for high-performance supercapacitors due to its availability, low cost, and eco-friendly nature

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, July 1: A team of researchers from a government college here has successfully developed a groundbreaking method to produce high surface-area activated carbon suitable for supercapacitor fabrication.

This method involves deriving high-surface area activated carbon from coconut husk, which is a major agricultural residue in Kerala. The researchers under Dr Xavier T S, Department of Physics, Government College for Women, developed the unique method, a release said here Monday



"Activated carbon produced in this manner utilising microwave technology is relatively inexpensive and exhibits exceptional supercapacitor capability," said Xavier.

Supercapacitors, a revolutionary technology with significantly higher capacitance and energy storage capacity than conventional capacitors, have emerged as a vital component in the quest for sustainable energy storage solutions.

Their exceptional attributes, including high power density, rapid charge-discharge capabilities, and excellent cyclic stability, make them an indispensable element in various energy storage and power management

applications, such as electric vehicles and renewable energy systems, the release said.

The search for an ideal supercapacitor electrode material has been a significant challenge, necessitating eco-friendly, cost-effective, and safe solutions. In this context, coconut husk-derived activated carbon has garnered considerable attention in the field of supercapacitors, it said.

"The prototype supercapacitors made of coconut husk-derived activated carbon developed by the team are four times more efficient than existing supercapacitors," said Merin Tomy, who is part of the team.

The research team involves Merin Tomy, Ganesh SG, Anu

The successful development of coconut husk-derived activated carbon by the research team marks a significant breakthrough in the field of energy storage, it said.

Utilising an advanced microwave pyrolysis reactor, the team was able to produce high-quality carbon in a mere five minutes, eliminating impurities like ash and generating zero waste.

MA, Sreelakshmi SR, and Dr Xavier TS who leveraged the innovative microwave-assisted method designed at the Centralised Common Instrumentation Facility (CCIF) at Government Women's College.

The research was published in the esteemed journal Sustainable Resource Management, a journal of the American Chemical Society. Efforts are also underway to increase its production for industrial purposes.

Moreover, ongoing research has paved the way for the potential applications of activated carbon in water purification and sensor development, under-

scoring its vast potential in sustainable energy storage and beyond, the release further said.

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The device's high-power output, capable of powering two LEDs for 20 minutes, surpasses existing research by four times, paving the way for commercial energy storage applications, according to the release.

This achievement showcases the potential of coconut husk-derived activated carbon to revolutionise the energy storage landscape, enabling sustainable and efficient energy solutions.

The team's innovative approach and results have far-reaching implications, positioning this technology at the forefront of the quest for reliable and eco-friendly energy storage solutions.

Gandhi-King Development Foundation by India, US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The United States and India will establish the Gandhi-King Development Foundation by October, with the US Embassy Monday saying the foundation signifies a "ground-breaking partnership" between the two countries to address global development challenges.

It will operate locally in India, utilising both public and private resources to advance India's national and global development objectives, the embassy said in a statement. "These include addressing climate change, reducing tuberculosis, improving water and sanitation, minimising the health impacts of air pollution, enhancing education outcomes, and promoting economic empowerment for women," it said.

Senior officials from the United States government and the government of India signed a Statement of Intent June 17 to formally establish the Gandhi-King Development Foundation (GKDF) by October 2024, the embassy added. "The Gandhi-King Development Foundation signifies a ground-breaking partnership between the United States and India to address global development challenges," the statement said.

national



Whatever it might seem on the outside, there is love and devotion towards motherland India everywhere. The ideals of our ancestors who shed blood and sweat for our motherland and the ancient culture unite us all. These are the things that make us one

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

RAILS EXTENDS EXISTING TIME TABLE

Railway zones have issued circulars informing the extension of the existing time table of trains till December 31, 2024 after the Railway Board asked them to do so. Every year Railways releases the working time table of trains, known as Trains At A Glance (TAG) before June 31, which is effective from July 1 till the next June 31



of the day quote

The President's speech has "ignored" the challenges faced by the country and has tried to hide the government's failure



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Society will benefit if the media including the social media is used for telling the truth; spreading fake news can cause trouble in the society



SIDDARAMAIAH | CM, KARNATAKA

Safety of people and property is the top priority during floods. Effective coordination and swift action are essential for flood relief and rescue operations. Twenty-four districts of the state are highly flood-prone, all preparations there should be made in advance



YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

X POST OF THE DAY

Along with the sanctity of various examinations held from time to time in the country, the uncertainty prevailing at present, especially regarding NEET-UG and PG examinations, has naturally created a wave of restlessness, anxiety and anger among the people, for which it is very important to find a quick and correct permanent solution

SHORT TAKES

Delhi HC to hear Kejriwal's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court will hear Tuesday Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case related to the alleged excise policy scam. The petition, which was filed Monday, has been listed for hearing before Justice Neena Bansal Krishna. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener has also challenged a June 26 order of the trial court by which he was remanded in the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) custody for three days. On June 29, Kejriwal was sent to judicial custody till July 12 in the corruption case by the trial court, which said his name has surfaced as one of the main conspirators and as the investigation is still in progress, his further custodial interrogation may be required. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI June 26 from the Tihar jail, where he was in judicial custody till July 3 in a related money-laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Congress leader's brother shot dead

Faridabad: The brother of a local Congress leader was allegedly shot dead here over a rivalry involving monetary transactions, police said Monday. Kunal Bhandana (32), a resident of Nawada Koh village, was killed at around 11.15 pm Sunday near Masjid Chowk here, the police said. According to the complaint filed by the victim's brother and local Congress leader, Jyotender Bhandana alias Rinku Bhandana, Kunal was standing near Masjid Chowk with a friend when Vijay, Billu and two others reached there and started arguing with him. Jyotender Bhandana said that his brother had an ongoing rivalry with Vijay and Billu.

Criminal laws passed 'forcibly': Cong

Three new criminal laws came into effect in the country Monday, bringing far-reaching changes in India's criminal justice system

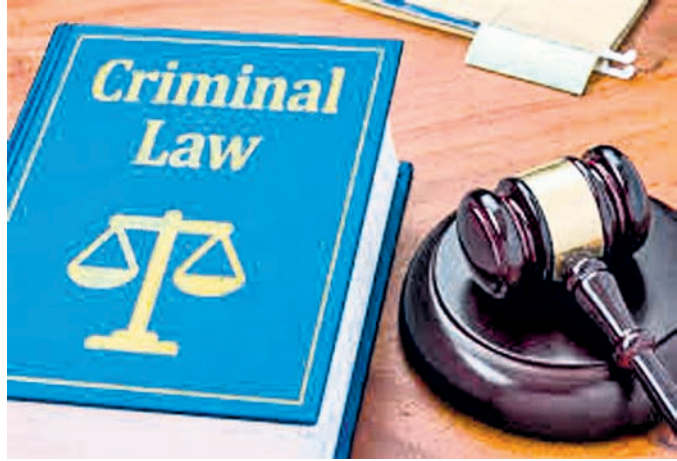
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: With the three new criminal laws coming into effect, the Congress Monday accused the government of getting them "forcibly" passed in Parliament after suspending 146 MPs and asserted that going forward, the INDIA bloc will not allow such "bulldozer justice" to prevail in the country's parliamentary system.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) take into account some of the current social realities and modern-day crimes. The new laws replaced the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

In a post in Hindi on X, Mallikarjun Kharge, President of Congress, said, "After the political and moral shock in the elections, Modi ji and the BJP are pretending to respect the Constitution, but the truth is that the three laws of the criminal justice system which are being implemented from today, were passed forcibly after suspension of 146 MPs."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also took a swipe at the government after the first FIR was lodged under the new



INDIA will no longer allow this 'bulldozer justice' to prevail in the parliamentary system

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | PRESIDENT, CONGRESS

wasteful exercise."

"Yes, there are a few improvements in the new laws and we have welcomed them. They could have been introduced as amendments. On the other hand, there are several retrograde provisions. Some changes are prima facie unconstitutional," he said.

MPs, who were members of the standing committee, pored over the provisions and wrote detailed dissent notes to the three bills, the senior leader said.

Chidambaram added the government did not rebut or answer any of the criticisms in the dissent notes and there was no worthwhile debate in Parliament.

"Law scholars, bar associations, judges and lawyers have

"The first FIR has already been filed under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. It is by Delhi Police against a street vendor for obstruction, after he was earning his daily livelihood under a foot-over bridge of New Delhi Railway Station," Ramesh said.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram also slammed the government as the new criminal laws came into effect and said it was another case of "bulldozing" existing laws and replacing them with three new bills without adequate discussion and debate.

In a post on X, Chidambaram said, "90-99 per cent of the so-called new laws are a cut, copy and paste job. A task that could have been completed with a few amendments to the existing three laws has been turned into a

AS THE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS CAME INTO FORCE MONDAY AMID PROTESTS FROM MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH ASKED THEM TO MEET HIM TO DISCUSS THEIR GRIEVANCES AND ASSERTED THAT HE IS OPEN TO HEARING THEIR SUGGESTIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS

'Discrimination' in Foxconn: NHRC notice to Centre, TN

NEW DELHI: The NHRC Monday said it has issued notices to the Union Labour Ministry and the Tamil Nadu government over reports that a major manufacturer of electronic devices has allegedly "systematically excluded" married women from jobs at its assembly plant in Sriperumbudur. Issuing the notices, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has noted the fact that gender equality is not only required in the Indian Constitution but the international treaty and covenants, viz. International Covenant Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights also provide non-discrimination on the ground of gender in any form of employment. The NHRC has taken "suo motu cognisance of media reports that Foxconn, a major manufacturer of Apple devices has systematically excluded married women from job at its iPhone assembly plant in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu", it said. It is alleged by a former HR executive at Foxconn that "verbal directions" have been given to the Indian hiring agencies by the company in this regard. It is also stated that the company "does not hire married women because of cultural issues and societal pressure", the statement said, citing reports.



'Public flogging' of couple: NHRC notice to WB govt



New Delhi: The NHRC said Monday that it has issued notices to the West Bengal government and the state's police chief over reports that a couple was allegedly mercilessly beaten up in a village in Uttar Dinajpur district in full public view by a group of people. The main perpetrator is allegedly associated with "the political party in power in West Bengal" and could be seen in a viral video, severely beating up the couple surrounded by a group of people, as spectators, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said in a statement. The media report also quoted a video of the incident on social media, it added. The alleged public flogging of the couple in Lakshimpur village of Chopra division in Uttar Dinajpur district has sparked an outrage, with Governor CV Ananda Bose seeking a report from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while the BJP accused the ruling TMC of "unleashing Taliban rule" in the state. The man seen in the viral video beating up the couple with a bamboo stick was identified as Tajmul alias 'JCB', purportedly a TMC leader of Chopra area. He was arrested last night. The police registered a case Sunday after the video clip of the incident, which occurred Friday, went viral on social media.



INDIA bloc MPs stage a protest against the alleged misuse of probe agencies by the central government, during ongoing Parliament session in New Delhi, Monday

Birla, Dhankhar object to mike switch-off claims by Oppn MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Monday took exception to allegations by opposition members that their microphones are turned off when they are speaking in the House and said the presiding officers do not have any switch or remote control to turn off the mikes of MPs.

Birla strongly objected to some members in Lok Sabha casting aspersions on the Chair by alleging that when they rise to speak in the House, their microphones are turned off by the presiding officers.

The allegation about the Chair turning the microphone off was a matter of utmost concern, the



Speaker said, adding that he wanted the House to deliberate on the issue.

"The Chair only gives ruling/directives. The member whose name is called gets to speak in the House. The mike is controlled as per the directives of the Chair. The person sitting in the Chair does not have a remote control or a switch for the microphones," he said.

Birla said the members of all

political parties have representation on the panel of chairpersons who preside over the proceedings in the absence of the Speaker. "This is a matter of the dignity of the Chair. At least those who occupy the Chair should not raise such objections. (K) Suresh also occupies the Chair. Does the Chair have control of the mike?" the Speaker said, addressing the Congress veteran.

Later in the day, Leader of

Opposition Rahul Gandhi again raised the issue, asking as to who controls the microphone. "My question is... who has the control of the mike," he asked while speaking on the motion of thanks to the President's address.

Responding to Gandhi, the Speaker said he did not have any button to switch off the microphone. "This has been raised several times... you are the Leader of Opposition, you say outside Parliament too that the mike is switched off. I don't have any button to switch off the microphone. There existed a similar set-up earlier. There is no mechanism to gag the microphone. I have requested several times that such allegations should not be raised against the Chair," Birla said.

SERA names India as partner nation for Blue Origin space flight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: The Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA) and Blue Origin Monday announced India as a partner nation in their human spaceflight programme for citizens from countries who have sent a few or no astronauts to space.

SERA, a US-based agency, will offer citizens from across the world six seats on a future mission of New Shepard, Blue Origin's reusable suborbital rocket.

New Shepard will fly the se-

lected astronauts on an 11-minute journey past the Kármán line (100 km), the internationally recognised boundary of space.

Astronauts will experience several minutes of weightlessness before making a controlled descent back to the landing pad.

"We're excited to have India as part of our human spaceflight programme," said Joshua Skurla, Co-Founder, SERA.

"We want to make space accessible for everyone and are happy to offer this unique opportunity to an Indian citizen who wants to experience the wonders of space travel,"



Skurla said. Any Indian citizen can register for the programme by paying a fee of approximately \$2.50 to

cover the costs of verification checks that ensure safe and fair voting. The final candidates will be voted on by the public for an opportunity to fly to space onboard the New Shepard mission.

The potential astronauts will be required to meet Blue Origin's physical requirements.

They can garner votes by telling their story to the public using their mission profile pages, social media, and other resources. Voting will progress through candidate elimination across three phases. People will vote only for candidates from their na-

tion or region, except for the sixth global seat.

"By giving communities the power to choose their astronauts, we ensure this mission is driven by people, for people," said Sam Hutchison, Co-Founder, SERA. "This approach will ignite national conversations on space and foster international collaboration in space exploration. The minimal physical requirements and training for New Shepard's flight lowers the barrier to entry by allowing more diverse and inclusive participation in space," Hutchison said.

Below-normal rainfall in June; highest deficit in five years, says IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India recorded below-normal rainfall in June, with the deficit standing at 11 per cent, the highest in five years, the India Meteorological Department said Monday.

According to the IMD data, the country received 147.2 mm of rainfall against a normal of 165.3 mm for the month, the seventh lowest since 2001.

June rainfall accounts for 15 per cent of the total precipitation of 87 cm recorded during the four-month monsoon season in the country.

After making an early onset over Kerala and the northeastern region May 30, and progressing normally up to Maharashtra, the monsoon lost momentum, extending the wait for rains in West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, and worsening the impact of a scorching heat wave in northwest India.

"The country recorded 16 days of below-normal rainfall activity - from June 11 to June 27 - which led to overall below-normal precipitation," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

The IMD reported that northwest India recorded a 33 per cent rainfall deficit, central India a 14 per cent deficit, and east and northeast India a 13 per cent deficit. Only south India recorded surplus rains (14 per cent) in June.

The Met office stated that 12 per cent of the sub-divisional area of the country experienced excess to large excess rainfall, 38 per cent received normal rainfall, and 50 per cent experienced deficient to large deficient rainfall.

IMD data shows that in 20 out of the 25 years when June rainfall was below normal (less than 92 per cent of the long-period average), July rainfall was normal (94-106 per cent of LPA) or above normal.

In 17 of the 25 years when June rainfall was below normal, the seasonal rainfall was normal or above normal, it said.

The IMD had earlier forecast above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season in India, with cumulative precipitation estimated at 106 per cent of the long-period average of 87 cm.

Below-normal monsoon rainfall is expected in northeast India, normal in the northwest, and above-normal in central and south peninsular regions of the country, it said.

international

of the day quote

We are convinced that democracy is the only way to resolve any difference and that institutions and the rule of law must be respected

EVO MORALES | FORMER PRESIDENT, BOLIVIA

A Labour government would be bad for our country, and an unchecked Labour government would be a disaster from which it would take decades to recover

RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

There is no truth in rumours about a change in the present coalition government and formation of a new alliance

GOVINDA ACHARYA | PM'S PRESS ADVISOR, NEPAL

SHORT TAKES

Beryl makes landfall

San Juan: A dangerous and extremely powerful Hurricane Beryl made landfall Monday on the Caribbean island of Carriacou after becoming the earliest storm of Category 4 strength to form in the Atlantic, fuelled by record warm waters. The hurricane had winds up to 150 mph, just shy of a Category 5 storm, as it blew off roofs, uprooted trees and caused other damage on Carriacou, one of the islands of Grenada, and elsewhere in the southeast Caribbean. "This is an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation," the National Hurricane Centre said.

18 inmates flee from jail in PoK

Islamabad: At least 18 dangerous criminals, including six on death row, fled from a prison in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after overpowering a guard, officials said Monday. The incident took place Friday when an inmate of the Rawalakot prison used a pistol to force a prison guard to get the keys to effect the breakout. Another prisoner was shot dead while escaping, the official said, adding that he was serving a five-year sentence.

NK test-launches 2 ballistic missiles

Seoul: North Korea test-fired two ballistic missile Monday, South Korea's military said, a day after the North vowed "offensive and overwhelming" responses to a new US military drill with South Korea and Japan. The Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeastern direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea. It said the first missile flew 600 kilometres and the second missile 120 kilometres, but didn't say where they landed.

SA gets new Cab

Johannesburg: A month after the general election, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced his new cabinet, drawing nine of the 11 parties in the Government of National Unity (GNU) into ministerial positions in an expanded executive. The announcement late Sunday night ended widespread speculation about the threat to the GNU after leaked letters between Ramaphosa, representing the African National Congress (ANC), and opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) leader John Steenhuisen, showed that neither of them was willing to trade off his initial offers and demands for positions.



In a world fraught with racial and religious tensions, the Republic (of Singapore), despite its status as one of the most religiously diverse places in the world, is an outlier not by chance, and the peace and harmony found here has to be attributed to its near-zero tolerance for hate and offensive speech

K SHANMUGAM | MINISTER OF LAW AND HOME AFFAIRS, SINGAPORE

ENTRY FEE FOR FUJI HIKERS

Mount Fuji's summer climbing season began Monday with new crowd control measures to combat over-tourism on the Japanese volcano's most popular trail. An entry fee of 2,000 yen (\$13) plus an optional donation is being charged



French parties unite against far right

A longtime pariah for many in France, the National Rally is now closer to power than it has ever been

REUTERS

Paris, July 1: France's political parties sought to build a united front aimed at blocking the path to government of Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) Monday, after it made historic gains to win the first round of a parliamentary election.

The RN and its allies won Sunday's round with 33% of the vote, followed by a left-wing bloc with 28% and well ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's broad alliance of centrists, who scored just 22%, official results showed.

While financial markets rallied on relief the RN tally was not greater, it was still a huge setback for Macron, who had called the snap election after his ticket was trounced by the RN in the European Parliament election last month.

"I'm satisfied, because we need change," said RN supporter Jean-Claude Gaillet, 64, in Le Pen's northern stronghold of Henin-Beaumont. "Things have not moved, and they must move."

But others feared the rise of the RN and its nationalist platform would cause growing tensions in French society.



French far right leads after legislative elections' 1st round but rivals hope to deny it a majority

"I don't think people realise what's happening, they are only thinking of the cost of living and short-term things like that," said Yamina Addou outside a supermarket in the nearby town of Oignies, south of Lille. "I find it very sad."

Whether the anti-immigrant, eurosceptic RN can form a government will depend now on how successfully other parties manage to thwart Le Pen by rallying round the best-placed rival candidates in hundreds of constituencies across France.

Macron was due to plot electoral strategy with senior aides at a meeting at his Elysee Palace later Monday.

Leaders of both the left-wing

New Popular Front and Macron's centrist alliance indicated Sunday night they would withdraw their own candidates in districts where another candidate was better placed to beat the RN in next Sunday's run-off.

However it was not clear whether such a pact would always apply if the left-wing candidate was from the far-left France Unbowed (LFI) party of Jean-Luc Melenchon, one of the main members of the New Popular Front.

UNGOVERNABLE

The RN gains were welcomed by nationalists and far-right groups across Europe, including Italy's League and Spain's Vox. Pedro Sanchez, Spain's

Socialist premier, said left-leaning parties could still block an outright RN victory.

Ipsos analyst Mathieu Gallard calculated that the first round had left potential for three-way contests in 306 of the 577 seats to be fought over in France's National Assembly, underlining the scale of the uncertainty still remaining.

While the so-called "republican front" against the far-right has broadly worked in the past, analysts have questioned whether French voters were still ready to cast their second-round ballots as directed by political leaders.

A longtime pariah for many in France, the RN is now closer to power than it has ever been. Le Pen has sought to clean up the image of a party known for racism and antisemitism, a tactic that has worked amid voter anger at Macron, who is seen by many voters as out of touch with their everyday concerns.

An RN-led government would raise major questions over where the European Union was headed. Human rights groups have raised concerns about how its "France first" policies would apply to ethnic minorities, while economists question whether its hefty spending plans are fully funded.

LANDMARK DECISION

SC sends Trump immunity case back to lower court

The former President has denied doing anything wrong

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, July 1: The Supreme Court Monday ruled for the first time that former Presidents have some immunity from prosecution, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects the former President could be tried before the November election.

In a historic 6-3 ruling, the justices returned Trump's case to the trial court to determine what is left of special counsel Jack Smith's indictment of Trump. The outcome means additional delay before Trump could face trial.

The court's decision in a second major Trump case this term, along with its ruling rejecting efforts to bar him from the ballot because of his actions following the 2020 election, underscores the direct and possibly uncomfortable role the justices are playing in the November election.



"Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court.

"And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts."

Roberts was joined by the other five conservative justices. The three liberal justices dissented.

Oz doubles visa fees for int'l students; Indians to be hit



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

According to the Indian High Commission in Canberra, the number of Indian students enrolled for studying in Australia is estimated at around 1,20,277 as of August 2023, making Indian students the second largest cohort of foreign students in Australia.

Meanwhile, Yeganeh Soltanpour, the national President of the Council of International Students Australia, slammed the decision, noting the fee increase, combined with high deposit costs, places extra strain on international students, the ABC report said.

The possibility of spending all that money only to face rejection is quite disheartening for many students. It has caused many in the student community to explore other options and competitive countries, she said.

Phil Honeywood, CEO of the International Education Association of Australia, told the ABC that the announcement was the last straw for the international education sector, which has already suffered from a slow-down in visa approvals.

We are really in danger of losing a \$48 billion a year industry, he said, adding that it will heavily impact on relationships with our Indo-Pacific neighbours who rely on Australia to deliver world-class qualifications to young people. He warned that this change could drive prospective students to the United Kingdom, Australia's closest competitor, which currently charges \$900 for student visa fees.

Scientists wary of bird flu pandemic 'unfolding in slow motion'

SEVERAL EXPERTS SAY DIFFERING APPROACHES FROM ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH AGENCIES COULD HAMPER A QUICKER RESPONSE

REUTERS

Chicago, July 1: Scientists tracking the spread of bird flu are increasingly concerned that gaps in surveillance may keep them several steps behind a new pandemic, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen leading disease experts.

Many of them have been monitoring the new subtype of H5N1 avian flu in migratory birds since 2020. But the spread of the virus to 129 dairy herds in 12 US states, signals a change that

could bring it closer to becoming transmissible between humans. Infections also have been found in other mammals, from alpacas to house cats.

"It almost seems like a pandemic unfolding in slow motion," said Scott Hensley, a professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania. "Right now, the threat is pretty low ... but that could change in a heartbeat."

The earlier the warning of a jump to humans, the sooner global health officials can take steps to protect people by launching vaccine development, wide-scale testing and containment measures.

Federal surveillance of US dairy cows is currently limited to testing herds before they cross state lines. State testing efforts are inconsistent, while testing of people exposed to sick cattle is scant, government health officials and pandemic flu experts told Reuters. "You need to know which are



The Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) Team at Capitol Hill for the 3rd National Hindu Advocacy Day, in USA

Petition to impeach Yoon hit by delays

South Koreans surge to sign online petition to impeach President but were met by disruptions

REUTERS

Seoul, July 1: An online petition calling for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to be impeached experienced delays and disruptions due to the large number of people trying to sign it, the speaker of the Parliament said, promising to fix the issue as soon as possible.

More than 811,000 people have so far signed the petition, hosted on the National Assembly's website, since it went live June 20. The petition calls on Parliament to in-



roduce a bill to impeach Yoon on the grounds that he is unfit for the job.

In a statement late Sunday, National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik apologised for the disruption, and said Parliament would take action to uphold the public's constitutional right. People trying to access the pe-

tion Monday faced delays that lasted up to four hours. At one point, an error message showed more than 30,000 people were waiting to access the site.

There was no immediate comment from the presidential office.

The petition accuses Yoon of corruption, stoking the risk of war with North Korea and exposing South Koreans to health risks by not stopping Japan from releasing treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant.

South Korea's Parliament has twice impeached Prezs, Roh Moo-hyun in 2004 and Park Geun-hye in 2017



the positive farms, how many of the cows are positive, how well the virus spreads, how long do these cows remain infectious, the exact transmission route," said Dutch flu virologist Ron Fouchier of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam.

Jeanne Marrazzo, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said surveillance for humans is "very, very limited."

Marrazzo described the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's human flu surveillance network as "really a passive reporting, passive presentation mechanism." The US Department of Agriculture is more proactive in testing cows, but does not make public which farms are affected, she said.

Several experts said differing approaches from animal and human health agencies could

In world's first, Finland to start bird flu vaccinations for humans

Finland plans to offer preemptive bird flu vaccination as soon as next week to some workers with exposure to animals, health authorities said Tuesday, making it the first country in the world to do so. The Nordic country has bought vaccines for 10,000 people, each consisting of two injections, as part of a joint EU procurement of up to 40 million doses for 15 nations from manufacturer CSL Seqirus. "The vaccine will be offered to those aged 18 or over who are at increased risk of contracting avian influenza due to their work or other circumstances," the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) said in a statement.

hamper a quicker response. "If you were designing the system from scratch, you would have one agency," said Gigi Gronvall, a biosecurity expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "This is not the only example where we have environmental or animal problems that cause human problems."

A USDA spokesperson said the agency is working "around the clock" with CDC and other partners in a "whole-of-govern-

ment response," adding that ongoing research shows "America's food supply remains safe, sick cows generally recover after a few weeks, and the risk to human health remains low."

The CDC in a statement said it, "USDA, and state and local health departments across the country have been preparing for the emergence of a novel influenza virus for nearly 2 decades and continually monitor for even the smallest changes in the virus."

of the day quote

Going forward, the forecast of a healthy monsoon, expectations of policy continuity and continuing thrust on infra-related developmental projects by the government are expected to improve the demand for commercial vehicles

GIRISH WAGH | TATA MOTORS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have witnessed a quantum jump in taxpayers base along with improved compliance

SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL | CBIC CHAIRMAN

The market conditions have been challenging to create fresh demand

KUNAL BEHL | HONDA CARS INDIA VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

ATF price up 1.2%, comm LPG cut by ₹30

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price Monday was hiked by 1.2 per cent while that of commercial LPG used by hotels and restaurants cut by Rs 30 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international oil price trends. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was hiked by Rs 1,179.37 per kilolitre, or 1.2 per cent, to Rs 96,148.38 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Alongside, oil firms cut the price of commercial LPG by Rs 30 to Rs 1,646 per 19-kg cylinder. This is the fourth straight monthly reduction in rates. The price was last cut by Rs 69 per cylinder June 1. Prior to that, rates were May 1 reduced by Rs 19 per cylinder, and by Rs 30.5 April 1.

Coal India's Q1 production up 8%

New Delhi: State-owned CIL's coal production rose 8 per cent to 189.3 million tonne (MT) in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year. The company's coal output was 175.5 MT in April-June period of the previous fiscal. "Moving past the target of 189.2 MT, CIL achieved 100 per cent satisfaction in Q1 of the current fiscal year," Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement. While all the seven producing subsidiaries of the coal behemoth achieved positive growth, five of them breached their respective targets. The company's production in June increased by 9 per cent to 63 MT, over 58 MT produced in June FY24. On the back of a strong production growth and increased coal loading, CIL's total supplies rose to 198.4 MT during April-June FY25 with 6 per cent year-on-year growth. The increase of 11.4 MT in absolute numbers came over a high base of 187 MT.

IREDA loan grows manifold to ₹9,136cr

New Delhi: Public sector non-banking financial company IREDA Monday said it posted manifold growth in its sanctioned loan to Rs 9,136 crore during April-June FY25. Loan disbursements also rose 67.61 per cent to Rs 5,320 crore in the period under review from Rs 3,174 crore in the year-ago period. The total loan book outstanding as of June 30, 2024 was at Rs 63,150 crore, up 33.77 per cent over Rs 47,207 crore in April-June FY24, IREDA said in a statement. Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, said: "The first quarter underscores our commitment to accelerating the deployment of renewable energy solutions in India. The substantial increase in loan sanctions and disbursements reflects our proactive approach in supporting projects that contribute to India's renewable energy goals."



The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways is committed to developing sustainable, world-class maritime and inland waterways infrastructure to enhance EXIM trade and support economic growth

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING, AND WATERWAYS

POWER CONSUMPTION UP

India's power consumption rose by nearly 9 per cent to 152.38 billion units (BU) in June compared to the year-ago period mainly due to scorching heat which forced excessive use of cooling appliances like air conditioners and desert coolers. In June 2023, the power consumption stood at 140.27 BU, according to official data.



Carmakers post SUV-led sales growth in June

THE SALES NUMBERS ARE SEEN AS A KEY INDICATOR OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION IN INDIA. THE AUTO SECTOR CONTRIBUTES AROUND 7% TO THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY

REUTERS

Bangalore, July 1: Carmakers Mahindra & Mahindra and the Indian units of Toyota Motor Corp and Kia Motor reported higher car sales in June, boosted by demand for sports utility vehicles (SUV) even as heatwaves weighed on purchase decisions. Each month, automobile makers in India release wholesale numbers, or vehicle sales, to dealers. The sales numbers are seen as a key indicator of private consumption in India.

The auto sector contributes around 7% to the country's economy.

According to monthly data from automakers released Monday, Mahindra's total car sales grew 11.2% year-on-year, missing brokerage Nomura's 16% estimate and Jefferies' 18% estimate. This is Mahindra's slowest monthly sales growth since March.

Intense heat in northern India has reduced footfall at dealerships, according to Nomura, which added that a normal monsoon could likely lead to a revival in rural sales for passenger vehicles.

Toyota's and Kia's respective



growths of 40.1% and 9.8% are their largest since February. Nomura and Jefferies do not provide monthly sales estimates for Toyota and Kia.

A surge in domestic sales of more-expensive SUVs last year has extended into 2024 and benefited companies including Mahindra and Toyota, whose portfolios consist almost entirely of utility vehicles.

Maruti Suzuki, which dominates the cheaper small-car segment, reported a 12.4% climb in June total sales, handily beating a 2% growth estimate by analysts at Nomura and Jefferies. Its shares rose 2%.

Meanwhile, domestic demand recovery in rural areas outweighed weak exports, helping motorcycle-maker Bajaj Auto record a 5.1% growth in two-wheeler sales. While this beat Nomura's estimate of a 1% decline, it missed Jefferies' estimate of 10% growth.

Rural two-wheeler sales have recovered from weakness through fiscal 2024, which had hurt entry-level sales for motorcycles such as the Bajaj Platina. The rural sector accounts for more than half of India's total two-wheeler sales, according to a 2023 report by motorcycle maker Hero MotoCorp.

RBI, ASEAN to create platform for cross-border retail payments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 1: The Reserve Bank of India and ASEAN countries have decided to create a platform to facilitate instant cross-border retail payments.

The platform is expected to go live by 2026.

In a statement, RBI said it has joined the Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic fast payments systems (FPSs).

Nexus, conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), aims to connect FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

An agreement to this effect was signed by BIS and central banks of the founding countries - Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko

Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) - and RBI Sunday in Basel, Switzerland.

Indonesia, which has been involved from the early stages, continues to be involved as a special observer.

"The platform can be extended to more countries, going forward," RBI said.

Once functional, Nexus will play an important role in making retail cross-border payments efficient, faster, and more cost effective. The Reserve Bank has been collaborating bilaterally with various countries to link India's FPS - Unified Payments Interface (UPI), with their respective FPSs for cross-border Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) payments.

While India and its partner countries can continue to benefit through such bilateral connectivity of fast payment systems, a multilateral approach will provide further impetus to the efforts in expanding the international reach of Indian payment systems, the statement said.



SENSEX, NIFTY CLOSE AT FRESH RECORD HIGHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 1: Benchmark Sensex rose by 443 points to close at a new record high while Nifty settled above the 24,100 mark Monday on buying in banking and IT shares in line with gains in Asian and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded by 443.46 points or 0.56 per cent to close at an all-time high of 79,476.19. During the day, the barometer soared 528.27 points or 0.66 per cent to 79,561. As many as 20 Sensex shares closed higher while 10 stocks declined.

The broader Nifty rose by 131.35 points or 0.55 per cent to close at a fresh lifetime high of 24,141.95. Intra-day, the index hit a high of 24,164, just 10 points short of its lifetime high of 24,174 hit Friday.

Sensex and Nifty had hit intraday record high levels Friday but closed lower due to profit-taking in blue-chips.

Among Sensex shares, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Tata Motors and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers.

NTPC, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards. "The domestic market sus-



tained its upward momentum, with a reduction in US PCE inflation raising hopes for a rate cut by the US Fed in September. This optimism contributed to the strong performance of IT stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

India's manufacturing sector output increased at a sharp pace in June as new business continued to flow in amid favourable demand conditions and resulted in record upturn in employment, an HSBC PMI survey showed.

"The consistent buying interest on dips suggests bullish control, likely continuing the current tone. The renewed strength in midcap and smallcap segments adds further positivity," said Ajit Mishra 'SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Manufacturing sector growth ticks higher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: India's manufacturing sector output increased at a sharp pace in June as new business continued to flow in amid favourable demand conditions and resulted in record upturn in employment, a monthly survey said Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) increased from 57.5 in May to 58.3 in June, indicating a sharper improvement in business conditions.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. June data showed that the stronger expansion in sales at manufacturers in India was largely due to buoyant underlying demand, higher export volumes and successful advertising.

As a consequence of ongoing increases in new order intakes, firms stepped up recruitment. The rate of job creation was sharp and the strongest seen since data collection started in March 2005.

"... Firms increased their hiring at the fastest pace in over 19 years. Input buying activity also rose during the month," said Maitreyi Das, Global Economist at HSBC.

Staff expenses reportedly intensified in June, which cou-

pled with rising material and transportation costs caused another overall increase in operating expenses, the survey said.

Manufacturers in India were able to share additional cost burdens with their clients amid conducive demand conditions. Selling charges were raised to the greatest extent in over two years.

"On the price front, input costs moderated slightly in June, but remained at elevated levels. Manufacturers were able to pass on higher costs to customers, as demand remained robust, resulting in improved margin," Das said.

Meanwhile, new export orders increased substantially in June. Companies attributed higher inflows of new work from overseas to better demand from Asia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe and the US.

The survey noted that the outlook for the manufacturing sector remained positive, with nearly 29 per cent of panellists expecting output growth over the coming year.

Firms forecast further improvements in demand and order book volumes in the year ahead, with advertising and greater client enquiries also underpinning optimism, the survey said.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI® is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.



BoB, Cuttack holds seminar

CUTTACK: Bank of Baroda, Cuttack region, under the joint aegis of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, organised an official language seminar in the University campus on the occasion of birth anniversary of famous Hindi poet and writer Nagarjuna. The theme of the seminar was "Public awakening in the works of Nagarjuna." The programme was presided over by the Head of the Hindi Department of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Prof. Dr. Anjum Ara. A brief introduction of the programme was given by Manisha Yadav, Official Language Officer from Bank of Baroda, Cuttack region. On this occasion, lecturer Dr. Abhishek Sharma, Vishal Sahu, Samuka Pattanaik, Niharika Dalai and students from the University presented meaningful lectures on Nagarjuna. JC Panigrahi, Chief Manager, BoB informed about various banking and official language initiatives taken by the Bank.



RIL can add \$100bn to m-cap: Morgan Stanley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Reliance Industries Ltd can add up to USD 100 billion to its market capitalisation in its fourth monetisation cycle this century as new cash flow streams emerge and valuation multiples catch up, Morgan Stanley said in a report.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate has seen monetisation cycles deliver 2-3x value creation for shareholders in the past nearly three decades, with each decade seeing USD 60 billion+ in market cap creation.

RIL is in its fourth monetisation cycle this century. "Monetisation 4.0 is different; it is supported by the business up-cycle, domestic demand, and lower competition," the brokerage said. "RIL's fourth monetisation cycle (since 1997) should add up to USD 100 billion to USD 60 billion increase in market cap year-to-date." Key to this has been RIL's market share gains, complete integration, and most importantly, ability to execute above investor expectations each time the company has re-imagined its business.

Mobile exports: India gains as China, Vietnam falter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 1: In a major boost to India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, mobile phone exports from the country gained much ground in FY24 as manufacturing giants like China and Vietnam fell behind.

Railways, I&B and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav posted on X Monday that "Bharat's focus on manufacturing with 'Make in India' and PLI scheme is showing good results."

As tech giants like Apple continue to shift iPhone manufacturing to India amid political stability and friendly government policies, India captured almost half of the lost market (40.5 per cent) from China and



Vietnam in the last fiscal year. Mobile phone exports from China went down from \$136.3 billion in FY23 to \$132.5 billion

in FY24. On the other hand, Vietnam saw a drop from \$31.9 billion in FY23 to \$26.27 billion in the last

fiscal year, according to the latest industry data.

India, on the other hand, became a natural choice for mobile phone manufacturers owing to the PLI scheme.

Mobile phone exports from the country touched nearly \$16 billion in FY24 from \$11 billion in FY23.

Mobile phone production surged from Rs 18,900 crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 4.10 lakh crore in FY24, registering an increase of 2,000 per cent, as per top electronics industry body India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

The overall electronic manufacturing in the country is expected to reach around \$250 billion in the next five years.

At present, the electronic exports of the country stand at around \$125 to \$130 billion. More than 12 lakh new jobs have been created in the electronics manufacturing system in the country.

According to Prabhu Ram, Head, the Industry Intelligence Group at market intelligence firm CMR, expanding the PLI scheme to electronic components manufacturing is a strategic move to address a critical bottleneck in India's domestic electronics ecosystem.

By incentivising local production, the policy will aim to boost domestic manufacturing capabilities and create a more resilient end-to-end electronics value chain.

T20 WORLD CUP

SIX INDIANS IN ICC TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, July 1: The International Cricket Council has picked six Indians in its 'Team of the Tournament' for the just-concluded T20 World Cup but there was no place for star batter Virat Kohli, who played a match-winning knock in the final against South Africa.

In his new role as an opener, Kohli had an underwhelming World Cup before rising to the occasion in the big final where he was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 59-ball 76.

India pipped South Africa by seven runs in a sensational comeback in the death overs to win their second T20 World Cup title after 17 years.



Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh (all Indians); Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rashid Khan, Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan); Marcus Stoinis (Australia) and Nicholas Pooran (West Indies); 12th man: Anrich Nortje

No spot for Kohli despite match-winning final knock

The ICC XI featured Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel and two pacers in Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh.

Rohit led from the front with 257 runs at a splendid strike-rate of 156.7 to his name. He was the second most leading run-getter after Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz.

The Player of the Tournament and India's trump card in their title win, Bumrah returned with 15 wickets.

But more than his wickets, his impact in restricting the scoring rate of teams made Bumrah India's most important player right through the tournament. His economy rate of 4.17 was the best ever by any bowler in a single edition of the men's T20 World Cup.

Following their historic semi-final finish, Afghanistan found three players in the ICC team, including left-arm quick Fazalhaq Farooqi, who topped the wicket-takers chart jointly with Arshdeep (17 wickets each).

Wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who

topped the runs scorers' list with 281 runs as an opener for Afghanistan, also found a place alongside skipper Rashid Khan.

The crafty leg-spinner brilliantly led Afghanistan in their historic run and returned with 14 wickets with a tidy economy of 6.17. Marcus Stoinis of Australia and Nicholas Pooran of the tournament co-hosts West Indies completed the XI.

Runners-up South Africa did not find a player in the XI and pacer Anrich Nortje was named the 12th man. Nortje began the tournament with a brilliant 4/7 against Sri Lanka and took at least one wicket in all but one match.

In the final, he was the pick of South Africa's bowlers with figures of 2/26 from his four overs.

Anand wins LM title for record 10th time



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

At the age of 54, the five-time world champion became the oldest player to win the tournament title

Praggnanandhaa wins again

Bucharest: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa yet again squandered promising position to settle for a draw against American Wesley So in the fifth round of Superbet Classic tournament as none of the five boards produced any decisive result, here. The lead positions remained unchanged with Fabiano Caruana of United States still ahead on 3.5 points, enjoying a half point lead over world championship challenger D Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa. French duo of Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia and Wesley share the third spot on 2.5 points each, a half point ahead of Anish Giri of Holland and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

It was not so easy. Santos Latasa pushed hard in the first game and in the second too, he had an extra pawn in a complicated game that ended in a draw.

Anand won the third game with black pieces out of an Italian opening. It was a balanced middle game wherein Anand was pleasantly surprised as the Spaniard went for a wrong trade that cost him two pieces for a rook and a couple of pawns.

The technical genius in Anand was soon at work as he kept on creating problems that became increasingly difficult to solve for his opponent. The game lasted 45 moves.

Leon (Spain), July 1: Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand proved his mettle once again and defeated Spaniard Jaime Santos Latasa 3-1 in the finals to win the Leon Masters for a 10th time here.

The 54-year-old Anand, who lived in Spain for many years before shifting his base back to Chennai, proved yet again that this was one of his favourite hunting grounds. It was in 1996, or 28 years back, that Anand won his first title here.

The format featured four players with his compatriot Arjun Erigaise, the world number four, as the fourth seed and Bulgarian Veselin Topalov being the other two players in the tournament.

Each round featured four games of 20 minutes each with a 10-second increment after every move. Arjun had lost to Santos Latasa in the second semifinals by a score of 1.5-2.5 which was considered a sensational victory for the latter given the vast difference in the ratings.

Earlier in the first semifinal, the legendary duel between Topalov and Anand had ended in favour of the Indian who won the third game before drawing the remaining three.

Though the scoreline suggests otherwise, Anand conceded that

Singapore to host World Championships

New Delhi: India's efforts to secure a home World Championships match for D Gukesh came to nought with Singapore pipping Delhi and Chennai to claim hosting rights for the premier chess contest which will pit the youngest Challenger in the history against defending champion Ding Liren from China. The Tamil Nadu government and All India Chess Federation (AICF) had submitted separate bids to FIDE, the world chess body. The match, which will offer a prize money of \$2.5 million, will be held between November 20 and December 15 this year.

After reviewing the bids and inspecting all potential host cities for their venues, amenities, event programs, and opportunities, the International Chess Federation has selected Singapore as the host of the World Championship Match, "FIDE said in a release. The 17-year-old Gukesh had scripted history by winning the Candidates Chess Tournament in April to become the youngest ever Challenger to the world title, bettering legendary Garry Kasparov's 40-year-old record.

Indian cricket team stuck in Barbados due to hurricane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bridgetown (Barbados), July 1: The victorious Indian cricket team remains stranded in Barbados after a Category 4 hurricane hit the Caribbean islands here in the wee hours of Monday, delaying its departure back home by at least another day.

The Rohit Sharma-led side has stayed put in a five-star hotel since its triumph over South Africa in the T20 World Cup final here Saturday. As per the forecast, life-threatening winds and storm lashed Barbados and nearby islands Monday. The country, with a population of close to three lakh, has been in a lockdown since Sunday evening.

The main international airport is shut until further notice. "Like you people, we are also stuck here. First we need to see how to get the players and everyone out of here safely and then we will think about the felicitation upon arrival in India," said BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who got here ahead of the final.

The squad, along with top BCCI officials including Jay Shah, was supposed to leave for India via a charter flight Monday but it was not possible due to the closure of the airport.

"There was a charter flight we were trying for Monday but the airport is shut so that option is gone. We are in touch with multiple charter operators but it all depends on the airport operations. As per the current state of affairs, no plane can land or take off. The plan is to fly directly to India with a refuelling stop in US or Europe. We are in touch with airport officials. The airport is expected to remain shut till Tuesday afternoon. If the weather improves significantly, then it might open earlier. The wind speeds have to come down for the flight operations to start. You can't really fight with nature," a source said.

SHORT TAKES

Parl lauds India's T20 World Cup win

New Delhi: Both Houses of Parliament Monday congratulated the Indian cricket team for winning the T20 World Cup. In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla said the country's youngsters and sports persons would derive inspiration from the victory. Birla congratulated the team led by Rohit Sharma on the feat. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar lauded the team for the historic win. "Such historic accomplishments inspire every citizen to dream big, work hard and achieve eminence," Dhankhar said. The chairman also lauded the South African cricket team for a spirited fight during the T20 World Cup final in Barbados Saturday. India lifted the T20 World Cup after a 17-year gap, beating South Africa by seven runs in the final June 29.

Neeraj opts out of Paris Diamond League

New Delhi: Olympic and world champion javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has opted out of this Sunday's Paris Diamond League, citing the adductor niggle that has been troubling him for the past couple of months, according to a report. Speaking to "ESPN", Chopra said he is focussing on training and strengthening his blocking leg. "I need to strengthen my blocking leg when I throw because that's when my groin gets pulled. We're working on that to see how we can reduce the impact on the groin and control the pressure on it," he said, explaining the issue for which he will consult "different doctors" after the Paris Games.

Sharma finishes 5th in Italian Open

Rome: India's Olympic-bound golfer Shubhankar Sharma dropped a crucial double bogey and a bogey in the space of three holes on the back nine to finish a sole fifth at the Italian Open here. The two-time DP World Tour winner was at 11-under total and one under for the day when he came to the 14th tee. One of the four co-leaders after three days, Sharma started at 10-under. After being even par for the front nine in swirling winds and difficult conditions, he dropped a double on 14th and a bogey on 16th and failed to fund birdies on the last two holes.

Wimbledon starts

Wimbledon: The 2024 edition of Wimbledon started Monday, with defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and past Grand Slam title winners Coco Gauff and Emma Raducanu all set to play matches at Centre Court. Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time Australian Open champion who was seeded third at the All England Club, withdrew on Monday because of an injured shoulder. No 9-seeded Maria Sakkari was among the early winners, beating McCartney Kessler 6-3, 6-1. "We could name like 20, 25 girls that could win the tournament right now," Sakkari said.

Karthik new batting coach, mentor of RCB

Bangalore: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik, who announced his retirement from all forms of cricket last month, Monday was appointed as batting coach and mentor by Royal Challengers Bangalore. "Welcome our keeper in every sense, Dinesh Karthik back into RCB in an all new avatar. DK will be the batting coach and mentor of RCB Men's team," RCB posted on 'X', formerly twitter.

Eves overcome Proteas

INDIA BEAT RESILIENT SOUTH AFRICA TO WIN ONE-OFF TEST BY 10 WICKETS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, July 1: India were made to wait a tad longer for the winning moment by centurion Laura Wolvaardt, but they eventually went past the line convincingly by 10 wickets on the fourth and final day of the one-off women's Test against South Africa here Monday.

India were required to chase a modest 37 after bowling out South Africa for 373 in their second innings and the hosts accomplished the task in 9.2 overs without losing a wicket. India had declared their first innings closed at 603 for six.

The opening duo of Shubha Sathesh (13 not out) and Shafali Verma (24 not out) steered their side home comfortably.

This is India's second 10-wicket triumph in Tests after a scoring a similar win over the Proteas at Paarl in 2002.

After getting bundled out 266 in their first innings, South Africa fought well through hundred-makers Wolvaardt (122, 314b, 16x4) and Sune Luus (109, 203b, 18x4) in the second innings.

However, SA could only delay the inevitable.

Resuming at the overnight 232 for two, and trailing India by 105 runs, Wolvaardt and



Marizanne Kapp appeared to be in good touch.

The former brought up her maiden Test century, also becoming the first woman batter to score a Test, ODI and T20I ton in the same year.

However, Kapp was soon trapped leg-before by Deepthi Sharma for 31, while Sneha Rana ousted Delmi Tucker for a duck as the tourists slipped to 266 for four.

With still work to be done for the South Africans to take the lead, Wolvaardt tried to anchor the innings but was dismissed for 122 when Rajeshwari Gayakwad trapped her in front to reduce the visitors 281 for five.

But the Proteas marched on and went past the 300-run mark, their highest team total in Tests against the Indians. The previ-

ous best was the 266 that made in their opening innings here.

South Africa needed less than 50 runs to take the lead at this stage. Nadine de Klerk and Sinalo Jafta stuck together until the lunch break and SA were 302 for five then.

However, in the post-lunch session, Jafta retired hurt due to cramps, as the visitors sent Anne Dercksen to join De Klerk.

But Dercksen departed for five, falling to Pooja Vastrakar with SA trailing by 27 runs.

Meanwhile, the tourists went past 316 to register their highest score in Test cricket, going past the 315 they made against England at Shenley in 2003.

Although South Africans closed in on a lead they struggled to get the partnerships going.

IOA EC members decide not to take any allowance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: Concerned that their image will take a hit if they accept the dearness allowance, which is higher than the athletes for the Paris Olympics, the IOA Executive Council members have decided that they will not take any such payment and rather make their own arrangements.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) EC also asserted that it was not dependent on the government funds for travel abroad since all the members come from "sound backgrounds".

The IOA Executive Council members were to receive \$300

per day (approx ₹25,000) as per the budget estimates. The members were also to receive an additional \$1000 (around ₹90,000) per day for accommodation purpose during their five-day visit.

What drew criticism was that the athletes' allowance was fixed at \$50 per day even as a sum of ₹2 lakh was also sanctioned for each athlete for achieving the Olympic qualification.

Concerned that a wrong message has gone to the public, the IOA Executive Council met Sunday morning and decided to discuss the issue before the Indian contingent's send-off ceremony at a city hotel.

Easy first round for Alcaraz

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, July 1: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz had goosebumps walking onto Centre Court before his opening match at Wimbledon Monday, a 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-2 win over qualifier Mark Lajal.

Lajal proved to be something of a speedbump for Alcaraz, who acknowledged that his 269th-ranked Estonian opponent "surprised me a little bit" on Day 1 at the All England Club.

Alcaraz, who won his third major championship at the French Open three weeks ago, defeated Novak Djokovic in last year's final on the grass at Wimbledon but said he was still nervous before Monday's match.



Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka both pulled out of the tournament because of respective shoulder injuries. Sabalenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, said she was "heartbroken" to announce her withdrawal after it became clear in a practice session that she wasn't ready.

Ninth-seeded Maria Sakkari was among the early winners

Monday, and said after beating McCartney Kessler 6-3, 6-1 that the women's draw is wide open.

Seventh-seeded Jasmine Paolini, the French Open runner-up last month, got past the first round at Wimbledon for the first time on her fourth try. The Italian beat Sara Sorribes Tormo 7-5, 6-3.

On the men's side, fifth-seeded Daniil Medvedev beat Aleksander Kovacevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, and eighth-seeded Casper Ruud defeated Alex Bolt 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-4. Unseeded Canadian Denis Shapovalov eliminated No 19 Nicolas Jarry 6-1, 7-5, 6-4.

Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka both pulled out of the tournament because of respective shoulder injuries.

Yoga set to be included in Asian Games

OCA EB AGREES TO YOGA IN ASIAN GAMES PROGRAMME, GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOD PENDING, SAYS IOA CHIEF USHA

WHETHER IT WILL BE MEDAL SPORT OR DEMONSTRATION SPORT THAT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE OCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 1: IOA president PT Usha Monday said the Olympic Council of Asia's Executive Board has agreed to include yoga in the Asian Games and a confirmation from the OCA's General Assembly would pave the way for its inclusion to the event's programme.

Usha said OCA acting president Randhir Singh informed her about EB's decision. She thanked him for his "unflinching support" to yoga's inclusion as a competitive sport in the Asian Games.

"I am delighted that the OCA Executive Board spontaneously agreed to India's request to give yoga the recognition it deserves. The proposal shall now move through the Sports Committee to the General Assembly for confirmation," Usha said in an IOA release.



An IOA source said it is just the first step towards yoga's inclusion in the multi-sport event as a medal sport.

"Whether it will be medal sport or demonstration sport, that will be decided by the OCA General

Assembly. It's the first step. But since Yoga is prevalent worldwide, the IOA is hoping for it to be a medal sport in due course of time," the source told PTI.

The IOA chief said it was a natural step for the competitive

sports community to embrace yoga, especially after the world had given it due recognition.

"It has a universal appeal and people around the world have embraced yoga and drawn benefits," Usha said.