



INSIDE STORY

Actor Taapsee Pannu says it is never the film that fails, it is the budget that does so

LEISURE P2



SELF-PROCLAIMED VICTORY

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declares victory over Covid with his sister indicating that he too caught the virus

INTERNATIONAL P10



STARTING ON A HIGH

Real Madrid begin their new season on a high winning the UEFA Super Cup with a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt

SPORTS P12

FLOOD THREAT LOOMS LARGE



Five sluice gates of the Hirakud dam were opened Thursday as the water level rose to 605 feet against the optimum level of 630 feet due to incessant rains in Sambalpur district

OP PHOTO

Odisha PMAY-G scheme hit by corruption: Minister

Singh said that 37% of people who have lost their houses due to cyclones have still not been rehabilitated

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 11: Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh said Thursday that there have been massive irregularities in the allotment of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme in Odisha. Singh made the observation after a meeting with Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Odisha Panchayati Raj Minister Pradeep Amat here.

Singh pointed out that a large number of beneficiaries of the scheme in Odisha have still not got houses. He also pointed out that many cyclone-affected people were yet to be rehabilitated.

It should be stated here that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had earlier written to PM Narendra Modi seeking additional houses for Odisha under PMAY-G. In his letter, Patnaik had drawn the PM's attention to the woes of families of cyclone-affected areas and tribal-dominated districts.

Singh laid down various conditions for the allotment of an extra eight lakh houses. He said that the houses allotted under PMAY-G shall have the logo of the central scheme only. The Union Minister also said that approval for the pending houses will be given only after CM Patnaik assures of transparency in the allotment of the houses and use of PMAY-G logo.

"I held a discussion with Minister Amat over various issues of PMAY-G. I told him there should be transparency, no corruption and compromise for the genuine beneficiaries to avail PMAY-G. He will inform CM Patnaik and I will take further action after receiving a letter from the CM," Singh said after the meeting.

Amat said that the Odisha government is taking all possible steps to weed out corruption associated with the scheme. For lapses found in implementation of PMAY-G scheme, the government has disengaged 22 officials, suspended 44 others and served show cause notices to 268 officials, he informed.

It should be stated here that Pradhan had requested Singh during a meeting August 5 to allow the Odisha government an opportunity to include the names of left out beneficiaries in the PMAY-G scheme.

I told Minister Amat there should be transparency, no corruption and compromise for the genuine beneficiaries to avail PMAY-G
GIRIRAJ SINGH

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not black magician, sir. It's a buffalo!

Uri revisited in Rajouri

JeM Terrorists carry out suicide attack on Army camp killing 4 soldiers before being neutralised in the early morning skirmish

AGENCIES

Jammu, August 11: It was Uri revisited once more as two terrorists carried out a suicide attack on an Army camp in Rajouri district in the early hours of Thursday, killing four soldiers. Later both attackers were gunned down in the four-hour shootout that followed. The development comes amid the Centre's claim that the majority of the militants has been neutralised in Jammu and Kashmir.

"In the early hours Thursday, alert sentries of the Indian Army post at Parghal, in Rajouri district detected suspicious persons approaching their post taking advantage of the inclement weather and dense foliage," PRO (defence) Jammu Lt Col Devender Anand said.

Anand informed that the sentries challenged the two terrorists who lobbed grenades while attempting to gain entry inside the post. However, alert troops cordoned off the area and engaged them in a gunfight and prevented them from entering the camp.

Anand informed that in the ensuing gunfight, the two terrorists were neutralised. Six soldiers of Indian Army were injured in the operation and of them, four brave-hearts succumbed to injuries.

The Army personnel killed were



MARTYRS: Three of the four deceased Army soldiers: (from left) Subedar Rajendra Prasad, rifleman Manoj Kumar and rifleman D Lakshmanan

SOME MAJOR SUICIDE ATTACKS
Feb 14, 2019 Pulwama 40 killed
Feb 10, 2018 Sunjwan 11 killed
Nov 29, 2016 Nagrota 10 killed
Sept 18, 2016 Uri 23 killed

Subedar Rajendra Prasad (Rajasthan), rifleman Lakshmanan D (Tamil Nadu), rifleman Manoj Kumar and rifleman Nishant Malik (both Haryana).

According to officials and eyewitnesses, the first gunshot was heard around 2.00am when the terrorists attempted to breach the external fence of the camp located at Paragal, 185 kms from here. The gunfight ended four hours later.

The attack, which came four days ahead of Independence Day, marks the return of suicide attackers to Jammu and Kashmir after more than three years. The last such attack took place February 14,

2019 at Lethpora in Pulwama district of south Kashmir, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

In Thursday's attack, the two 'fidayeen', believed to be from the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), tried to sneak into the camp but were neutralised, DGP Dilbag Singh informed.

JeM terrorists had earlier attempted to carry out a suicide attack April 22 here when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to be in town. However, the two terrorists were killed in a chance encounter with the CISF near the Sunjwan Army camp. An officer of the paramilitary forces was also killed.

It should also be stated here that Rajouri district has been the target of the terrorists for quite some time now. A number of blasts have been reported from the district in April and May.

Bank official goes missing in Sonepur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 11: An official of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) has gone missing since Wednesday evening here with the police stating Thursday that they were yet to get information about his whereabouts. The police are continuing the search, but have failed to trace Dibyaranjan Mishra, the agriculture manager of PNB at Barpali branch in Bargarh district.

Sources said that Mishra had gone to Binika locality in Sonepur district for bank-related work Wednesday. They informed that he had talked with his wife over

phone and informed her that he would return home at around 6.00pm. However, he did not arrive and when his wife called up on his mobile, she found it switched off.

Mishra's family tried to locate him at Binika, but did not find him anywhere. Later, they got information that one motorcycle has been found near the Anga River bridge at Cherupali on Balangir-Sambalpur NH-26. They rushed to the site with the police and identified the two-wheeler and the helmet as those of Mishra's. They approached the police seeking assistance in search of the missing banker.

Following the complaint, the

Loisingha and Dunguripali police have initiated probe into the case.

Mishra's family has ruled out suicide stating that he was a man who was always in control of his emotions. They have also stated that he did not have personal enmity with anyone. They alleged that some foul play is behind Mishra's mysterious disappearance.

"My son had gone to Binika branch on official duty. He left the branch somewhere between 5.30pm and 6.00pm and has since been incommunicado. His mobile phone is switched off. We suspect something wrong may have happened to him," Mishra's father said Thursday

Masterplan for development of Alarnath temple on anvil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: For the overall development of Alarnath temple at Brahmagiri and its periphery, the Odisha government will prepare a master plan within 15 days. As directed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Thursday the famous temple in Puri district and took stock of the existing facilities for pilgrims at the site.

Pandian held discussions with the sevayats and local people about problems related to the temple following which he asked the officials to draw up a master plan for the de-

velopment of the site with proper facilities for pilgrims, tourists and sevayats within a fortnight. The master plan will be presented before the CM for approval. Puri Collector Samarth Verma, senior officials of Works department and OBCC officials were present during the visit by Pandian. After the finalisation of the master plan, the cost estimate will be decided, officials said.

Lord Alarnath is worshipped as a representative of Lord Jagannath, especially during the 15-day 'Anavasar' period of Mahaprabhu after 'Snana Jatra'. The site is famous for pilgrimage of saints like Ramanujacharya and Sri Chaitanya.

SHORT TAKES

4 dead in UP boat mishap, 17 missing

BANDA (UP): At least four people drowned and several others went missing Thursday when a boat capsized in the Yamuna in this district of Uttar Pradesh, police said. The incident took place when the boat was travelling from Marka to Jarauli Ghat in Fatehpur district. SP Abhinandan said the boat was carrying 30-35 passengers. He informed that eight people swam to safety while 17 people are still missing. So it is possible that the toll may go up substantially. Abhinandan added. UP CM Yogi Adityanath has directed senior officials of the district administration to reach the spot and supervise relief and rescue operations.

Dhankhar sworn in as 14th Vice-President

NEW DELHI: Jagdeep Dhankhar was sworn Thursday in as the 14th Vice-President of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Dhankhar during a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dhankhar took the oath in Hindi in the name of god. "Bahut-bahut badhai (many congratulations)," Murmu said after Dhankhar signed the register of oath. A number of dignitaries including PM Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Normala Sitharaman were present on the occasion. Dhankhar was declared elected Saturday as the Vice-President after he bagged 528 votes against his rival candidate Margaret Alva's 182.

China again plays spoilsport in fight against terrorism

This is the second time in 2 months that China has blocked a move by India and the US to sanction a Pak-based terrorist as a global threat

AGENCIES

United Nations, August 11: China has blocked a proposal by the US and India at the United Nations to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and the deputy chief of the Pakistan-based terror group,

in the second such move by Beijing in less than two months.

Beijing put a hold on the latest proposal a day after India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj told a Security Council (UNSC) meeting chaired by China that the practice of placing holds and blocks on listing requests without giving any justification must end and asserted that the credibility of the Sanctions regime was at an all-time low.

Abdul Rauf, born in 1974 in Pakistan, was sanctioned by the US in December 2010. He was the mastermind behind hijacking of the Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 in 1999



which led to the release of his brother Azhar from a prison in India.

Sources said China put a hold Wednesday on a proposal by the

US and India to designate Abdul Rauf as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

In June this year, China had put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to list Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. Makki is a US-designated terrorist and brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) head and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

New Delhi and Washington had put a joint proposal to designate Makki as a global terrorist under the 1267 ISIL and Al Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UNSC but Beijing placed a hold on this proposal at the last minute here.

The US Department of Treasury had in December 2010 designated 'Abdul Rauf Azhar, a senior leader of JeM for 'urging Pakistanis to engage in militant activities'.

Meanwhile Indian government sources said Thursday in New Delhi that China's blocking of blacklisting of Abdul Rauf 'exposes its double speak and double standards in fighting terrorism'.

The sources said such 'politically motivated' actions by China, in nearly every listing case of a Pakistan-based terrorist, undermine the entire sanctity of the working methods of the UNSC Sanctions Committee.

leisure



MINDY OPENS UP ABOUT PATERNITY OF HER KIDS

Mindy Kaling has opened up about the unverified reports that claim her *The Office* co-actor and longtime friend BJ Novak is the father of her children. In a recent interview, Mindy addressed these rumours and said they do not bother her or affect her happiness.

OLIVIA WINS CUSTODY BATTLE AGAINST EX-HUSBAND SUDEIKIS

Olivia Wilde has reportedly won her first custody battle against her ex-husband, Jason Sudeikis. The *Ted Lasso* star had filed a case against his ex in New York City family court over their two children in October 2021 which has been dismissed by the court.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
High hopes and expectations are a good thing as long as they can push you to give your best. You will plan with care and perform admirably. But you may be focused on impressing a member of the opposite sex! Don't get carried away, says Ganesh, especially while taking decisions.

TAURUS
Stress might take its toll on you today. Ganesh foresees a demanding and difficult day. There may be a need for solitude to spend time with yourself. In relationships, you will look for a common ground to live and let live, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
A fantastic day to enter into all kinds of partnerships, open joint accounts, strike deals, and make future plans, says Ganesh. Though your relationship with your spouse has been under some strains, today, you are likely to start working towards resolving those issues.

CANCER
You may make a switch to a new job or get a job offer that you don't want to deny, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to go on a shopping spree and spend lavishly. In the evening, you will be spending your time and money on your loved ones.

LEO
Professionalism always impresses, no matter who you are or what you do. Remember this, and adopt the professional attitude that is, in a way, intrinsic to you. It shall go a long way in helping you impress new business partners. Also, expect a few concessions from your seniors at work. You have earned them, so use them wisely. Everything said, today shall be the day when you say goodbye to your negativity and adopt a more positive outlook to life.

VIRGO
Domestic troubles brewing for some time now might be sorted today. But put in extra efforts, says Ganesh. Plans may be to open a joint account or start a venture in partnership. Evening may be spent in socialising, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Possibilities are you want to run away today... at least when it comes to work. You would love to take a break and perhaps tour. Call it re-energising yourself, but the trip shall allow you to learn many things about life and work. So, it's well worth the effort. Let your ingenuity flow freely, and stomp people with your pledge and promise. Just make sure it's not the moon you are offering to others; some things no one can deliver, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Your beloved will pulsate with pangs of passion, and even you won't remain unaffected for long, says Ganesh. Your skills in negotiating will help you save a huge chunk of money. Some quiet and prosperity at home will help you relax.

SAGITTARIUS
The welfare of your children is going to be of supreme priority for you today. Afternoon promises to bring good news about their academic performance. Later in the day, meditation and prayer may take the lion's share of your time.

CAPRICORN
Check if you have enough energy in store, as the day brings a slew of activities that will demand your participation and keep you pleasantly occupied for major part of the day, says Ganesh. On the career front, you may find the day to be encouraging as it will provide opportunities to take up new ventures, especially for those engaged in freelancing.

AQUARIUS
It's a day of cheer and sunshine! Things go well and you're inspired to begin some educational course, or enhance your professional expertise. A good day for entrepreneurs and those dealing in finance. You will remain busy, albeit happily busy, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Keeping a tab on your expenses ought to be a priority today. Learning to distinguish between your needs and your wants will be vital if you wish to avoid unnecessary extravagances, which you will invariably end up regretting later, says Ganesh.

'Films don't fail, budget does'

Mumbai: Taapsee Pannu, who has reunited with Anurag Kashyap for *Dobaaraa*, recently discussed films and budgets with the filmmaker.

Taapsee feels that actors and everyone else have to come together to make a film now and to survive. Anurag also added that times are changing and to make a film, 'everybody needs to want to make a film'. According to the director, you cannot frontload a film. If you want to survive, you must come together.

Elaborating further, Taapsee pointed out that not every 100-crore film is a blockbuster.

According to her, it depends on the budget. It is never the film that fails, it is the budget that does. While Anurag feels that the industry will have to change as they don't have an option anymore. Taapsee stated that she doesn't see a change as of now because she feels like everyone is currently gauging what to change and how to change.

Taapsee and Anurag first worked together in *Manmarziyaan* which also starred Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal in lead roles.

AGENCIES



Pressure never lessens in film industry: Bebo

Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been in the limelight playing some unforgettable characters in a career spanning over two decades. The actress agrees that she is in constant competition with herself as there is a pressure to deliver. When asked if she feels the pressure to up her own game with every character she plays, Bebo said, "There is always pressure to deliver because otherwise it is not possible to last 22 years in the industry. The idea is to constantly keep trying to change you on screen and keep it real off

screen. Just doing different characters and enjoying the process of acting is what I love." The 41-year-old actress, who is basking in love from fans in her latest release *Laal Singh Chaddha*, confessed her love for her profession.

She added "I just love acting. It is a part of my being but I try to make a difference to do a film which will not be similar to the rest. I am working with Aamir Khan for the third time but *3 Idiots*, *Talaash* and *Laal Singh Chaddha* is completely different."

IANS



Never missed having a brother: Tanishaa

Mumbai: Does she miss having a brother? "Not at all," replies actress Tanishaa Mukerji, adding, "I have never felt a void as I have lots of cousins and we are very close. They have always been more than or as protective of me as any brother and vice versa."

Being surrounded by strong women instilled these values in Tanishaa. She shares, "I have always had my sisters' (Kajol and two cousins) unconditional support and I understood that quite early when I was put in a boarding school. My sister stopped me from getting bullied by my classmates."

However, it wasn't just pampering. They also helped each other to become better human beings. She says, "I was very naughty as a teenager and I remember how my eldest cousin gave me the longest lecture to behave myself. Fierce and loyal... that's us sisters. Similarly, I have their back."

So, what's the plan for the day? "I don't tie rakhi, as all my brothers are from the Bengali side and we celebrate Bhai Dooj. The only brother I have from my mom's side is

Mohnish (Bahl) dada, but I never got a chance to tie him a rakhi, as I joined a boarding school at a very young age."

AGENCIES

Manushi was Aamir's first choice for LSC

Mumbai: Were it not for *Samrat Prithviraj*, former beauty queen Manushi Chhillar would have made her debut with Aamir Khan in *Laal Singh Chaddha* (*LSC*). Whether that would have been a better prospect remains to be seen.

Sources say, Manushi was Aamir's first choice to play his wife in *Laal Singh Chaddha*. But she had already signed a contract with Yash Raj Films. At that point of time being launched in a big

epic Yash Raj Film seemed like a dream start for any newcomer. Without much ado she declined the offer.

There were apparently quite a number of promising offers for Ms Chhillar before *Samrat Prithviraj* released.

Now after the debacle of *Samrat Prithviraj* the offers have dwindled considerably. Her only new project is a film titled *Tehran* with John Abraham being directed by debutant Arun Gopalan.

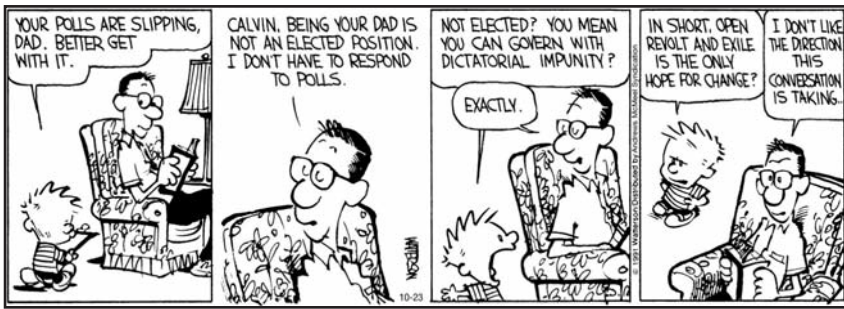
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

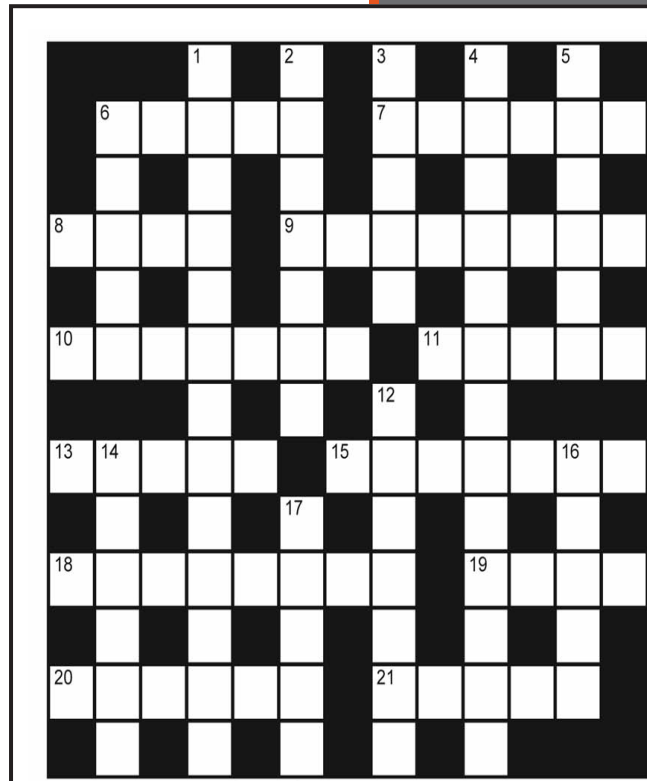


BREVITY



FUN post

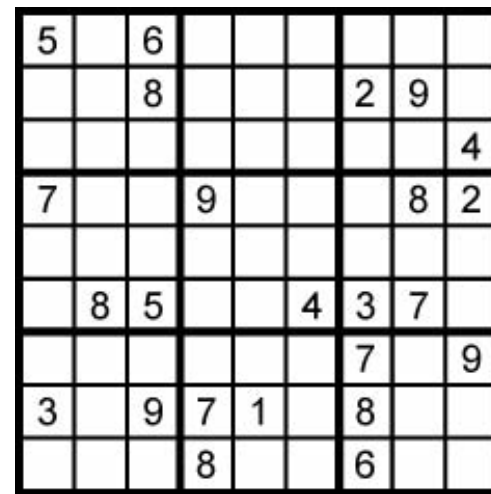
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 6 Man of morals
 - 7 Sanity
 - 8 Traffic marker
 - 9 French pastry
 - 10 Trounce
 - 11 Take forcibly
 - 13 Gambits
 - 15 Dissect
 - 18 Nut cracker?
- Down
- 19 Influence
 - 20 Packing a wallop
 - 21 Annuls
 - 3 Battercake
 - 4 Emperor of Ethiopia, once (5,8)
 - 5 Respect
 - 6 Reef ring
 - 12 Subjugate
 - 14 Hard stuff
 - 16 Hose woes
 - 17 Shopworn

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



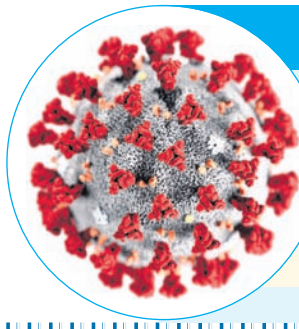
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FINISHING STROKES

An artisan gives finishing touches to the clay idols of goddess Khudurukuni at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	59,26,47,760	56,44,71,153	64,46,939
India	4,42,06,996	4,35,55,041	5,26,879
Odisha	13,21,197	13,08,166	9,153

CM's 'politically significant' visit to Murmu's home dist

SPECULATIONS ARE RIFE THAT PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI MAY VISIT RAIRANGPUR SOMETIME AFTER THE MONSOON



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaving no stone unturned to gain political mileage from election of Droupadi Murmu as India's first tribal woman President, Chief Minister and ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik is set to visit Mayurbhanj, from where Murmu hails, Friday.

Patnaik Thursday approved a proposal of Rungta Metals Private Limited for setting up of an integrated steel plant at an investment of Rs 1,400 crore in Rairangpur sub-division of Mayurbhanj district, officials said.

Local people have been demanding a steel plant in Mayurbhanj district for a long time.

During the visit, the BJD president is also scheduled to inaugurate two major irrigation projects which will benefit farmers of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Balasore districts. He is likely to launch several other development projects too.

Patnaik's visit to Mayurbhanj is considered politically significant as the opposition BJP has already

The saffron party has activated its entire network to propagate that PM Narendra Modi has sent a tribal woman from Mayurbhanj district to Raisina Hills

The BJD has attempted to gain mileage out of the Presidential elections by putting up posters, banners and hoardings showing Murmu tying Rakhi on the hands of the CM

made 'Daughter of Odisha' Murmu's election as the President a major issue. The saffron party has activated its entire network to propagate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent a tribal woman from Mayurbhanj district to Raisina Hills.

During his recent visit to Odisha, Union Home Minister Amit Shah met some tribal people and presented them with Tricolours and photos featuring Murmu and Modi. He also called upon party workers to ensure that the Tricolours and the photos reach 1 crore households in the state.

Speculations are also rife that Modi may visit Rairangpur some-

time after the monsoon.

The BJD also attempted to gain mileage out of the Presidential elections by putting up posters, banners and hoardings showing Murmu tying Rakhi on the hands of the CM. Patnaik also campaigned for her before the election and urged all MLAs to vote for the NDA candidate.

The next Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are due in 2024.

Patnaik's visit to Mayurbhanj is also considered part of his party's election strategy. Of the nine Assembly segments in Mayurbhanj, BJP in 2019 won six seats and also the Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha seat.

The BJP has won the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 in Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh. On the other hand, BJD emerged victorious in Keonjhar which is adjacent to Sundargarh. All three districts are tribal-dominated.

Though BJD has regained the ground as it won 56 of the 59 zilla parishad seats in Mayurbhanj district in the panchayat elections held in February this year, party sources said, Murmu's election as the President can tilt the balance again towards BJP.

State to distribute flags free of cost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 11: As the country gears up to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its Independence, the state government has decided to distribute Tricolours free of cost among people, official sources said.

The state government, under its Mission Shakti department, has engaged self-help groups (SHGs) to make 30 lakh national flags, which were being distributed among common people, they said.

The government had provided financial aid to the members of SHGs for making the flags.

More than 300 SHGs across 22 districts of the state were employed for stitching the flags, an official said, adding that distribution activities will be completed by August 13.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



City airport to become carbon neutral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: In a bid to transform the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) into a carbon-neutral airport, the authorities have decided to make a 3.8-mega watt (MW) solar power plant operational and use only clean energy to run the facility.

As part of its plans to reduce carbon footprints, the City airport will use 2-MW electricity for its entire operation while the remaining 1.8 MW will be sold to grids.

The BPIA will be among the four green airports in the country with Hyderabad, Cochin and Delhi being the others.

Sources said though the solar power plant has been installed since 2018, it has not yet been made operational.

"Our motto is of green airport concept and carbon-neutral growth. We are among the best airports in the country including Varanasi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kolkata



airports. We have managed to reduce carbon emission and increase passenger footfall. We hope to make world-class infrastructure and provide best-in-class facilities to the passengers," said a BPIA official.

It can be mentioned here that it has been decided to upgrade the airport ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup which is slated to be

held next year.

While infrastructural projects like parallel taxi track, eight bays, a new fire station and an electrical and mechanical workshop are completed and started their final commissioning, a new technical block-cum-new ATC Tower will soon be functional with indigenous, cost-effective and environment-friendly air traffic man-

agement systems. "Several projects such as re-carpeting of the runway were stalled earlier due to Covid-19 pandemic but now we are looking to expedite the pending works. Daily passenger footfall is also reaching pre-Covid levels - 7,000 to 10,000. We hope this will increase by 45 per cent in next year," the official added.

AS PART OF ITS PLANS TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS, THE CITY AIRPORT WILL USE 2-MW ELECTRICITY FOR ITS ENTIRE OPERATION WHILE THE REMAINING 1.8 MW WILL BE SOLD TO GRIDS

THE BPIA WILL BE AMONG THE FOUR GREEN AIRPORTS IN THE COUNTRY WITH HYDERABAD, COCHIN & DELHI BEING THE OTHERS

THE AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO UPGRADE THE AIRPORT AHEAD OF THE FIH MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP WHICH IS SLATED TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR



RAIN-SOAKED EVENING

Commuters travel on a Capital city thoroughfare, Thursday, as rain continues to pound the state for the past few days due to a depression formed over Bay of Bengal

STATE BRACES FOR RAINY WEEKEND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, August 11: The state may bear the brunt of another possible low-pressure system over the weekend, the Met office said Thursday, even as the state continues to grapple with the losses and difficulties caused by torrential rain over the past few days due to a depression.

Heavy rain has battered several districts due to an intensified weather system, which crossed the state Tuesday and now lay weakened over Madhya Pradesh. It led to flooding of many villages and low-lying areas, disrupting road connectivity as some bridges over swollen rivers collapsed.

Four coastal districts recorded heavy to very heavy rain due to the monsoon trough and a cyclonic circulation in western parts of Gangetic West Bengal, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Jajpur received 150 mm rain



over a 24-hour period till 8:30am. Downpour pounded Mayurbhanj as Sukruli recorded 89 mm of rain and district headquarters Baripada received 69 mm, according to a bulletin.

Khaira in Balasore was battered by 79 mm of precipitation, followed by 78 mm at Ghasipura in Keonjhar. There was moderate rainfall in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and several other districts.

Significantly, 10 gates of Hirakud dam in Sambalpur district were opened to discharge excess water following incessant rain in the upper catchment areas of the

NO RESPITE

THE NEW LOW-PRESSURE AREA MAY FORM OVER THE NORTHERN BAY OF BENGAL AROUND SATURDAY

ORANGE ALERT OF VERY HEAVY RAIN IN MANY DISTRICTS, INCLUDING CUTTACK, DHENKANAL, JAJPUR, KANDHAMAL, KALAHANDI AND RAYAGRADA SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Mahanadi river. Dam authorities had closed the sluice gates July 31 after releasing the first flood water of the year July 18.

At 3pm, the water level was 612.93 ft and the outflow of water from the dam was 1.92 lac cusec, of which 1.51 lakh cusec was released through the 10 sluice gates.

"All 66 gates of Kalma barrage in Chhattisgarh have also been opened now," Upper Mahanadi chief engineer Ananda Chandra Sahu said. Hirakud, which has 98 gates, received 46.4 mm of rain between 8:30am and

5:30pm, the Met office said.

"We're closely monitoring the situation. A meeting will be convened and a decision will be taken on opening more gates," the official said.

According to the Met office, the new low-pressure area may form over the northern Bay of Bengal around Saturday. The system can become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours and move west-northwestwards.

It warned of downpour in Khurda, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Angul, Dhenkanal and Bargarh Friday.

The weatherman put out an orange alert of very heavy rain in many districts, including Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Rayagrada Saturday and Sunday.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into deep-sea area of northwest Bay of Bengal till Friday, and off the coast from Saturday to Monday.

NZP all set for World Elephant Day today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, August 11: The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) authorities have made elaborate arrangements for World Elephant Day to be celebrated Friday.

This significant day for the jumbos is celebrated August 12 every year to help protect elephants for maintaining the biodiversity of rainforests. As per the zoo sources, the NZP will celebrate the 17th World Elephant Day this year, after easing of Covid-19 restrictions, for which preparations have reached the last leg. The zoo's big elephants Basanti, Prema, Hira and a calf Mama will be the main attractions during the celebrations.

The NZP authorities are organising online drawing and slogan competitions while signature drives, slogan and quiz competitions will be held among the tourists visiting the zoo. The authorities have also made arrangements to felicitate the mahouts on the occasion.

HC orders ₹10 lakh aid for Keonjhar schoolgirl's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, August 11: The Orissa High Court Thursday directed the state government to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the father of a 7-year-old girl for her "avoidable" death due to a wall collapse at a school in Keonjhar district nine years ago.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar said the responsibility for the girl's death "definitely rests with the State" as the negligence of authorities by use of defective materials to construct a kitchen on the school premises had already been established during the inquiry.

Raimati Soren was staying in Kolhabeda Ashram School hostel in Ghasipura block, around 100 km from Cuttack. It was October 3, 2013 when a wall of a newly-con-

HOSTEL WALL COLLAPSE



structed kitchen shed collapsed and the Class I student, who was brushing her teeth, was crushed under the debris.

Subsequent inquiries revealed that the wall was constructed illegally without proper foundation.

Hearing the writ petition filed by Soren's father, the bench said the death would not have occurred if all safety measures were strictly followed.

"The death of the young child was totally unnecessary and avoidable. The responsibility for death definitely rests with the State," it said in its nine-page judgement.

The bench, which also comprised Justice RK Pattanaik, said the amount already given to Soren by the state earlier could be deducted and the balance must be given to him within eight weeks.

The petitioner was provided an ex gratia of Rs 50,000 earlier; besides Rs 10,000 from the District Red Cross Society Fund.

The court said the death appeared to be in the pattern of several similar instances in the schools of Odisha.

It directed district Collectors to ensure strict compliance of the Supreme Court directions on measures for prevention of fatal accidents of children.

Nigerian honeytraps Balasore man, held

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Odisha police has arrested a Nigerian from New Delhi for allegedly cheating a Balasore man of Rs 30 lakh by honeytrapping him, police officials said Thursday.

The accused identified as Samson Emeke Alika has been arrested based on a case registered at cyber and economic offence police station, Balasore. Alika was staying in a rented accommodation in the national capital. A man had lodged a complaint before the cyber police April 13, 2022 regarding honeytrapping and fraud transactions.

According to the complaint, the Nigerian came in contact with the victim through Facebook by introducing himself as a young woman from London. Later, they exchanged texts through WhatsApp, said Meena Bindhani, the inspec-

tor-in-charge (IIC) of the police station. Then 'the woman' told the victim that she had sent costly gift items including gold biscuits, a Rolex watch and an iPhone for him, said Meena.

One day, a person who identified himself as a customs officer from New Delhi called the victim and asked him to give him custom charges to receive the gifts, she said.

Accordingly, the victim kept on spending lakhs of rupees to receive the gifts. He has transferred around Rs 30 lakh but did not get the gifts. Later, he realised that he was trapped and cheated by cyber frauds, said the police inspector.

The police said they have seized two mobile phones, one laptop, VISA from the arrested Nigerian man. The VISA of the accused has already expired in 2018 while it seems that his passport is also not a real one.

IRREGULARITIES IN BASUDHA SCHEME

Lokayukta starts probe into two drinking water projects



RTI activist Sarbeswar Beura had alleged large-scale irregularities in the two projects and sought information from the department through RTI queries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmasala/Chandikhole, August 11: Acting on complaints about large-scale irregularities committed in some drinking water projects in Jajpur, Lokayukta started an investigation. Lokayukta looked into two drinking water projects built under Basudha scheme at Gengutia and Bharatpur under Dharmasala block.

Deputy director of Lokayukta, Mohan Biswal, superintending engineer of the RWSS (Angul) Bibhuti Bhusan Panda conducted measurements at the two project sites as part of their investigation.

Superintending engineer of the RWSS (Chandikhole) Sushant Ghadei, assistant engineer Kulamani Maharana and a junior

engineer assisted the investigating team. They also examined some documents related to the two projects whose construction work was done by Chandikhole RWSS.

RTI activist Sarbeswar Beura had alleged large-scale irregularities in the two projects and sought information from the department through RTI queries.

However, Beura has cast doubts on the information provided by the RWSS department about the projects. He again sought information from the department April 8, 2022.

Surprisingly, there was complete mismatch of information between the latest and previous data about the two drinking water projects. Thereafter, Beura filed a complaint at the

Lokayukta in this regard.

Executive engineer Amiya Parija, estimator Sanjukta Sa and accounts officer of the RWSS department had deposed before the Lokayukta about the projects and had alleged irregularities, but the former was not satisfied over the replies. Lokayukta has ordered an investigation into the matter. Investigation was done August 10 and another round of investigation will be done August 12. Superintending engineer Sushant Kumar Ghadei said that the representatives of the Lokayukta visited the RWSS office and checked documents. "We will cooperate in this matter and furnish all necessary information to the investigating team," he added.

SAVING PLANTS



Members from Prerana are tying threads to plants on Raksha Bandhan to create awareness on save plants at IG Park in Bhubaneswar. Thursday OP PHOTO

Pallishree stall opens at Ekamra Haat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: The Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) has inaugurated Pallishree, an exclusive stall offering exquisite range of handloom and handicraft products, at Ekamra Haat in Unit III area of the City here, an official said Thursday.

ORMAS Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, Subarnapur Collector Aboli Sunil Naravane and State Institute for Development of Art and Crafts



(SIDAC) Member Secretary Sisir Kumar Rath inaugurated the stall

Wednesday evening, said the official.

Through Pallishree, ORMAS aims at providing handloom and handloom items made by rural artisans of various producer groups to the urban population, especially those in Bhubaneswar, the official pointed out. "Pallishree would not only sell products of rural artisans, but will also help increase the demand for these products among the urban consumers. It would also help create a unique identity of rural artisans in the national and international mar-

kets," the ORMAS CEO said. The stall showcases exquisite range of handloom products from Sonepur as well as handicrafts and tasar items from Jajpur.

Decorative items made out of wood, bamboo, clay and jute from Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Koraput, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Bolangir and Cuttack are also a big draw at Pallishree that serves customers between 11am and 9pm daily, said the official, adding that the stall was being managed by Subarnashree Producer Company of Subarnapur.

Complaint over illegal mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Members of Odisha Suchana Adhikar Manch (OSAM) Thursday lodged a complaint at the office of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) alleging illegal extraction of murrum from a land belonging to Paradip Port Trust (PPT) by an influential miner in Dharmasala Tehsil of Jajpur district. The complaint filed by Sarbeshwar Behura is based on the information came to fore through a RTI application.

The RTI query had revealed that the PPT reportedly leased out a plot measuring 20 acres in favour of one miner, Sribasa Jena in 2007 out of the 34.46 acres of land in its possession for a period of six years. However, PPT cancelled the lease when the miner started excavating murrum from the said plot violating the lease guidelines 2012.

Behura alleged in his complaint that the miner is still carrying out illegal excavation of murrum on the land despite the cancellation of lease agreement since 2012.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Bhubaneswar, I Anmol Singh Deengra declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Anmol Singh in my Passport bearing No.F4782338. Hence I declare both Anmol Singh Deengra & Anmol Singh is one and same person for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Berhampur, I, Teppala Divakar Rao, R/o. Vill./P.O.Golabandha, Dist.-Ganjam declare that my actual name is Teppala Divakar Rao and my wife's actual name is Teppala Khushi. But in my son Teppala Shashikant's birth certificate my name is inadvertently mentioned as T.Divakar Rao and my wife's name as T. Khushi.

PARADE REHEARSAL



Parade rehearsal by jawans in Capital city Exhibition Ground in progress ahead of Independence Day, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Coveted police medal for 22 on I-Day in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will decorate 22 police personnel with medals during the investiture ceremony at Lok Seva Bhawan here August 15, an official said Thursday.

While nine officials will be decorated with Police Medal for Gallantry, two cops will get President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. As many as nine officials will be decorated with Police Medal for Meritorious Service, said the official.

Those officials to be decorated with Police Medal for Gallantry are OAPF jawan Jayaram Kabasi of Malkangiri (posthumously), Mayurbhanj SP Rishikesh Dnyandeo Khilari, OAPF jawan Ramu Durua of Malkangiri, Constable Bandhu Hantal of Malkangiri and Constable Ghenu Hantal of tribal dominated Malkangiri district. Chandaka SOG Havildars Pravin Thapa and Rajesh Biswakarma as well as Chandaka SOG Commandos Jeevan

Sahai and Ousadhinath Behera will also get Police Medal for Gallantry.

Similarly, Bhubaneswar Additional DCP Prana Krushna Rout and Pradip Kumar Mohanty, a Constable in Lutack, will be decorated with the coveted President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service on the Independence Day.

Moreover, officials selected for the Police Medal for Meritorious Service are Vigilance IGP Sanjay Kumar Kaushal, Bhadrak deputy SPKamal Lochan Bhuyan, Vigilance deputy SP Sujata Khandual, deputy SP of Special Branch (Cuttack) Raghunath Prasad Nayak and Bhubaneswar ACP Arun Kumar Swain.

Cuttack Vigilance Dr Havildar Sheikh Attaullah, Cuttack ASI Krutibash Panda, Sambalpur SI Madhusudan Behera, Bhubaneswar SOG deputy commandant Pawal Dayal Baa, Ganjam deputy SP Ajaya Kumar Mishra and Berhampur Constable Maili Mohan will receive Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

World's largest ice sheet melting faster than previously thought

The eastern two thirds of Antarctica is covered by an ice sheet so large that if it melted the sea would rise by 52 meters. Most scientists had once thought this ice sheet was largely invulnerable to climate change, but not any more.

And new research, published in Nature, reveals the dire consequences if we were to awaken Antarctica's sleeping giant. Almost 70 per cent of the Earth's fresh water is frozen in vast continental ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica. Together, they store the equivalent of around 65 metres of sea level rise. Hence, even relatively small changes in the volume of these remote polar ice sheets will have a global impact.

An estimated one billion people live within 10 metres of sea level, including 230 million within one metre. Scientists measure changes in the volume of these ice sheets by estimating the mass input, mostly via snowfall, and the mass output, mostly melting snow and ice along with icebergs that break

off and float away. The difference between input and output is known as the ice sheet's "mass balance", which is highly sensitive to climate change.

The most recent efforts to measure ice sheet mass balance paint a very worrying picture. The Greenland Ice Sheet, which contains around 7.4 metres of sea level rise, lost 3,900 billion tonnes of ice between 1992 and 2018, causing global sea level to increase by 11 millimetres over this period.

A similar story emerges from the western part of Antarctica, known as the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. It holds around 5.3 metres of sea level and lost more than 2,000 billion tonnes of ice between 1992 and 2017, adding around 6 mm to the sea level.

Perhaps surprisingly, much less work has focused on the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, which is by far the world's largest but was thought to be a lot less vulnerable to global warming.

This is because large parts of the ice sheet have persisted through



Almost 70 per cent of the Earth's fresh water is frozen in vast continental ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica. Together, they store the equivalent of around 65 metres of sea level rise

There is also evidence that parts of East Antarctica retreated quite dramatically during warm periods in the past, when carbon dioxide concentrations and atmospheric temperatures were only slightly higher than present

"natural" climate changes across millions of years, and because recent measurements indicate that it has been in equilibrium or has maybe even gained mass (a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, which means more snow). In

fact, the ice sheet may have even slightly reduced sea level rise over the past century.

However, over the past two decades or so, observations suggest that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet may be far more sensitive to

climate warming than previously thought.

Major outlet glaciers like the Totten and Vanderford are thinning and retreating. And there are clear signals of mass loss in Wilkes Land, the ice sheet's "weak underbelly", so-called because it rests on "land" that lies well below sea-level and so is particularly unstable.

There is also evidence that parts of East Antarctica retreated quite dramatically during warm periods in the past, when carbon dioxide concentrations and atmospheric temperatures were only slightly higher than present.

It is likely that East Antarctica contributed several metres to global sea level during the mid-Pliocene warm period, around 3 million years ago, with ice loss concentrated in Wilkes Land. Recent work has also suggested that ice in Wilkes Land retreated 700 km inland from its present position around 400,000 years ago, when global temperatures were only 1 or 2 degrees Celsius higher than present.

A key lesson from the past, there-

fore, is that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet is highly sensitive to relatively modest warming, even if it is currently stable.

So what will actually happen over the next few decades and centuries? Research found the ice sheet will probably remain broadly in balance in the short-term, because any mass loss due to global warming will be offset by increased snowfall.

Although there are large uncertainties, researchers concluded that the ice sheet will only raise the sea level by about 2cm by the year 2100, which is much less than the contribution projected from melting ice in Greenland or West Antarctica.

Over the next few centuries, however, the sea-level contribution from East Antarctica will depend critically on whether we manage to curb our emissions. If warming continues beyond 2100, sustained by high emissions, then East Antarctica could contribute around 1 to 3 metres by 2300 and around 2 to 5 metres by 2500.

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Hundreds of Aadhaar cards found buried in Gajapati village

POST NEWS NETWORK R Udayagiri, August 11: Hundreds of Aadhaar cards were found buried and dumped in the open without being delivered to beneficiaries at Darab village of Jiranga panchayat under Mohana block in Gajapati district, Thursday. As per reports, a villager first spot-

ted some Aadhaar cards heaped amid garbage and alerted other co-villagers who immediately unearthed hundreds of such cards. They also found some cards dumped on another pile of waste. The incident sparked resentment among the locals who demanded a probe into it. They suspected it to be the handiwork of postmaster Parshudhar



Ransingh, who instead of delivering through a postman chose to bury and dump the cards out in the open. Residents of six villages in the area including Darab village had applied for Aadhaar cards at a Jana Seva Kendra. However, months passed by but they did not receive their Aadhaar cards. They alleged that postmaster

dumped them in the open or buried them in the ground. They also alleged that Aadhaar cards were reaching the local post office since last several years but the postmaster was not delivering them to people. They alleged that without Aadhaar cards they have been deprived of their allowances and rice through rations cards.

Indian Overseas Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Regional Office: B/2 West, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007 Phone - 0674-2540032, E-mail: 0815samd@ioab.in

MEGA E-AUCTION / SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable & Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Table with columns: Sl. No., BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgages, and Immovable & Movable Property Details. It lists 19 auction items with details on property location, area, and borrower information.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Reserve Price, EMD, Demand Notice Amount, Date of Demand / Possession Notice, Date of Inspection of Property Documents, Date & Time for submission of BID/request letter of participation, KYC documents & proof of EMD to Authorised Officer / Service Provider, and Date & Time of E-Auction with Unlimited 10 minutes Auto Extension if someone bids at the last 5 minutes. It lists 20 auction items with financial and scheduling details.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) The property(ies) will be sold by e-Auction through the Bank's approved service Provider https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp... (19) This publication is also 15 days notice required under section 8(6) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 to the Borrowers/Guarantors of the said loan mentioned in SI No. 1 to 20 about holding of E-Auction cum Sale on the above mentioned date.

FOCUS INDIA & TUNISIA

DANCING IN DEMOCRACY!



India needs to deepen its political contacts with Tunisia, the only country which has tried to embrace the spirit of Arab Spring and has been building the democratic edifice

merce, political collaboration in mutual interest among the countries is also in order. The internationally accepted premise is that political developments within a country fall under the concepts of 'national sovereignty' and 'right to self-determination'. A country and its people may need those political inputs and support from another country in order to build and enhance progressive political institutions and practices.

India has maintained cordial and friendly relations with Tunisia since establishment of diplomatic contact in 1958. Tunisian leaders have expressed appreciation for India's democracy and its founders such as Mahatma Gandhi and have acknowledged the experience of India's freedom struggle as an inspiration for their country. Several high-level visits have taken place since then. Even in the post-revolution Tunisia, visits at high level from both countries have taken place. Mechanisms for bilateral consultations exist between the two countries. They are mainly: Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Commissions and Joint Working Groups. India and Tunisia also have considerable bilateral trade, India accounting for around 50% of Tunisia's global phosphoric acid exports. Quite a few Indian companies are active there. Export potential to Tunisia is growing in sectors like pharmaceuticals, vehicles, renewable energy, software and services. There is a considerable exchange in the field of culture. Indian artists have performed in Tunisia and artisans from Tunisia have participated in trade fairs in India. International Day of Yoga has been celebrated in Tunis. To conclude, India needs to deepen its political contacts with Tunisia, the only country which has tried to embrace the spirit of Arab Spring and has been building the democratic edifice.

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC. ©INFA



DK Giri

INDIA HAS MAINTAINED CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACT IN 1958

lections in India turn into festivity for citizens across the country, wherever campaigning by political parties takes place. Indian media characterises activities around elections as the 'dance of democracy'. This is perhaps in order as India is known globally for sustaining her democratic politics despite many challenges in other sectors – social, economic, developmental. Since the Arab Spring protests in December 2010 that heralded a wave of transitions to democracy across the Middle-East, several dictatorial regimes were pulled down. Tunisia has been the epicentre of the Arab Spring, which is also called the Jasmine Revolution.

The origin of the Arab Spring could be traced to an incident in Tunisia when a fruit vendor was harassed by the city government officials. The poor fruit vendor, a 27-year old, had borrowed money to set up his stall and was completely unable to pay the extortion money (bribe) demanded by the officials. In exasperation, he set himself on fire 17 December 2010 in Ben Arous, Tunisia, which became a catalyst for the Tunisian Revolution and the wider Arab Spring against dictatorial regimes across the region.

In Tunisia itself, the protests led to the fall of the 23-year regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Ben Ali ruling since 1987 had to flee the country in the mass uprising. In fact, Tunisia was the only country that experienced a successful transition from dictatorship to democracy. The protests had spread like forest fire to other Arab countries – Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria. The other notable casualty of the revolution was the fall of the 30-year-long dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt although the revolution did not sustain long in that country. Two years later, in 2013, the military seized power by toppling the elected government of President Mohammed Morsi, the leader of a party called Muslim

Brotherhood.

In other Arab countries that were engulfed by the flames of the Arab Spring, the protest resulted in various unanticipated outcomes. Libya slipped into a civil war, saw the fall of Gaddafi regime, and later chaos and confusion continued to haunt the country. In Bahrain, the protest was crushed by the troops sent by Saudi Arabia in support of the Sunni monarchy that ruled over the Shia majority. In Yemen, following the resignation of the President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Shia Houthis rebels took over. But the country has been under attack by Saudis. In Syria, protests turned into a proxy civil war with President Bashar al-Assad and his opponents backed by their respective international supporters.

Back to Tunisia, the 2014 constitution, emerging out of political churning, in the wake of Jasmine Revolution, provided for sharing of power between the President and the Prime Minister who is to be backed by the majority in the Parliament. Both the President and Parliament were to be directly elected by the people. However, the election of the Islamist Ennahda Party upset the

progressive and secular forces. The politics remained divided. The country had as many as nine governments between 2011 and 2021. The economy was in a bad shape, made worse by COVID-19 pandemic which caused one of the highest per capita global death rates in Tunisia. In the face of such economic and healthcare crises, people rose in revolt again in July last year.

In order to quell the unrest, President of Tunisia, Kais Saied sacked the PM Hichem Mechich and suspended Parliament, plunging Tunisia into a constitutional crisis. International observers suggest that the unchecked Presidential powers would return Tunisia to an autocratic constitutional order. However, the indications coming from Tunisia point to the President on a slippery slope as he receives scanty support from the public.

The current challenge in Tunisia in consolidating its democratic gains after the revolution, gives the scope for a deeper diplomatic interaction with India which is, internationally, especially in the South of the world, known for its strong democratic credentials. In addition to usual trade and com-

Curbing Speculation

Primary commodity prices have been on a roller-coaster ride for the past year, and especially for the past six months. In the futures markets, crude oil prices rose by 39% in the month from February 8 to March 8, 2022, from \$89 per barrel to \$124 per barrel, and then fell by 23% in the following month to \$95 per barrel. The price climbed again, to \$122 per barrel, June 8, but had declined to \$88 per barrel August 4 – below the level of early February.

Global prices of wheat futures have exhibited similar volatility. The price of soft red winter wheat soared from \$332 per metric ton in January to \$672 per ton in April, but by June had fallen to \$380 – still about 50% higher than a year ago, but well below this spring's crazy peaks.

These dramatic price movements were not triggered by changes in real output and demand. Blaming big commodity-price spikes on supply shortages caused by Russia's war in Ukraine does not capture the full truth. In particular, the large increases in Big Oil and agribusiness firms' profit margins indicate that they raised prices of energy and food, respectively, well beyond any level that could be justified by their own cost increases. But frantic speculative activity, mainly by financial companies like hedge funds that dominate trading, has made matters much worse, as I have noted elsewhere.

For example, a study by Kabir Agarwal, Thin Lei Win, and Margot Gibbs found that investment funds have been hyperactive in the Paris wheat market. These funds' share of long positions in wheat futures increased from 23% in May 2018 to as much as 72% in April 2022, and remained above 50% in May 2022. Another recent study found that trading volumes at the European Union natural gas market's primary gas-pricing hub, the Title Transfer Facility, increased steadily over the past decade from 14 times actual gas consumption in 2011 to more than 114 times in 2020.

The chaos that such speculation can cause was evident in March this year, when a dramatic spike in nickel prices forced the London Metal Exchange to suspend trading and cancel all deals. Over-the-counter (OTC) trades that occur outside the regulated exchange were held partly responsible, and the LME will now require all traders to report their OTC positions on all physically delivered metals each week. But prices in other commodity derivatives markets remain highly volatile, as hedge funds and other financial firms rush out as rapidly as they piled in. This matters hugely because food, fuel, and basic metals are essential for production and for life itself. Commodity-price volatility affects living standards and the ability to produce goods and services, and is contributing to the stagflation and hunger now stalking most low- and middle-income countries. Some stabilisation and regulation of these prices is therefore essential – and not only to curb inflation.

So, why are these swings allowed to occur? Policymakers obviously are aware of the implications of frenetic financial activity in markets for essential commodities. Something similar happened in 2007-09, when oil and food prices first rose sharply and then declined to earlier levels in the space of 18 months, causing economic devastation. After that experience and in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, both the United States (through the Dodd-Frank Act) and the EU sought to regulate commodity derivatives to some extent.

Ideally, the regulations should have prevented speculation by ensuring that all trading occurs on regulated exchanges, not on an OTC basis, and in a transparent manner with full information about the actual players and their bids. Furthermore, exchanges should allow only those with a direct operational interest in commodities to trade them. (For example, an airline company should be permitted to operate in the futures market for aviation fuel, but a hedge fund should not.) And market participants should adhere to limits on the positions that they can hold, depending on their real use, need, or production of that commodity.

The US and EU regulations matter most, because these markets largely determine global commodity prices. But the earlier regulatory changes did not go far enough, and have since been watered down.

Existing EU rules help to prevent market abuse on official exchanges by limiting individual traders' positions, but they still allow OTC commodity trading, enabling excessive speculation to continue. The US prohibits OTC trading in most commodities, but financial agents can still enter the market through proxies. And position limits have been kept so high that they do not prevent large bids from influencing prices.

As a result, financial speculation in essential commodities can still play havoc with people's lives and livelihoods. Fortunately, there are signs that regulators are taking notice. At a recent G20 meeting in Indonesia, Klaas Knot, the chair of the Financial Stability Board (a grouping of central bankers, finance ministers, and regulators from G20 countries) called for close monitoring of speculative activity. "The centrality of key energy, metals, and food commodities to the functioning of the global economy," Knot said, "means that any disruptions to the financing of producers or traders in these markets could have an outsized impact." But mere monitoring will not be enough. The regulatory measures needed to restrict commodity-market speculation are obvious, so the lack of prompt action is striking. It suggests that regulators and policymakers are still putting financial interests above everything else, regardless of the cost to everyone else.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Love the life you live. Live the life you love. BOB MARLEY
- To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all. OSCAR WILDE
- It is not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

WORDSWORTH

Welkin

We don't use this much nowadays – dictionaries usually tag it as archaic or literary – except in the set phrase make the welkin ring, meaning to make a very loud sound. What supposedly rings in this situation is the vault of heaven, the bowl of the sky, the firmament. In older cosmology this was thought to be one of a set of real crystal spheres that enclosed the Earth, to which the planets and stars were attached, so it would have been capable of ringing like a bell if you made enough noise. The word comes from the Old English wolcen, a cloud, related to the Dutch wolk and German Wolke. Very early on, for example in the epic poem Beowulf of about the eighth century AD, the phrase under wolcen meant under the sky or under heaven (the bard used the plural, wolcnum, but it's the same word). Ever since, it has had a strong literary or poetic connection. It appears often in Shakespeare and also in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: "This day in mirth and revel to dispend, / Till on the welkin shone the starres bright".

SPECTRUM LGBTQ+

Ignored and excluded from statistics

“What is your sexual orientation?” In Brazil, where queer people have historically been ignored and excluded from official statistics, this question holds special significance for the LGBTQ+ community.



Egerton Neto

MANY MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY DO NOT FEEL SAFE SHARING DETAILS ABOUT THEIR LIFE WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Brazil recently took a small step toward positive change when the country's national statistics agency, IBGE, published its latest National Health Survey, which for the first time included questions about sexual orientation. According to the survey, based on data collected in 2019, around 2.9 million Brazilians identify as homosexual or bisexual. Despite this encouraging development, the IBGE still refuses to include questions about sexual orientation and gender identity in Brazil's national census. In June, a federal court rejected an effort by the Public Prosecutor's Office to force the agency to incorporate these questions. Many leading economies have already done so. Canada's 2021 census asked respondents what their gender identity is and what sex they were assigned at birth. The UK's latest census included a voluntary question on sexual orientation. Australia's recent census offered the option of identifying as male, female, or nonbinary. And the United States Census Bureau is still researching which questions to ask and how to ask them.

But ignoring or excluding the LGBTQ+ community remains the norm in many developing coun-

tries. According to Kenyan doctor and human-rights activist Stella Wairimu Bosire, censuses are an important tool in government planning, and excluding the queer community means that policies targeting employment, health, and homelessness do not consider the specific needs of LGBTQ+ people. A 2019 report by the Arcus Foundation on violence against LGBTQ+ people in five African countries found that accurate data can also help LGBTQ-focused NGOs better target interventions, evaluate their impact, and improve advocacy efforts.

In the absence of official statistics, some civil-society organisations have built their own datasets. Brazil, for example, is the world leader in recorded murders of LGBTQ+ people. We know this because a trans-rights group, ANTRA, documented the numbers, names, and stories of the 140 trans people murdered in the country in 2021. Trans-rights groups in other parts of the world, including Letra Eze in Mexico, Helem in Lebanon, and TGEU in Europe, have been doing similar work. Almost every day, queer researchers send me requests to complete surveys, take part in interviews, or fill out forms. While this research sheds light on our shared experiences, very little of it reaches national audiences, and almost none comes from governments. The lack of official data renders me and my community invisible. It

makes it extremely difficult to promote our interests and protect our rights, thereby denying us the fundamental rights of citizenship.

This is no accident or oversight. In his book Queer Data, Kevin Guyan notes that decisions about what to ask in official surveys reflect the surveyors' views. If statisticians and politicians don't see LGBTQ+ phobia as a problem, or wish to suppress our community's demands, why would they include relevant questions in the census? And so trans people remain invisible, and homophobic violence, exclusion, and poverty are allowed to persist.

Even when official surveys include questions on gender identity and lived experiences, the numbers are likely underreported, owing largely to a lack of trust. Many members of the LGBTQ+ community do not feel safe sharing details about their life with government agencies. After all, Brazil's dismal failure to protect trans people's lives speaks for itself, and US-based studies consistently find that sexual and gender minorities experience disproportionately higher levels of violence.

Moreover, such violence is often a handmaiden of fascism. In Nazi Germany, the authorities created "pink lists" of individuals charged with the then-crime of being homosexual. Many were sent to concentration camps. The law banning homosexuality remained on the statute books in West Germany

until 1994 and was used to prosecute some 100,000 people. More recently, Russian troops in Ukraine have reportedly been circulating a list of LGBTQ+ activists.

Regardless of how people respond to questions about sexual orientation and gender identity, merely asking them is an affirmation. It makes people feel seen, normalises gender diversity, and brings us closer to full citizenship rights. In Brazil, the IBGE blamed budget cuts for its refusal to include LGBTQ-related questions in the 2022 census, claiming that their inclusion would cause delays. The judiciary has accepted these largely bureaucratic arguments, ignoring the struggles, pains, and experiences of the queer community in the name of pragmatism. Brazil is just one front in a global battle for inclusion. Recently, the World Bank published a cross-national analysis of laws affecting LGBTQ+ communities in 16 countries.

Politicians must understand that any national census or survey that does not include the LGBTQ+ community will not accurately represent their citizenry. Another decade without data would mean another decade without adequate policies, perpetuating the historical injustices that have kept our community poor, vulnerable, and forgotten.

The writer is a Brazilian LGBTQ+ activist. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Special bonhomie

Sir, India and Maldives ties are glued by trust and friendship painstakingly cultivated over the decades. The Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has remained a close friend of India; he knows how New Delhi has literally carried Male along the latter's tribulations. Maldives is important in India's 'neighbourhood first' policy and the 'India first' policy of Maldives cannot escape attention. On the Indian Ocean peace, bilateral cooperation has kept both countries in good stead though it's no secret that Male has always considered New Delhi a power on which it can rest its shoulder. And, Maldives happens to be one of India's largest partners in trade. Ibrahim Solih has been a witness to New Delhi's largesse towards Male on various humanitarian crisis in Maldives, including the tsunami that took a toll on the beautiful island in 2004. During the raging COVID-19 pandemic, India liberally supplied vaccines to Maldives a gesture that was warmly acknowledged by Ibrahim Solih's recent India visit. India has announced an additional 100 million-dollar credit facility to Maldives for the latter's developmental activities that should further boost bilateral ties. However, Chinese footprints on Maldivian soil should be a cause for worry. In 2014, Male became a willing part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (earlier known as One Belt One Road). Needless to say, China has paid Maldives in kind for its gesture. India's dehyphenation international policy has stood the test of time but it cannot lower its guard when the relationship with China is perhaps at its lowest point. During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Maldivian President declared his country's equation with India transcends diplomacy, and that's how it should be.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Colossal loss

Sir, Serena Williams, hinting at retiring from tennis, could rob the game of one of its most remarkable women players. The former World No.1 has a whopping 23 majors in her kitty, just one short of Margaret Court's record. In her heyday, the US tennis great strode the court like a colossus, quickly demolishing opponents. Serena will have one last chance at winning a major when she participates in the US Open in New York later this month. But with age and form not on her side, she will unlikely reach the milestone.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

Orissa POST
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national

of the day quote

No democracy can ever be meaningful and aspirational unless it is inclusive for all citizens, accessible without fear or favour and participative despite differential social, political, and economic vulnerabilities

RAJIV KUMAR
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

BJP only knows how to fulfil their 'swarthwaad' (selfishness) in the name of 'Rashtrawaad' (nationalism). They do not care for democracy

AKHILESH YADAV
SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) PRESIDENT

Five years were lost and that has caused a serious dent in the development of Kerala, as they did nothing and now they have joined hands with the ED. The CPI-M has now decided to deal with ED legally and politically. We will get support from the people here in our fight against the ED and when that happens, nothing can be done

THOMAS ISAAC | EX-KERALA FINANCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

₹10cr worth hashish oil seized

Thiruvananthapuram: After the biggest haul of drugs in Kerala in the present calendar year, two Keralites were taken into custody by the Palakkad railway station Thursday following a joint operation by the Railway Protection Force and the Excise department. According to the officials, 5 kilograms of hashish oil worth Rs 10 crore in the market was seized from Ashish and Albin, both residents of Idukki district.

AP CM's mother escapes unhurt

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's mother Y. S. Vijayamma escaped unhurt in an accident in Kurnool town Thursday. The former MLA was in Kurnool to call on the family of a friend of her late husband and former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. When she was returning from the town, one of the tyres of the car in which she was travelling burst.

Norwegian woman held

Imphal: A 51-year-old Norwegian woman was arrested in the border town of Moreh in Manipur for illegally staying in India, the Assam Rifles said Thursday. Mya Kyay Mon was intercepted at the Foreigners' Check Post in Khudengthabi while she was travelling to Kolkata via Imphal, it said. Her passport and visa were found to have expired and she was staying in the country illegally, it added. She arrived in India in May 2020 and came to Moreh at the India-Myanmar border in November last year after visiting several Indian cities and Nepal.

100% samples found Cov +ve in Mumbai

Mumbai: All 230 swab samples collected from Mumbai in June-July were found to have been infected by Omicron sub-variants of coronavirus, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Thursday. Of the 230 patients whose samples were tested, 74 persons had not taken even a single dose of vaccines against COVID-19, and 19 of them were admitted to hospitals, the civic body said in a release. Three of these patients ended up in ICU, it said.



No one can force the ration card holders to buy the national flag along with the ration

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR
HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

GODAVARI, KRISHNA IN SPATE IN TELANGANA

The Godavari and Krishna rivers were in spate with the heavy inflows from upstream states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The water level in Godavari continued to rise at Bhadrachalam in Telangana, inundating low-lying areas and cutting off the road link in few places



Nitish emerges challenger to Modi-Shah

AGENCIES

Patna, August 11: At a time when the duo of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are dictating terms, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar not only challenged but also sent a message to the BJP and the RSS about his political daring without caring about the CBI, ED and the Income-Tax department.

Nitish Kumar, a socialist leader of Bihar, was elected as the chief minister for the eighth time. Kumar, a product of the political school of Karpoori Thakur and Jayaprakash Narayan was influenced by the socialist ideology of these two great leaders of Bihar.

Nitish Kumar was elected an MLA from Harnaut assembly constituency in Nalanda district in 1985.

In 1989, he contested the Lok Sabha election from Barh constituency in Patna district and won the seat. He was in the VP Singh government and served as union minister of state for agriculture and cooperatives.

VP Singh had implemented the Mandal commission report in the country and the BJP which had 88 MPs had withdrawn its support



to Singh. At that time, the Mandal Vs Kamandal politics was going on and BJP leader LK Advani started his Rath Yatra for the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

When the 10th Lok Sabha election was held in 1991, Nitish Kumar was elected again on the ticket of Janata Dal from Barh constituency.

Lalu Prasad Yadav had emerged as the social justice leader of Bihar with his strong vote bank of the Yadav and Muslim communities. He gave strength to the backward, extremely backward, marginalised communities of Bihar and became the strongest leader in Bihar. He became chief minister in 1990 for the first time with the Janata Dal.

Nitish Kumar was again elected to the Lok Sabha in 1996 with the

Samata Party from Barh and George Fernandes won the seat from Nalanda.

In 2013, when the BJP nominated Narendra Modi as the prime ministerial candidate of the NDA, Nitish Kumar objected to it and came out of the NDA.

During the Modi wave in 2014, the JD-U fared badly in the Lok Sabha elections. Nitish Kumar took the responsibility for it and resigned as chief minister. Jitan Ram Manjhi became the CM.

Nitish Kumar took over as chief minister again from Jitan Ram Manjhi in November 2014 and formed an alliance with Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD. They made the Mahagathbandhan and also included the Congress party. They

won the 2015 assembly election on the formula of 100:100 seats to the RJD and the JD-U and 43 seats to the Congress.

Lalu Prasad, in 2015 announced that Nitish Kumar will be the chief minister's face of the Mahagathbandhan. When the election results came in, the RJD won 80 seats, the JD-U 73 and the Congress 29. They managed to stop the BJP at 53 seats in Bihar despite a strong Modi wave. The RJD, despite having more seats than the JD-U, made Nitish Kumar the chief minister of Bihar.

Apart from Lalu Prasad, the other RJD leaders thought that the chief minister's post should come to the RJD, and they started targeting Nitish Kumar. A war of words started between the RJD and the JD-U. Nitish Kumar, who has one of the sharpest political brains, started looking for an opportunity and he picked on the corruption charges against Tejashwi Yadav in the IRCTC scam as an ideal excuse for him to come out from the Mahagathbandhan. Though Lalan Singh, the national president of the JD-U, clarified during a press meet on August 10, 2022 that there were four lead-

ers including Sanjay Jha, Hariwansh, RCP Singh and another leader who gave him wrong advice to break the alliance with the RJD and the Congress and join the NDA.

Nitish Kumar joined the NDA in 2017 and formed the government with the help of 53 MLAs of the BJP in Bihar. In the 2020 assembly election, Nitish Kumar contested under the umbrella of the NDA and became the chief minister of Bihar for the 7th time. After the result of the election, JD-U leaders accused the BJP of backstabbing their party.

When Nitish Kumar resigned from the post of Chief Minister August 9, he said: "I was not interested in holding the post of chief minister after the 2020 assembly election. They insisted on me. Today's BJP has a different ideology than the BJP of Atal Ji and Advani Ji."

"The way BJP was trying to sabotage our party, we have discussed aspects with our MPs, MLAs and MLCs and every one suggested that I come out from the NDA. We have listened to their voices and resigned from the post of Chief Minister," Kumar said.

3 girls kidnapped, raped in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Three girls were allegedly kidnapped and raped after giving them beverages laced with sedatives in Rohini here, police said Thursday.

Four people, including two women, have been arrested in connection with this case, they said. The Delhi Commission of Women has sought from the police a detailed action taken report in the matter, latest by August 14.

On August 6, a resident of Masjid Moth had approached the Defence Colony police station alleging that his daughter had left for school in Andrews Ganj at around 7.30 am but did not return.

Police also found that she was absent from school. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said the police found that not only the complainant's daughter but two other girls from the school, too, had gone missing. "During investigation, parents and classmates of all missing girls were questioned. CCTV footage of the area was checked. Meanwhile, information was received about their movement in Karol Bagh area from where they were traced and medically examined. All the prosecutrix gave history of sexual assault," she said.

Accused can't be convicted based on suspicion, says SC



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: An accused cannot be convicted on the ground of suspicion, no matter how strong it is, the Supreme Court said on Thursday, while acquitting a man in a murder case.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and P S Narasimha said an accused is presumed to be innocent unless proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. "It is settled law that the suspicion, however strong it may be, cannot take the place of proof beyond reasonable doubt. An accused cannot be convicted on the ground of suspicion, no matter how strong it is," the bench said. The apex court said in the present case, the prosecution has utterly failed to establish the chain of events which can be said to exclusively lead to the one and only conclusion, i.e., the guilt of the accused. "In that view of the matter, we find that the judgment and order of the learned sessions judge and that of the high court are not sustainable," the bench said.

The top court was hearing an

appeal filed by a man challenging an order passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana convicting him for the offences punishable under Section 302 (murder) and Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and sentencing him to rigorous imprisonment for life. Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for the man, submitted that from the perusal of the post-mortem report, it is clear that it is not proved beyond reasonable doubt that the dead body on which the post-mortem was conducted was of deceased.

The additional advocate general for the state on the contrary, submitted that the high court and trial court have concurrently found the accused to be guilty of the offences charged with. The top court said there has to be a chain of evidence to complete so as not to leave any reasonable ground for a conclusion consistent with the innocence of the accused and must show that in all human probability the act must have been done by the accused.

Dhankhar sworn in as India's 14th V-P

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Jagdeep Dhankhar was Thursday sworn in as the 14th Vice President of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Dhankhar (71) during a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dhankhar took the oath in Hindi in the name of god. "Bahut-bahut badhai (many congratulations)," Murmu said after Dhankhar signed the register of oath. Before the swearing-in, the Election Commission's certification of election issued to Dhankhar was read out. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dhankhar's predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu, former president Ram Nath Kovind, former vice president M Hamid Ansari, and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman



and Nitin Gadkari were among the dignitaries present on the occasion. In the morning, Dhankhar paid tributes at Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. "Felt blessed, inspired and motivated to be ever in service of Bharat in serene sublimity of Raj Ghat while paying respects to puja Babu," he

tweeted then. Once a "reluctant politician", Dhankhar's reemergence in the political scene in 2019 as West Bengal governor surprised many, so has his rise to the office of the Vice President of India.

Dhankhar was declared elected as the Vice President on Saturday after he bagged 528 votes against his

MONSOON WOES



A man walks on a damaged bridge as collapsed houses are also seen following flash flood triggered by heavy monsoon rains at Kalika Colony area in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

MONKEYPOX SCARE

Are kids, pregnant women more at risk?

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 11: Scientific literature is limited to prove high absolute risk of monkeypox in children and pregnant women, experts contended Wednesday.

Amid the scare of global monkeypox outbreak that has so far spread to more than 80 countries and infected nearly 30,000 people, an article published in the esteemed medical journal The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health claimed that children and pregnant women are more at risk of the infectious disease.

"The absolute risk of getting monkeypox in kids or pregnant women may not be higher in comparison to other vulnerable groups," Dipu T.S., Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, told IANS. "Though the literature is limited, there are still case series which have defined foetal loss among the pregnant women, including stillbirth," he said, adding, "In the case of pregnant women, the worrying factor is not just the



severity of the disease, but the effect on the foetus."

The Lancet article written by researchers from universities of Lausanne in Switzerland, California in the US, and the National University Hospital in Singapore, said that compared to healthy adults, complications are more frequent in children, and more severe in pregnant women than in healthy individuals who

are not pregnant.

It said previous monkeypox outbreaks had reported increased mortality and hospitalisation rates in children, even in high-income countries such as the US, in which the only two severe presentations during the 2003 outbreak were observed in the paediatric population.

Further, the paper claimed that while information regarding the effects of monkeypox in pregnant

women is scarce, vertical transmission of monkeypox has been associated with foetal demise and congenital infection.

"The reference to child mortality are old and from relatively impoverished parts of Africa, where malnutrition and limitation in healthcare could have played a role," Rajeev Jayadevan, the Co-chairman of IMA national task force on Covid-19, told IANS.

"In addition, data on adverse outcomes in pregnancy are so scarce. Out of four reports of monkeypox in pregnancy from Africa, there were two early miscarriages (it is not clear if it was caused by the infection) and one still birth with infection. Unless we have larger numbers, it is impossible to extrapolate this to the whole world," Jayadevan noted.

The Lancet article also pointed out the vulnerability of people with weak immunity to monkeypox with "an increased risk of bacterial superinfection, sepsis, keratitis, respiratory complications due to pharyngeal abscess and pneumonia, or encephalitis".

Monkeypox is a zoonotic virus, meaning it can spread from animals to humans. So in regions where monkeypox is endemic, the virus spreads when humans come in contact with infected animals.

Monkeypox has several possible animal reservoirs in these regions - including primates, rope and sun squirrels, giant pouched rats and dormice. But that doesn't mean the virus couldn't still find a host in other countries.

For example, in 2003 there was an outbreak in the US because of infected pet prairie dogs which had been housed together with other infected, imported animals.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/58, Dt.05.08.2022

1.Tender Notice No. eTender-CEN-KUR-145-2022, Dt.02.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED UP-GRADATION / AUGMENTATION OF ROLLING STOCK MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AT COACHING DEPOT, BHUBANESWAR.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 598.61 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 4,49,300/-

2.Tender Notice No. eTender-CEN-KUR-144-2022, Dt.02.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF 03 NOS. OF PASSENGER LIFTS AT MANCHESWAR RAILWAY STATION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 52.17 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,04,300/-

3.Tender Notice No. eTender-EAST-KUR-143-2022, Dt.02.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED LAUNCHING OF PRECAST RCC BOXES ALONG WITH OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS AT 4 NUMBERS OF BRIDGES IN CONNECTION WITH REBUILDING OF BRIDGES IN SALEGAON TO CHARBATIA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 70.07 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 1,40,100/-

4.Tender Notice No. eTender-South-KUR-147-2022, Dt.03.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PLATFORM NOS. 3 & 4 TO ACCOMMODATE 24/26 COACHES LENGTH TRAINS AT CHHATRAPUR STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 271.98 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,86,000/-

Completion Period of the work : 12 (Twelve) Months (For SI.No.01 & 04), 06 (Six) Months (For SI.No.02 & 03).

Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs of 24.08.2022 (For all tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

NOTE : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for the tender.

Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.irreps.gov.in>.

Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.) Khurda Road
PR-374/N/22-23

Invitation of Quotation for Sale of Property

Sree Tirupati Balaji Infrastructure Pvt.Ltd. registered office at Barbil, Dist.Keonjhar, Odisha invites sealed quotation for sale of Crusher along with land at Mouza-Laxmipasi, Khata No.-104/62, measuring area 0.21 dec. The intending buyer may visit the site or contact at mobile No. 9583714123 and submit their quotation within 15 days of the publication of this notice.



Staggering surge in Delhi Cov cases, deaths

OVER 19,760 COV CASES IN DELHI FROM AUG 1-10



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: More than 19,760 Covid-19 cases have been recorded in Delhi from August 1-10, as per official data shared by the city health department.

Besides, there has been a nearly 50 per cent rise in the number of containment zones in the city during this period.

On August 1, the National Capital had logged 822 cases with a positivity rate of 11.41 per cent and two deaths. The figures increased significantly in the next few days amid a surge in coronavirus cases in the city in the last several weeks.

MASK MANDATE TO BE TIGHTENED

With Covid cases and the positivity rate rising in Delhi, the district officials have started forming teams to strictly enforce the mask mandate and issue a fine of Rs 500 to violators, officials said. The district magistrates have been instructed to ensure that the laxity that had set in due to reduction in cases is corrected and wearing masks in public places is strictly enforced, a senior Revenue department officer said. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has noted that the positivity rate of Covid-19 infection has increased in Delhi over the past fortnight, according to an order issued by the South Delhi district. The fine will not be applicable to persons travelling together in private four-wheelers, it said. Earlier this week, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the government was keeping a close watch on the situation and would take all the steps needed. He, however, said that despite the rise in Covid cases there was no cause for panic as most new infections were mild in nature.

On August 2, the daily cases count breached the 1,000-mark as the city reported 1,506 cases and three deaths. The positivity rate was recorded

- ▶ In Delhi, nearly all metrics such as home isolation cases, containment zones, positivity rate and active cases, used in the monitoring of the spread of coronavirus have shown a rising trend in the first 10 days of August
- ▶ August 2, the daily cases count breached the 1,000-mark as the city reported 1,506 cases and three deaths
- ▶ The very next day, August 3, the count crossed the 2,000-mark
- ▶ Barring August 8, the daily cases have been logged in excess of 2,000 with an escalating positivity rate
- ▶ Delhi Wednesday reported eight fatalities due to the virus, the highest in nearly 180 days

at 10.63 per cent, as per the data. The very next day, August 3, the count crossed the 2,000-mark and till date, barring August 8, the daily cases have been logged in excess of 2,000 with an escalating positivity rate that is inching closer to 20 per cent.

The number of fatalities in the last three days also mounted significantly compared to the figures earlier.

Delhi Wednesday reported eight fatalities due to coronavirus, the highest in nearly 180 days, and 2,146 new cases with a positivity rate of 17.83 per cent. The active cases stood at 8,205, according to data shared by the health department.

The National Capital had February 13 reported 12 deaths due to the viral disease.

On August 9, Delhi reported 2,495 coronavirus cases with a positivity rate of 15.41 per cent and seven fatalities, while the number of ac-

tive cases stood at 8,506.

The National Capital saw 1,372 infections and six deaths August 8 with a positivity rate of 17.85 per cent, the highest since January 21, as per the data. On January 21, the positivity rate had stood at 18.04 per cent.

The number of active cases Monday stood at 7,484 while the count was 4,274 August 1.

The total number of cases recorded during the August 1-10 period stands at 19,769.

Delhi has recorded 40 deaths due to Covid-19 in this 10-day period, nearly thrice the cumulative figures registered in the last 10 days of July when 14 people had succumbed to the viral disease, according to official data.

In Delhi, nearly all metrics such as home isolation cases, containment zones, positivity rate and active cases, used in the monitoring of the spread of coronavirus have shown a rising trend in the first 10 days of August. The number of containment zones August 1 had stood at 173, which gradually increased to 259 August 10.

As many as 5,549 patients are in home isolation as August 10. The corresponding figure August 1 was 3,161.

Delhi's tally of Covid-19 cases Wednesday had increased to 19,75,540, while the death toll rose to 26,351, as per the health bulletin issued August 10.

The number of daily Covid-19 cases in the city had touched the record high of 28,867 January 13 this year during the third wave of the pandemic.

It had recorded a positivity rate of 30.6 per cent January 14, the highest during the third wave of the pandemic.

Skeletons peep out of Shinde's mini-Cabinet

75% ministers face criminal cases



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 11: The 18-member 'mini-cabinet' expansion of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis have thrown up many facts, including 75 per cent of the total 20 'crorepati' ministers have criminal cases lodged against them.

According to a study conducted by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), a total of 15 ministers have declared criminal cases, including seven from the Shinde Group Shiv Sena and eight from the BJP in the 'gents only Cabinet'.

Of these, 65 per cent - or 13 ministers - including seven from Shinde Group and six from the BJP have serious criminal cases filed against them.

Of the 20 crorepaties, BJP's Mangal Prabhat Lodha, a reputed builder, is the richest among the ministers with assets worth Rs 441.65 crore and liabilities of Rs 283.36 crore.

Though a 'crorepati', the poorest in the lot is also BJP's Sandipanrao A Bhumre with as-

sets of Rs 2.92 crore in his name.

The average assets of the ministers' whose poll affidavits were analysed by ADR comes to Rs 47 crore - comprising the BJP's Rs 58 crore and Shinde Group's Rs 36 crore.

On the academic front, two ministers (or 10 per cent) have declared their educational track record as SSC pass, six (30 per cent) as HSC pass, 11 ministers (55 per cent) are higher qualified with degrees, and only one Dr Suresh Khade of the BJP holds a doctorate from a university in Sri Lanka.

As far as the age group is concerned, 16 ministers (80 per cent) fall in the upper echelons aged between 51-70, and four (20 per cent) are between 41-50, said the ADR's Maharashtra Election Watch, coordinated by Ajit Ranade, Sharad Kumar and Satish Khot.

CM Shinde carried out his much-awaited Cabinet expansion Tuesday, inducting 18 ministers, including three allegedly 'tainted'. No women MLA could find a place in the cabinet and so could not the Independents and smaller parties.

No takers for Mumbai's Jinnah House

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 11: Mumbai's famed landmark - the Jinnah House Malabar Hill - which was once the hub of brainstorming sessions over the contentious Partition of India remains a charming orphan since the past 75 years.

Top leaders of the All India Muslim League (AIML) used to converge here frequently to strategise and push forth the much-cherished 'two-nation theory', first propounded by Choudhry Rehmat Ali in 1933, when he was studying law at the University of Cambridge.

After returning from Great Britain to take over the reins of AIML, Jinnah built his beloved European-style house in south Mumbai in 1936, at a staggering cost of Rs 200,000.

Though he owned another bungalow in Delhi, it was the Bombay home where he spent over 10 years be-



fore leaving India to take charge of the new nation named Pakistan in 1947.

Before Jinnah left for the new country where he was subsequently revered as 'Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-E-Azam or Father of the Nation', he had expressed his desire to come and live at Jinnah House sometime.

But it was never to happen as he passed away in September 1948 - barely eight months after India's Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in January 1948.

Sprawled over 2.5 acres of a sea-facing green oasis, the Jinnah House was designed by Claude Batley, using Italian marble, walnut woodwork by foreign artisans. Jinnah had supervised its construction 'brick-by-brick' as it bloomed into an awesome mansion with pointed arches, impressive columns, sleek flooring and a luscious garden outside.

Extremely fond of his beautiful abode, Jinnah after Partition even requested Prime Minister Nehru to take care of his home, allot it to any foreign consulate, or to a European family or some refined Indian royalty for a monthly rental of Rs 3,000.

Honouring his wish, Nehru agreed to the proposal but Jinnah died before any rental deal could be finalised. As a special gesture, the house was not declared or seized as 'Enemy Property' like many others at that time.

India at one point of time even wanted to hand it over to the Pakistani Consulate in Bombay before it was rented out as the residence-cum-office of the British Deputy High Commissioner from 1955-1983.

For the next 20 years, the house was abandoned and in 2003, a part of it was handed to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for its activities, though Pakistan kept demanding it for its Consulate, or even as the headquarters of Pakistan International Airlines, while activists wanted it for a Pakistan-India friendship centre.

In 2021, the BJP's Mumbai unit urged the Centre to convert Jinnah House into 'South Asia Centre for Arts & Culture (SACAC)', but there has been no decision yet.

Till the Centre decides on its fate, the enchanting Jinnah House remains a bewitching orphan of history, blatantly ignored while basking in the limelight.

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR



Tri-Services personnel and students during rehearsal for the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Independence Day) at the Red Fort in New Delhi

METHANE EMISSIONS

A quarter in Mumbai, 6% in Delhi originate in their landfills: Study



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: More than a quarter of methane emission in Mumbai and six per cent of the planet-warming gas in Delhi originates from landfills, according to a study that used satellite data from four major cities worldwide.

The research, published in the journal Science Advances Wednesday used satellite data from Delhi and Mumbai in India, Lahore in Pakistan and Buenos Aires in Argentina.

The researchers from the Netherlands Institute for Space

Research, Leiden, found that emissions from landfills in 2018 and 2019 were 1.4 to 2.6 times higher than earlier estimates.

"In Buenos Aires and Mumbai, the individual landfills account for more than a quarter of total urban emissions," the authors of the study said.

For Delhi and Lahore, the figure was 6 per cent and 13 per cent respectively, they noted.

The finding may help officials to carry out targeted efforts to limit global warming by pinpointing hot spots of major concern.

The researchers noted that emis-

sions from the oil and gas sector have received considerable attention, but there are also major opportunities for emission mitigation in the waste sector, which accounts for roughly 18 per cent of global human-caused emissions.

Solid waste emissions are caused by the decay of organic material in landfills, they said.

The researchers leveraged the synergy between satellite instruments with different spatiotemporal coverage and resolution to detect and quantify emissions from individual landfills.

They used the global surveying Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument (TROPOMI) to identify large emission hot spots and then zoom in with high-resolution target-mode observations from the GHGSat instrument suite to identify the responsible facilities and characterise their emissions.

"Using TROPOMI data... We find that city-level emissions are 1.4 to 2.6 times larger than reported in commonly used emission inventories and that the landfills contribute 6 to 50 per cent of those emissions," the authors of the study said.

"Our work demonstrates how complementary satellites enable global detection, identification, and monitoring of methane superemitters at the facility level," they said.

DU plans courses on art of being happy, emotional intelligence this academic yr

THE VALUE ADDITION COURSES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED KEEPING IN MIND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The Delhi University will start value-addition courses on topics like emotional intelligence, the art of being happy and Indian fiction from the 2022-23 academic year as part of the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework-2022 (UGCF).

A resolution to introduce 24 similar courses aimed at developing critical thinking has been approved in a recently held DU academic council meeting. Now the matter will be presented to the highest decision-making body of the university, its executive council.

Students can take one or more such value-addition courses per semester.

Some of these courses are Emotional Intelligence, Art of Being Happy, Financial Literacy and Ethics, Vedic Mathematics and Value of Indian Tradition System. These courses have been prepared by the value addition course committee headed by Professor Niranjan Kumar.

The value addition courses have been designed keeping in mind the National Education Policy 2022. They have various components like critical thinking, compassion, teamwork, scientific temperament, Indian knowledge systems, ethi-



However, several teachers at the university are of the view that these value-addition courses will discourage critical thinking

cal, cultural and constitutional values, and creative writing, Kumar told PTI.

This is the first time a prestigious university like the DU has introduced such courses. They will act as a game-changer in terms of social-building, he added.

Credits gained through these courses will be added to the student's Academic Bank of Credits.

Among the courses are those inspired by prominent campaigns initiated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi such as Fit India and Swachh Bharat.

Under the Art of Being Happy, students will be taught ways to cope with stress, the physiological and hormonal basis of happiness, factors of happiness and interpersonal relationship towards self-actualisation. It will be a two-credit course.

In the Emotional Intelligence course, students will gain insights into establishing positive relationships and discover personal competence and technique for building emotional intelligence, self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management.

The university will also introduce a course to acquaint students with Indian fiction in English and

analyse novels critically and in the context of their own lived situations.

Through this course, students will learn about the understanding of Indian ethos and values through Indian fiction, develop creative thinking through the reading of fiction and realise the potential of fiction in bringing out social and cultural change.

However, several teachers at the university are of the view that value-addition courses under the Undergraduate Curriculum Framework (UGCF) will discourage critical thinking. Seven academic council members issued a dissent note during the August 3 meeting.

According to the dissenting members, these courses pay a lip service to the question of intellectual attitudes that need to be fostered in students, and also undermine the idea of India as a cosmopolitan site of cultural and philosophical interaction between people, languages and traditions.

The myopic conception of VAC rubric is evidently an outcome of a centralised initiative that has excluded participation of teachers from all subjects. Hence, many disciplines have not found any representation, the teachers said in a statement.

of the day quote

There are so many vacant posts in government departments. We will begin by filling these up. Just for the time till we become fully functional after proving a majority on the floor of the assembly

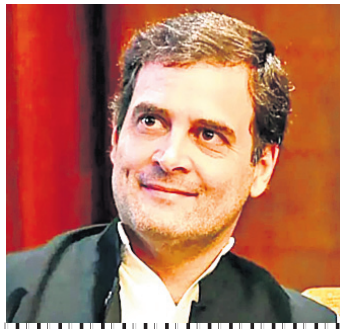
TEJASHWI PRASAD YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

Government is capable of running schools in Goa. For the last 60 years the government has been running primary schools. BJP gov't since 2012 to 2022 have improved infrastructure of schools. We don't need advice from anyone

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

There are many reasons for the delay in completion of Mopa airport work. Since the acquisition of land, cases (were fought) in the high court and Supreme Court. There was also a stay. Now 98 per cent work has been completed. In another two to three months, the entire work will be completed

SHRIPAD NAIK | UNION MINISTER



Stop lowering the dignity of the Prime Minister's post and misleading the country by talking about superstitious things like 'black magic' to hide your black deeds, Prime Minister-ji

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SMOKING ON PLANE

Union Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has ordered a probe into the incident of a person who, in violation of rules, smoked a cigarette inside an aircraft. "Investigating it. There will be no tolerance towards such hazardous behaviour," Scindia tweeted Thursday



CELEBRATION TIME



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with school girls waving 'tricolour' in New Delhi. Earlier, they tied rakhi to him on the occasion of the Raksha Bandhan festival

SC: Freebies, welfare schemes different



The Centre asked the Supreme Court to lay down guidelines to regulate the freebies announced by political parties to induce voters, till the legislature devises a mechanism

The issues associated with freebies were also acknowledged by the apex court, which observed that the economy losing money and the welfare of the people, both have to be balanced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Observing that freebies and social welfare schemes are two different things, the Supreme Court Thursday said a balance has to be struck between the economy losing money and welfare measures.

It also ruled out the possibility of considering a plea for de-recognising parties for making promises to give freebies.

Asking stakeholders to give suggestions on this aspect before August 17, a bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Krishna Murari said the idea to de-recognise political parties for making promises to give irrational freebies during the polls was "undemocratic".

"I do not want to enter the area of de-registering a political party etc. As it is an undemocratic idea. We are a democracy after all," the CJJ, speaking for the bench, said. The CJJ said the issue of promise to grant irrational freebies during the poll process is a

"serious issue" but he will not encroach into the legislative domain even if there was a statutory vacuum on the issue.

"You can call me reluctant or conservative but I do not want to encroach upon the legislative domain. I am a strict orthodox. I do not want to encroach on the areas meant for the legislature. This is a serious issue. It is not an easy thing. Let us hear others also," the bench said.

The CJJ, who is demitting office August 26, said some suggestions have been made by senior lawyers and asked the remaining parties to do the needful before his retirement and fixed the case for further hearing August 17.

"Freebies and the social welfare scheme are different. Economy losing the money and the welfare of people, both have to be balanced and that is why, this debate. There must be someone who can put their vision and thoughts. Please submit something before my retirement," the

Anubrata Mondal arrested in cattle smuggling case

AGENCIES

Bolpur (WB), August 11: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal was Thursday arrested by the CBI from his residence here in connection with a cattle smuggling case, after twice skipping his scheduled appearance before the central probe agency in three days, an official said.

The CBI served a notice to Mondal under Section 41 of CrPC before arresting him for allegedly not cooperating in its probe into the scam, he said.

Earlier in the day, a CBI team comprising at least eight officers along with personnel of central forces reached the Birbhum district president's residence around 10 am, and conducted a search operation, as part of the investigation.

Mondal was grilled in a room on the second floor of his residence for almost an hour, the official said.

India needs to quadruple climate finance: Study

According to the new report, 'Landscape of Green Finance in India', the tracked green finance in 2019-2020 was ₹309,000 crore (\$44 billion) per annum, which is less than a fourth of India's needs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 11: The Climate Policy Initiative (CPI India) Wednesday released an update on India's first-ever effort to track green investment flows, which are falling far short of the country's current need for its ambitious climate targets.

The report estimates that for India to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the country requires an approximate ₹162.5 lakh crore (\$2.5 trillion) from 2015 to 2030 or roughly ₹11 lakh crore (\$170 billion) per year.

The evaluation of finance flows has been estimated for key real

economy sectors like clean energy, clean transport and energy efficiency. The study tracks both public and private sources of capital - domestic as well as international - and builds a framework to track the flow of finance right from the source to the end beneficiaries through different instruments with an emphasis on bottom up approaches based on actual flows rather than commitments, providing the most accurate analysis to date of where India's climate finance stands, the finance gaps it faces, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

This year the report also provides a first-of-its kind evaluation of adaptation financing for select sectors.

Mizoram, Assam to hold CM-level talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aizawl, August 11: Mizoram and Assam are likely to hold chief ministerial-level talks in New Delhi later this month or early September to find an amicable solution to the inter-state border dispute, officials said.

The development comes close on the heels of the two north-eastern states engaging in a ministerial-level discussion to resolve the decades-old boundary dispute. Assam ministers Atul Bora and Ashok Singhal on Wednesday met Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga here and discussed the border issue, the officials said.

During the meeting, Zoramthanga spoke to his counterpart in the neighbouring state Himanta Biswa Sarma and "both agreed to have CM-level talks in Delhi in the last part of August or early September", an official statement said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said, "Distribution of freebies has been elevated to the level of an art by some parties recently. Elections are fought only on this plank. It is unfortunate that in the country's election spectrum some parties understand that distribution of free things is the only way of 'welfare measures' for the society. This understanding is completely unscientific and will lead to an economic disaster."

The top law officer gave the example of the "stressed" electricity sector and said many power generating and distribution companies are PSUs and are under severe financial stress.

Till the time, either the legislature or the poll panel steps in, the top court must lay down "dos and don'ts" for political parties in "larger national interest."

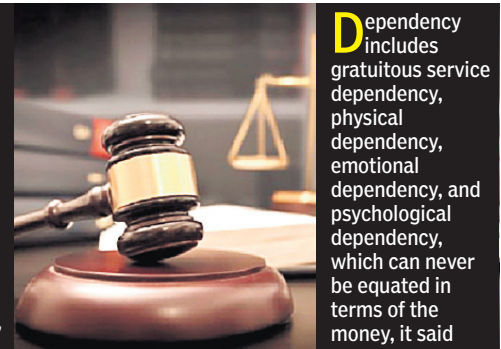
On August 3, the top court, while asking stakeholders like the Centre, Niti Aayog, Finance Commission to brainstorm on the issue of freebies, had hinted that it may order setting up a mechanism for suggesting measures to the government to deal with the issue.

New Delhi, August 11: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered an FIR against nine retired and two serving Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials in a nine-year-old case of financial misappropriation, officials said Thursday. The LG, who is the DDA chairman, has also ordered permanent withdrawal of the nine retired officials' pension, they said.

Lt Governor VK Saxena, in his capacity as DDA chairman, has ordered that an FIR be registered against the then member (finance) and then member (engineering) of DDA, apart from nine other officials in a 2013 case of blatant financial misappropriation and violation of codal formalities, Central Public Works Department Works Manual," officials said. The nine retired officials include a chief en-

Married daughters also entitled for compensation: HC

The HC, however, said that dependency does not only mean financial dependency. Even if the dependency is a relevant criterion to claim compensation for loss dependency, it does not mean financial dependency is the 'ark of the covenant'



AGENCIES

Bangalore, August 11: The Karnataka High Court has held that married daughters are entitled for compensation by insurance companies on the loss of their parents in accidents.

The HC said the Supreme Court has held that married sons are also entitled for compensation in such cases. "This Court also cannot make any discrimination whether they are married sons or married daughters and hence, the very contention that married daughters of deceased are not entitled for compensation cannot be accepted," it said.

The HC single judge bench of Justice H P Sandesh heard an appeal filed by an insurance company challenging the award of compensation to married daughters of one Renuka (aged 57) who was killed in an accident April 12, 2012 near Yamanur, Hubballi, in north Karnataka.

Renuka's husband, three daughters and a son had sought compensation. The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had awarded a compensation of ₹5,91,600 with six per cent annual interest to the family members.

The insurance company had challenged this in the HC con-

tending that married daughters could not claim compensation, and also that they were not dependents. Therefore, awarding compensation under the head 'loss of dependency' was wrong. It was claimed by the insurer that compensation was to be awarded only under 'loss of estate.'

The HC, however, said that dependency does not only mean financial dependency. Even if the dependency is a relevant criterion to claim compensation for loss dependency, "it does not mean financial dependency is the 'ark of the covenant'."

Dependency includes gratuitous service dependency, physical dependency, emotional dependency, and psychological dependency, which can never be equated in terms of the money, it said.

Other contentions of the insurance company including doubts about the age of the deceased, and her income were also rejected by the court. A warranty card for a sewing machine purchased by the deceased came in handy for the Tribunal to calculate her income at ₹4,500 per month.

The HC rejected the contention of the insurer that exorbitant compensation had been awarded by the Tribunal, and dismissed its appeal.

LG ORDERS FIR AGAINST NINE RETD, 2 SERVING DDA OFFICIALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



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gineer, a superintendent engineer and an executive engineer while the others were employed in the finance and accounts departments.

On "permanent withdrawal of full pension benefits", officials said the LG took the stern measure considering the "grave misconduct and loss to the exchequer" even as the DDA recommended deducting only 25 per cent of the amount.

The officials facing action include then Member (Engineering) Abhay Kumar Sinha, the then Member (Finance) Venkatesh Mohan, Chief Engineer (Retd) Om Prakash, Superintending Engineer

(Retd) Nahar Singh, EE (Retd) JP Sharma, Dy CAO (Retd) PK Chawla, AAO (Retd) Jasvir Singh, AAD (Retd) SC Mongia, AE (Retd) SC Mittal, AE (Retd) RC Jain, and AE (Retd) Dilbagh Singh Bains.

According to officials, the case relates to the work for up-gradation and beautification of Coronation Park at Kingsway Camp that was awarded in 2013. The tender cost of the work was ₹14.24 crore but additional works amounting to ₹114.83 crore was carried out at Narela and Dhirpur, without any sanctions, they said. The original project cost of ₹14.24 crore was escalated to ₹28.36 crore and the same was further deviated with additional work at a different location altogether.

This resulted in overall payment of ₹142.08 crore to the agency. This gross irregularity was pointed out by the CAG in its report in 2016, of officials said.

SHORT TAKES

10 crypto swaps under ED lens

New Delhi: As many as ten crypto exchanges were under the lens of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for their alleged involvement in money laundering of around ₹10 billion. The ED had August 5 conducted searches on the premises of one of the Directors of Zama Lab Pvt Ltd, which owns the popular crypto currency exchange WazirX and issued a freezing order to freeze their Bank balances to the tune of ₹64.67 crore. This action led the ED to ten crypto exchanges.

TPDDL gets full RPO compliance

New Delhi: Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited Thursday claimed that it has sourced 2,200 million units of green power from renewable sources. With this, the company has become a 100 per cent Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) compliant discom for the second consecutive year, it claimed. "We have sourced 2200 Million Units (MUs) of green power from renewable sources like solar, wind, hydro and waste to energy, including large hydro sources, and fulfilled RPO for the financial year 2021-22 through physical power," the discom claimed.

Dalit sisters gangraped

Ayodhya: Two Dalit sisters were allegedly gang raped by three men after being held captive in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya district. The victims, one of whom is a minor, have been sent for a medical examination, the police said. The incident took place when the sisters were reportedly returning from Sherpurpura market near their village under the Bikapur police station.

ED summons 8 WB IPS officers

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned eight senior police officers of West Bengal to New Delhi for questioning in the coal smuggling case, officials said Thursday. Among the IPS officers summoned by the central agency were Gyanwant Singh (ADG, CID), Koteswara Rao, S Selvamurugan, Shyam Singh, Rajeev Mishra, Sukesh Kumar Jain and Tathagata Basu, they said. The IPS officers have been given specific dates to appear before the ED at its New Delhi office, they added.

international



I am convinced that Germany will get through a natural gas crisis
OLAF SCHOLZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

BIG MAC COMING BACK

McDonald's will start reopening restaurants in Ukraine in the coming months, a symbol of the war-torn country's return to some sense of normalcy and a show of support after the American fast-food chain pulled out of Russia



of the day quote

Access to drinking water must be as easy as possible for all people in Germany
STEFFI LEMKE | GERMANY'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

We have full respect for the laws of the DRC (Congo) but we are concerned about any steps taken that could actually reduce the political space, especially as the country heads into elections
ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

We have to be careful about our relationship with an organisation that has known social problems so that they won't raise suspicions among the public
FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PM

Images show Crimea airbase badly damaged

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 11: Satellite pictures released on Thursday showed devastation at a Russian air base in Crimea, hit in an attack that suggested Kyiv may have obtained new long-range strike capability with potential to change the course of the war.

Pictures released by independent satellite firm Planet Labs showed three near-identical craters where buildings at Russia's Saki air base had been struck with apparent precision. The base, on the southwest coast of Crimea, had suffered extensive fire damage with the burnt-out husks of at least eight destroyed warplanes clearly visible.

Russia has denied aircraft were damaged and said explosions seen at the base Tuesday were accidental. Ukraine has not publicly claimed responsibility for the attack or said exactly how it was carried out. "Officially, we are not confirming or denying anything; there are numerous scenarios for what might have happened... bearing in mind that there were several epicentres of explosions at exactly the same time," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said in a message.

Western military experts said the scale of the damage and the apparent precision of the strike suggested a powerful new capability with potentially important implications. Russia, which seized and annexed Crimea in 2014, uses the peninsula as the base for its Black Sea fleet and as the main supply



A satellite image shows destroyed Saki air base in Crimea

- Ukraine silent on how strike was carried out
- Satellite images show three craters, eight destroyed planes
- 'It's very good,' says ex-head of CIA
- Ukraine says Russian air strikes double from last week

route for its invasion forces occupying southern Ukraine, where Kyiv is planning a counter-offensive in coming weeks.

"I'm not an intel analyst, but it doesn't look good," Mark Hertling, a former commander of U.S. ground forces in Europe, wrote on Twitter, linking to an image of the devastation at the Russian base.

"I am. It's very good," tweeted back his fellow retired four-star American general, Michael Hayden, former head of the CIA and National Security Agency. The Institute for the Study of War think tank said Ukrainian officials were framing the Crimea strike as "the start of Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south, suggesting that

the Ukrainian military expects intense fighting in August and September that could decide the outcome of the next phase of the war".

Exactly how the attack was carried out remains a mystery. Some Ukrainian officials have been quoted suggesting it may have been sabotage by infiltrators.

But the near identical impact craters and simultaneous explosions appear to indicate it was hit by a volley of weapons capable of evading Russian defences. The base is well beyond the range of advanced rockets that Western countries acknowledge sending to Ukraine so far, though within range of more powerful versions Kyiv has sought.

Alleged fourth 'Beatle' charged on return to UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 11: A 38-year-old man alleged to be a member of an Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist cell nicknamed "The Beatles" for its British connection was Thursday charged with terrorism offences after being deported from Turkey.

Aine Davis, who denies being part of the terror group, was remanded in police custody to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London Thursday.

He was arrested at Luton Airport in Bedfordshire after being deported to England from Turkey on Wednesday.

Davis is charged with possession of a firearm for a purpose connected with terrorism.

He was charged with offences contrary to sections 15, 17 and 57 of the Terrorism Act of 2000, following an investigation by the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command.

"The CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] authorised the Metropolitan Police to charge Aine Leslie Junior Davis for terrorism offences in 2014, and after being deported to England by Turkish authorities, he has been arrested at Luton airport following his return to the UK," said a spokesperson for the CPS Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division.

"Davis, 38, has been charged with terrorism offences and possession of a firearm for a purpose connected with terrorism. The Crown Prosecution Service reminds all concerned that criminal proceedings against Mr Davis are active and that he has the right to a fair trial," the spokesperson said.

TENSION CONTINUES

China renews Taiwan threats



Taiwan's collusion with external forces to seek independence and provocation will only accelerate their own demise and push Taiwan into the abyss of disaster
WANG WENBIN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

AGENCIES

Beijing, August 11: China Thursday renewed its threat to attack Taiwan following almost a week of war games near the island. Taiwan has called Beijing's claims to the self-governing democracy "wishful thinking" and launched its own military exercises.

Taiwan's "collusion with external forces to seek independence and provocation will only accelerate their own demise and push Taiwan into the abyss of disaster," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing.

"Their pursuit of Taiwan independence will never succeed, and any attempt to sell the national interest will be met with a complete failure," Wang told reporters. China's attempt to intimidate the Taiwanese public and advertise its strategy for blockading and potentially invading the island was nominally prompted by a visit to Taipei last week by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The US, Japan and allies have denounced the exercises, with the Group of Seven industrialised nations issuing a statement at a recent meeting expressing its concern. On Wednesday, Britain's government summoned Chinese Ambassador Zheng Zeguano to the Foreign Office to demand an explanation of "Beijing's aggressive and wide-ranging escalation against Taiwan".

Taiwan says Beijing used Pelosi's visit as a pretext to raise the stakes in its feud with Taipei, firing missiles into the Taiwan Strait and over

Pelosi: US can't allow China's 'new normal' over Taiwan

Washington: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said the US just cannot allow China to establish a "new normal" to put pressure on Taiwan through the kind of military drills and warplane incursions that Beijing launched after she visited the self-governing island. China Wednesday announced that it has "successfully completed" its week-long and unprecedented military drills that have essentially encircled Taiwan. Initially, the People's Liberation Army announced the war games in the busy Taiwan Strait from August 4 to 7, the day after Pelosi, who is the highest-ranking US leader to have visited Taiwan in 25 years, left Taipei after high-level meetings. It later kept extending them, keeping the breakaway island on tenterhooks.

the island into the Pacific Ocean. China also sent planes and ships across the midline in the strait that has long been a buffer between the sides, which separated amid civil war in 1949.

In a lengthy policy statement on Taiwan issued Wednesday, China distorted the historical record, including the United Nations' 1972 resolution that transferred the China seat on the Security Council from Beijing to Taipei, Taiwan's Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council said. The Chinese statement also discarded a pledge not to send troops or government officials to Taiwan that was contained in previous statements.

The UN resolution makes no mention of Taiwan's status, although China regards it as a foundational document proclaiming the Communist Party's right to control over the island. The Taiwanese council's statement said China was orchestrating its moves against Taiwan ahead of the ruling Communist Party's 20th National Congress to be held later this year.

SHORT TAKES

Toll rises to 48

Gaza City (Palestine): The Palestinian death toll from last weekend's fighting between Israel and Gaza militants rose to 48 on Thursday after an 11-year-old girl and a man died from wounds they sustained during the worst cross-border violence in over a year. Meanwhile, two wounded Gaza children, ages 8 and 14, were fighting for their lives in a Jerusalem hospital. In all, more than 300 Palestinians were wounded over the weekend when Israel struck Islamic Jihad targets across Gaza and the militant group fired hundreds of rockets at Israel.

Dozens missing

Athens: Greek authorities say a search and rescue operation is ongoing for a second day for dozens of migrants missing after the boat they were on sank in rough seas off a southeastern Greek island. A Greek navy vessel and three nearby merchant ships were still searching on Thursday for between around 25 to 45 people believed missing after the boat that had been carrying them from the Turkish coast of Antalya to Italy capsized in the early hours of Wednesday. Greece's coast guard said it had not located any further survivors since 29 men from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq were rescued shortly after the boat sank about 33 nautical miles (38 miles, 61 kilometers) southeast of the island of Karpathos and about 38 nautical miles (44 miles, 70 kilometres) south of Rhodes.

China to provide \$118 mn to Nepal

Beijing/Kathmandu: Facing headwinds over its South Asia push after Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis, China has warmed up to Nepal by pledging USD 118 million in aid and announcing a slew of trade concessions while vowing to speed up work on the stalled BRI projects. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the concessions for Nepal in his meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Narayan Khadka in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao on Wednesday.

Taliban cleric killed in blast

Kabul/Peshawar: A prominent Taliban cleric, Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani, was killed in an attack in a seminary in Kabul when the attacker detonated explosives hidden in a plastic artificial leg Thursday, according to officials and Taliban sources. "Very sadly informed that respected cleric (Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani) was martyred in a cowardly attack by enemies," said Bilal Karimi, a spokesperson for the Taliban administration.

GOTABAYA ARRIVES IN THAILAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore/Bangkok, August 11: Sri Lanka's ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in Thailand Thursday on a charter flight for a temporary stay before seeking permanent asylum in another country after his short-term visit pass expired in Singapore, according to a media report.

Rajapaksa is believed to have arrived at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport around 8pm Bangkok time from Singapore's Seletar Airport earlier in the evening, The Straits Times newspaper reported. Rajapaksa arrived in Bangkok on the same day that his visa in Singapore expired, the report said.

Rajapaksa boarded the flight from Singapore to Bangkok, after Thailand confirmed a day before that it had received a request from the current Sri Lankan government for him to visit the country. A condition for Rajapaksa's stay in Thailand is that he should not cause problems for the country.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha on Wednesday confirmed a temporary visit to Thailand by the 73-year-old embattled Sri Lankan leader for humanitarian reasons, and said he promised not to conduct political activities in the kingdom during his search for permanent asylum in another country.

ART AMID WAR



A Ukrainian artist paints a car destroyed during Russia's attack on Ukraine in Kyiv

NK declares victory over Covid, reveals Kim had it

REUTERS

Seoul, August 11: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has declared victory over Covid-19 and his sister indicated that he too caught the virus, while vowing "deadly retaliation" against South Korea, which the North blames for causing the outbreak.

Kim ordered the lifting of maximum anti-epidemic measures imposed in May though adding that North Korea must maintain a "steel

strong anti-epidemic barrier and intensifying the anti-epidemic work until the end of the global health crisis", North Korea's KCNA news agency reported Thursday.

North Korea has never confirmed how many people caught Covid, apparently because it lacks the means to conduct widespread testing.

Instead, it has reported daily numbers of patients with fever, a tally that rose to some 4.77 million. But it has registered no new such



cases since July 29. Kim made his declaration in a speech on

Wednesday at a meeting on Covid policy with thousands of unmasked officials sitting indoors, according to footage from state broadcasters.

Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, also addressed the gathering and said the young leader himself had suffered from fever symptoms, according to KCNA, indicating for the first time that he was likely infected with the virus.

"Even though he was seriously ill with a high fever, he could not lie down for a moment thinking

about the people he had to take care of until the end in the face of the anti-epidemic war," she said in remarks broadcast on North Korean state television.

Some of the officials at the meeting were shown wiping away tears as she spoke about her brother's illness.

She did not elaborate on Kim's health but blamed propaganda leaflets from South Korea found near the border for causing the coronavirus outbreak.

RAVAGED BY FLAMES

Firefighters combat major wildfire in southwestern France

LOCAL AUTHORITIES SAID MORE THAN 68 SQUARE KM (26 SQUARE MILES) HAVE BURNED SINCE TUESDAY IN THE GIRONDE REGION AND NEIGHBOURING LANDES AS FRANCE, LIKE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SWELTERS THROUGH A HOT AND DRY SUMMER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 11: More than 1,000 firefighters were struggling Thursday to contain a major wildfire which has burned a large area of pine forest in southwestern France, in a region that was already ravaged by flames last month.

Local authorities said more than 68 square km (26 square miles) have burned since Tuesday in the Gironde region and neighbouring Landes as France, like other European countries, swelters through a hot and dry summer.

Temperatures were expected to reach 40 C (104 F) on Thursday in the region.

The blaze forced the evacuation of about 10,000 people and destroyed at least 16 houses. Spanish state television showed dozens of trucks having to turn around and stay in Spain because of a border closure because of the fire raging in France. TVE reported that truckers, many carrying perishable goods, were looking for ways to cross the border because the parking areas in and around the Irun crossing are full. A major highway near the



French city of Bordeaux was also closed. Photos released by firefighters showed flames raging through pine forests overnight, sending clouds of smoke in the air and illuminating the sky with intense orange light.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin were due to visit the evacuated small town of Hostens Thursday to meet with firefighters, rescuers, local officials and volunteers. Darmanin said that nine aircraft and two helicopters have been mobilised to fight the blaze.

The Gironde region was hit last month by major wildfires that forced the evacuation of more than 39,000 people, including residents and tourists. France is this week in the midst of its fourth heat wave of the year as the country faces what the government warned is its worst drought on record.

French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted that several European countries have offered their help to combat French wild fires, listing Germany, Greece, Poland, Romania and Austria.

business

of the day quote

Trade between India and the UK is expected to double by 2030 from current levels - based on dynamic connections between people of both countries, investment in technology, diversification of global supply chains and overall ease of doing business

VISHESH C CHANDIOK | CEO, GRANT THORNTON BHARAT

The company is pushing ahead with expansion and plans to expand store footprint across geographies by adding around 120-130 new stores every year

GAUTAM SARAOGI | CEO, GO FASHION

Rising mortgage rates do appear to pose near-term challenges to this demand momentum; however, we do not anticipate any significant material adverse effect given the latent demand in our sector as well as the inherent strength of the Indian economy

RAJIV SINGH | CHAIRMAN, DLF



The decision to remove air fare caps has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel. Stabilisation has set in and we are certain that the sector is poised for growth in domestic traffic in the near future

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | AVIATION MINISTER

DISNEY BEATS NETFLIX
Walt Disney Co edged past Netflix Inc with a total of 221 million streaming customers and announced it will increase prices for customers who want to watch Disney+ or Hulu without commercials. The media giant will raise the monthly cost of Disney+ without advertising by 38% to \$10.99 in December

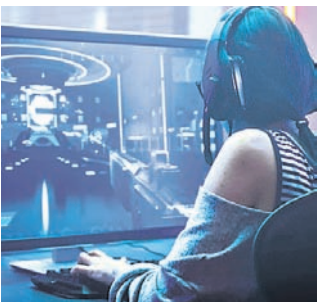


Gaming industry's fortunes fade after pandemic bump

The weak demand comes as double whammy for gaming firms that are struggling with component shortages

WASHINGTON, August 11: Gaming companies are facing a slowdown in demand for video games from pandemic highs, raising doubts about their ability to weather an economic downturn. Rising prices and a lack of hit titles have added to problems for video game publishers Activision Blizzard Inc and Electronic Arts that are also battling supply-chain delays and a shift in consumer choices due to easing lockdowns. The latest proof of that came

Tuesday from gaming platform Roblox whose revenue growth eased to just 30% from 83% two quarters ago. US consumer spending on video games fell 11% in June and is expected to decline 8.7% this year, data from analytics firm NPD showed. Activision Blizzard reported smaller-than-expected quarterly profit, while rival Electronic Arts and Take-Two Interactive warned of disappointing sales ahead. Console makers too have taken a hit as gaming revenue dropped for Xbox-maker Microsoft, while



PlayStation-maker Sony cut its forecast and Nintendo posted lower sales. The weak demand comes as dou-

The job market is still hot, there is plenty of froth on the economy causing aggressive inflation and the relaxation of Covid restrictions are leading consumers to consider spending on more experiences outside of the home
JESSE DIVNICH | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, INTERPRET

shortages. Gaming chipmakers are seeing a knock-on effect of the cooling demand. Advanced Micro Devices Inc said sales of its sales of graphic gaming cards fell, while Nvidia flagged a 19% sequential drop in revenue. Analysts and company executives, however, expect the industry to grow above pre-pandemic levels, leaning on the launch of delayed titles and an easing of parts shortages. Data firm Newzoo showed the global games market will generate \$196.8 billion in 2022, gaining 2.1% compared to a 7.6% jump in 2021.

Lower NPAs push PSU banks' gains in June quarter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 11: Public sector banks have raked in more profits in the three months ended June on the back of a persistent decline in bad loans and the trend may have a positive bearing on their balance sheets in the coming quarters. In the June quarter, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and State Bank of India (SBI) were in the lowest quartile as far as Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) and net NPAs were concerned, according to an analysis of the quarterly financial numbers published by the public sector lenders. Cumulatively, all the 12 public sector banks reported a profit of about ₹15,306 crore in the three months ended June, registering an annual growth of 9.2 per cent. However, leading public sector lenders - SBI and PNB - posted lower profits in the June quarter. During the April-June period of the previous fiscal, state-owned banks recorded a total profit of ₹14,013 crore.

GAS PRICES ZOOM 70%

Oil ministry diverts gas from industries to CGD

Spot or current LNG prices have more than doubled in the last few months to about \$40 per mmBtu



cost of raw material and ease CNG and PNG rates, officials said.

NEW DELHI, August 11: The oil ministry has ordered the diversion of natural gas from industries to the city gas distribution sector (CGD) to cool CNG and piped cooking gas prices that have shot up by 70 per cent on the use of imported fuel. Less than three months after it ordered the use of costlier imported LNG to meet incremental demand for automobile fuel CNG and household kitchen gas PNG, the ministry August 10 reverted to an old policy of primarily supplying domestically produced gas for city gas operations.

The move follows a massive jump in CNG and PNG prices in the country in the last one year as operators used costlier imported LNG. CNG prices in Delhi went up by a massive 74 per cent (from ₹43.40 per kg in July 2021 to ₹75.61 per kg now) while PNG prices rose by 70 per cent (from ₹29.66 per standard cubic meter to ₹50.59 per scm).

The allocation for city gas operators like Indraprastha Gas Ltd in Delhi and Mahanagar Gas Ltd of Mumbai has been increased from 17.5 million standard cubic meters per day to 20.78 mmscmd, officials said. The increased allocation will meet 94 per cent of the demand for CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to household kitchens in the country. Previously, about 83-84 per cent of the demand was met and the remaining was met through the import of LNG by GAIL, they said.

Natural gas is the raw material that is used for CNG and PNG. This gas comes from fields such as Mumbai High and Basssein in the Arabian Sea. As the domestic production of gas is insufficient to meet all the requirements, the fuel is imported in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in ships. To promote the use of cleaner fuel, the government in 2014 included the CGD sector on the top priority list for receiving gas from older or regulated fields of state-owned ONGC and Oil India.

Use of domestic gas instead of imported fuel will bring down the

With industry saying that CNG was losing an edge over petrol and diesel because of the price hikes, the ministry relented and agreed to increase the allocation of gas from regulated fields, they said.

4-MONTH HIGH

Sensex reclaims 59K-mark

MARKET BREADTH WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE BULLS, WITH 19 OF THE 30 SENSEX COUNTERS LOGGING GAINS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 11: Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 515 points Thursday to reclaim the 59,000-mark after a gap of four months, propelled by heavy buying in IT, banking and financial stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows and positive Asian equities. The 30-share BSE index ended 515.31 points or 0.88 per cent higher at 59,332.60 - its highest closing since April 8, 2022. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty gained 124.25 points or 124.25 per cent to close at 17,659.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 2.75 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, Tech Mahindra, TCS, SBI and Wipro. On the other hand, ITC, NTPC, HUL, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Nestle India were among the major laggards, sliding as much as 1.56 per cent.

Sectorally, BSE bankex, finance, IT and realty climbed up to 1.64 per cent, while FMCG, metal, auto, telecom and basic materials nursed losses. Broader markets were up, with the BSE midcap index advancing 0.83 per cent and the small-cap gauge rising 0.52 per cent.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.92 per cent higher at \$98.30 per barrel. The rupee depreciated by 37 paise to close at 79.62 against the



The benefit of the recent moderation in commodity costs is likely to start accruing in H2 FY23E, which would boost corporate profitability
SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD - RETAIL RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Sensex has risen more than 2500 points and Nifty rose 746.65 points in the last 10 days
- Rupee depreciated by 37 paise to close at 79.62 against the US dollar
- Investors are awaiting the inflation data due today

SHORT TAKES

ICICI Bank m-cap hits ₹6L-crore

Mumbai: The market capitalisation of the ICICI Bank touched ₹6 lakh crore mark in the afternoon trade due to which shares of the bank hit record high of ₹865.55. The stock has surpassed its previous high of ₹859.70, which had hit October 25, 2021. At 2.48 p.m., shares of the bank were trading at ₹860.25, up 11.50 or 1.35 per cent from its previous close. In the last one month, the stock of private lender has gained more than 12 per cent. Before ICICI Bank hitting ₹6 lakh crore market-cap mark, Reliance, TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys and HUL have also hit this mark.

CIL shares touch 52-week high

New Delhi: Shares of Coal India gained over 3 per cent to hit a 52-week high in morning trade Thursday after the company reported robust June quarter numbers. On BSE, the stock opened strong at ₹226.00, then gained further to hit a 52-week high of ₹226.10, registering a rise of 2.84 per cent over its previous closing price after its June quarter profit almost tripled to ₹8,832.86 crore. On the NSE, the stock climbed 3.16 per cent to a 52-week high of ₹ 226.80.

Oil India profit triples in June

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd (OIL), the nation's second-largest state explorer, reported a tripling of its net profit in the June quarter on record oil and gas price realisation. Its net profit was ₹1,555.46 crore, or ₹14.34 per share, in April-June compared to ₹507.94 crore, or ₹4.68 a share, in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. The earnings rose as the company got \$112.72 per barrel price for crude oil it sold in the quarter as opposed to \$67.15 a barrel rate realised in the same period last year.

Wall Street hits 3-month highs

Bangkok: World shares were mixed Thursday after Wall Street benchmarks closed at three-month highs as investors cheered a report showing inflation cooled more than expected in July. US Futures edged higher and oil prices also advanced. The US Government said Wednesday that consumer inflation jumped 8.5% in July from a year earlier. But that was down from June's four-decade high of 9.1%.

I-T payers can't join APY from Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Income tax payers will not be allowed to enroll in the government's social security scheme Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from October 1, according to a notification.

The government introduced APY June 1, 2015, to provide social security to workers mainly in the unorganised sector. Subscribers of the scheme get a minimum guaranteed pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month after attaining 60 years of age depending on their contributions.

"From 1st October, 2022, any citizen who is or has been an income tax payer, shall not be eligible to join APY," the finance ministry said in the notification. The new noti-



fication, issued Wednesday, will not apply to subscribers who have joined or joins the scheme before October 1, 2022.

In case a subscriber, who joined on or after October 1, 2022, is subsequently found to have been an income tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated pension wealth till date will be given to the subscriber.

'WazirX episode reveals darker side of crypto'

New Delhi: The ED probe into alleged money laundering by crypto exchange WazirX and the subsequent squabbling among its promoters has revealed the 'darker side' of cryptocurrencies, a top government source said Thursday. "Caution is the word that should be in the minds of the people dealing with crypto. In the episode of WazirX, people got to know many darker sides, caution is necessary in crypto transaction," the source said. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been investigating allegations of money laundering against WazirX. Within days of the ED action, a public spat broke out between Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao and WazirX co-founder Nischal Shetty. Binance CEO distanced himself from the operations at WazirX exchange, while the Indian entity said it was exploring legal action against Binance.

PNB holds 'Film Review Writing Competition'

Bhubaneswar: Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar organised "Film Review Writing Competition" under the aegis of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, Alok Kumar, Assistant General Manager and Member Secretary, TOLIC and Official Language Officers of other banks were also present. Uday Bhaskar Reddy, Zonal Manager of Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office Bhubaneswar warmly welcomed and congratulated all the officers and said that it is a matter of pleasure for us that we got the opportunity to organise this competition. The purpose of formation of TOLIC is to review the implementation of Official Language Policy, to promote it. He said that such competitions should be organised from time to time. Through such programmes, we get a chance to meet each other, understand each other and we also get a chance to share each other's work. In the end, Umakant Das, Deputy General Manager of Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, Bhubaneswar, thanked all the participants present and the Official Language Officers.

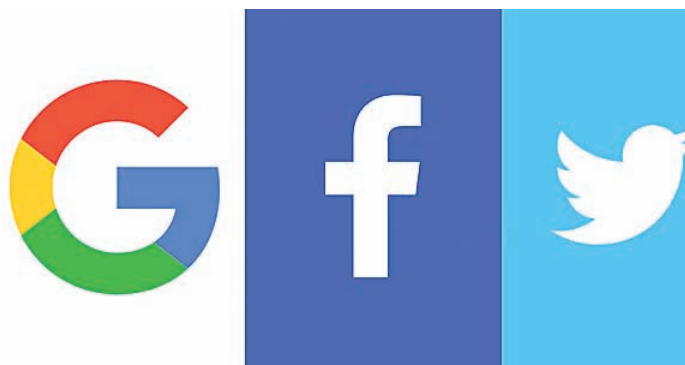


Tech giants split over idea for self-regulatory body in India

India in June proposed appointing a government panel to hear complaints from users about content moderation decisions, but has also said it is open to the idea of a self-regulatory body if the industry is willing

edge of the discussions told Reuters. The lack of consensus among the tech giants, however, increases the likelihood of a government panel being formed - a prospect that Meta Platforms Inc's Facebook and Twitter are keen to avoid as they fear government and regulatory overreach in India, the sources said. At a closed-door meeting this week, an executive from Alphabet Inc's Google told other attendees that the company was unconvinced about the merits of a self-regulatory body. The body would mean external reviews of decisions that could force Google to reinstate content, even if it violated Google's internal policies, the executive was quoted as saying.

Such directives from a self-regulatory body could set a dangerous precedent, the sources also quoted the Google executive as saying. In addition to Facebook, Twitter and Google, representatives from Snap Inc and popular Indian social media platform ShareChat also attended the meeting. Together, the companies have hundreds of millions of users in India. Snap and ShareChat also voiced concern about a self-regulatory system, saying the matter requires much more consultation including with civil society, the sources said. Google said in a statement it had attended a preliminary meeting and is engaging with the in-



dustry and the government, adding that it was "exploring all options" for a "best possible solution."

THORNY ISSUE
Self-regulatory bodies to police content in the social media sector are rare, though there have been instances of cooperation.

- GOOGLE SAYS SELF-REGULATORY SYSTEM SETS BAD PRECEDENT
- FB, TWITTER AGREEING AS THEY FEAR REGULATORY OVERREACH IN INDIA
- YOUTUBE REMOVED 1.2MN VIDEOS IN Q1, HIGHEST IN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD
- IN NZ, BIG TECH FIRMS HAVE SIGNED A CODE OF PRACTICE AIMED AT REDUCING HARMFUL CONTENT ONLINE

Tension over social media content decisions has been a particularly thorny issue in India. Social media companies often receive takedown requests from the government or remove content proactively. India's government is concerned that users upset with decisions to have their content taken down do not have a proper system to appeal those decisions and that their only legal recourse is to go to court. Twitter has faced backlash after it blocked accounts of influential Indians, including politicians, citing violation of its policies. Western tech giants have for years been at odds with the Indian government, arguing that strict regulations are hurting their business and investment plans. The disagreements have also strained trade ties between New Delhi and Washington.



REAL BEGIN SEASON IN STYLE

Los Blancos beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 to claim UEFA Super Cup title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helsinki, August 11: This time, there were only two goals. David Alaba and Karim Benzema scored in each half for Real Madrid to win the UEFA Super Cup with a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt Wednesday.

Alaba prodded the opener home from close range in the 37th minute when Casemiro cushioned Benzema's header back after a corner. The French star then sealed Madrid's record-equaling fifth Super Cup title in the 65th minute to an assist from the lively Vinicius Junior.

It was Benzema's 324th goal for Madrid, overtaking club legend

Raúl. Only Cristiano Ronaldo has more after scoring 450 goals for the club between 2009 and 2018.

Benzema, who also joined Madrid in 2009, lifted the trophy for Madrid, his first as captain after taking over from Marcelo. Barcelona and AC Milan are only other clubs to have won the Super Cup five times.

But the game between the Champions League winners, Madrid, and Europa League champions, Frankfurt, failed to match the spectacle of their previous meeting.

Their only other competitive game was the 1960 European Cup final, when Alfredo Di Stefano scored three goals and Ferenc Puskas chipped in with four to

give Madrid a 7-3 win and fifth consecutive European crown.

Frankfurt goal-scorer Erwin Stein and teammate Dieter Stinka were in Helsinki for the rematch 62 years later, but it was the 93-year-old Jose Santamaria — the only remaining Madrid player from that final in Glasgow — who celebrated another win. The three veterans embraced warmly when they met before kickoff.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started with his established players, forcing new signings Antonio Rudiger and Aurelien Tchouameni to watch from the bench.

Frankfurt was keen to make amends for a 6-1 rout at home to Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga

opening game last Friday.

Frankfurt's Jesper Lindstrom drew a save from Thibault Courtois early on, though the flag went up for offside, giving the Danish midfielder the distinction of being the first in a European club competition to force UEFA's new semi-automated offside technology into action.

Lindstrom then set up Daichi Kamada, who was outside before Courtois blocked his effort. They were to be Frankfurt's only real chances. Vinicius had Madrid's first big opportunity, but Brazilian compatriot Tuta slid in to deny him.

Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp produced a fine save to stop the next Vinicius effort in the 37th,

but Madrid scored from the resultant corner when Benzema and Casemiro combined to give Alaba an easy finish.

Benzema went close shortly afterward as Madrid ended the first half in the ascendancy and Vinicius tested Trapp again early in the second. The Brazilian cut inside to set up Benzema's goal, when the French forward let fly with a direct shot past Trapp.

Comforted by the two-goal cushion, the Spanish champions began turning on the style with intricate passing combinations — albeit without adding to their tally. "We didn't play a spectacular game, but we were really solid. Our usual," Ancelotti said.

SC voices displeasure over Patel interference

AIFF FUNCTIONING
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: The Supreme Court Thursday warned the state football associations of "exercising its authority" if ousted AIFF chief and NCP leader Praful Patel attends their meetings and interferes with the administration of justice.

The top court said it will intervene if any attempt is made to sabotage the hosting of the 2022 FIFA-U-17 Women's World Cup in India.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and AS Bopanna refused to hear the modification applications filed by the Centre and State Football Associations, and the contempt petition of the Committee of Administrators (COA) against Patel for allegedly "interfering with the proceedings" of the top court after it was informed that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening with FIFA authorities.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been at the centre of a controversy after it failed to hold timely elections due to a delay in finalising its constitution, a key requirement for the prestigious tournament to be held in the country.

As the delay persisted, the apex court appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) comprising former chief election commissioner SY Quraishi, ex-Supreme Court judge Anil Dave and former India football captain Bhaskar Ganguly to run the day-to-day affairs of the AIFF.

Patel, despite being ousted by the SC, allegedly held a meeting with 35 Intervening Member Associations August 6, amid the continued threat of a ban on AIFF by the world football body AIFA and the Asian Football Confederation on account of non-holding of the election. Patel is an executive council member of the AIFA and vice president of AFC.

Additional Solicitor General



Balbir Singh, appearing for the Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, said he has instructions to inform the court that Wednesday a meeting with officials of the FIFA was held and another round is scheduled for Thursday evening, and efforts are being made to iron out the differences and salvage the 2022 FIFA-U-17 Women's World Cup.

"Then we will hold back our hands and we should not open up the case," the bench said and refused to hear the matters listed for hearing. Singh said the court may record in its order that the secretary of COA and secretary of the AIFF be allowed to be present in the meeting with the FIFA officials.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the COA, said it would be appropriate if only the two representatives already decided by the COA participate in the meeting with FIFA. Singh assured the bench that the ousted entities (Patel) will not be involved.

Singh sought liberty from the court to allow them to mention the matter for urgent hearing, if a situation arose for urgent intervention by the court after the Thursday meeting with FIFA's officials.

Wednesday, the top court had warned State football Associations that it does not appreciate their "back door methods" to defeat the orders of the court and it is up to them to hold the 2022 FIFA-U-17 Women's World Cup in India.

Arjun likely to represent Goa next season



New Delhi, August 11: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun is all set to leave Mumbai and in all likelihood will play his trade for southwestern neighbours Goa in the next domestic season.

The 22-year-old left-arm pacer, who has also been a part of IPL franchise Mumbai Indians, has played two games for Mumbai, during the 2020-21 edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy against Haryana and Puducherry respectively.

It has been learnt that Tendulkar junior has already applied for No Objection Certificate (NoC) from his home association MCA.

"Getting maximum game time on the ground is important for Arjun at this juncture of his career. We believe that the shift will improve the probability of Arjun featuring in more competitive matches. He is embarking on a new phase of his cricketing career," SRT Sports Management said in a statement.

Tendulkar has played two 'Tests' for the India U-19 against Sri Lanka, three summers back and has featured in the Mumbai probabilities for the white ball leg of the domestic season even this time.

For Tendulkar, the biggest disappointment has been getting dropped from the Mumbai squad this season without being given a chance to prove his mettle.

People who have monitored his progress feel that the youngster has the right attitude and work ethic but does need consistent game time to showcase what he is capable of.

He has recently been a part of Mumbai Indians' developmental squad that played a lot of T20 games in England.

Faf marquee signing for CSK-owned team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has been roped in by the Johannesburg franchise owned by IPL giants Chennai Super Kings (CSK) as their marquee signing for the inaugural edition of the Cricket South Africa (CSA) T20 League, according to a report.

Du Plessis, who played for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the IPL last season, was part of the CSK from 2011 to 2021, except for 2016 and 2017 when the team was suspended. Wednesday was the last day for the direct acquisition of players for the six-team upcoming league.

The inaugural edition of the CSA T20 League is scheduled to be played in January-February 2023 and all the six franchises in the tournament have been acquired by current IPL team owners.

Apart from CSK owning the Johannesburg-based franchise, MI Cape Town is the sister franchise of Mumbai Indians and the teams from Durban, Gqeberha (formerly



Port Elizabeth), Paarl and Pretoria are owned by Lucknow Super Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals respectively.

The CSK-owned Johannesburg franchise is also believed to have roped in England all-rounder Moeen Ali as one of its marquee players, according to Cricbuzz. Ali, who represented CSK in the IPL, had also featured in the marquee players' list for the UAE League (ILT20).

But, according to the Cricbuzz report, he is said to have picked the T20 tournament in South Africa over ILT20, which will also be held in January-February next year.

Rashid, Rabada, Livingstone join 'MI Cape Town'

CAPE TOWN: Afghanistan's star spinner Rashid Khan, South African pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada and dashing English batter Liam Livingstone are among the five direct signings of MI Cape Town which will take part in the inaugural Cricket South Africa (CSA) T20 League. The talented Dewald Brevis, who played for Mumbai Indians in IPL along with England all-rounder Sam Curran are the other two direct signings of the franchise. MI Cape Town has thus signed three overseas players, 1 capped South African and 1 uncapped South African.

INDIAN LONG JUMPER FINISHES SIXTH IN DIAMOND LEAGUE DEBUT IN MONACO CWG silver winner Sreeshankar disappoints

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Monaco, August 11: Commonwealth Games silver medallist long jumper Murali Sreeshankar finished sixth in his debut Diamond League meeting here with a below-par 7.94m effort.

Six days after winning a historic silver at the Birmingham CWG, Sreeshankar competed in his much-anticipated maiden Diamond League but was far from his best in a strong field under conditions not very ideal for jumping Wednesday night.

Most of the 10 jumpers faced headwind of above 1m/s in the first round but it got better as the competition progressed.

Sreeshankar had won silver in the CWG six days ago with a best jump of 8.08m. He has a season's and personal best of 8.36m. He had finished seventh in the World Championships in Eugene, USA, last month with a best jump of 7.96m.

The 23-year-old opened with a 7.61m under a 1.5m/s headwind. He bettered it to 7.84m and then followed it by 7.83m. From sixth in the first round, he slipped to eighth after the third and just about squeezed into the top eight to save himself from elimination. Sreeshankar had 7.69m in his fourth attempt and 7.94m in his fifth to leave him at the sixth spot.

Under the revised 'Final Three' rule of the Diamond League, only



the top three get the sixth and last attempt. Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Maykel Masso of Cuba won the event with a best effort of 8.35m.

World Championships silver medallist and reigning Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece (8.31m) finished second ahead of Marquis Dendy (8.31m) of

USA though both had identical best jumps.

Sreeshankar's next event could be in Lausanne, Switzerland as he has said he has entered his name for World Athletics Tour silver label event there August 30.

He collected three Diamond League points to be at 10th in the qualification ranking for the final

in Zurich on September 7-8. He will not make the season-ending finale as only the top six qualify for it and there is no men's long jump event in the remaining two legs in Lausanne (August 26) and Brussels (September 2). Tentoglou is at the top of the Diamond League rankings with 31 points, followed by Masso (20) and Montler (16).

Last bout's loss not in Vijender's mind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 11: Star Indian boxer Vijender Singh does not want to carry the baggage of last year's maiden defeat on the professional circuit as he returns to the ring Wednesday, saying "I always fight like it's my first."

Since turning pro in 2015, Vijender was unbeaten till last March with an enviable 12-0 record, including eight knockouts. But that changed in March last year, when his winning run was brought to an unceremonious end by Russia's Artshy Lopsan via a technical knockout in Goa.

"Record toh bante hi tutne ke liye hain. (Records are meant to be broken) It is all part of the game," an upbeat Vijender told this agency.

As he gears up for his next fight against the reigning national West



Africa Boxing Union champion, Ghana's Eliasu Sulley August 17, Vijender's mantra is simple: remove all thoughts of the previous bouts.

"I always fight like it's my first fight. When I start training I'm just like a blank slate, I learn everything again.

I listen to what my coaches tell me and start over," the 2008 Beijing Olympics bronze medallist said.

Frustrated by the lack of competition and COVID-19 restrictions, Vijender had arranged the bout with Lopsan. Fighting for the first

time in 16 months, he had to do without his team which included trainer Lee Beard.

The British boxing trainer, who has trained professional stars like Ricky Hatton, has been guiding Vijender since the start of his professional career. However, Lee could not travel to India because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

"I learnt an important lesson from that bout. In future, if somebody asks me for advice, I'll tell them 'pro boxing is a serious business, don't ever go (to a fight) without your team. If you are absolutely sure then only go, otherwise don't take the risk.'"

However, Vijender seems poised to get his 13th win. "Yes, pressure is there (to not slip to another loss) but I'm confident because I have my team around me."

SUSPENDED WC QUALIFIER Brazil deny to play against Argentina

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, August 11: Brazil insisted that they won't play its suspended World Cup qualifying match against Argentina next month, arguing that the risks are too high ahead of the tournament in Qatar.

The qualifier nearly one year ago in Sao Paulo was stopped by local health officials after six minutes due to COVID-19 protocols regarding four Argentinian players.

FIFA fined the soccer bodies of both countries and demanded the match be played. Brazil's confederation and Argentina's federation took the

case to the Court for Arbitration of Sport, which is expected to rule later in August. The game would be in September but FIFA has not set a date.

Brazil coach Tite does not want to play the match due to risks of injuries, suspensions and a potential boycott by the Argentinians, according to Brazilian confederation president Edinaldo Rodrigues.

Brazilian media has reported the Selecao would rather play two friendlies in Europe. "We will reach out to FIFA so this match is not played. I will make every effort to answer to the request of our coaching staff," Rodrigues said in a statement.

