

Three Air Force officers dismissed over accidental firing of Brahmos missile

Chandigarh (KCN): A Court of Inquiry into the incident had been held by the IAF and was



presided upon by Air Vice Marshal RK Sinha, Assistant Vice Chief of Air Staff (Operations). (Representational image) The government has terminated the services of three Indian Air Force (IAF) officers for lapses that led to the firing of a Brahmos missile from a base in Haryana in March this year, which landed in Pakistan near the town of Mian Channu.

A statement issued by the IAF said that de-

viation from Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) led to the firing of the missile and these three officers have been held responsible for it. According to reports received, the three are of the ranks of Group Capt, Wing Commander, and Squadron Leader. A Court of Inquiry into the incident had been held by the IAF and was presided upon by Air Vice Marshal RK Sinha, Assistant Vice Chief

of Air Staff (Operations).

The IAF statement said that a Brahmos missile was accidentally fired on March 9 2022 and that a Court of Inquiry (Col), set up to establish the facts of the case, including fixing responsibility for the incident, found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by three officers led to the accidental firing of the missile.

Incessant rains: Two more children die in wall collapse in Odisha

BARIPADA(KCN): Two more children were killed when a portion of the wall collapsed following incessant rains for over a week taking the death toll due to wall collapse to five in Mayurbhanj district in the last three days. Sources said Ganesh Singh's daughter Yasoda Singh (10) and son Jyotisankar Singh (6) of Raidihi village under Udala police limits died while his wife Tulasi and younger son luckily survived.

The incident took place when the children were asleep on Monday night. While Ganesh works in a private firm in Bhubaneswar, Tulasi stays with children in their native village.

Police said Tulasi and her younger son had

gone outside to attend nature's call when the weak portion of the mud wall collapsed. Hearing the sound, Tulasi went back to the room and found the two children under the debris.



With the help of neighbours she took out the two in critical condition and rushed them to the hospital where doctors declared them brought dead. A pall of gloom descended the village following the mishap. CONTINUED ON: P-7

IMD Alert on Heavy Rains

Bhubaneswar(KCN): When almost half of Odisha districts are reeling under flood fury, India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted heavy rainfall in the north Odisha and coastal districts till tomorrow morning.

According to IMD bulletin, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak and Keonjhar while heavy rainfall of intercity 7 to 11cm



would likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati and Khordha till Wednesday morning.

Similarly, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Deogarh on

Wednesday.

The IMD has also issued a yellow warning for the districts like Keonjhar, Angul, Boudh, Kandhamal, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Nabarangpur and Koraput for tomorrow.

It may trigger landslides/mudslides in vulnerable hilly areas, rise in water level in rivers (Subarnarekha, Burhabalang, Baitarini basins), temporarily water logging in low lying areas, occasional reduction of visibility causing

traffic congestion in urban areas and some damages to Kutch roads and vulnerable Kutch houses, warned the Met department. The water level in most of the swollen rivers in Odisha dropped below the danger level on Tuesday even as 6.4 lakh people remained marooned across 902 villages in the State.

Water Resources Chief Engineer BK Mishra said that most of the rivers including Subarnarekha in northern Odisha and Mahanadi in the East are flowing below the danger level. Though the peak flood is over, many villages remain inundated, he said.

Even though there has been no breach in the embankment of CONTINUED ON: P-7

Bhubaneswar private school detains students in classroom over 'unpaid' fees

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Dozens of students of a private school in Bhubaneswar were allegedly confined in a room by teachers, who claimed that the fees were not paid by the kids' guardians.irate parents staged a sit-in in front of the school's gate at Ghatikia on Tuesday, demanding strict action against the school for the harassment meted out to their children a day ago.

At least 34 students were kept in a room for around five hours. They were not given

permission to eat, drink or go to the toilet and even the fans were switched off, their parents told reporters.

The teachers rejected



the kids' request to make phone calls to their parents, informing them that they were confined as their tuition fees were not deposited

on time.

The school authorities then gave notice to the students, asking them to give it to their guardians.

One of the parents

claimed that they had already paid tuition fees online, but it was not showing in the record due to a technical issue.

A school spokesperson refused to comment on the issue.

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Acting on the parents' complaint, a case has been lodged at the Bharatpur police station against officials of the school under Section 342 (wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code, beside the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, an officer said.

One of the parents demanded the arrest of those guilty, adding that they would approach the human and child rights commissions, and consult the lawyers for the next move.

CM Jagan meets PM Modi over funds for Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA(KCN): Chief Minister Jagan Reddy on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital and sought central reimbursement of funds in 15 days for the Polavaram project and sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore on ad hoc basis to speed up the project works.

The chief minister discussed various issues of the state including the Polavaram project, compensating the resource gap funds, the rationality in coverage of beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, the arrears from Telangana discoms to the state and Special Category Status

and submitted memorandums to the Centre to these effects.

Jagan requested the Prime Minister to help in completing the construction of the Polavaram project at the earliest and urged him to approve the revised cost estimates of ₹55,548.87 crore. The technical advisory committee had already approved this, he said.

Also, the CM urged the PM to reimburse Rs.2900 crore that was spent by the state government towards the Polavaram Project and requested the Centre to clear the bills in a fortnightly format, like in other national

projects, and not component-wise.

Further, the CM asked him to provide Rs.10,000 crore on an ad hoc basis so that the construction

DBT manner, which ensures transparency.

Jagan urged the PM to release funds of Rs.32,625 crore under Resource Gap



works of the project can be carried forward smoothly. He appealed to the PM to provide an R&R package to the displaced families in a

Fund for various pending bills under 10th Pay Commission, including for social security pensions during the 2014-15 period.

The chief minister explained to the Prime Minister that due to the lack of rationalization in the selection of eligible persons under the

large number of needy and deserving persons were uncovered.

Jagan said the state government is providing ration to 2.68 crore people, of which 61 per cent were in rural areas and 41 per cent in urban areas. He explained to the PM that 3 lakh tonnes of the rice quota allotted to the state every month remained unutilized, and asked him to allocate only 77,000 tonnes, which will be sufficient for the distribution without causing any additional burden on the Centre. Discussing the promises given during state bifurcation in 2014, the chief

minister stressed that there was no rationality in the bifurcation, because of which the present AP state suffered a lot. He requested the PM to fulfill the promises given as a parliamentary witness, including Special Category Status to AP

Jagan said an arrear of Rs 6,756 crore receivable by the Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO) from the Telangana Government has remained unpaid for over eight years. He requested the PM to help settle the dues at the earliest so that the state power sector will be finan-

cially strengthened.

The chief minister urged the PM to give approvals for setting up another 12 medical colleges in the state. As for the setting up of an Integrated Steel Plant in the YSR district, he requested the PM to allocate iron mines to APMDC for an uninterrupted supply of iron ore to operate the plant.

Jagan also urged the Prime Minister to give approvals to allot beach sand minerals to the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation, which could attract investments of ₹20,000 crore. He said that 14 approvals were in the 'pending' stage.

VL-SRSAM tested Successfully

Balasure(KCN): The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully flight tested vertical launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on Tuesday. The flight test was carried out from an Indian Naval Ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability. The missiles, equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy.



The VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO. During the test launch, flight path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored us-

ing flight data, captured by various range instruments such as radar, Electro-Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and telemetry systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

The launch was monitored by senior scientists from various DRDO labs involved in the design and development of the system such as Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad and R&D Engineers, Pune. Rakshya Mantri Rajnath Singh has complimented the DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams on the successful flight trial of VL-SRSAM and said that the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy.

DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy also congratulated the teams involved in the successful flight test and said that the trial has proved the effectiveness of the weapon system. It will further strengthen the Indian Navy for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.

Flood situation grim in north Odisha, more rainfall likely in Balasore

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The flood situation in several northern Odisha districts, including Balasore, turned grim on Monday, with the swollen

As many as 6.4 lakh people remain marooned in the twin floods, according to officials.

The state government is currently operat-

Subarnarekha river, waters from river Budhabalang and Jalaka have also overtopped banks and entered fields and residential areas in

Chief Minister's Office said.

Special Relief Commissioner P K Jena has written to district collectors of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack,



rivers inundating low-lying areas, leaving people in at least 134 villages marooned, officials said.

Rivers such as Subarnarekha, Budhabalang, Jalaka and Baitarani in north Odisha are in spate due to heavy rain caused by a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, and subsequent flood water release from Jharkhand, they said. As many as 251 villages in the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur and Bhadrak have been impacted by the north Odisha floods, while the total number of affected population crossed 9.66 lakhs, the officials said.

Odisha had already been reeling under the impact of a medium flood in the east with the overflowing Mahanadi river inundating paddy fields and vil-

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Odisha farmers protest crop insurance delay

SAMBALPUR: Vehicular movement on NH-49 in Deogarh was disrupted for over seven



hours on Monday after farmers took to the road protesting the non-disbursement of insurance money under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for crop loss during the last Kharif season. Hundreds of farmers of Deogarh under the banner of Zilla Krushak Sangharsh Sangha staged a road blockade at Nirbeni Sahi, close to the NH-49, affecting vehicular movement on both sides of the highway.

This apart, the agitating farmers also observed bandh in the Deogarh Municipality area due to which normal life was paralysed for more than seven hours.

Due to the bandh, government and private offices, courts, educational institutions, banks and financial institutions besides business establishments remained closed in the town as farmers picketed at several places in Deogarh town.

President of the farmers' outfit, Sam Hembrum said, "during last Kharif, farmers of our district had insured their crop with the HDFC Ergo insurance company after paying

a due premium. Since deficit rainfall hit cropping, farmers of several Gram Panchayats suffered a huge loss. But the insurance company is not considering their claims." Farmers of six GPs are awaiting the insurance money, he said.

According to reports, farmers of nine GPs in the district had claimed insurance for crop loss, of which, claims of three GPs have settled a few months ago, while those in the other six GPs



including Ulbasa, Karlaga, Palsama, Nuadihi, Khilei in Reamal block besides Dantaribahal in Barkote block are yet to get any money. The agitation was however called off around 1:30 pm after the Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO), KR Rao, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Padmalochan Behera and other officials of the district administration assured the farmers of quick redressal. "We have already taken up the matter with the insurance company and the claims will be settled as per guidelines within the next 15 days," Rao assured.

NIT-Rourkela alumnus achieve patent for Uri-like UAV

ROURKELA(KCN): With two alumni of NIT-Rourkela securing a patent for their invention- an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) which mimics the complex flapping motion of a bird, the Uri-like drone innovation could find a place in the armed forces' armoury.

The inventors- Debendra Pradhan and Biswajit Swain, both aged 27, claim their advanced Ornithopter design and technique promise wide applications in defence espionage and surveillance apart from civil applications in aerial surveillance, farm and airfield protection from bird intrusion, data collection and forecasting.

The duo, on behalf of the NIT-R, had filed the patent application way back in October 2016 when they were studying at the institute and the Central government's Patent Office on May 13, 2022, granted the

patent for 20 years. Pradhan said flapping wing Ornithopter or UAV is an emerging area of robotic application. Its agility, body struc-

ture, lightweight, optimized energy consumption and acrobatic features aspire to tackle the functionality problems and design of the existing fixed and rotary type UAV. Due to its bird-like appearance and behaviour, it can be deployed for military espionage without easily attracting the attention of enemy forces. Swain observed Ornithopter has been gaining popularity over the years as

the present UAVs are plagued with problems of less flight time, Biomimic incapability and longer time for altitude attainment.



Ornithopter was recently published in the prestigious Journal of Multi-Body Dynamics of the Institutions of Mechanical Engineers.

Flapping Wing Ornithopter Only 'foldable winged Ornithopter' Wing consists of fore and aft section Coordinated movements for lift and flight stability Motion to wings provided by a special type of four bar linkage Each powered by a single DC motor, balanced gear box. Topologically optimized aerofoil cross section of wing

He said the prototype is different and more capable than existing drones with faster flight take-off due to its novel mechanism, ability to replicate the motions/movements of a real flying bird with synchronised head, tail motion and wing flapping, power optimisation with maximum strength to weight ratio and optimised aerofoils. Their research paper on

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Shanthnu Bhagyaraj joins Vijay's 'Thalapathy 64'



After back-to-back Thalpathy 64 updates over the past two days, it is clear that the makers of the film are keen to capitalise on the trend. Today, they have

announced yet another detail about the Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial.

As we had earlier speculated, actor Shanthnu Bhagyaraj has in-

deed been roped in for Vijay's upcoming film, which already boasts of a stellar cast that includes names such as Vijay Sethupathi and Angamaly Diaries-

fame Antony Varghese.

This project will have Anirudh Ravichander composing for a Vijay film for the second time after Kaththi. Sathyan

Sooryan, who is the cinematographer for Lokesh's upcoming film, Kaithi, will handle camera duties in Thalpathy 64 as well.

Bankrolled by

Xavier Britto of XB Film Creators, Thalpathy 64 is also speculated to feature Malavika Mohanan, and this might be the update that the makers are expected to announce later today.

Weird that women still need to protest for rights, says Shruti Haasan



MUMBAI(KCN): Actress Shruti Haasan has raised question over why women still feel the need to protest for their rights, not only in India but all around the world.

"People organise marches and protests for women's rights and I find it weird that we still feel the need to do these protests for women's safety and equality rights. It has been happening for years. I do believe there is a change in the scenario but I feel sad that the problem still exists," said Shruti, while interacting with the media at an RPG Foundation-

organised get-together for women who work under their CSR initiative on Tuesday in Mumbai.

ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan's latest to cross over to Hollywood

She added: "I don't feel it is happening only in our country. It is happening all around the world. When you look at international news, you realise this topic comes up many times."

Asked what she felt about the fact that there were lesser female-centric films made in India, she said: "I think slowly things are changing. Films are

being made that are rooted around women characters, so change is taking place. But it should have happened bit earlier."

ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan to have break-up song in her debut EP

Talking about Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, Shruti said: "It's such an important day and important part of our history. My father (Kamal Haasan) really believes in his philosophies."

Shruti Haasan will next be seen in an untitled film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, along with Vidyut Jammwal.

'Joker' review: Solid filmmaking, messy politics

In many of its seedy street side shots, Todd Phillips's Joker focuses on a theatre and clearly shows the titles playing. There is Zorro the Gay Blade, which came out in 1981, a time that seems closer to the mood this film is going for – the late 70s and impending Reagan era vibe of New York that it lends Gotham City. But the more interesting title it shows is probably Ace in the Hole.

Is it the Billy Wilder film? It's a film that hints at media manipulation and Joker insists on a

kind of manipulation by everything from TV, press to upbringing and economic condition that drives Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) to become the murderous eponymous character.

Ace in the Hole was also one of Wilder's famous critical and commercial failures. Failure and rejection are important driving forces in this film that's more honest and focused on its visual splendour than it is on the condition and circumstances that create the space

for a turn like that of Arthur Fleck's to Joker. Also, who refers to Harvey Dent as "ace in the hole"? Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight.

ALSO READ: There are many ways to see 'Joker', says director Todd Phillips The Gotham City and its socio-economic atrophy that writers Phillips and Scott Silver envision can come across as unconvincing and out of context. It talks of class issues but without clear markers for the oppression it wants us to zero in on.

The smallest of the mosquito has the power to infect our bodies

World Mosquito Day is observed every year on August 20 to commemorate Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that Anopheles mosquitoes transmit the malaria parasite to humans. Malaria is a mosquito borne infectious disease affecting both humans and animals, causing millions of deaths annually. The focus of the event is to highlight the need to maintain the efforts towards elimination of malaria and seek commitment from political parties and other stake holders. Despite the efforts of global community, malaria epidemic is far from being completely eradicated with a gradual increase in the number of affected and dead, every year. It is estimated that every two minutes a child dies due to malaria, across the globe. Malaria has also severe consequences on the health and economy of a nation.



Observance of the World Mosquito Day reignites the resolve of governments and general public to fight malaria and seek its elimination. It also helps the campaigns in garnering technical, logistical and financial

Education is the enlightenment that alters a common mind into a divine one. Through education, we can transform into a lofty individual who can differentiate between wrong and right. A child can be aware of a new culture through the channel of learning. He can be a rational being through the process of learning only. She can develop their cognitive thinking through which they can feel and react. With developed motor skills, a child can perceive the surroundings beautifully and admiringly. The youth can develop an awareness of the nature in which she survives. But the fundamental approaches to education are wrong everywhere. The system is wrong. How can we evolve into the right person by following the wrong paths? Today, we fail to relate with our nature. In the predicament of this modern era, we try to hoard luxurious things instead of joy. Everything, we can't buy. Money does not give us pleasure. With an immature mind, we are trying to earn money. Hence in this society, we find the poor becomes poorer. With increasing poverty and violence, we survive. We failed to acknowledge the real zest of knowledge. As a result, in a war-torn situation, we struggle to breathe. In this ecological imbalanced arena, we are forced to face the damages done by us because of the faulty educational systems. Due to detachment from our religious

support to push forward the fight against malaria. The first symptoms of malaria appear within ten to fifteen days of getting bitten by an infected mosquito. Initial symptoms include high fever, chills, weakness and headache. When untreated, the symptoms can escalate causing serious illnesses, leading to death.

Today, the best way to prevent the disease is to avoid bites by infected mosquitoes. The most important method of preventing malaria is by controlling the spread of its carriers, that is Anopheles mosquitoes. There are around four hundred species of Anopheles mosquitoes, out of which only 30 are potential carriers of malaria parasites. Mosquitoes, those tiny blood-sucking insects, are responsible for transmitting serious diseases such as malaria. With no vaccine currently available, malaria — an ancient disease that began afflicting humans from the beginning of agriculture and modern civilization — remains a deadly threat to people around the world. Malaria disease is one of the worst public health crises the country has ever faced, endangering one in every six Indians. Death can occur in as little

as three days if an FP infection is not properly treated. Nearly 50,000 people die in the country every year due to complications of the disease. While travelling to a malaria endemic zone, anti-malarial tablets may be prescribed to prevent contracting malaria. Immediate diagnosis and treatment can help prevent complications and death. Every time a case of malaria is reported, a mapping exercise is undertaken to intensively fog and spray the pesticides in all surrounding areas. Malaria is preventable as well as treatable, yet the disease claims nearly half a million lives each year. The deaths are mainly attributed to not taking preventive measures and delayed diagnosis. People in lower economic class and remote areas; don't understand the risk of malaria, unless they get infected. Not using mosquito nets or insecticides only escalates the spread of disease. Though an infectious disease, whether a person contracts malaria or not, also depends substantially on how clean the surrounding environments are. One of the major causes of mosquito breeding is water stagnation. Its rather shocking that Indians having knowledge about the excellent benefits

passionate attitude toward the nation in which we survive. Education tells us to be sympathetic to the biodiversity of this ecological system in which we dwell. Knowledge directs us to feel the rhythm of nature through developing a care for the entire humankind on this planet. Schooling instructs us to refrain from excess greed and lust for the unnecessary things for which we always engaged in wars and violence. Are we being educated to become a monster without any senses? Eliot has quoted a term for us that is 'lost generation'. After getting educated in Universities, we shamelessly develop a devilish attitude of destroying the nation in the name of religion, caste and colour... Then why are we educated? We are nowadays getting education for transforming into an indifferent person with no sensitivity and righteousness. Actual education means being aware of the right and wrong things. Education asks us to not believe someone easily. An educated person always develops a quality of detachment in attachments. He should be self-critical. He should know in-depth knowledge of every subject. Real education of a student allows him to think critically about a topic without accepting the vicious things blindly. Education means enlightenment. Through enlightenment, a student can perceive the divine inspiration to create a change in himself. And a changed individual has the power to bring about positive changes in the existing system. Education is the real weapon through which a person can raise his voice against injustice. So we need to be educated to bring a fresh cultural revolution.

Education is the enlightenment that alters a common mind into a divine one. Through education, we can transform into a lofty individual who can differentiate between wrong and right. A child can be aware of a new culture through the channel of learning. He can be a rational being through the process of learning only. She can develop their cognitive thinking through which they can feel and react. With developed motor skills, a child can perceive the surroundings beautifully and admiringly. The youth can develop an awareness of the nature in which she survives. But the fundamental approaches to education are wrong everywhere. The system is wrong. How can we evolve into the right person by following the wrong paths? Today, we fail to relate with our nature. In the predicament of this modern era, we try to hoard luxurious things instead of joy. Everything, we can't buy. Money does not give us pleasure. With an immature mind, we are trying to earn money. Hence in this society, we find the poor becomes poorer. With increasing poverty and violence, we survive. We failed to acknowledge the real zest of knowledge. As a result, in a war-torn situation, we struggle to breathe. In this ecological imbalanced arena, we are forced to face the damages done by us because of the faulty educational systems. Due to detachment from our religious

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Education for Enlightenment

Dr Sudipta Mishra

roots, we develop hypocrisy and due to loss of values and morality, we are not aware of our fellow beings. We constantly indulged in harming our planet. We are now degraded into slaves in the hands of scientific invention. We have failed to establish a harmony between science, technology and religion. We are trying to become absolute power by evading our rivals by neglecting the main part of our education. The real goal of Education is to manage science and technology for the betterment of the nation. But do we follow the real paths of education? Today, almost all the countries of the world have got freedom from their colonizers. But we don't know the meaning of freedom until now. Our children are still learning in faulty methods. Examination-based syllabus and marked-oriented systems are still here to oppress our kids. Hence, we need to change the methods of education to create the future of our nation. A child can be evolved into great being a through constant vigilance and by bestowing importance to the holistic approaches to learning. So let's see what is the real meaning of education....

We have to revive the classical methods of learning which were based on the participation of both teacher and learner. The learners were engaged in question-making processes of understanding. They made an effort to explore things. They communicated through questioning and the teachers always tried to search for the answers to enhance the quality of learning. In that the simultaneous process of questioning and answering, students enjoyed the ambience because of the non-threatening situation. Hence, in the process of learning a teacher does not as a student for the highest score through cramming methods. Through rote methods of learning one can not be a victorious individual. Due to wrong methods of learning a student only wants to secure marks in exams so that he can be a rich individual in future. Is this the real meaning of education then? Through education, we only want to be fit in the rat race of this civilization. Without bringing any glory for the society we just want to buy a car and luxurious houses and become famous for our rich status. We don't care for anyone. Is this the real meaning of education? No... Education seeks to develop a com-

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Artists can contribute significantly in the environmental awareness of the public

An exclusive art Exhibition on Bird and Nature, entitled "Golok Dhadda" (Circular Puzzle) was organized between 10-12th August, 2022 by Artist's Canvas at the prestigious Ramkrishna Mission Art Gallery, Kolkata. This unique exhibition highlighted upon the education and awareness of the public towards nature, ecosystem and a wide spectrum of bird biodiversity across the planet. Indeed it was a platform where science and arts fused to give a total new perspective to our understanding of arts and culture in one hand and the environment on the other.

One of the participating artist Ms Soma Bhowmik, a familiar name in the arts circle and who was felicitated at this suggested "...it is indeed a great opportunity for us as artists to connect to the public for such an unique exhibition where we are focusing exclusively on our ecosystem and avian members across the planet. I am proud to be a part of this not only for showcasing my artwork; but, observe and learn from the work of other exceptional artists and how they connecting with nature from their perspectives and understanding of nature. It is

important to create a regular bridge with the audience to help them understand and appreciate the rich planet with share with other living beings." Indeed the gallery exhibition received a sweeping attention from the audience a significant chunk being School, college and university students who represent our next generation and must be sensitized about our fragile environment to become responsible citizens in the future.

The spectacular diversity of artworks exhibited captured rich diversity of ecosystems from both India and abroad. The images represented freshwater and marine ecosystems, deserts and vast plains, valleys, mountains, tropics, sub tropics, temperate and polar habitats with use of different colours. Birds such as eagle, hawks, kites, owls, vultures, crows, ravens, falcons, bulbuls, sparrow, parakeets, macaw, cuckoos, pigeon, dove, mynah, kingfishers, common iora, blue peafowls, ducks, geese, cranes, storks, jungle fowls, pelicans, hornbills, toucans, finches, barbets, tree pies, crow pheasant, jungle babbler, tailor birds, ori-

Saikat Kumar Basu

oles and woodpeckers were the eye catchers. Mammals captured commonly on ecosystem based nature themed images include tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild cat, leopard cat, fishing cat, deers and antelopes, rabbits avid hares, squirrels, elephants, bats, wild ass, snakes, marine and freshwater fishes, crocodiles and turtles. Spectacular pictures of flowers from various biomes were eye catchers. Furthermore, several art exhibited pollinators like the bees, butterfly, moths, beetles, flies, wasps, hornets and ants. The exhibition primarily captured our rich global, regional and local ecosystems, and the spectacular biodiversity of forests, birds and other species.

Why is such an exhibition important from perspectives other than promotion of art and culture? It is because of the dissemination of education and awareness among the public about nature and biodiversity. It is most important for us to realize under the current global circumstances that environmental sensitivity is a serious international issue. It is not always possible for

scientists, researchers, academic, conservators, foresters, ecologists to always cater to the public through conventional approach such as interviews, lectures, articles and demonstrations. But a picture shares a 1000 words in its own form.

Thus it is important that we realize that arts and crafts could be an effective way of communicating about both science and environmental issues, forest, wildlife and biodiversity conservation, and in exploring various rich ecosystems of our planets. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the organizers and RK Mission Gallery for hosting such an outstanding art exhibition dedicated to nature, ecosystem and avian biodiversity and in creating positive impacts on the public. It is a platform where arts and nature has fused to design an entirely new perspective and narrative helping people to realize the beauty of our planet in which we live and to appreciate the species that we co-inhabit with.

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal India

TRS diverting attention from Kavitha's involvement in Delhi liquor scam: Bandi

Kavita denies her role in liquor scam

WARANGAL: BJP state chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar defended his handing over footwear to Union home minister Amit Shah at the Ujjaini Mahankali temple in

just to touch him. I don't feel this incident is related to self-respect." Hitting out at his rivals, he said he did not bend in front of people from Italy like Congress lead-

footwear incident to divert attention from TRS MLC K. Kavitha's alleged involvement in the Delhi liquor scam and huge success of the Munugode meeting.

prove that there is no need to fix meters, does KCR have the guts to prove that farmers are facing problems in BJP-ruled states," he said. He alleged that Left

HYDERABAD: TRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday strongly condemned the allegations levelled by two Delhi BJP leaders, MP Parvesh Varma and former MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa, linking her name to the multi-crore liquor policy scam in the national capital.

Speaking to the media after participating in a 'homam' performed by TRS Ibrahimpatnam MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy at his farmhouse on the city outskirts, Kavitha stated that the allegations would remain just that. "I have no connection to what was said in the Delhi excise policy scam. They (the BJP) control all of the investigative agencies and can conduct any investigation that is necessary. We will fully cooperate."

Kavitha claimed that the BJP was attempting to smear the reputation of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's family by leveling baseless allegations. "The CM has been a vocal and harsh critic of the Centre's policies. The BJP, enraged by this, is attempting to smear our family's reputation. They are under the illusion that the CM would keep calm if his daughter is dragged into this scam," she said. Kavitha, referring to herself as a "fighter," stated that they would not be alarmed by such allegations and would instead fight back. "These are baseless allegations. Nothing good will come of it. Today you are in power, you want to use agencies, want to use the media and use everything possible to curtail the voice of opposition. I am so sorry you are messing with the wrong people," Kavitha said. She claimed that the Centre was engaging in vindictive politics, which was detrimental to democracy, and that making baseless accusations was not a healthy trend in politics. The BJP leaders' efforts to discredit our family would be "useless," she said. She be-

lieves that the BJP leaders were attempting to psychologically weaken the TRS leaders. The TRS leader stated that the TRS faced several allegations during the separate Telangana movement and was never intimidated by such false charges, adding, "Such baseless accu-



sations do not frighten us. The Central government failed to give proper replies on the issues that were raised by TRS including the Bilkis Bano (release of convicts) case."

When media personnel tried to ask questions, she left the venue saying "Jai Hind, Jai Telangana." Later, her publicist issued a statement to the media stating that Kavitha had decided to sue BJP leaders Parvesh Varma for defamation and Manjinder Singh Sirsa, for making false accusations against her on the Delhi liquor policy scam. It further stated that Kavitha will move the court seeking injunction order against those making the allegations.

'CM will not keep calm'

"The CM has been a vocal and harsh critic of the Centre's policies. The BJP, enraged by them, is attempting to smear our family's reputation. They are under the illusion that the CM would keep calm if his daughter is dragged into this scam. Such baseless accusations do not frighten us. The Central government failed to give proper replies on the issues that were raised by TRS including Bilkis Bano rape case," says TRS MLC, Kavita.



Hyderabad during his visit to the city on Sunday. Amid criticism by rival parties, Sanjay told the media at Station Ghanpur on Monday: "Amit Shah is my guru and I have a lot of respect towards him. It will be fortunate

ers do. He was not like ministers and TRS MLAs who touch the feet of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekar Rao. "Where did their self-respect go at that time," he questioned. He said TRS leaders were hyping up the

Sanjay claimed everything that Chandrashekar Rao said was a lie, and everything he did was cheating. "KCR is blackmailing the farmers saying that if the BJP forms government it will fix meters on pump sets. The BJP will

parties' leaders had dropped their agenda to join hands with the Chief Minister. Congress leaders, sensing that they would not have a future if the BJP wins Munugode, had turned into TRS covert (agents), he alleged.

Trump seeks special master to review Mar-a-Lago documents

WASHINGTON: Lawyers for former President Donald Trump have asked a federal judge to halt the FBI's review of documents recovered from his Florida estate earlier this month until a neutral special master can be appointed to inspect the records.

The request on Monday was included in a federal lawsuit, the first filing by Trump's legal team in the two weeks since the search, that takes broad aim at the FBI investigation into the discovery of classified records at Mar-a-Lago and that foreshadows arguments his lawyers are expected to make as the probe proceeds.

It comes as The New York Times reported that the government has recovered more than 300 documents marked classified from Mar-a-Lago since Trump left office, including more than 150 retrieved by the National Archives in January, a number that helped trigger the criminal investigation.

The lawsuit casts the August 8 search, in which the FBI said it recovered 11 sets of classified documents from Mar-a-Lago, as a "shockingly aggressive move".

It also attacks the warrant as overly broad, contends that Trump is entitled to a more detailed description of the records seized from the home and argues that the FBI and Justice Department has long treated him "unfairly".

"Law enforcement is a shield that protects America. It cannot be used as a weapon for political purposes," the lawyers wrote on Monday.

"Therefore, we seek judicial assistance in the aftermath of an unprecedented and unnecessary raid" at Mar-a-Lago.

In a separate statement, Trump said, "ALL documents have been previously declassified", though he has not produced evidence to support that claim, and described the records as having been "illegally seized from my home".

The Justice Department countered in a terse three-sentence statement pointing out that

the search had been authorised by a federal judge after the FBI presented probable cause that a crime had been committed.

The filing requests the appointment of a special master not connected to the case who would be tasked with inspecting the records recovered from Mar-a-Lago and setting aside those that are covered by executive privilege, a principle that permits presidents to withhold certain communications from public disclosure.



In some other high-profile cases, including investigations involving Rudy Giuliani and Michael Cohen, two of Trump's personal attorneys, that role has been filled by a former judge.

"This matter has captured the attention of the American public. Merely adequate safeguards are not acceptable when the matter at hand involves not only the constitutional rights of President Trump, but also the presumption of executive privilege," the attorneys wrote.

The lawsuit argues that the records, created during Trump's White House tenure, are "presumptively privileged".

But the Supreme Court has never determined whether a former president can assert executive privilege over documents, writing in January that the issue is unprecedented and raises "serious and substantial concerns".

The high court turned down Trump's plea to block records held by the National Archives from being turned over to the January 6 com-

mittee, saying then that his request would have been denied even if he had been the incumbent president, so there was no need to tackle the thorny issue of a former president's claims.

The lawsuit paints Trump as "fully cooperative" and compliant with investigators, saying members of his personal and household staff were made available for voluntary interviews and quoting him as telling FBI and

Justice Department officials during a June visit to Mar-a-Lago, "Whatever you need, just let us know."

But the chronology of events makes clear that the search took place only after other options to recover classified documents from the home had been incomplete or unsuccessful.

In May, for instance, weeks before the search, the Justice Department issued a subpoena for records bearing classification markings. The Trump team's lawsuit was assigned to US District Judge Aileen M.

Cannon, who was nominated by Trump in 2020 and confirmed by the Senate 56-21 later that year. She is a former assistant US attorney in Florida, handling mainly criminal appeals.

The months-long investigation, which burst into public view with the Mar-a-Lago search, emerged from a referral from the National Archives, which earlier this year retrieved 15 boxes of documents and other items from the estate that should have been turned over to the agency when Trump left the White House. An initial review of that material concluded that Trump had brought presidential records and several other documents that were marked classified to Mar-a-Lago.

FBI and Justice Department officials visited

Mar-a-Lago in June and asked to inspect a storage room.

Several weeks later, the Justice Department subpoenaed for video footage from surveillance cameras at the estate.

After the meeting at Mar-a-Lago, investigators interviewed another witness who told them that there were likely additional classified documents still at the estate, according to a person familiar with the investigation who was not authorised to speak publicly about it.

Separately on Monday, a federal judge acknowledged that redactions to an FBI affidavit spelling out the basis for the search might be so extensive as to make the document "meaningless" if released to the public.

But he said he continued to believe it should not remain sealed in its entirety because of the "intense" public interest in the investigation.

A written order from US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart largely restates what he said in court last week, when he directed the Justice Department to propose redactions about the information in the affidavit that it wants to remain secret. That submission is due on Thursday at noon.

Justice Department officials have sought to keep the entire document sealed, saying disclosing any portion of it risks compromising an ongoing criminal investigation, revealing information about witnesses and divulging investigative techniques.

They have advised the judge that the necessary redactions to the affidavit would be so numerous that they would strip the document of any substantive information and make it effectively meaningless for the public.

Reinhart acknowledged that possibility in his Monday order, writing, "I cannot say at this point that partial redactions will be so extensive that they will result in a meaningless disclosure, but I may ultimately reach that conclusion after hearing further from the government."

Those who do not learn from History are condemned to repeat it, said a panellist in context to "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" observed in Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN): The Union Ministry of culture and Indira Gandhi National Centre of the Arts to mark 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', today held the concluding session at

urged people to do major work in field of literature and cinema including archiving and documentation of history. Gautam Dey, while speaking at the event emphasized that not documenting



Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR,9A, Ho Chin Minh Sarani, Kolkata. This was in continuation of Delhi event held on the same theme. On the second day session of the event Shri Dilip Ghosh, Member of Parliament, Mednipur Constituency and Shri. Anurag Punetha, Media Controller, IGNC were present.

On the second day of the event session

'partition' was an deliberate attempt on part of some people. He later reiterated, India in order to be free from violence, hatred and to remain peaceful, there is a need to remember the partition and know the real history. Speaking at the event Rudranil Ghosh thanked Ministry of Culture and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts for organising an event to mark " Partition



began with felicitation of the guest by Shri. Anurag Punetha Media Controller, IGNC. He informed the guests and the audience present in the hall that how partition of the country is one of the biggest displacement which human civilisation has ever known. He further added that to mark "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day", photo exhibition was organised by IGNC in the Parliament which was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla amidst the presence of other dignitaries.

Shri Dilip Ghosh while speaking at the event thanked Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts for observing "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" through the medium of photo exhibition and film screening and seminars. He later added, the tragedy of 'partition' has effected Bengal and people suffered the brunt of it to date. He expressed gratitude towards IGNC and applauded its effort in sensitising people towards 'partition' history. He in his address reiterated that Bengal has had an illustrious past, rich culture and people of Bengal would put effort in knowing the right history in context to 'partition'.

The beginning of valedictory session started with felicitation of the eminent dignitaries. The eminent personalities were Prof. Rabi Ranjan Sen HoD, Department of History Katwa College, Shri Gautam Dey, Former Regional Director, ICCR Kolkata, Shri Rudranil Ghosh, eminent actor and Prof. Narayan Chakraborti, Maulana Azad College.

Prof. Rabi Ranjan said that events of 1946 and 1947 was so mammoth tragedy that loss of lives cannot be estimated. He further added, 'partition' was not fairly documented in reference to 'The great Kolkata killings' and

Horrors Remembrance Day". He added, that 'partition' happened not just because of British but there were other stakeholders who had vested interest in 'partition' thus observing it in present shall avert such tragedies in future. He added, the real progressive history of India has not been written and it needs to be attempted in context to partition. He concluded again by applauding IGNC's effort to bring the history to the fore in context to 'partition'.

Prof. Narayan Chakraborty, expressed his grief by saying "down with destiny" while mentioning 'partition'. He called for a proper research on 'partition' pertaining to Hindu population.

Shri Anurag Punetha expressed his gratitude and thanked the guests, panellists and the people of Kolkata who gathered in large numbers for the film screening and photo exhibition on the theme of 'partition' over two days. He later expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the younger generation wants to know about 'partition'. On this occasion, he cited in the short span of time there was an overwhelming response from people and there were 33 films which were received on the said theme. Expressing gratitude, he added the films shall serve as education for people and generations to come and shall make people more sensitive towards 'partition'. This film screening on the theme of "partition" is an attempt in the said direction. The documentary movies screened today were "Jhootha Sach", "The Unowned House" and "Ghar" and commercial film Gadar Ek Prem Katha. Besides that "Vibhajan Vibhishika", "Dere Tun Dilli, From Dera to Delhi", "Asamarth" and "Faded Memories" were screened on the first day in addition to that commercial film Pinjar based on the theme of partition was screened as well.

How long will PM continue to save tainted ministers: Priyanka on Ajay Mishra's remarks on farm leader

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday slammed Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra for his "dogs bark or chase the car" remark and asked for how long will Prime Minister

one statement after another degrading the farmers. He had threatened the farmers even before the Lakhimpur farmers' massacre."

"For how long will the prime minister continue to

save tainted ministers?

For how long will you continue to encourage this language of abuse?" she said in a tweet in Hindi.

On October 3 last year, eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed in the violence at Tikunia village here during a farmer protest against the visit



Narendra Modi continue to save "tainted ministers". Facing demand for his resignation over the alleged involvement of his son in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence last year, Mishra said he is not answerable to people like Rakesh Tikait and called the farmer leader "do kaudi ka aadmi" or a second-rate person.

In a video apparently of a speech made to his supporters, Mishra dismissed allegations levelled against him.

"Suppose I am going to Lucknow in a car which is at a good speed; dogs bark on the road or chase the car. It's their nature, I will not say anything about that as we do not have this nature. When things come to the fore, I will answer everyone. I am very confident because of your support," Mishra, who is the Union Minister of State for Home, said.

Slamming Mishra for his remarks, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi said, "Look at the effect of the intoxication of protection of power. The Minister of State for Home Affairs is making

of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya to Mishra's village in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

In this case, Mishra's son Ashish Mishra has been arrested as the main accused.

"People keep raising questions. There are also 'bevakooof patraakaar' (stupid journalists) who have no relationship with journalism and want to create confusion by such 'ulti-seedhi baat' (unfounded things)," Mishra is heard saying in the video. "I know Rakesh Tikait very well, he is a 'do kaudi ka aadmi' (second rate person). He fought elections twice and lost deposit. If this kind of a man opposes anyone, it is of no value and so I do not answer to such people as it is of no relevance," Mishra said.

Led by Tikait, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) staged a 75-hour long dharna in Lakhimpur last week to press for various demands, including the sacking of Mishra.

"He (Tikait) is doing politics in this manner and running his livelihood. They will be given a reply at the right time," Mishra is heard telling BJP workers in the video apparently in his Kheri constituency.




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Twitter lied about bots, users' data safety, says its ex-security chief

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter's former head of security, Peiter "Mudge" Zatko, has claimed that the Parag Agrawal-led platform lied about the actual number of bots on its platform and misled federal regulators about users' safety, media reports said on Tuesday.

According to his disclosure obtained by CNN and The Washington Post, Zatko said that Twitter has "major security problems that pose a threat to its own users' personal information, to company shareholders, to national security, and to democracy".

Zatko, who reported directly to the CEO, was fired by Twitter in January this year over "poor performance".

Last month, he filed a complaint with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), accusing Twitter of deceiving shareholders and violating an agreement it made with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to uphold certain security standards.

In his disclosure as a whistleblower, Zatko alleged that Twitter's leadership "has misled its own board and government regulators about its security vulnerabilities, including

some that could allegedly open the door to foreign spying or manipulation, hacking and disinformation campaigns".

He also said that Twitter does not "reliably delete users' data after they cancel their accounts".

The whistleblower also said Twitter executives don't have the resources to fully understand the true number of bots on the platform, and were not motivated to.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has cancelled the \$44 billion Twitter takeover deal over the actual presence of bots on the platform.

Zatko's lawyer told CNN that he has not been in contact with Musk.

An attorney for Musk said that their legal team has already issued a subpoena for Zato, "and we found his exit and that of other key employees curious in light of what we have been finding".

Twitter said in a statement that security and privacy are both longtime priorities for the company. The company said that it "provides clear tools for users to control privacy, and targeting and data sharing".

Indian EV market to hit annual sales of 17 mn units by 2030: Report

MUMBAI: India's electric vehicle market is expected to expand at a compounded annual growth rate of 49 per cent between 2021-2030, with the segment's volumes set to cross annual sales of 17 million by 2030, a new report said on Tuesday.

This projected growth is expected to be driven by factors such as rising fuel prices, entry of new players, advancement in EV technology, continued subsidy sup-

port from both the central and state governments as well as the anticipated implementation of emission standards, India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) said in its report.

The EV industry in India experienced one of the quickest recoveries from the pandemic-induced slowdown in 2020, the report observed, noting that the electric two-wheeler segment, accounted for 50 per cent of the total over 4.67 lakh EV sales in the domestic market followed by the low-speed e-three-wheelers in 2021.

However, other segments also showed a notable increase over the course of the year, it stated.

The report said that with a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario, the Indian EV market would expand at a CAGR of 49 per cent between 2021 and 2030 and is predicted to reach annual sales of 17 million units by that time, with almost 15 million of those projected to be electric two-wheelers.

Between 2021 and 2030, the yearly bat-

tery demand is anticipated to increase at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41 per cent, reaching 142 GWh, as per the forecast.

It stated that the market is of 6.5 GWh, just like in 2021 and added that the EV segment is anticipated to grow quickly after 2024-2025, as the initial cost of these vehicles are predicted to be comparable to those of internal combustion engine-powered vehicles on the back of

falling battery prices, advancements in EV technology, domestic production and economies of scale.

According to the report, lead-acid batteries continued to dominate the Indian EV ecosystem in 2021, accounting for 81 per cent of the market, due to the high demand for e-rickshaws.

The market share of lithium-ion batteries has been steadily growing, and in 2021, for the first time, the demand for these batteries exceeded the 1 GWh threshold.

Additionally, among lithium-ion chemistries, Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) is the chosen option for e-three and four-wheelers, whereas Nickel Manganese Cobalt (NMC) is the preferred option for e2W and e-buses, it said. The FAME II incentives scheme, which was launched by the government to look into ways to make EVs cheaper and attractive to the end-users and has now been extended to 2024, has benefited more than 1.8 million automobiles, IESA said in the report.



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After Wipro, now Infosys reduces average variable pay for June quarter amid margin squeeze

NEW DELHI: India's second-largest IT services company Infosys has scaled back the average variable payout of employees to about 70 per cent for the June quarter amid margin squeeze and high employee costs, according to sources.



Recently, Wipro held back the variable pay of employees mainly due to pressure on margins, inefficiency in its talent supply chain and investment in technology. Larger rival Tata Consultancy Services has reportedly delayed quarterly variable compensation payout for some employees by a month.

According to the sources, Infosys has reduced variable payout for the June quarter or Q1 FY23 to about 70 per cent and the employees have been informed about the same.

An e-mail sent to Infosys on the issue did not elicit a response.

Last month, Infosys reported a lower-than-estimated 3.2 per cent rise in June quarter net profit amid escalating costs.

However, the company raised its full-year revenue growth outlook to 14-16 per cent citing strong demand and robust deal pipeline.

The company maintained the margin guidance at 21-23 per cent but made it clear that with the increase in cost environment, it will be at the lower end of the margin outlook.

Infosys' operating margins were at about 20 per cent in Q1 FY23.

Higher employee benefit expenses, sub-contracting costs, and travel expenses had pushed

up overall costs for the Bengaluru-headquartered firm in the June quarter. As such, an elevated level of attrition leading to higher employee costs is denting the profitability of the Indian IT industry.

Infosys' Chief Financial Officer,

Nilanjan Roy, in the Q1 earnings statement, had said the company is fuelling the strong growth momentum with strategic investments in talent through hiring and competitive compensation revisions.

"While this will impact margins in the immediate term, it is expected to reduce attrition levels and position us well for future growth," Roy had said.

The company had said it continues to optimise various cost levers to drive efficiency in operations.

Compensation hikes, however, impacted margins by 160 basis points, and utilisation dipped due to the impact of new freshers coming in. The company asserted that these were more in the nature of "investments" given the robust demand scenario, and assured it will be looking at cost optimising levers such as better utilisation, and more automation.

Wipro too has held back employees' variable pay due to pressure on margins. Managers to the C-suite level of the company will not get any portion of variable pay, while employee grades between freshers to team leaders will get 70 per cent of the total variable pay, sources aware of the matter had earlier said.

Sensex slumps 1,500 pts in last two sessions

NEW DELHI: The BSE Sensex fell for the second session (872 points) on Monday after falling 652 points on Friday as fear of aggressive rate hikes by central banks has started haunting the participants again. The BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty have shed 1,524 points and 465 points, respectively, since Friday.

This two-session decline has eroded investors' wealth by more than Rs 6.57 lakh crore and the market capitalisation of all the BSE-listed firms came down to Rs 273.95 lakh crore on Monday from Rs 280.50 lakh crore on Thursday.

Till last Thursday, the two benchmark indices - Sensex and Nifty - had rallied nearly 17-18 % from the lows of June 17 on the back of rebound in foreign fund inflows, softening commodity prices and a better-than-expected Q1FY23 corporate earnings. However, after minutes of the US Federal Reserve July meeting indicated a sharp hike in interest rate to curb inflation, investors were on a selling spree.

An increase in interest rates in the US has a negative impact on Indian markets and the economy as foreign investors start pulling out, foreign exchange reserves start depleting, risk of mounting inflation takes over the economy, the rupee falls against the dollar, among other things.

Investors were on a selling spree.

Incessant rains: Two more children die in wall collapse in Odisha

Continued from page-1
Odisha floods: Rain havoc in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, communication hit

Inspector-in-Charge of Udala Police station Niroj Samal said that the mishap took place at around 11.30 pm. On being informed, police rushed to the hospital and seized the bodies, and sent them for postmortem. Further investigation is underway, he said.

On Sunday, a 10-year-old girl Muni Behera, daughter of Sanjay Behera of Raghunathpur under Baripada municipality died after the wall of her house collapsed.

On Saturday, Sweety Giri (12) and Niharika Giri (4), daughters of Anil Giri of Bhulagadia village under Bisoil police limits were killed after the wall of their house collapsed. They were sleeping with their mother and another sibling who escaped narrowly.

Founder of Adivasi Dalit Mahasangha Rakesh Singh blamed the State government for the incidents. He alleged that the government failed to provide pucca houses to eligible beneficiaries leading to such mishaps. Had these families been provided pucca houses under the government's housing scheme, they would have been alive, he added.

IMD Alert on Heavy Rains

Continued from page-1

Subarnarekha, where peak flood was witnessed on Monday afternoon, embankments of Mahanadi and its tributaries have been breached in seven places, Mr.Mishra said.

The Water Resources Department will immediately undertake temporary repair of the embankments now, and will commence permanent repair after floodwaters recede completely likely in November or December, he said.

Water level in Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga rivers that caused floods in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts have fallen below the danger mark. Similar is the situation of Baitarani River which inundated several villages in Jajpur and Keonjhar districts.

Mr.Mishra said the flood situation in Mahanadi River has improved. "The water level in Hirakud Dam was 623.35 feet at 9 AM. While 1.59 lakh cusecs of water was entering the reservoir, 1.04 lakh cusecs were being discharged through four gates," he added.

However, the Jalaka River that caused flood in the Balasore block was flowing above the danger level. It was flowing at 6.45 metres at Mathani, while the danger level was at 5.5 metres.

Meanwhile, the Balasore district administration, which is dealing with flood situations in Baliapal, Bhograi, Basta, Jaleswar, Balasore Sadar and Remuna blocks, continued to evacuate more affected people to flood shelters.

Balasore District Collector Dattatraya Bhausahab Shinde said that 40,124 people have been housed in 208 flood shelters, where 149 kitchens are operational while rescue operation is underway in marooned villages.

Ukraine soccer league defies Russian war to begin season

South Ukraine: Under threat of Russian attacks in a war that stopped all soccer in Ukraine in February, a new league season starts Tuesday in Kyiv with the goal of restoring some sense

event.” “We are ready, we are strong and I think we will show to all the world Ukrainian life and will to win,” the national-team veteran said. The Ukrainian Pre-

the league paused for a scheduled midwinter break. Games were due to resume on Feb. 25, until the Russian military invasion started one day earlier. The 16-team league

cent weeks played in neighboring Poland and Slovakia, or Sweden, to ensure the safety of opponents like Benfica and Fenerbahçe. Shakhtar, which was top of the domestic standings when last season was formally abandoned, will host opponents at Legia Warsaw's stadium when the Champions League group stage starts Sept. 6. The groups are drawn Thursday.

Just 10 months ago, Stepanenko and Shakhtar faced eventual title winner Real Madrid in a Champions League game at the Olympic Stadium — the same field where the storied Spanish team won the final in 2018.

Last season, Shakhtar could field the core of Brazilian players it became famous for, funded by billionaire businessman Rinat Akhmetov who also owns the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol.

Those star players have now left Ukraine and Shakhtar will rely more on young, homegrown talent, just like its traditional rival Dynamo Kyiv, which starts Sunday against Dnipro-1.

“Of course, it's a new team,” Stepanenko acknowledged, adding: “We feel confident because we play for our country and for our people.”



of normal life. The elegant Olympic Stadium has staged the biggest European soccer games in the past decade though none as poignant as the opening-day meeting of Shakhtar Donetsk and Metalist 1925 from Kharkiv — teams that are fighting for their very existence. No fans will be allowed in the 65,000-capacity downtown stadium for the 1 p.m. local time kick-off and the players must be rushed to bomb shelters if air-raid sirens sound.

“We have rules in case of an alarm and we should go to be underground,” Shakhtar captain Taras Stepanenko said Monday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “But I think the teams, the players will be proud of this

mier League returns with the blessing of the nation's leaders and in a week heavy with meaning.

Tuesday is Ukraine's national flag day and Wednesday — Aug. 24 — is the celebration of independence from control by Moscow that the former Soviet Union republic declared in 1991.

“I spoke with our president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, about how important football is to distract,” Ukraine soccer federation president Andriy Pavelko told the AP in June about the commitment to restart. “We spoke about how it would be possible that football could help us to think about the future.”

No competitive soccer has been played in Ukraine since mid-December when

restarts without Desna Chernihiv and Mariupol, teams from cities that have suffered brutal destruction.

All games will be played in and around Kyiv and further west and will be shown domestically, abroad and on YouTube in a deal with broadcaster Setanta agreed last week. The total value of \$16.2 million over three years is less than some elite English Premier League players will earn this season.

The concept of home-field advantage may have gone for most teams though simply playing on Ukrainian soil — other games Tuesday are in Kyiv, Uzhhorod and Kovalivka — is remarkable.

Ukrainian clubs fulfilling their games in UEFA's European competitions in re-

India must continue with their aggressive batting approach: Shastri

NEW DELHI: Ravi Shastri on Tuesday said India must continue with their ultra-aggressive approach with the bat in the shortest format after being a tad 'timid' in the past.

India's conservative approach at the start of the innings had contributed to their early exit from the T20 World Cup last year.

The tournament was Shastri's last assignment as India head coach. “They should not change the approach (they have shown of late). Even when I was a coach we discussed we were a bit timid at the top considering the players we had down the order.”

“It is the right approach. You will lose a few games in between but if you start winning with this approach you can take that confidence in big games and use the same tactics,” said Shastri in a press conference organised by Star Sports.

Virat Kohli will come back into the playing eleven after being rested for the West Indies series, while K L Rahul returns after an injury layoff.

Can the two senior batters show the same aggression the younger players have shown in their absence? “Why not? They are very experienced players,” said Shastri.

“They have played enough IPL and T20s and it should not be tough for them to adjust. With Rishabh, Hardik, and Jadeja there is enough depth in the middle and lower order to get the innings back on

track if the top order falls cheaply. Hardik and Bumrah's workload needs to be observed carefully.” The return of Hardik Pandya, the all-rounder, has lent much-needed balance to the Indian playing eleven. “He is one of the most important cogs in India's wheel. You take him out, and the balance goes awry. We missed him last year at the World Cup where he could not bowl. No one is close to the quality that he possesses,” Shastri said.

“He has to be watched very closely. With the games coming up (before the T20 World cup), Bumrah and Hardik need to be observed very carefully to ensure there is no breakdown. They are your two important players.”

Shastri also backed Kohli to end his lean run in Asia Cup. “I haven't spoken to him (recently). It is not rocket science. Mental fatigue can creep into the best in the world. This downtime was not just needed for his body but to reflect,” the 60-year-old said.

“He will come back with a much calmer mind. He gets 50 in the first game, mouths will be shut. Public memory is very short and works both ways.”

“There is no cricketer fitter than him. People keep saying one innings can make a difference but with a player like Kohli, it makes a massive difference. His hunger and passion remain undiminished. He would have learnt from this phase let me tell you that,” he said.

Odisha: Preparations for Hockey World Cup reviewed

BHUBANESWAR: The State government is leaving no stones unturned to ensure that the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's World Cup next year is bigger and better than its previous edition. The progress of the preparation for the World Cup was held at the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in which Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and other senior officers attended. He

Bhubaneswar in 2018. The Chief Secretary said several government departments had been asked to repeat the seamless efforts that were made to execute an “exceptional event” last time. “In fact, we are hoping to better the last edition by adding new aspects to draw in more crowds, engage fans and also positively impress the visiting tourists,” he added.



emphasised on the challenges of the event as it will be held in two cities, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. But, he added, we are confident of ensuring a smooth, successful and memorable World Cup for players, officials, fans and spectators. Stating that Odisha is eagerly looking forward to welcoming the top teams of the world, he said there are certain areas that need special attention and the government will be reviewing the development periodically. The tournament is scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29, next year. The state is hosting the marquee event for the second time in a row after hosting it in

5T secretary VK Pandian said it is a matter of great pride that Odisha has got the opportunity to host the consecutive edition of the men's hockey World Cup that too at two different venues. He said the Chief Minister has directed to use this World Cup as an opportunity to showcase not only Odisha's capability as a remarkable host but also the art, culture and heritage of the State. The meeting discussed requirements, roles and responsibilities for different areas including security, fire safety, transport, connectivity, accommodation, tourism, information and technology, finance and progress of public works.

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