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BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 | 2022

HONING SKILLS



Government Secretariat employees participate Wednesday in a tug-of-war competition ahead of the upcoming Onam celebrations, in Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday

Mahapatra gets nod for second extension as CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Odisha Chief Secretary (CS) Suresh Chandra Mohapatra has been granted a second extension in service for six more months, officials said Wednesday. His extension was granted by the Centre at the recommendation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, they informed.

The communication was sent to the Odisha government by Kuldeep Chaudhury, Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pension through a letter dated August 23, 2022.

Mahapatra, whose first extension is to end August 31, 2022, will now remain in office till February 28, 2023, the officials said.

The extension of his service indicates that the Odisha government is not keen on any of the seven Odisha cadre officers in the rank of additional chief secretary rank, barring PK Jena, the Special Relief Commissioner



12 PAGES | ₹5.00

appointed as secretary to President Droupadi Murmu recently

Mahapatra was earlier tipped to become the new Chairperson of the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission, a post lying vacant since January 16, 2022. He got his first extension due to the announcement of panchayat polls by the state government in February. Mahapatra however, is not the

only IAS officer to get extension of service as the Chief Secretary of Odisha. RN Das was the last chief secretary who had got three extensions of six months each during the tenure of Biju Patnaik.

SHORT TAKES

Plus-III admission dates rescheduled

Bhubaneswar: In view of the dislocation caused by heavy rainfall and floods, the Higher Education department extended Wednesday the date of applying for online Common Application Form (CAF) for admission to Plus-III first year classes in degree colleges. Minister Rohit Pujari said that the last date of applying online has been extended to September 1. Earlier, the last date of applying was August 25, 2022. The first phase of the admission to various colleges which was scheduled to be held September 2 to 5 will now be done September 7 to 11. The second phase of admission will be done September 16 to September 19. Spot admissions will start September 21.

OPEN VENDETTA

CBI has alleged that Lalu Prasad's family had acquired land to the tune of 1.05 lakh square feet in Patna, the valuation of which currently is ₹4.39 crore

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Patna, August 24: The CBI carried out Wednesday searches at 25 locations, including at an under-construction mall in Gurugram believed to being built by a firm owned by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yaday, in connection with the alleged land for-jobs scam, officials said. The raids came on a day when the 'Mahagathbandan' (RJD, JD (U) and its other allies} took a floor test in the Bihar Assembly. The searches are being carried out in Delhi, Gurgaon, Patna, Madhubani and Katihar among other places. The under-construction 'Urban Cubes Mall' in Sector 71 of Gurgaon is being constructed by a company named 'Whiteland' in which Tejashwi's family has a stake in own-



Security personnel at the house of RJD MLC Sunil Singh during the raid at his Patna residence PTI PHOTO

The present αιsposition at the **Centre does** nothing except publicity. BJP's only task is to create disturbances in society

Karim and Faiyaz Ahmad and former MLC Subodh Rai, sources stated. MLC Singh who is close to RJD

supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav termed the raids as 'illegal and intentional'. 'This is 100 per cent intentional. These people have entered my house without even informing the local police. They are asking me to sign a document. I will sue the agency for defamation," Singh said. The alleged scam took place dur-

ing the tenure of Lalu Prasad as Union Railway Minister. The case in which searches are being con-

Inebriated headmaster beats up minor student

PTI PHOTO

Only a few days back, female students had accused the principal of talking inappropriately in class

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 24: Tension flared at the Adarsh Vidyalaya in Sundarpal under Hatadihi block of Keonjhar district after an allegedly inebriated headmaster severely beat up a minor student Tuesday with an iron rod for failing to answer a question. After that he confined all the students inside the classroom from 10.00am in the morning till 3.30pm in the afternoon.

To top it all when some parents of the students reached the school

along with the Anandpur sub-col-

lector had initiated an inquiry. Sources also informed that Barik regularly comes to school drunk and misbehaves with students. Narrating the incident, the victim student said that 'sir had asked him to name the six seasons'. When he failed to answer, Barik allegedly beat him up with an iron pipe, the student said. Parents, after finding Barik un-

able to walk properly Wednesday,

approached the local administra-

tion after which Anandpur sub-

the school. They spoke with the

victim and other students of the

schooland also with Barik who

confessed that he was drunk when

The parents then demanded ac-

tion against Barik and sought his

dismissal. "We came and found

that he (Barik) was drunk today

also. How can he teach in this con-

dition," said one of the parents.

Sethy assured that disciplinary

measures will be taken against

Barik. "We had earlier received

similar complaints about the prin-

cipal. He was found intoxicated today

as well. Necessary action will be ini-

tiated against him," Sethy said.

the incident happened.

NITISH KUMAR

came on a day when Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who parted wavs with the BJP to ally with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), passed a trust vote in the state Assembly. Searches were carried out at the premises of several senior leaders of the RJD including MLC Sunil Singh and Rajya Sabha MPs Ashfaque

ership, CBI officials said. The raids

ducted was registered May 18 against Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi, and daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yaday, in addition to 12 people who were given jobs in Railway zones of Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur, Hajipur in 2008-09, the officials said. Continued on P4

Wednesday morning to inquire about the incident, they again found the headmaster. identified as Nityananda Barik, in an inebriated condition. They were shellshocked and demanded immediate action against the errant teacher.

It should also be stated here that earlier also complaints had been lodged against Barik. Female students had approached the block development officer (BDO) August 12 alleging that Barik conducted himself inappropriately. The alleged that Barik often talked to them about how he approached girls when he was in Class IX.

Following the complaint, officials from the block education office (BEO)



collector Anand Kumar Sethy and BDO Bichitra Kumar Kar reached

2 killed in separate elephant attacks



Baripada: Two persons were trampled to death by elephants in separate incidents at Moroda block in Mayurbhanj district, police said Wednesday. Both the attacks took place in the wee hours of Wednesday. A 40-year-old man was trampled to death when he was sleeping in his house at Dangarsahi village in the district. The tusker in search of food broke the wall before trampling the man to death. In the second incident, an elephant attacked a man who had taken his cow for grazing in the Sangadi forest of the district. His mangled body was found later by forest officials who said it was a case of elephant attack. P5

Drones to scan Hirakud cracks

00 WORLD CUP OMANJUL

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I've been to courts in a couple of cases. I can tell you nobody can play football better than the courts!

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| CURR | EURO | 79.63 | | ₹0.04 |
| NO | GOLD | ₹51,485 | | ₹68 |
| BULLION | SILVER | ₹55,163 | ♥ | ₹44 |





Sambalpur, August 24: With cracks appearing at various places in the Hirakud dam, the chief safety engineer has recommended a survev by an expert panel through drones. The chief engineer of the Mahanadi river basin has been asked to furnish details of steps taken for necessary review and preparation of a plan for a special inspection by a panel of experts. In a letter dated, August 16 to

the chief engineer of Mahanadi River basin, his dam safety counterpart Sibasish Padhi underscored

POST NEWS NETWORK

the need for proper monitoring to ascertain the status of cracks and to ensure timely repair.

Referring to the recommendation of the dam safety review panel (DSRP) which had visited Hirakud dam in 2020, Padhi in his letter said a drone-based inspection of the downstream must be taken up to locate cracks on the downstream glacis of the spillway.

The DSRP panel had also recommended inspection of the cracks at operation gallery, foundation gallery, gate shaft and sluice barrels of both the left and right spillway of the dam, Padhi said. He added that

an underwater videography of the face of the spillway is required as it cannot be inspected visually.

The cracks found in the sluice gates require immediate attention, Padhi said. He added that the other cracks need to be inspected on a regular basis and they need to be repaired at the first opportunity.

Usually the survey of the dam is done every five years. However, in case of the Hirakud Dam, no such inspection has been carried out in the last five years, sources said. An inspection is needed on an urgent basis for mapping of the cracks, sources said.

An unpaid loan helped Adani acquire NDTV Lightning kills 3 in Malkangiri

A subsidiary of Adani Enterprises bought the company which loaned ₹403 crore to NDTV and with it got 29.18% stake in the news channel

Malkangiri, August 24: Three AGENCIES women were killed and three oth-

ers critically injured Wednesday in New Delhi, August 24: Adani a lightning strike at Pandripani group's acquisition of 34-year-old panchavat in Malkangiri district broadcaster New Delhi Television Wednesday. The deceased women (NDTV) will help its owner Gautam have been identified as Daimati Adani, the world's fourth-richest Khil(26) of Baunsaguda village man, to join a club of global tyand Laxmi Kape(17) of Rauliguda coons in the media business. village. The three injured were However, behind that acquisition is the story of an unpaid loan. identified as Sushila Khil, Dipa Pangi and Chinta Khil from

NDTV founders Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy had taken the loan from a company called Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL) which was once linked to rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani in 2009-10. VCPL had loaned ₹403.85 crore to NDTV

With the acquisition Adani joins the league of people like Jeff Bezos who owns The

Washington Post

NDTV operates 3 news channels and has more than 35mn followers across various social media platforms

promoter company, RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd (RRPR). Against this interestfree loan, RRPR issued warrants to VCPL entitling it to convert them into a 99.9 per cent stake in RRPR in case the loan isn't paid-back.

hands in 2012. Adani Group first acquired VCPL from its new owner and exercised the option to convert unpaid debt into a 29.18 per cent stake in the news channel.

Thereafter, it made a ₹493 crore open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake from the public in line with the country's takeover norms.

The Rovs considered Adani's approach hostile, saying the acquisition was without discussion, consent, or notice. However, now they can only lament as nothing can prevent Adani from owning 'NDTV'. THE LOAN STORY

RRPR Holding, which was a promoter group entity and then held only a 7.56 per cent stake in NDTV, took the loan on behalf of the latter from VCPL in two tranches (₹350 crore in July 2009 and another ₹53 crore in January 2010).

VCPL had got the money from another company called 'Shinano Retail Pvt Ltd' in the form of another unsecured loan the same financial year. 'Shinano' on the other hand, got the money – also in the form of an unsecured loan - from **Reliance Industrial Investments** and Holdings Limited, part of Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. The loan agreement required

Prannoy and Radhika Roy, who together held 55.5% in 'NDTV' at the end of June 2009, to transfer some of their shares to 'RRPR Holdings'. Due to these terms, RRPR Holdings stakein NDTV increased to 29.18 per cent by January 2010. Continued on P4

respectively.



Rauliguda and Bapanapali villages

their farmland when lightning struck.

They were rushed to the hospital

where three were declared dead.

All the women were working on





The VCPL ownership changed



eisure



KIM KARDASHIAN IS READY TO DATE 'SOMEONE OLDER'

Ending her romance with Pete Davidson on a reportedly amicable note, Kim Kardashian is at it again. "Kim's expressed she's ready to date someone older but it has to be the right person who understands her life. She isn't compromising her freedom right now," said a source close to the star.

ily moved from country to

country in search of a bet-

ter life. Finally, we ar-

rived in India, a lib-

eral and loving

country that

welcomed

us and

we

made

our

home."

AVATAR TO RE-RELEASE IN CINEMAS SEPT 23

James Cameron's Avatar is coming back to theatres worldwide September 23 in remastered 4K High Dynamic Range format, Disney and 20th Century have announced. The epic sci-fi film's re-release comes three months before the arrival of its much anticipated sequel Avatar: The Way of Water December 16.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No. you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

There is a strong possibility of receptivity and sensitivi-ty in your love life. On the down side, your negativity may lead to mediocre results. You are a fire-fighter when it comes to others' problems, but can forget digging a well for your own home, savs Ganesha

GEMINI

Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt. Everest. And you will, says Ganesha. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues.

CANCER

In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesha. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day. But not todav

LEO

Call it an epiphany of sorts, but today promises to be a day of revelations for you Finally, things fall into place as your Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesha, Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.

VIRGO

Ganesha suggests that you take a much-needed break from the daily rigmarole. Introduce an element of the exotic in order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high.





Amitabh tests Covid +ve again

Mumbai: Even as Mumbai reported a spike in Covid-19 cases. mega star Amitabh Bachchan announced late Tuesday night that he had tested positive and urged "all those that have been in my vicinity and around me, please get yourself checked and tested also."

The much-loved actor has been hosting Season 14 of Kaun Banega Crorepati. It is to be seen if his health condition affects his appearances in the popular reality TV quiz show.

Bachchan, who will next be seen on the big screen in Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra - Part One: Shiva. Uunchai, Goodbye and the muchawaited Adi Purush with Telugu star Prabhas, had tested positive in July 2020 and isolated himself in Mumbai's

Abhishek Bachchan had also tested positive, followed by daughter-inlaw Aishwarva

Nanavati

Hospital.

His

after

stay in

hospital

in early

PEANUTS

August

2020.

IANS

son

Rai Bachchan and granddaughter Aradhya. Big B returned home а three-week

Warina honoured for her resilience a war-torn country. My fam-

Her family moved from one country to another seeking a better life but finally India, a liberal and loving country, welcomed them and they made it their home, said the winner of **International Icon of** the Year award

The actress received Mumbai: Actress Warina International Hussain was awarded at an in-Icon of the Year award for her reach and ternational event recently. The actress has been vocal about the resilience. She reacted, "Who would

humanitarian crisis in her native country Afghanistan. She have was involved in representing imagined?"Astonished and the causes for women, who thankful! I owe it to each

have been fighting to have a voice. The Lovevatri actress moved from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan vears ago due to the long-standing political turmoil in the country. After that, she mi-

grated to India 10 years ago, and she made this country her home. She said, "I saw myself in each Afghan person clinging onto a flight for the sake of survival. My life, like theirs,

is the result of migration from



Rasika Dugal

Mumbai: The difficulty of carving an arc for a relatively known character in a new season of a web series rests more with the writers than the actors who are essaving them. savs Rasika Dugal. She is returning for the second season of the Netflix series Delhi Crime. She curis rently shooting for the

It is an easier task for the actor to get back into the skin of a relatively

'There are series like Delhi Crime and Mirzapur so it is easy to pick up the characters from season to season. When you are picking up a role from one season to another, the difficult part rests with the writers. It's difficult when the characters are already introduced and then you have to make those characters go somewhere else

"But for actors, it's much more comfortable because after a season when you come back, you are like you know them (characters). They have only changed a little bit but we still know what they are and we understand them," Dugal said in an i

FUN

Adieu Godard to hit theatres September 2



The Amartya Bhattacharyya directorial, premiered in Moscow, has so far bagged six prestigious awards at various int'l film festivals

Bhubaneswar: Odia feature film Adieu Godard, which has already been screened and appreciated at several international film festivals, will be released in theatres across the country.

After being screened in multiplexes of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack September2, the Indo French co-production will be released in Kolkata and Mumbai the following week. It will also have limited theatrical screenings in London and digital releases

across USA and Canada. Written and directed by National Award winning film director Amartya Bhattacharyya, the film will be presented by actress Anu Choudhury for its theatrical release in India while Mumbai based Platoon Distribution is the country wide distributor for the film. The film's cast includes Choudhury Bikas Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Sudhasri Madhusmita, Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Swastik Choudhury, , Shankar Basu Mallick and Abhishek Giri. The music has been composed by Kisaloy Roy. Rock music sensation Rupam Islam has rendered his first Odia song in this film.

The film premiered at the Moscow International Film Festival and won six international awards at various festivals. It also won the Best Film at Kolkata International Film Festival. The film has travelled to several festivals across the globe.

"I have always been vocal about creating quality content and I am so happy to present such a film for its theatrical journey," said Anu at a presser here, Wednesday.

Amartya said, "It is always a great thing when a film gets recognised internationally. But what matters the most is how it is received by people back home. I can't thank Platoon Distribution enough for distributing an Odia film nationally.'

"Our whole objective has been to make Odia films that will be celebrated nationally. Adieu Godard has been loved globally and now it's time to celebrate it in Odisha," said producer Swastik Choudhury.

Saiyami Kher's on a roll

Mumbai: Abhishek Bachchan will be seen playing Saiyami Kher's cricket coach in R Balki's next. Ghoomer. This will be the second time Abhishek and Saiyami will share screen space. The two were earlier seen in the second season of the web series Breathe 2. Not just Ghoomer, the actress has an exciting lineup of films ahead. Latest being her upcoming film with Scam actor

by Excel Entertainment and directed by Raees movie director Rahul Dholakia. The film titled Agni also stars Divyendu Sharma as one of the leads. The film is based on firefighters. While not much of the details of the project are known, the shooting already started this month. Most of the shooting will be happening in Mumbai and Delhi," says a source close to the team.

Last year both the actors collaborated for a podcast titled Gangistan. Saivami will also be

on reprising characters

one of my fans, not just

those in India but all over.

This honour has left me in-

credibly humbled. I would want

to express my gratitude to

Video show Mirzapur. old character, she said.

son in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself. Remember, health is wealth



Pratik are colseen in the third instalment of laborating on the Breathe into the Shadows. Looks project, which like the actress has a busy year will be produced ahead. AGENCIES

SCORPIO

The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupic celebrates and hits the bull's eye and you find yourself in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day. There is a good chance that marriage proposals or new relationships will find their footing today, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Whatever you take up today, you are on a winning spree, foresees Ganesha. A a leader, you will guide and instruct your subordinates when they seek your advise In a way, you even encourage and motivate them. All in all, you are a happy soul at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition. says Ganesha. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too.

If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and every thing seems to work in your favour. Take care, says Ganesha, things may not be as they seem.

PISCES

A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own.













CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

Pratik Gandhi.

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.

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SOLUTIONS CROSSWOR IHI PEEV 2 5 7 8 9 6 4 3 1

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| 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | |

SUDOKU





downtown

TRIBUTES TO MARTYRS

Dignitaries, including I&PR Minister Pradip Amat and Law Minister Jagannath Saraka, inaugurate an event to pay tributes to the martyrs of Papadahandi massacre, at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|-------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| orld | 60,28,02,806 | 57,76,32,889 | 64,77,191 |
| dia | 4,43,68,195 | 4,37,44,301 | 5,27,452 |
| lisha | 13,25,766 | 13,14,752 | 9,167 |
| | | | |

Min launches 'Azadi Quest' mobile games

The mobile games series developed by Zynga India, in collaboration with Publications Division and ICHR, will highlight the contribution of unsung heroes of freedom struggle

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 24: Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Anurag Thakur Wednesday launched 'Azadi Quest', a series of online educational mobile games that will highlight the contribution of unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.

The 'Azadi Quest' and 'Heroes of Bharat' mobile games have been developed by Zynga India, in collaboration with Publications Division and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

"These games are an effort to tap into the huge market of online gamers and to educate them through games. Various arms of Government of India have collected information about unsung freedom fighters from the corners of the country," Thakur said at the launch of the games.

He said the gaming sector has grown by 28 per cent in 2021 alone,



I&B Minister Anurag Thakur along with other dignitaries launches 'Azadi Quest'

while the number of online gamers Zynga, Publications Division and is expected to touch 45 crore by ICHR for six months in developing

2023. I&B Secretary Apurva the games The Publications Division also veloping the games was conceived during a meeting Thakur had with representatives of Zynga India on Mahotsav

The gaming sector has grown by 28% in 2021 alone, while the number of online gamers is expected to touch 45 crore by 2023 ANURAG THAKUR | I&B MINISTER

was designed to engage players of all ages while harnessing the power of interactive entertainment as a teaching experience about this important era.

The first two games in the series 'Azadi Quest' tell the story of India's freedom struggle, highlighting key milestones and heroes, interwoven with fun game play.

'Heroes of Bharat' is designed as a quiz game to test the knowledge of the players about the heroes of India's Independence through 750 questions spread across 75 levels and also tell them about the lesser known heroes through 75 'Azadi Veer' cards which can be shared across social media platforms.

LAST MINUTE PREP



An artisan arranges clay idols of Lord Ganesh in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi

Prakruti files defamation suit EOW nabs realtor for ₹20 crore fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Actress Prakruti Mishra Wednesday filed a defamation suit in the sessions court here of Rs 5.10 crore against the actor Babushaan Mohanty's wife Trupti Satapathy and her father.

She had also moved the Orissa High Court Tuesday seeking 'justice' in the case pertaining to an assault on her. The case pertains to actor Tanmay (Babushaan) Mohanty's wife Trupti Satapathy, who allegedly attacked Prakruti in full public view July 23 in Bhubaneswar.

Prakruti's parents, music director Manmath Mishra and artiste Krushnapriya Mishra, had filed a complaint against Trupti and her father with the Kharavel Nagar po-

APARTMENT OWNERSHIP CASE

-HC asks govt to take steps in 4 weeks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Prakruti's lawyer Byomakesh Tripathy said that no action has been taken by Kharavel Nagar police though a month has passed since she was attacked

Chandra said the idea about de-

lice July 23 evening alleging assault on their daughter.

Speaking to the media outside the court Tuesday, Prakruti said, "Whatever has happened to me is in public and the whole country saw that. I have full faith in the judiciary that I will get justice.'

Prakruti's lawyer Byomakesh

Tripathy said that no action has

been taken by Kharavel Nagar po-

lice though a month has passed

since she was attacked. "We have

moved the High Court seeking ac-

tion in this matter," he said.

and the latter's wife Trupti, the actress had unveiled a poster for a film titled 'Draupadi'. The poster appears to be hinting towards a tale of victimhood with visible scars on her face. Prakruti got into a controversy for allegedly being in a relation-

ship with Babushaan. A video had gone viral in which Trupti was seen aggressively dealing with Prakruti after finding her in a car with her husband, Prakruti's costar in a film. The incident was reportedly wit-

nessed in Satya Nagar area of Bhubaneswar. The people present there made the video viral.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha Police Wednesday arrested the managing director (MD) of a real estate company on charges of duping investors of around Rs 20 crore.

M/s Odyssa Home and Commercials Private Limited MD Aurobinda Santara has been taken into custody on the basis of a case (14/2022) registered against him under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC and 6 of the OPID Act, 2011 following the complaint of Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, one of the duped investors, said an EOW official.

According to EOW sources,



Mohapatra had booked a 3BHK flat at Ganapati Homes, a project of M/s Odvssa Home and Commercials Private Limited in Sampur Mouza near Kalinga Studio here, at a consideration price of

M/s Odyssa Home and **Commercials Private Limited** had collected around Rs 20 crore from 42 persons on the promise of providing them affordable flats at Ganapati Homes between 2013 and 2016

However, it neither gave them the flats, nor returned their deposits

It was also found that the project- Ganapati Homes-is not registered with RERA

Rs 65 lakh in 2016.

"On January 22, 2016, an agreement was executed between the buyer and seller (M/s Odyssa Home & Commercials Pvt. Ltd. represented through its director Saroj

Kumar Panda). As per the terms of the agreement, the company was supposed to handover the flat to the buyer by the end of June 2018," said the official, adding that the company, however, did not turn

Left with no option, Mohapatra approached the EOW.

During investigation, the EOW claimed to have found that the company had collected around Rs 20 crore from 42 persons on the promise of providing them affordable flats at Ganapati Homes between 2013 and 2016. However, it neither gave them the flats, nor returned their deposits. It was also found that the project-Ganapati Homes-is not registered with RERA, said the official

Ghatikia school flouted child rights: Parents to OSCPCR

POST NEWS NETWORK

S&ME dept orders probe

were switched off and drinking water was also not provided to the



the sidelines of the Dubai Expo earlier this year. He said I&B Joint Secretary Vikram Sahay worked closely with



signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Zynga India to develop a series of games under the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Zynga India Country Head

Kishore Kichli said the initiative

Earlier, amidst the ongoing pub-

lic controversy that involved the

actress, Odia film star Babushaan

Cuttack, August 24: In a relief to apartment owners, the Orissa High Court Wednesday directed the state government to amend the existing laws so as to ensure formation of apartment owners' association within four weeks.

Hearing a PIL filed by activist Bimalendu Pradhan in 2019, a division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar posted the hearing to September 27.

According to sources, even after sale of the flats, the ownership of the common areas in the apartments remains with the real estate firms. As a result, the flat owners were unable to use the common areas



In absence of the apartment as sociations, the common areas could not be claimed by the flat owners.

The petitioner had urged the HC to operationalise the Apartment Ownership Act, 1982 in order to enable registration of apartment associations

The Centre had formed Real (Regulation and Estate Development) Act, 2016. Later, the state government formulated Odisha Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rule, 2017. The rule provides for formation of apartment association.

However, the Housing and Urban Development department's Apartment Ownership Rule-2021 has no scope for formation of apartment associations.

Advocate General informed the HC that Apartment Ownership Rule-2021 has been amended and will be implemented after Law department's approval.

Puri MLA Jayanta Sarangi, along with former MP Prasanna Patasani, felicitates an artiste during an event organised by 'Utkala Lokakala o Loka Sanskruti Mahasangha' at Annapurna Theatre in Puri, Wednesday OP PHOTO

Bhubaneswar, August 24: A couple of days after 34 students were allegedly detained for about five hours by a private school in Ghatikia area on city outskirts over 'nonpayment of fees', irate parents Wednesday wrote a letter to Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) demanding action against the cruelty meted out to the innocent kids and their illegal confinement.

In the letter to OSCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan, All India Parents Federation, Odisha state committee president Pradipta

School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Wednesday directed the district education officer (DEO) of Khurda to conduct an enquiry into detention of children for about five hours in a private school at Ghatikia and furnish a report immediately for further action.

Nayak said that the school had violated the child rights. He alleged that the school authorities had confined the children in the library room for about five hours and pressurized the parents to deposit the fees immediately. He added that during confinement fans in the classroom

children. The children were not even allowed to go to urinal.

Navak added that school had violated the rights to protection, food, affection, free movement under UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act. Juvenile Justice Act and National Child Policy.

"We, therefore, humbly prayed before the commission to initiate action against the cruelty and illegal confinement of innocent children for five hours by the school authority," he said.

Fisherfolk at sea as conservationist tag eludes them

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Puri, August 24: "We go to sea to feed our families. But the mafia use explosives to catch huge quantities of fish at one go. Yet, the police come only after people like us," laments a fisherman from Batighar village in Kendrapara as he tries to explain how the traditional fishing community is at a loss though

it hardly overexploits the resources at its disposal. For years, conservationists have been exploring ways to increase the fish population along Odisha's

coast, besides protecting the breeding grounds of Olive Ridley turtles, a species recognised as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Traditional fisherfolk, who are key to such efforts, have mostly welcomed them, despite incurring heavy losses. For example, Gahirmatha coast in Kendrapara district has a blanket ban on fishing in place as it is the largest nesting spot of the Olive Ridleys.

Additionally, the state government has prohibited fishing within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of the Rushikulya, Devi and Dhamra during the turtle breeding season that extends from

November to May.

This affects the livelihood of tens of thousands of fisherfolk, who have to fall back on government aid for sustenance. "The incentive is meagre. Around 1,500 families get Rs 7,500 per month when the ban is in place," said Odisha Traditional Fishermen Union secretary Kanda Alaya. Fisherman Arabinda Swain ex-

plains how the compensation has

failed. "There are several fisherfolk

without identity cards. They re-

main deprived of the measly in-

centive the community manages to

get during the annual ban period."

selves to be easy targets, Gahirmatha

Marine Wildlife Sanctuary Forest

Range Officer Debasish Bhoi thinks

otherwise. While denying allega-

Though fisherfolk claim them-

arrests those and seizes their vessels and trawlers, whenever there is an alert about illegal fishing in prohibited areas.

tions, he says that the department

Bhoi cites an incident, wherein 19 fishermen were arrested in January 2020 for illegal fishing in Gahirmatha.



Rights as paper tigers

Forget incentives, fishing communities are denied even their rights to access coastal produce in the name of conservation. "The laws are hardly being translated in the true spirit," says Geetanjali Panda, a lecturer in Anthropology at the Dharanidhar Autonomous College, Keonjhar.

She notes how the Tourism de-



partment has curbed traditional fishing rights along the coasts of Gopalpur, Puri and Satapada, besides Chilika Lake.

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, allows Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers the rights to fish and use water bodies in forest areas. This is applicable to fishing communities in the mangrove forests also. Besides, the Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act, 2006, takes care of the rights and occupational interests of traditional fishing communities. However, the laws remain mostly on paper. "The Tourism department keeps ponds, canals, lakes, wetlands and reservoirs out of fisherfolk's reach. To make things worse, there is no com-

munity participation in the management and protection of water bodies," says Panda.

Under the FRA, panchayats in the non-scheduled areas should acknowledge the rights of traditional fishing communities over water bodies for their livelihood. "But this provision seems to be non-existent," she says.

CRZ proves costly

The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification of 2018 puts coastal communities in the line of disaster. "They are more vulnerable to climate disasters now," notes Kanchi Kohli, a researcher associated with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.

Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Ministry of Environment and Forests first issued the notification in 1991 for the regulation of activities in coastal areas. It said the coastal zone encompassed all that land with which the sea had direct contact and those portions of land on which the sea had an influence indirectly through tidal action. It is aimed at conserving the rich and diverse coastal biodiversity.

However, Kohli thinks that it does not serve its purpose fully. 'The latest notification gave an upper hand to real estate developers, besides promoting tourism and industry on a mass scale. With it, the local subsistence economy of fishing hamlets went for a toss," she tells.

On condition of anonymity, a government official explains how the 2018 notification has brought down the regulation area to a mere 50m from the hazard line, which will significantly damage the fragile coastal ecology.

"Permission has been given in the notification to reclaim land for commercial activities, extract sand dunes and groundwater within 200m to 500m from the high tide line. Such laws only serve to quickenthe pace of displacement of local communities," he warns.













BMC's nod for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations sans restrictions

Though the Covid restrictions have been lifted, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange appealed to the people to take precautionary measures such as use of masks and sanitisers

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | AUGUST 25 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Aug 24: Following a two year hiatus owing to Covid pandemic, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday gave a go-ahead for celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi without any restrictions but advised denizens to follow all protocols.

Speaking to media, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said there will be no restriction on the devtoees to visit pandals in the state Capital for darshan this year.

Though the Covid restrictions have been lifted, he appealed to the people



to take precautionary measures such as use of masks and sanitisers.

prepared to be worshipped at Nayapalli. The organisers are also Kulange further mentioned that planning a 50-kg ladoo to be oftwo artificial ponds will be setup for fered to Lord Ganesh. "Artists from immersion of idols in order to pre-Kolkata and Mumbai have been vent pollution of rivers and water working for the past three months sources. The step has been taken to in building the huge Ganesh idol prevent pollution of rivers and for this year's celebrations," said water sources with petroleum-based a puja organiser. colours and polythene and plastic

Another high-rise Ganesh idol is materials that are used for transport reportedly being prepared at Badagada, reports said adding that 'More than 50 pandals will be set around 51-ft Ganesh idol with 8-ft up for Ganesh Puja in Bhubaneswar Mushak (mouse) will be worshipped this year. All idols of Lord Ganesh at the pandal where a 50 kg ladoo across the city will be immersed in will be offered to the Lord. Similarly, a 46-ft Ganesh is rethese two temporary ponds of

portedly being erected at Saheed Nagar. Here also, a 50-kg ladoo will be offered to the Lord.

31 across the country. The festival

marks the birth anniversary of

Lord Ganesh, son of Lord Shiva

and Goddess Parvati. Ganesh

Chaturthi (or Ganeshotsav) is a 10-

day-long festival that culminates

on Anant Chaturdashi. The last

day is popularly celebrated as

A special attraction this time will be a 50-ft idol which is being

Ganesh Visarjan day.



Members of Subhas Sangathan staged 'path satyagrah' during their protest against the poor condition of roads at Manglabag Ring Road in Cuttack. Wednesday OP PHOTO

ASO written test to be held Aug 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Odisha Public Service Commission Wednesday informed that examination for the post of assistant section officer (ASO), which was postponed earlier in view of the dislocation caused by heavy rainfall and flood, will be conducted August 27 as per the schedule and there will be no further change in the exam centre.

The commission August 20 announced the new date after postponing the written exam, which was originally scheduled to be held

CONTINUED FROM P1

Open vendetta...

The ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' meanwhile cried foul over the raids at a number of premises owned by leaders of the RJD, the largest constituent of the seven-party coalition. Former Chief Minister Rabri Devi told reporters, "The people are watching and they can understand what is behind these raids."

Tejashwi meanwhile called the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the CBI and the Income Tax (IT) department the 'three jamaai' (sons in-law), that which the BJP sent to states where it was not in power. He accused the BJP of trying to 'break' CM Kumar's party in a bid to 'wipe out socialist ideology', "My father

August 21.

of puja materials.

On the other hand, a total of 139 educational institutions in Khurda district will remain closed August 27 in view of the scheduled ASO exam. All these institutions have been designated as ASO exam centre. A total of 796 (265 women) Group-B posts in the Odisha Secretariat Service will be filled through the recruitment drive.

Kuakhai and Dava river," he said.

Chaturthi will be observed August

It can be mentioned that Ganesh

The ASO will draw a monthly salary in the scale of pay of Rs 35,400 in Level 9, Cell 1 as per the Pay Matrix provided under Rule-3 of ORSP Rules, 2017 with usual Dearness and other Allowances.

The CM and I have the same ideology. You (BJP) cannot reap what we socialists have sown," said Tejashwi.

An unpaid loan...

According to the terms of the loan agreement, VCPL could convert the debt into 99.9 per cent of the shares in RRPR 'at any time during the tenure of the loan or thereafter without requiring any further act

or deed on the part of the lender'. AMG Media Networks Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, bought Tuesday 100 per cent of the equity stakes in VCPL for Rs 113.74 crore. It then converted the warrants into equity, getting a 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV. Radhika and Prannov Roy continue to hold a 32.26 per cent stake in NDTV.

AIIMS Bhub starts special hand clinic



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: In a bid to provide comprehensive care for different hand related issues, a first-of-its-kind special hand clinic has started functioning at the Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar. The clinic started in collaboration with the Orthopaedic and PMR department

and will function every Tuesday from 2:30pm to 4:30pm at the Plastic Surgery OPD complex. AIIMS Executive Director, Ashutosh Biswas, while congratulating the doctors for their efforts to start he clinic said. "the first-ofits-kind special hand clinic at AIIMS

will certainly help people from all

age groups to get a complete care

drome, rheumatoid arthritis and other arthritic conditions with many other hand problems." AIIMS Bhubaneswar is always committed to serve people through its in-

novative approach, added Biswas. **AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical** Superintendent SN Mohanty, gracing the occasion, expressed his happiness over the opening of such a hand clinic. Burns & Plastic Surgery Department HoD Sanjay Giri, Orthopaedic Department HoD Bishnu Patro and PMR HoD Jagannath Sahoo were also present on the occasion.

Burns & Plastic Surgery Associate Santanu Suba will be the in-charge of the clinic. The clinic will cover a broad spectrum of conditions including tendonitis, hand contractures, soft tissue injuries, burns, diabetes, anomalies present at birth, brachial plexus Injury, post radiation and post infected lymphedema, informed Suba.

German Consulate discusses potential collaboration with BSCL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Aug 24: German Consulate General, Manfred Auster met Sanjay Kumar Singh, Chairman & Managing Director of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), Wednesday and discussed the potential collaboration and partnership for future projects of the smart city.

During the meeting, Manfred praised the development and the disaster management of Odisha and expressed that disaster management and the development of sports in Odisha are extremely praiseworthy. He further stated that Germany is eager to fortify its strong commercial ties with Odisha, which can play a vital role in the expansion of knowledge and collaboration between Germany and Odisha.

"The state government's numerous welfare measures have been extremely commendable. We have absolute confidence in Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's ability to lead. The state government's initiative of developing and promoting hockey across Odisha and India has set an example for the others," Manfred said.

Meanwhile, BSCL Chairman. Sanjay Kumar Singh solicited the cooperation of the government of

OUAT'S 61ST FOUNDATION DAY Dean hails relentless efforts of teachers & researchers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The 61st Foundation Day of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) was celebrated Wednesday in the MS Swaminathan conference hall of the institute.

The university completed 60 years since its establishment on August 24, 1962. To mark the occasion, a mega event was organized under the chairmanship of Susen Kumar Panda, Dean, College of Veterinary Science.

Panda recalled the uninterrupted and continuing efforts of teachers, research and extension scientists of the university even during the Covid pandemic to support the agriculture development activities and farming community of the state in particular.

"Our scientific support and extended outreach using physical and digital platforms have made our contribution more prominent in ious levels in the country." he said. Moreover, the contribution of this university in developing a remarkable number of crop varieties, types in poultry birds, small farm implements and many other useful technologies will definitely help the state in marching ahead with respect to agricultural de-

achieving agriculture development

and farmers income in the state. I

should not leave this occasion with-

out appreciating the scientists,

teachers and students for their

successful contributions, awards

and recognitions received at var-

velopment, he added. Prasanjit Mishra, Dean, Extension Education highlighted the prominent contribution of the university in accelerating the growth of agriculture and allied sector in the state.

Kedareswar Pradhan, Dean, College of Agriculture, underlined the academic excellence of the university.



Lalu Prasad, mother Rabri Devi, my sisters and I are all paying the price for our commitment to socialism.

like tendon and nerve injuries, fractures, dislocations and strains, amputations, carpal tunnel synGermany in Odisha and described the state's industrial policy as attractive for investors.

ICMR study on impact of snakebites in Odisha, 12 other states

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AFFIDAVIT

"I, Chandan Kumar Sahoo, S/o-Pitambar Sahu, At/PO/PS-Daringbadi, Odisha-762104 have changed my name to Cchandan Sahu for my future needful purpose, sworn infront of Notary P.C. PATNAIK, Affidavit No-A3368".

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate. Bhawanipatna, I Jayanti Sahu, W/o. Abhiram Sahu, R/o. Sahupada, PO-Dhamanpur, Dist-Kalahandi declare that my name and date of birth was wrongly entered in my passport bearing no. H9309318 as Sanjukta Sahu and DOB as 22.7.1965 instead of Jayanti Sahu, DOB 11.7.1965. That Jayanti Sahu and Sanjukta Sahu is the one and same person.

he Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) task force has started a first-of-its-kind study on the incidence, mortality, morbidity and socio-economic burden of snakebite in 13 states including Odisha

The other states are: Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya. Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura.

An article on the study 'ICMR task force project, survey of the incidence, mortality, morbidity and socio-economic burden of snakebite in India: A study protocol' was published in the international research journal Plos One August

While the national principal investigator for the ICMR study is Jaideep C Menon from Preventive Cardiology and Population Health Sciences, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi, while Omesh Bharti, state Epidemiologist with Department of Health and Family Welfare, Himachal Pradesh, is the national Principal Co-Investigator. "This study will generate real



data on snakebite incidence, mortality, morbidity and socio-economic burden of snakebite for the first time in the country to help the decision makers in policy framing to prevent and control snakebite in India. The country still doesn't know the real snakebite burden and is hence groping in the dark when it comes to policy," Bharti told IANS Tuesday.

He said the survey is in progress and it takes into consideration all the geographical areas like hilly, plains, marshy, desert and coastal "It is the first such study designed for the survey of snakebite inci-

dence in South East Asia. Sri Lanka has done it, but they covered a population of 1 per cent only, whereas our study would cover a population of 6.12 per cent," explained Bharti.

He said the snakebite incidence study is being carried out in 31 districts in six geographical zones in the country, including West, Central, South, East, North and North-East, in 13 states. Three districts of Himachal – Kangra, Chamba and Una – are also included in it.

According to the article on 'study protocol' to know snakebite inci

VITAL STATS

HALF OF THE GLOBAL DEATHS DUE TO VENOMOUS SNAKEBITES, ESTIMATED AT 1 LAKH PER YEAR, OCCUR IN INDIA

THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE DATA ON SNAKEBITE AVAILABLE FROM INDIA IS THE MORTALITY DATA FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA

GLOBAL ESTIMATES OF **SNAKEBITE RANGE FROM 4.5 MILLION TO 5.4 MILLION BITES** ANNUALLY WITH AN ESTIMATED TWO MILLION OF THEM IN INDIA

dence, snakebite is possibly the most neglected of the NTDs (neglected tropical diseases)

Half of the global deaths due to venomous snakebites, estimated at 1 lakh per year, occur in India. The only representative data on snakebite available from India is the mortality data from the Registrar General of India – Million Death Study and another study

on mortality from Bihar. The incidence data on snakebite is available for two districts of West Bengal.

It was only in 2017 that snakebite was added back onto the World Health Organization (WHO) list of NTDs, after being struck off the list in 2013.

Geographically, the greatest impact of snakebite is in the tropical and subtropical regions, with the highest occurrence in India. Global estimates of snakebite

range from 4.5 million to 5.4 million bites annually with an estimated two million of them in India with significant physical, mental and socioeconomic consequences. The ICMR's study protocol for

snakebite incidence and burden mentions that the hospital-based data on snakebite admissions and use of anti-snake venom are gross underestimates as most snakebite victims in rural India depend more on alternate treatment methods which do not get represented in national registries.

The ICMR study is a multi-centric one to determine the incidence, morbidity, mortality and economic burden of snakebites

in India covering all five geographical zones of the country.

'The protocol involves community-level surveillance for snakebite covering 31 districts in 13 states of India in order to obtain annual incidence of snakebites from the community. The front line health workers will be trained to gather information on new cases of snakebite over the study period of one year, from wards (smallest administrative subunit of a village or town) that they represent in the study districts.

"Dedicated field officers would collect data on snakebites, victim characteristics, outcomes, utilization of health facilities on a questionnaire sheet designed for this purpose. The study duration is for 18 months from April 2022 to October 2023," added Bharti.

As per a study, the number of deaths due to venomous snakebite in India is 46,900 per year.

This is considerably high, compared to only 10-12 deaths per year, due to venomous snakebite in the US and Australia, this despite the fact that less populous Australia has probably more venomous species. IANS

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OrissaPOST THURSDAY AUGUST 25 2022 BHUBANESWAR

state

Sitalapalli wagon factory in cold storage

Two other major railway projects for construction of Gopalpur-Rayagada and Rairakhole-Gopalpur tracks have also been pushed to backburner

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 24: The Ministry of Railways had in 2011-12 decided to set up a wagon factory at Sitalapalli in Gopalpur constituency of Ganjam district. However, the NDA government later dropped the project. Years later, the project was again taken for consideration without any progress.

Besides, two major railway projects -- Gopalpur-Rayagada and Rairakhole-Gopalpur -- in the district have been pushed to backburner after survey. It is all due to apathy of the railways, it was alleged.

In 2011-12, the then Union Railway Minister Mamata Baneriee had announced the wagon factory at Sitalapalli. The project was supposed to be implemented in publicprivate-partnership (PPP) mode. It was given approval in the year 2013. Later, it was then stated by the

government that the project would be set up in Kalahandi. However, the project faced land hurdle there as necessary land was not available for the project. At this time, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik intervened and over 100 acre of land was handed over to the East Coast Railway (ECoR). In the first term of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ₹2 crore had been sanctioned for the project

The Odisha government had identified 101.6 acres of land near



The Odisha government had identified 101.6 acres of land near Jagannathpur railway station, 20 kilometre away from Berhampur

successive railway ministers since then In 2021, a top ECoR official visited Sitalpalli and said that the wagon factory will be constructed on PPP mode, but no progress has been made on the project as yet

No ground work was undertaken

despite several letters from Chief

After Ashwini Vaishnaw from

Odisha was made Union Railway

Minister, the issue of the wagon

September 22, 2021, a top official

of the East Coast Railway visited

Sitalapalli and said that the wagon

factory was raised by locals.

Minister Naveen Patnaik to the

Jagannathpur railway station, 20 factory stating that the demand kilometre away from Berhampur. for wagons may not rise till 2024. But the railways had dropped the As the proposed wagon unit was project in 2018 after sanctioning dropped from the list of new projtoken money of ₹1,000 in the Railway ects, the ECoR in a communica-Budget till 2016 tion May 11, 2021 had asked to cancel the land allotment.

No ground work was undertaken despite several letters from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to the successive railway ministers since then. In 2017, former Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain had replied to the Chief Minister citing difficulties in setting up the

factory will be implemented on PPP mode. He said that the allotted land will be taken over However, a year has passed since

this announcement, but there has been no progress in the muchawaited project, locals lamented.

Various quarters observed that if wagon factory is executed in the district, it would create a big scope for employment for the locals. They have demanded for expediting steps for the project.

Similarly, two other railway projects -- Gopalpur-Rayagada and Rairakhole-Gopalpur -- have been given short shrift by the Railway ministry.

A survey had been conducted in 2009 for the new railway track for Gopalpur-Rayagada. About 12 years have passed, but neither the UPA government nor the NDA government made any budgetary provision for the project.

Besides, a drone survey was conducted for the Rairakhole-Gopalpur railway project. But it has failed to make any progress after that, locals rued.

The ruling BJD had raised the issue of three projects at the meeting of its extended executive body at Bhanjanagar September 15, 2021

A year has passed since the BJD meeting, but the party MPs are not raising the issue in the Parliament. Various outfits have demanded that the state government should take up the issue with the NDA government.

Jumbo attacks claim 2 in Mayurbhanj dist



POST NEWS NETWORK

Morada, August 24: Two people were killed in separate incidents of elephant attack under this block in Mayurbhanj district, forest officials said Wednesday.

In the first incident, a woman Srimati Hansdah, 40, was killed in her sleep as a herd of four jumbos strayed into Dangarbila village in the block and trampled her to death, late Tuesday night. On being informed, forest officials and Morada police rushed to the spot and started an investigation after sending the body for post-mortem to PRM Medical College and Hospital in Baripada.

In the second incident, a man was killed after elephants attacked him when he had been to Asanbani jungle under Betanoti forest range in the block with some of his friends Tuesday

YouTuber held for keeping reptiles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sambalpur, August 24: The state Forest department officials have arrested a 31-year-old YouTuber in Karanjula village of Sambalpur district for illegally possessing six snakes, including cobras and four chameleons, an official said Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Ramchandra Rana from the Redakhole area of the western Odisha district. He used to make videos with the snakes, chameleons and other reptiles and wild animals to attract viewers. He has more than one lakh subscribers on his YouTube channel named Ramchandra Rana

No.O-882:

to the safety but he failed to retheir hostel after recovery, turn. Family members and vil-Wednesday. A medical team lagers searched for him franti-Wednesday visited the spot and cally through the night examined the health conditions of but in vain. the rest of the girls. The school They again searched for him has 330 students on its roll while 100 Wednesday morning and regirls study in the school residing covered his body in the jungle. in its hostel. However, the actual On being informed, forest offireason behind their illness is yet cials rushed to the spot and

to be ascertained. When contacted, district welfare officer (DWO) Pradyumna Das said that a medical team and other officials have rushed to the spot.

40 girls fall sick; admitted to hosp

Keonjhar, August 24: As many as 40 female hostel inmates of a state-

run high school fell sick after they experienced head reeling and loose

motion on their hostel premises

at Raisuan under Telkoi block in

Keonjhar district, Tuesday night.

co-education is run by the state

tribal welfare department. After

the girls, one after another, expe-

rienced head reeling and loose mo-

tion and fell sick, Tuesday night,

the school authorities immediately

rushed them to the Telkoi health

centre where their health conditions

improved after treatment. Some

of them were also discharged for

The school having facilities for

POST NEWS NETWORK

They alleged the forest officials of doing nothing to save them from elephant menace and demanded compensation for the bereaved family members. Villagers claimed that Dhananjaya died after being attacked by two elephants.

rainy season. Rana claimed that

he used to release such species

after making a few videos for

his YouTube channel. However,

he denied his involvement in

the wild animal trade racket.

After getting information, the

"We have arrested the youth, who has a YouTube channel with

forest officials rescued the snakes

and chameleons and arrested

over 1 lakh subscribers. He took

us to his house, where we rescued

six snakes including three cobras

and four chameleons," said as-

sistant conservator of forest

Manu Ashok Bhat.

the youth.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS DIVISION. SUNDARGARH

E.Mail - rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

evening. The deceased was iden-

tified as Dhananjaya Hansdah of

Sangadihi village of Durgapur

panchayat. His friends ran back

started a probe. However, ten-

sion prevailed after villagers

confronted them over the death

and repeated elephant attacks in

their area.

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tend Dt. 23.08.2022 ler No. etender-Estate-KUR 162-2022, Dtd. 08.08.2022 162-2022, Dtd. 08.08.2022 DISIGNIPTION : CONSULTANCY SERVICE FOR CONCEPTUALIZATION, DESIGNING, DEVELOPING AND PLANNING OF TOTAL FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY HEAD QUARTER BUILDING (RAIL SADAN) AND CENTRAL HOSPITAL AT

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Approx Cost of the Work (?): 3.50 Lakhs EMD (₹): 7,000.00, Completion Period 03 (Three) Months.

WALL, STONE PITCHING ETC. FOR STRENGTHENING OF EMBANKMENT BETWEEN BRAHMAPUR-PALASA SECTION UNDER SENIOR SECTIO ENGINEER (WORKS) / PALASA OI KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 199.41 Lakhs, <u>EMD</u> (₹) : 2,49,700.00, <u>Completion</u> Period : 09 (Nine) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 30.08.2022 (For both the Tenders.) No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person shall be accepted again ed again: such e-tenders even if these are sub on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be consider invalid and shall be rejected summar without any consideration Complete information including

-tender documents of the above -Tender is available in website https://www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are dvised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tend to note any changes / Corrigendu issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engo) PR-417/N/22-23 Khurda Roa

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ce No. 20/ET/SBP/ENGG 23. Dt.18.08.2022 K : MAJOR UPGRADATION OF



A week after the embankment of Kani river breached at Brahmacharipatna village under Dasarathpur block of Jajpur, the flood-affected continue to live in makeshift camps on the Kamalpur river embankment road owing to delay in repair works

MCL for quality MCL holds public hearing for Stone mafia strips reserve

BHUBANESWAR. Speaking to the mediapersons, Rana confessed to his crime and said he caught these species from different places during this

(2) Tender No. etender-South-KUR-161-2022, Dtd. 08.08.2022

DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED REPAIRS TO CESS, TROLLEY REFUGES, TOE

coal production Balaram coal mines expansion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur;August 24 : Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) held its coordination meeting to ensure qual ity of coal production. The meeting was presided over by General Manager (Quality Control) RK Raju here, Tuesday. The meeting was attended by managers from MCL's coal mine areas

At the meeting, officials discussed how to ensure quality coal production, export of coal with 100 percent size and debit and credit notes for consumers



Some officials were feted for ensuring quality coal production on the occasion

Manager (Quality Control) NK Parasar proposed the vote of thanks. Notably, MCL was awarded by the Coal Ministry in 2021-22 for quality coal production.

ସ୍ଥାନ-ଜଗମ୍ବାଥ କଳାକେନ୍ଦ, ଜଗମ୍ବାଥ କଲ୍ଲୋମ୍ , ସାରଥ ବଲ୍ଲଣ୍ଡା ତାରିଖ : ୨୩.୦୮.୨୦୨୨, ସମୟ ପୂର୍ବାନ୍-୧୧ଗଟିକା . ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଅ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher: August 24: A public hearing camp on increasing the production capacity of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) owned Balaram coal mines from 8 million tonne (MT) to 15 MT was held here in Angul district. Tuesday.

Residents of 18 villages including Nakeipasi, Brahmanibahal, Kochianali, Damol, Prashnanagar, Nathagaon, Majhika, Kalamchhuin, Danra, Natada, Banabaspur, Telipur, Solada, Satyabadipur, Gopalprasad, Khamar, Khuringa, Birabarpur and the local public representatives participated in this public hearing held at Jagannath Kala Kendra here. This was stated here in a press release issued by MCL, Wednesday.

The villagers gave their consent on increasing the production capacity of Balaram coal mines from 8 MT to 15 MT. They also raised demands like development of the village ponds, road, lighting and power supply, drinking water supply and free health camps in their areas. MCL's Hingula area general

manager Arun Kumar Swarnakar said that their demand will be resolved after due consultation with the administration and public representatives. Angul's ADM (revenue) Santosh Kumar Pradhan, SPCB's regional officer Anup Kumar Mallick, Talcher sub-collector Biswaranjan Rath, special land acquisition officers of Angul and MCL, Talcher tehsildar Manmath Nayak, SPCB and MCL officials were present.

forest of trees for mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuanrmunda, August 24: Stone mafia has felled a large number of valuable trees on the hills of Kudabeda reserve forest under Biramitrapur forest range in Sundargarh district to make space for mining. This has caused resentment among locals.

On being informed, Forest officials raided the area, but stone mafia had managed to escape. They seized two excavators.

People of nearby villages like Jhitiara, Lase, Kumjharia and Pakerlangar alleged that the Forest department has adopted a soft attitude towards the stone mafia who has been on a plundering spree. They said that earlier, the stone mafia grabbed a patch of government land in the area and was planning to mine stones. As locals opposed it, the latter abandoned the area, they said.

Hundreds of people have submitted a memorandum to the Kuanrmunda tehsildar Tuesday, seeking to know why no action was taken against the stone mafia. For lack of action, morale of mafia is high and they are setting sight on the hills to mine stone at the cost of greenery, said zilla parishad member Rajendra Kujur.

Ambulance access out of bounds for 5 Koraput villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dasmantapur, August 24: A road connecting Paika Phulatoda Sadar panchavat to Jhoparapadar under Dasmanthpur block in Koraput district has been in bad shape for over years. In the monsoon, its condition has worsened, giving nightmarish experience to locals and commuters.

In emergency cases, ambulance service has become a dream for the people of five villages, who have been reeling under commuting

woes for years.

Reports said, Jhoparapadar is seven kilometre away from Phulabeda Chhak. People of the five villages - Maliguda, Salapguda, Tentuliguda and Madhu Bisali depend on the road on a daily basis.

"Our misery compounds during monsoon as the road turns muddy and slippery. If a patient or pregnant woman needs emergency medical

help, ambulance fails to get access to our villages due to bad road condition. In that case, we have to carry patients on cots up to Phulabeda



Chhak from where the am-Locals alleged that ₹16 lakh bulance can shift the patients has been sanctioned for the to the hospitals," villagers road. A patch of the road has Narayan Mali, Ullasi Mali been metalled only up to and Padma Mali lamented. Salapguda. The road work

has been left half-way due to negligence of the contractor and a junior engineer, they added

Though the villagers have repeatedly written to the district administration to improve the road condition, no step has been taken till date.

Our reporter had contacted assistant engineer Abhisekh Sarangi and junior engineer Bakul Chandra Murmu over

phone, but the latter did not pick up the call. Villagers have decided to take up the issue with the district collector soon.

| 1. Name of the Work | | SNG-16 of 2 | 022-23 | EAUL COAUL NAIEMAL |
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| Total No. of works | - 01 No.Buildir | | | 2022-23, Dt.18.08.2022 |
| 3. Estimated cost | - Rs 40.79 lak | | | 1.e-Tender Notice No. 06-eT-DENS-SBP-22 |
| 4. Class of contractor | - 'B' & 'A' | | | NAME OF WORK : MAJOR UPGRADATION OF |
| 5. Period of completion | - 06 calendar | months | | TITLAGARH STATION IN TITLAGARH - |
| 6. Type of Tender | Single Cover | | | THERUBALI SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. |
| 7. Other details | - Oligie Oover | | | Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : |
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| Sundargarh | 2022-23 | Land and a second se | | ₹3,03,52,167.72, EMD (₹): 3,01,800/- |
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| Do join us to lear | rn more abour | t Mutual F | unds. | |
| | | t Mutual F | unds. | 4.e-Tender Notice No. 22-eT-DENW-SBP-22 NAME OF WORK: MAJOR UPGRADATION OF KANTABANJI STATION OF SAMBALPUR |
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Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Divn., BBSI





DIPR-25066/11/0020/2223





national



A person who retires or is going to retire has no value in this country N V RAMANA CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

NO GENDER NEUTRAL SEATING IN CLASSROOMS

The Kerala government has dropped its plan of introducing gender neutral seating in schools following objections from several quarters, especially Muslim organisations. Gender neutral seating formed a part of the initial draft of the reforms to be undertaken in the education sector



uote

District collectors will issue orders appealing people to remove 'Tiranga' from their houses wherever they are

displayed to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

The sharp reaction over the Samaiwadi Party chief going to the Azamgarh iail and meeting

imprisoned party MLA Ramakant Yaday to express sympathy is natural. This shows the general belief that the SP guards these types of criminal elements

MAYAWATI BSP PRESIDENT

The world is responding to soil policy, but citizens of the world must continue to amplify their voices SADHGURU JAGADISH VASUDEV

SHORT TAKES

Anubrata sent to judicial custody

Kolkata: A special court of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at Asansol in West Burdwan district of West Bengal, Wednesday, remanded Trinamool Congress strongman and the party's Birbhum district president, Anubrata Mondal to 14 days of iudicial custody in connection with the multi-crore cattle smuggling case. Justice Rajesh Chakraborty of the special court of CBI will have to present Mondal at the same court again September 7.

Murder probe: Cops conduct searches

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out simultaneous searches at four locations in Srinagar district Wednesday in connection with a murder investigation, a statement said. "Srinagar police today conducted simultaneous searches at four locations, two located in Barzulla area, one in Brein Nishat and one in Maisuma, in louses and offices of three lawyers in connection with killing of advocate Babar Qadri." "The houses of lawyers Mian Abdul Qayoom, Muzaffar Ahmad, and Manzoor Ahmed Dar were searched in furtherance of the investigation of the aforementioned murder case," a police press statement said.

Why can't govt call all-party meet on freebies: Top court

SOLICITOR GENERAL TUSHAR MEHTA SAID A LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN. WHERE SOMEBODY SHOULD TELL "PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: The Supreme Court on Wednesday queried the Central government, why it can't form a committee to examine the impact of freebies promised by political parties to induce voters, and also the government can call for an all-party meeting to examine the issue.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana told the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, "Why can't the Government of India constitute a committee to study the impact of freebies..." Mehta replied that the Centre will help in every way and statistics connected with the issue and other information can be placed before the top court.

Mehta said a line should be drawn, where somebody should tell "please do not do this". The Chief Justice replied the question is who will head the committee. Justice Ramana said if he were to contest the election, he may not get even 10 votes as political parties matter more and not

the individuals. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing the petitioner, submitted that a retired judge of the apex court, like Justice RM Lodha, should be the chairman of the committee to examine freebies issues. The Chief Justice replied, "The person who retires or is going to retire has no value in this country." Singh said it is the personality of the person concerned which impacts.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar,



representing the Election Commission of India, questioned the definition of freebie and said if something is there in the manifesto, can it be called a freebie? Datar said there is enough material available to judge the economic impact of freebies. The bench, also comprising

Justices Hima Kohli and CT Ravikumar, noted, freebies, etc., can destroy the economy. It has to be looked at and the court just cannot pass a mandamus.

The Chief Justice said, "The Government of India can call for an all-party meeting". Pointing at political parties seek-

ing to intervene in the matter in court, Mehta said parties claim fundamental rights, and what will the government do. AAP, seeking to intervene in the matter, claimed that it had the fundamental right to free speech under Article 19 of the Constitution, which included the election speeches and promises for upliftment of the downtrodden

Singh submitted that the apex court's 2013 judgment in

Subramanian Balaji vs. Government of Tamil Nadu needs to be reconsidered. In this judgment, the apex court had held that the promises made by political parties in the election manifesto would not amount to 'corrupt practices' as per Section 123 of the Representation of People Act.

After hearing detailed arguments, the top court adjourned the matter.

The top court was hearing a PIL by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking directions to the Centre and the Election Commission of India to take steps to regulate poll manifestos of political parties and also opposed the practice of political parties giving or promising freebies to induce voters during polls.

In the previous hearing, the top court had suggested constituting an expert panel comprising representatives from the Central and state governments, opposition political parties, Election Commission of India, Finance Commission, Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog, etc.

NC gives indication it will contest all 90 Assembly seats of J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 24: The National Conference Wednesday gave a clear indication that it will contest all the 90 seats in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on its own and not in alliance with other members of the five-party PAGD alliance.

In a major political development ahead of the elections expected to be held after November this year, the Kashmir provincial committee of the party unanimously passed a resolution resolving that the National Conference (NC) "should prepare and fight all the 90 seats"

Abdullah, General Secretary Ali Mohammed Sagar and virtually the entire leadership from the Kashmir region attended the meeting at the NC headquarters after which the resolution was passed.

Besides the NC, the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), which was formed August 4, 2019, comprises the PDP, CPM, Awami National Conference and CPI.

During the 2020 District Development Council elections, the alliance contested and won 110 seats out of 280 with the NC winning 67 seats alone. A party statement said the participants "expressed dismay over the recent statements, audio jingles and speeches made by some of the constituents of the PAGD targeting JKNC"

At Wednesday's meeting, Omar, who is the former chief minister of the erstwhile state, said that to protect Jammu and Kashmir's identity it is imperative for the people to register as voters. He said the underlying principles guiding the party's future course of action will be in line with JKNC's basic stand and policies.

Face-off between Shinde faction, Oppn legislators



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 24: An MLA from Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction and a legislator of the NCP virtually came to blows in the Vidhan Bhavan premises here Wednesday after shouting slogans against each other.

The NCP MLAs carried carrots on the steps of the legislature building in an bid to taunt the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP coalition.

The Shinde faction MLAs tried to snatch the carrots from the NCP legislators, raising tension between them. Sena MLA Mahesh Shinde (from the CM's faction) and NCP MLC Amol Mitkari then virtually came to blows at the steps of the legislature building. Some legislators from the two sides then intervened and diffused the tension. Earlier, legislators of the ruling BJP and those from the Shinde faction staged a protest in the Vidhan Bhavan premises targeting former CM Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya Thackeray.

They carried banners with messages alleging corruption in the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and claimed the Thackerays compromised Hindutva for power. Some of the banners carried the message: "Raja

stayed indoors due to fear of COVID 19 while friends of the vuvrai looted the treasury." The MLAs also shouted slogans like "standing committee che khoke...Matoshree okay," alleging corruption in the BMC with the support of Thackerays.

'Matoshree' is the residence of Uddhav Thackeray in suburban Bandra. Standing committee is the governing body of the BMC, where the elections are due.

Bharat Gogawale, the MLA from the Shinde camp, told reporters that the opposition legislators need not have come near them when they were staging the protest. "They started arguing first. When they protested all these days, we did not interfere," he said.

Members from both the sides kept shouting slogans against each other for some more time and then went into the House to attend the day's proceedings.

The state legislature's monsoon session will conclude Thursday. Shinde and 39 other Shiv Sena legislators had revolted against the party leadership in June this year, which led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government comprising the Sena, NCP and Congress. On June 30, Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister along with BJP's Devendra Fadnavis as his deputy.

IT'S ED'S TURN TO PROWL IN J'KHAND



former's associate and muscleman Bachhu Yaday, sources said. Both Mishra and Yadav were arrested

by ED in this case sometime ago. The ED probe began after the agency raided Mishra and his aleged associates July 8, covering

19 locations in Sahibgani, Barhet,



Party vice president Omar

Jaiveer Shergill quits Congress

New Delhi: Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Sheraill guit the party Wednesday and alleged that sycophancy is eating into the organisation like "termites". In a letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi, Shergill resigned from the post of the national spokesperson and said the primary reason was that "the ideology and the vision of the current decision makers of the Congress is no longer in sync with the aspirations of the youth and modern India".

AGENCIES

sources said.

New Delhi, August 24: The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** raided multiple locations Wednesday in Jharkhand and recovered 2 AK series assault rifles as part of an ongoing money-laundering investigation into alleged illegal mining in the state, official

The weapons were kept in an almirah at a home here, officials said. They informed that the premise on which the weapons were found allegedly belonged to - Prem Prakash, who is under the probe agency's scanner.

The federal probe agency is covering about 17-20 premises in Jharkhand, neighbouring Bihar, Tamil Nadu and the Delhi-NCR as part of the operation. The searches were carried out after fresh information came to the fore following the questioning of Pankaj Mishra, a political aide of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and the

Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki and Barharwa in Jharkhand in the case linked to alleged instances of illegal mining and extortion. After the July raids, the ED seized funds amounting to `13.32 crore lying in 50 bank accounts and froze them all. In a late evening development, Jharkhand police said that the rifles belonged to two constables who had left the weapons at the residence due to 'gross negligence'. Section 379, 414 of IPC at Girwabadi, Sahebganj Police Station.

"Besides, one illegal mine situated at Mauza Simaria, Sahebganj operated by Bishnu Yadav and others has been identified. Another mine has been identified at Mauza Demba, Sahebganj where mining has exceeded far beyond the leased area. The quantification of the excess illegal mining done at the above site has been estimated around 37.5 million cubic feet, which has remained undeclared and concealed. The processed value of the mined stone chips is estimated to be around Rs 45 crore," the official had said.

Activists stage a protest against remission of the sentence given to the convicts of Bilkis Bano's case by Gujarat government in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Minor killed over mother's affair

New Delhi: A 17-year-old girl was killed allegedly by a youth who lived with her family in the Outer Delhi's Tikri Border area Wednesday, police said. Harish, 18, was overpowered by the public at the spot and was handed over to the police, they said. Harish worked with the victim's mother at a factory in Bahadurgarh and also lived with her family, police said. A preliminary probe revealed that the victim's 48-year-old mother was in a relationship with the accused. The victim did not like the growing friendship between the two and had objected to it, a senior police officer said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

day, an ADB report said.

under extreme poverty.

The Covid-19 pandemic has set

back the fight against poverty in

Asia and the Pacific by at least two

years, said the latest report by

Asian Development Bank (ADB).

tilateral funding agency said

many living in the Asia Pacific re-

The Manila-headquartered mul-

gion will likely find it harder than before to come out of ex-New Delhi, August 24: Had treme poverty.

Covid-19 not struck, Asia Pacific 'The region's economic growth could have brought down extreme this year is expected to reduce poverty to a level achievable in extreme poverty -- defined as liv-2020 itself, enabling more people ing off less than \$1.90 a day -- to to improve living standards from a level that would have been surviving at less than USD 1.90 per achieved in 2020 had the pandemic not happened," according People surviving with less than to Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2022 released USD 1.90 (about Rs 152) per day fall Wednesday

Citing data simulations, ADB said those with lower pre-pandemic levels of social mobility, the ability to escape poverty, may witness "longer-lasting setbacks" Covid-19 has interrupted a long trend of poverty reduction, it said, adding that despite the economies



Pandemic sets back Asia-Pacific's poverty fight by 2 yrs: ADB

seeming to be recovering the progress remains uneven

The pandemic may also have worsened forms of poverty be-

The poor and the vulnerable have been hit hardest by Covid-19, and while economies are recovering, many people may find that getting out of poverty is even more difficult than before ALBERT PARK ADB CHIEF ECONOMIST

yond income, such as food insecurity and inadequate access to health services and education, said the report.

Park said governments in the region should focus on resilience, innovation and inclusiveness to provide more balanced economic opportunities and greater social mobility for everyone.

Going ahead, the prevalence of extreme poverty in Asia Pacific is expected to come down below 1 per cent by 2030, while about 25 per cent population may reach at least the middle-class status, meaning to have income/consumption of \$15 or more in a day (about Rs 1,197 per day) adjusted to purchasing power parity.

However, ADB said this outlook is threatened by differences in social mobility as well as other uncertainties. "Developing Asia faces the potential for stagflation, ongoing conflicts involving key global actors, increased food insecurity, and energy price shocks." ADB has a total of 68members of which 49 are from the Asia Pacific region.





BJP offered ₹20 crore each to 4 MLAs to switch sides: AAP

AAP accuses PM Modi of making efforts to bring its legislators into the BIP-fold by hook or crook and topple the Keiriwal govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) claimed Wednesday that the BJP has approached four of its legislators in Delhi, asking them to switch sides and join the saffron party or else, face false cases, the CBI and the ED.

Addressing a press conference here, AAP's national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the MLAs - Ajay Dutt, Sanjeev Jha, Somnath Bharati and Kuldeep Kumar - have been approached by leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with whom they have friendly relations.

Taking to Twitter, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP's national convenor Arvind Kejriwal said it is a very serious matter and a meeting of the party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC) has been convened at his residence at 4 pm to take stock of the situation and chalk out further strategy.

They (the four AAP legislators) have been offered Rs 20 crore each if they join the BJP and Rs 25 crore if they bring other MLAs along with them, Singh said.

"They (BJP leaders) told our MLAs that if they do not accept the offer and join the BJP, they will also have to face false cases, the CBI and the ED like (Delhi Deputy Chief Minister) Manish Sisodia is facing," he added.

Singh accused Prime Minister

SANJAY SINGH | NAT'L SPOKESPERSON, AAP

Narendra Modi of making efforts to bring AAP legislators into the BJP-fold by hook or crook and topple the Kejriwal government.

'Modiji is trying to make AAP MLAs break away from the party and topple the Delhi government by misusing probe agencies, sending his people to offer money to them and threaten them of con-

sequences if they do not switch sides." he said. Singh claimed that the BJP leaders with whom Dutt, Jha, Bharati and Kumar have friendly relations came to meet them with the saffron party's offer.

The experiment that was successful in (the case of Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde in Maharashtra) and failed in the case of Manish Sisodia is now

Modiji is trying to make AAP MLAs break away from the party and topple the Delhi government by nisusing probe agencies, sending his people to offer money to them and threaten them of consequences if they do not switch sides

being tried on our MLAs, he said. "Shame on you Modiji," Singh said and asked the prime minister to stop making such efforts

and focus on addressing issues like price rise and unemployment that the country is facing. AAP MLAs can neither be intimidated nor lured by money for

switching sides as they have come out of a movement, the Rajya Sabha member asserted while referring to the Anna Hazare-led 'India Against Corruption' movement of 2011 during the days of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the

Centre. The four AAP MLAs who have allegedly been approached by the BJP were also present at the press conference

Noida, August 24: Demolition of Supertech's twin towers here has been a major talking point among residents of neighbouring Emerald Court and ATS Village societies who are happy with the scheduled razing but also gripped with the fear of the unknown.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The nearly 100-metre tall towers, which came up illegally on Emerald Court's premises, will become India's tallest structures to be safely demolished by implosion technique in pursuance of a Supreme Court order, project officials said.

Around 5,000 residents of the two societies will be the most impacted when the structures go down at 2.30 pm August 28, leaving behind a whopping 55,000 tonnes of debris

Emerald Court's Rajesh Rana (63), whose flat in Aster 2 tower is just nine metres from the twin towers, said these days the demolition is the only topic of discussion for them and it has been like this since the last few weeks.

"Of course there is anxiety among people but we are more happy than worried about the demolition. It's a result of a long struggle for us," Rana told PTI, expecting the demolition process to be successful.

ATS' Chaturvedi, a retired central government bureaucrat said. "Considering that it's an unprecedented event with not much document evidence of such dem-



tion period.

TWIN TOWERS DEMOLITION

Happy residents in fear of unknown

THE NEARLY 100-METRE TALL TOWERS, WHICH CAME UP ILLEGALLY ON EMERALD **COURT'S PREMISES. WILL BECOME INDIA'S TALLEST STRUCTURES TO BE SAFELY** DEMOLISHED BY IMPLOSION TECHNIOUE IN PURSUANCE OF A SUPREME COURT ORDER

> olitions except for the Maradu complexes in Kerala, there is a fear of the unknown among residents.

According to officials overseeing the evacuation preparations, all residents of Emerald Court and ATS Village in Sector 93A, along with more than 150 pets, will have to vacate their homes by 7 am while the security staff of these societies will also be moved out latest by 12 pm Sunday.

Around 2,700 vehicles from both the societies will also be removed. The residents would be allowed to return after 4 pm only after

safety clearance from officials. Uday Bhan Singh Teotia (75), the president of Emerald Court residents' association said, "The adjoining Parsynath Srishti. Parsvnath Prestige and Eldeco Utopia have offered to provide space in their community clubs to

ning to move to their relatives homes in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad even as some have planned to go on a vacation to places like Uttarakhand and Rajasthan among others, ATS Village residents' group president Atul Chaturvedi told PTI.

Sabiqa Abbas of Emerald Court said the anxiety among residents is palpable and been part of their daily discussions of late.

"The support of our residents" groups and flow of information regarding the dos and don'ts for the evacuation August 28 has been good," she said, standing on her ground-floor apartment's balcony with the soon-to-be-demolished towers in sight.

anyone from our societies who She and her family members, want to go there for the demoliincluding her husband, an infant While some residents are conbaby and parents-in law, will be going to their relatives' place in sidering the compassionate offer, Noida August 28. a large number of them are plan-

'NO FLY ZONE' FOR DRONES IN NOIDA ON DEMOLITION DAY

Drones will not be allowed to fly in the "exclusion zone" of Supertech's illegal twin towers when they will be demolished August 28, officials said Wednesday. They added that drones will be allowed beyond the exclusion zone only on the basis of permission by the police. The nearly-100 metre tall structures taller than Delhi's iconic Qutub Minar -- in Noida's Sector 93A would be razed to ground at 2.30 pm Sunday. While all residents of two adjoining societies -- Emerald Court and ATS Village -- would be evacuated, an exclusion zone has been marked around the twin towers where no person, vehicle or animal would be allowed during the demolition process, the officials said.

First batch of women DTC bus drivers gets appointment letters



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



The women, after complete training, will be equipped to drive DTC buses. A total of 81 women, in two batches, have already completed this training and 38 have earned their HMV licences. Ten of these women are currently undergoing training at the DTC Training Centre, Nandnagari for induction as bus drivers and 31 more have applied to undertake training there.

In February, the Delhi government had relaxed the norms and eligibility criteria to recruit women as drivers for DTC. It reduced min-



Unusual security for 1K sandalwood saplings to be planted in Lutyens'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: A rare plan to grow 1,000 sandalwood trees in Lutvens' Delhi has begun with the arrival from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh of the first batch of their saplings, which will receive unusual pampering -- round

bear in Delhi and keep him in an ice house, it may survive, but it is a stupid thing to do. You need to match the tree to the soil, moisture regime and climate. The moment you after the tree, if

New Delhi, August 24: The Delhi government Tuesday appointed the first-ever batch of women DTC bus drivers.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot handed over the letters of appointment to 11 women drivers ioining the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) as bus drivers.

The women who will now start their career as bus drivers have been deployed at various DTC depots.

"I want to thank all women today being handed over the letters of appointment today, for their courage to take up bus driving as career choice and becoming a role model for society. I am very hopeful that they will inspire more women to become bus drivers with Delhi's transportation fleet," Gahlot imum height criteria from 159 cm to 153 cm and experience criteria for induction as bus drivers for women to one month.

In April, the Transport Minister had kicked off 'Mission Parivartan', an initiative to train women to obtain their Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) licences at Society for Driving Training Institute, Burari. The initiative is being implemented as a joint venture between the Delhi government and Ashok Leyland Ltd to facilitate end to end training to 180 women candidates for obtaining driving licence of HMV category.

The Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd (DIMTS) under its CSR support has signed an MoU with the Institute to implement this programme.

Jamia Milia Islamia University students stage a protest against remission of the sentence given to the convicts of Bilkis Bano case by Gujarat government, in New Delhi, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

14L 'diyas' needed for Ayodhya Deepotsava in 2 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, August 24: Potter's wheels are turning furiously in villages around the holy city to meet an expected record-breaking demand for 14 lakh earthen lamps that would light up the banks of the Saryu, two months from now.

A day ahead of Diwali, the Uttar Pradesh government sponsors the 'Deepotsava' -- a festival of lights -- in which volunteers from colleges line a stretch of the riverbank in Ayodhya with 'diyas'. At dusk, they are lit, presenting a grand spectacle.

The Ayodhya tradition began with Yogi Adityanath's BJP government. Beginning with 51,000 diyas in 2017, the number went up to 4.10 lakh in 2019, over 6 lakh in 2020 and more than 9 lakh last year, setting a new Guinness World Record.

This time, October 23, the organisers say the target is likely to be 14 lakh.

Already, potters in Jaisinghpur

POTTERS



village are at work, anticipating large orders.

Raju, who is in his twenties, is among them. Last year, he and those working with him delivered 21,000 divas for the Deepotsava after they got their order only 1520 days in advance.

'This time I don't want to take a chance. So we are on the job, making and storing diyas. I expect to deliver 40-50,000 diyas this time." he said.

And like others, he expects a

better price. "We got one-rupee per diya last year. But this time I think we should get at least Rs 1.50 for a diya as prices have also risen. Everything has become costlier, so should our divas," he said.

Like other potters, he used to sell diyas to middlemen as they got immediate payment without any running around for it.

Panchram Prajapati, a potter since childhood and now over 60 years old, said diya sales were meager earlier as people bought them only for the Diwali puja. They preferred lighting up their homes with fancy electric bulbs, he said.

Big events like the Deepotsava have changed things, he said.

Jaisinghpur village, which has about 40 potter families, supplied five or six lakh diyas last year, claims Rajesh Kumar Prajapati.

Prajapati said he was waiting for more clarity and is making "kulhads" (earthen cups) for now. "We are also starting the work of making diyas in advance. Last year, I got Rs 1.20 for a piece," he said.

He hoped he would get Rs 1.50 a piece at least this time. "We are also facing rising prices. From diesel to foodgrain, everything has become costly," he said.

the clock security guards will protect the saplings from possible theft and damage.

Delhi already has sandalwood trees at parks and gardens such as Lodhi Garden, Buddha Park and Talkatora Garden but this is for the first time when sandalwood plantation is being taken up at such a big scale, an official said.

According to the plan, besides extra care, security guards will be deployed to ensure that the sandalwood saplings are not stolen or damaged.

NDMC member Kuljeet Singh Chahal told PTI that a total of 1,000 saplings of red and white sandalwood trees will be planted in closed locations like parks, gardens of residential societies due to security concerns, under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Council.

The first consignment of the sandalwood saplings has arrived in the national capital and preparations are underway for their plantation, Chahal said, adding they will not be planted along road stretches.

'If we plant sandalwood saplings along road stretches, they may get stolen, vandalised or damaged. These saplings require extra care and security. Our existing guards will be used for the safety of the saplings," he said.

Chahal said 600 saplings will be planted in the south circle of the



PRADEEP KRISHEN | ENVIRONMENT EXPERT AND AUTHOR OF 'TREES OF DELHI'

NDMC which includes areas like Lodhi Garden, Sarojini Nagar, Chanakva Puri, among others, while the north circle includes locations like Rajpath, Sansad Marg, Connaught Place, Mother Teresa Crescent and Gole Market, among others.

However, Chahal did not divulge the details about the cost of the sandalwood saplings.

According to civic authorities, the cost of one sandalwood sapling is around Rs 275. The height of the saplings ranges between 3 and 4 feet and their plantation will begin this week, they said.

Although civic bodies have started the process of procuring sandalwood saplings, some environment experts raised concerns, citing that Delhi's climate is not suitable for sandalwood trees.

Environment expert Pradeep Krishen, who is also the author of the Book 'Trees of Delhi', said it is a stupid thing to do.

Another environment expert Manoj Mishra, however, said it is possible that sandalwood trees may survive in Delhi but their heartwood will lack the scent these trees are famous for.





national



Snooping, threatening and stealing are the foundations of the 'Amritkaal' promised by the Prime Minister RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

PM INAUGURATES AMRITA HOSP IN FARIDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesdav inaugurated 2,600-bed Amrita Hospital in the presence of spiritual leader Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) in Faridabad. With 2,600-beds, 534 of which are ICU. the facility will be one of the largest hospitals in the country



Rajnath calls upon SCO uote to fight terrorism unitedly

judiciary, the Election Commission, and other constitutional bodies, the party could be ousted to save the Constitution and country's

secularism SITARAM YECHURY CPI-M GENERAL

The BJP has been trying to

make India

'opposition-less' and

by protecting the

SECRETARY

In common parlance, the Puniabis are even afraid of taking the name of cancer as its treatment is too costly. But this

centre will go a long way in ensuring accessible and affordable cancer treatment to region

BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

Peace and harmony, which are essential to form a stable and prosperous society. are not possible without valour

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Fresh cases booked against Raja Singh

Hyderabad: Telangana Police Wednesday registered three more criminal cases against suspended BJP MLA Raja Singh for his derogatory comments on Prophet Mohammad. Amid the continuing protests, the new cases have been registered with the Nampally and Malakpet police stations in Hyderabad. Another case was registered at Rajendra Nagar police station of Cyberabad police commissionerate. The legislator has been booked for promoting enmity between people on the grounds of religion.

Smartphone found with prisoner in jail

Indore: A smartphone has been recovered from a 35vear-old woman lodged as an undertrial in the district prison of Madhya Pradesh's Indore, where she was shifted from

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 24: Any form of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, is a "crime against humanity" and the menace must be dealt with unitedly, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Wednesday at an SCO meet in Tashkent, in an oblique reference to Pakistan's support to terrorist activities against India.

With defence ministers of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) member states, including Pakistan's Khawaja Muhammad Asif, listening, Singh said the grouping must work together to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and asserted that Afghan territory must not be used as launch pads for terrorist activities.

In his address, Singh also reaffirmed India's resolve to fight all forms of terrorism to make the

The region SCO comprises peaceful, se India, China, Russia, cure Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and stable Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Singh and Pakistan said there

is a need to strengthen ties

among the SCO member states bilaterally and within the framework of the organisation on the basis of "equality, respect and mutual understanding" He also invited all SCO mem-

ber states to visit India next year when New Delhi takes over the presidency of the grouping from Uzbekistan.

"Terrorism is one of the most serious challenges to global peace and security. India reiterates its resolve to fight all forms of terrorism and make the region peaceful, secure and stable," he said. "We seek to develop joint institutional capabilities with the SCO member states, which, while respecting the sensitivities of each



During exchange of pleasantries with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu this morning, Singh conveyed his deep appreciation and thanks for arresting in Moscow a terrorist who was planning attacks in India

Russia's top intelligence agency said Monday that it has detained an Islamic State terrorist from a Central Asian country who underwent special training to carry out a suicide attack against a member of India's leadership elite for the offensive comments on the Prophet

The defence minister expressed India's "concern" over the situation in Ukraine and noted that New Delhi supports resolution of the crisis through talks between Moscow and Kviv

country, create the spirit of cooperation among individuals, societies and nations," he added. Singh asserted that ter-

rorism in any form, including cross-border terrorism, committed by anyone and for whatever purpose, is a crime against humanity, seen as an oblique

reference to Pakistan. The defence minister also voiced India's full support to a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while highlighting the need for respecting its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs. He urged all parties to encourage authorities in Afghanistan to achieve national reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation

and establish a broad-based. inclusive and representative political structure in the country according to a statement issued by the defence ministry. Singh said that the Afghan ter-

ritory must not be used to intimi-

date or attack any country by providing safe havens and training to terrorists and supporting their activities through financial assistance.

According to the statement, the defence minister stressed on the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and safeguard their fundamental rights. He also underlined the importance of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions in this regard. Singh also threw light on India's age-old ties with SCO countries, asserting that the member states of the organisation are common stakeholders in the progress and prosperity of the region.

"India accords high priority to SCO because of its unwavering belief in multilateralism. There is a need to strengthen ties with SCO member states bilaterally and within the framework of the organisation on the basis of equality, respect and mutual understanding." he said.

GYANVAPI CASE Varanasi court reserves judgment PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, August 24: A district court hearing the Gyanvapi mosque Shringar Gauri complex case here reserved its judgment till September 12 as both Hindu and Muslim sides concluded their arguments on the maintainability of the suit Wednesday.

Five women had filed a petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the mosque

According to Madan Mohan Yaday, a lawyer for the Hindu plaintiffs, both sides completed their arguments, after which District Judge A K Vishvesh reserved its order till September 12.

Advocate Shamim Ahmad, who represented the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee in the case, said the Gyanvapi mosque is a Waqf property and the court does not have the right to hear the matter. It was argued that only the Waqf Board has the right to hear any matter pertaining to the mosque.

"The lawyer for the Muslim side repeated old statements before the court," Yadav said. He said the documents presented by the other side were of one Alamgir mosque.

'We told the court that the mosque was constructed after demolishing the temple," Yadav said.

The advocate representing the Muslim side told the court that in 1992, after an agreement between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Waqf Board, a part of the Gyanvapi complex was converted into a police control room.

At the time of the construction of the Kashi Vishwanath corridor, the state government took some land of the Gyanvapi mosque and provided land at another place in lieu of it, he said. This proves that the Gyanvapi mosque is a Waqf property, Ahmed told the court.

Earlier, a lower court had or dered a videography survey of the complex. The survey work was completed on May 16 and the report was presented in the court May 19.

CITIZENS' DATA SECURITY, PRIVACY Twitter, IRCTC officials summoned by Parl Panel



The officials of the IRCTC will depose before the

Parliamentary Standing Committee chaired by Shashi Tharoor on the issue of citizens' data security and privacy Friday. On the same day, representatives of Twitter India will also appear before the panel on the same issue, the

notice reads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: A parliamentary panel has called top officials of the Railways' catering arm IRCTC and is likely to question them about a tender floated by it to hire a consultant to monetise its passenger and freight customer data, sources said Wednesday.

The officials of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will depose before the Parliamentary Standing **Committee on Information** Technology chaired by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on the issue of citizens' data security and privacy on Friday, as per the notice of the meeting issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

On the same day, representatives of Twitter India will also ap-

pear before the panel on the same issue, the notice reads. The IRCTC, which has more than 10 crore users, of which 7.5 crore are active users, has floated

a tender to hire a consultant to monetise its passenger and freight customer data with the aim to generate revenue up to Rs 1,000 crore. Sources in the panel said the issue will be taken up for discussion in the meeting with the IRCTC officials. The Railways has not officially commented on the tender. However, highly placed sources said it will be withdrawn considering the fact that the government has withdrawn the Data Protection Bill from Parliament.

The Centre had August 3 withdrew the long-awaited Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019 to replace it with a new bill with a 'comprehensive framework' and 'contemporary digital privacy laws'.

According to the IRCTC tender document, the data to be studied will include information captured by the transporter's various public facing applications such as "name, age, mobile number, gender, address, e-mail ID, class of journey, payment mode, login or

password" and other details. The Tharoor-led panel has been holding meeting with various stakeholders including tech companies, social media firms, ministries and other regulators on the issue of citizens' data security and privacy.

Nitish wins trust vote

AS PER THE HEADCOUNT. 160 MLAS VOTED IN FAVOUR OF THE CONFIDENCE MOTION WHILE NO VOTE WAS CAST AGAINST THE SAME



New Delhi's Tihar Jail three months ago, an official said Wednesday. Following the recovery of the smartphone, a female guard of the district jail has been suspended, the official said. Madhva Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said a probe has been ordered into the incident and a detailed report sought from officials within 24 hours.

Rains lash parts of Delhi

New Delhi: Rains drenched parts of Delhi on Wednesday but high humidity added to the discomfiture of the residents. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 25.7 degrees Celsius while the maximum settled at 34.3 degrees Celsius. The Safdariung Observatory. Delhi's primary weather station. recorded 6.1 mm of rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. The Lodhi Road. Sports Complex, Pusa and Mayur Vihar weather stations gauged 4.2 mm, 9mm, 4.5mm and 2 mm of rainfall respectively.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna. August 24: The Nitish Kumar-led Mahagatbandhan government Wednesday comfortably won the trust vote in the special Assembly session, with 160 votes in its favour in the 243-member house, while the BJP's 77 members walked out.

As Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari announced the vote of trust, BJP's former Deputy Chief Minister objected to it, saying that it is not required. Hazari turned down his point and conducted the vote. Nitish Kumar, during the dis-

cussion on the motion, accused the BJP of just creating disputes in the society, and the Central government not doing anything apart from advertisements.

"The BJP is expert in advertising and those leaders who give objectionable and communal statements are getting promotion in the Centre. When I left the NDA, opposition leaders from across the country called me over the phone and congratulated me for my separation from it. Now, we are committed to work for the people of the country," he said. "They (BJP and RSS) have no

contribution in the freedom struggle. Where were they during that? They will end the ideology of Bapu (Mahatma Gandhi). BJP used to create communal disputes between Hindu and Muslim community." "Bihar is a poor state where we

have started 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal Yojana' but the Central government has not been connecting every village with roads. Connecting every village with roads was a project of Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and my party was part of it. Atal ji, (L.K.) Advani ji, Murli Manohar Joshi ji were listening to me but this government at the Centre is not," he added.



People along with their motorcycles ride a boat to cross a road flooded due to rise in water level of Ganga following heavy monsoon rainfall, in Hetapatti village near Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

UPSC rolls out 'One Time Registration' platform for aspirants

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 24: Aiming to facilitate the process of submission of applications by the aspirants of its examinations, the Centre's apex recruitment agency the Union Public Service Commission has rolled out 'One Time Registration' (OTR) platform. It has been launched on the

Commission's website at upsc.gov.in and upsconline.nic.in on a 24 X 7 basis. As per the Commission, the OTR will be quite useful for the candidates as it will not only save them from filling in their basic personal details again for any subsequent examination being conducted by the UPSC, but also eliminate any possibility of submission of incorrect information by them

as their basic personal details will be validated by the candidates themselves.

Since about 70 per cent information of an aspirant in the OTR will automatically be pre-populated in the online application form of an examination, the time for filling/submitting an online application form will be reduced considerably.

The aspirants, who wish to apply for any future examination(s) of the Commission, are required to register themselves in the OTR platform by filling up their basic personal information indicated therein. Once the registration of an aspirant is completed, the information will remain stored securely in the Commission's servers, said the Commission.

No trees to be cut in Aarey forest: SC to Mumbai Metro

29 injured in

Gangtok: At least 29 persons were injured, seven seriously and one critically, in a bus mishap at 7th Mile in the outskirts of the city Wednesday, police said. Of the injured 24 were students of SRM University campus at Tadong here. They were on their way to Ranipool in East Sikkim district, about six km from 7th Mile, the police said. The injured were rescued and rushed to the Manipal Central Referral Hospital from where the critically injured, a student, was referred to a hospital at Siliguri in West Bengal, the police said.

bus mishap

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 24: The Supreme Court Wednesday said it would take a stern view, if Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) violates its undertaking of not cutting trees in Aarey forest.

A bench headed by Justice UU Lalit said MMRCL should not go ahead with any developmental work in the forest area. Senior advocate Anitha Shenoy, appearing for the petitioners, refuted the contents of the affidavit filed by the MMRCL during the previous hearing. She said levelling and other

The top court noted that in October 2019 an assurance was given that no tree will be cut in any manner. The bench, also comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia, noted "advocate Rukmini Bobde, appearing for MMRC said her clients have already filed an affidavit that no trees have been cut since the 7.10.2019 order and would not be cut in any manner". After hearing arguments, the top court has placed the matter for further hearing Tuesday.

On August 5, MMRCL told the Supreme Court that no tree cutting has been carried out in Aarev forest in Mumbai, rather some weeds and branches were removed.



Senior advocate Chander Uday Singh, representing the petitioners, had then contended that tree cutting had been resumed in the Aarey forest region for the metro

car shed project, despite the status quo orders. The top court noted that the matter needs to be heard in detail.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta,

THE TOP COURT NOTED THAT IN **OCTOBER 2019 AN ASSURANCE** WAS GIVEN THAT NO TREE WILL BE CUT IN ANY MANNER

ON AUGUST 5, MMRCL TOLD THE SUPREME COURT THAT NO TREE CUTTING HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN AARFY FOREST IN MUMBAL RATHER SOME WEEDS AND BRANCHES WERE REMOVED

THE COURT WILL NEXT HEAR A PLEA AGAINST FELLING OF TREES IN THE FOREST AREA AUGUST 30

representing MMRCL, submitted that no tree cutting was going on in the area, and after the status quo order was passed by the top court in 2019, no tree was cut.

He added that there were bushes, weeds, and shrubs, which have grown in the area, and they were being removed by the concerned authority. Mehta emphasized that only trimming of certain branches were carried out citing the affidavit filed by MMRCL in the matter.

The apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of the protests against the cutting of trees in the Aarey car shed plot in 2019. It had ordered status quo on October 7, 2019, after Mehta gave an undertaking that no fresh felling of trees would be done status quo order had been extended from time to time.



work is going on and there should

not be any work in the area.







OrissaPOST THURSDAY | AUGUST 25 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

international



I hope that concrete steps will be taken to bring an end to the war and to avert the risk of a nuclear disaster at Zaporizhzhia. Innocents pay for war POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

PANDA TWINS BORN IN CHINA

Twin giant pandas have been born at a breeding centre in southwestern China, a sign of progress for the country's unofficial national mascot as it struggles for survival amid climate change and loss of habitat. The male and female cubs, born Tuesday, are the second pair of twins born to their mother, Qin Qin



uote

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has vastly transformed the world's energy landscape and so Japan needs to bear in mind potential crisis scenarios

FUMIO KISHIDA PM, JAPAN

Xi Jinping will be with us till at least 2037. He is 69 years old and by 2037, he will be 84 years old. We need to get used to the fact that Xi Jinping and Xi Jinping's China for a very long time

KEVIN RUDD FORMER PM, AUSTRALIA

Networking of established Brazilian entrepreneurs with a growing Indian presence in Brazil was visible. India & Brazil are not only partners but can share best practices for their mutual growth & progress

S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER,

SHORT TAKES

US sets 65K H-1B visa cap for 2023

Washington: The US has received enough petitions needed to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa cap for the fiscal year 2023, a federal agency has announced. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technica expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. The H-1B visa programme is the most sought-after work visa among foreign professionals, including Indians.

Najib loyalists call for royal pardon

Kuala Lumpur: Supporters of former Malaysian Prime Minister Naiib Razak

UKRAINE'S 31ST INDEPENDENCE DAY Russian shackles worse than missiles

Thai court suspends **PM Prayuth pending** term limit review

REUTERS

Bangkok, August 24: Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Prayuth Chanocha Wednesday after accepting a petition from an opposition party seeking his ousting on the grounds that he has held office for his full. legally mandated term.

The petition filed to parliament last week by the main opposition Pheu Thai party argued that Prayuth's time spent as head of a military junta, after he staged a coup when he was army chief in 2014, should count towards his constitutionally stipulated eightvear term

Though Prayuth could be restored to his position when the court rules on the petition, the surprise suspension threw Thai politics into confusion.

"The court has considered the petition and related documents and sees that the facts from the petition are cause for questioning as demanded," it said.

Prayuth has 15 days to respond, the court told media in a statement. adding that a panel of judges ruled five to four in favour of his suspension, starting from Wednesday. Government spokesman Anucha

Burapachaisri said Prayuth respected the court's decision and had ceased active duty, adding that Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan would take over as interim leader and the suspension would have no impact on the government's work.

"Prime Minister Prayuth also urged the people to respect the decision of the court and avoid criticising the decision that could further create division," Anucha said.

It was not clear when the court would deliver a final ruling on the petition. Prayuth ruled as head of a military council after he overthrow an elected government in 2014.

He became a civilian prime minister in 2019 following an election held under a 2017 military-drafted constitution in which an eight-year limit for a prime minister was set

When Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine February 24 in an unprovoked act of aggression, many expected a quick victory. Six months later, the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II has turned into a grinding war of attrition. The Russian offensive has largely bogged down as Ukrainian forces increasingly target key facilities far behind the front lines,

including in Russia-occupied Crimea

Kyiv, August 24: Ukraine was "reborn" when Russia invaded six months ago, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Wednesday, marking 31 years of his country's independence from the Moscow-controlled Soviet Union with a vow to drive Russian forces out completely. After days of warnings that Moscow could use the anniversary of Ukraine's Independence Day to launch more missile attacks on major cities, the second biggest city Kharkiv was under curfew after months of bombardment.

REUTERS

The anniversary fell exactly six months after Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine. Wednesday's celebrations were cancelled but many people

marked the day by new nation wearing embroi appeared in the dered shirts that world on Feb. 24 at 4 in are part of the national dress. the morning. It was not

In an emo born, but reborn. A nation tional speech to that did not cry, scream or his compatriots, take fright. One that did Zelenskyy said not flee. Did not give up. Russia's attack And did not forget had revived the na-

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

The 44-year-old leader, speaking in front of Kyiv's central monument to independence in his trademark combat fatigues, vowed to recapture occupied areas of eastern Ukraine as well as the Crimean peninsula,

which Russia annexed in 2014. "We will not sit down at the negotiating table out of fear, with a gun pointed at our heads. For us, the most terrible iron is not missiles, aircraft and tanks, but shack-



les. Not trenches, but fetters," he said. He and his wife later joined other religious leaders for a service in St Sophia cathedral and laid flowers at a memorial to fallen soldiers. than theirs.

Russia has made few advances in Ukraine in recent months, after its troops were pushed back from Kviv in the early weeks of the war. Ukrainian soldiers on the front line in the east said they were more motivated than their enemy.

"All of our people are cheering for us," a soldier called Yevhen told Reuters, declining to give his last name. "The whole country is, and other countries who help us too. Our fighting spirit is greater

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told a meeting of defence ministers in Uzbekistan that Russia had deliberately slowed down what it refers to as its "special mili-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, August 24: German offi-

World leaders back Ukraine's brave fight

Germany stands firmly by Ukraine's side in this hour of danger - today and for as long as Ukraine needs our support. Your yellow and blue flag and that of the EU, with yellow stars on a blue background, are cut from the same cloth.

OLAF SCHOLZ | CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

Today Ukraine's independence is threatened once again and people are fighting with steel and with courage to defend their homes and their families. However long it takes, the United Kingdom will stand with Ukraine and provide every possible military, economic and humanitarian support

BORIS JOHNSON | PM, UK

Ukraine's Independence Day is a day of pride. But in the place of legitimate festivities, we are thinking of the dead and the fighters today, of the courage and resilience of vour people

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRENCH

Ukraine offers a lesson that freedom and democracy will always win out over coercion and violence

PEDRO SÁNCHEZ | PM, SPAIN

tary operation" in Ukraine to avoid civilian casualties.

US President Joe Biden announced nearly \$3 billion for weapons and equipment for Ukraine in Washington's "biggest tranche of security assistance to date", while the head of NATO told Ukrainians they were an inspiration to the world.

"You can count on NATO's support. For as long as it takes," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in a video message.

Almost 9,000 Ukrainian military personnel have been killed in what Kviv savs is an unprovoked act of imperial aggression.

losses but US intelligence estimates 15,000 killed. Moscow de-

to discredit its armed forces Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union in August 1991 after a failed putsch by Communist hardliners in Moscow, and its population voted overwhelmingly for independence in

Britain's outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson Wednesday made a surprise visit to Ukraine on the country's Independence Day and announced another major support package worth around GBP 54 million in its ongoing conflict with Russia.

scribes its actions in Ukraine as an operation necessitated by threats to its security and has imposed penalties on those deemed

a referendum that December.

Russia has not publicised its

Germany unveils DEAD SEA SHRINKING hydrogen trains

help for flood relief

Pakistan seeks int'l

tion's spirit.

petitioned King Al-Sultan Abdullah to pardon the disgraced politician, a day after he was jailed for corruption linked to the multibillion-dollar scandal at a state investment fund. About 200 lovalists gathered outside the national palace Wednesday afternoon to hand in a request for an immediate pardon for Najib, who led the country for nine years until 2018.

Singapore eases **Covid restrictions**

Singapore: Singapore Wednesday relaxed its socialmixing restrictions on Covid-19 and said that wearing masks won't be mandatory from August 29 except on public transport and hospitals as the daily hospital cases have halved in the country. Speaking at a press conference to announce the relaxation of the masks mandate, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said that masks will only be mandatory in two settings, the first being healthcare facilities, residential care homes and ambulances, as well as indoor premises within hospitals and polyclinics.

Pak minor raped, burnt to death

Islamabad: A minor girl was kidnapped, raped, and burnt to death in Islamabad's Kohsar town. Her body was recovered from a water tank from one of the houses in the town, at Old Kirpa Road falling under the jurisdiction of Kirpa Police Station, The News reported. The father of the victim, hailing from Mardan, lodged a complaint with the Kirpa Police Station, in which he claimed that his seven-year old daughter went to a neighbour's house along with her family to attend Quran Khwani.

Islamabad, August 24: Cashstrapped Pakistan government has decided to seek international help to undertake relief and rehabilitation efforts in parts of the country inundated by devastating floods that has claimed over 800 lives and left thousands homeless

The decision was made Tuesday during an urgent briefing on the flood emergency by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the top national body having the mandate to deal with calamities.

Unable to cope with the debilitating impact, the government has decided to launch an international appeal seeking funds for relief and rehabilitation for flood-hit people and restoration of damaged infrastructure, according to an official statement.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced Rs 25,000 to floodaffected people while appealing to the nation to extend help. He said the government was providing Rs 37.2 billion to the people in aid.

'The current relief operation needs Rs 80 billion and hundreds of billions of rupees also required to overcome the losses as well as for rehabilitation of the victims," he said. Earlier Monday, the government

decided to hold a donors' conference to get money for the flood victims. the world's first fleet of hydrogenpowered passenger trains Wednesday, replacing 15 diesel trains that previously operated on nonelectrified tracks in the state of Lower Saxony

The 14 trains use hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity that powers the engines. The German government has backed expanding the use of hydrogen as a clean alternative to fossil fuels.

Alstom says the Coradia iLint trains have a range of up to 1.000 kilometres and a maximum speed of 140 kph.By using hydrogen produced with renewable energy the trains will save 1.6 million litres of diesel fuel a year. The hydrogen is currently produced as a byproduct in chemical processes, but German specialty gas company Linde plans to manufacture it locally.



An aerial picture shows land that used to be covered with Dead Sea water, near Jericho in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

Twenty-five years after death, Princess Diana still captivates

DIANA'S DEATH PLUNGED THE MONARCHY INTO CRISIS, COMING AFTER THE HIGHLY PUBLIC DISINTEGRATION OF HER MARRIAGE TO HEIR PRINCE CHARLES WITH ITS REVELATIONS OF FEUDING. ADULTERY. AND THE MISERY SHE HAD FELT IN HER ROYAL ROLE

REUTERS

London, August 24: A quarter of a century after her death at the age of just 36, Princess Diana remains a source of fascination to people around the world and her fate still casts a shadow over the

British royals. Diana was killed August 31, 1997, when the limousine carrying her and her lover Dodi al-Fayed crashed in the Pont de L'Alma tunnel in Paris as it sped away from chasing paparazzi photographers on motor-

> bikes Millions globally mourned the "peo-

ple's princess", as the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair described Diana, who was one the world's most recognised and photographed woman. Twenty-five years on, her allure shows little sign of faltering.

There has been "Spencer", a movie about the tumultuous end of Charles and Diana's marriage; "The Princess", a documentary by Oscar-nominated director Ed Perkins; while the hit Netflix drama "The Crown" has focused on Diana in its recent series.

There have been books, countless newspaper articles, numerous TV programmes, recriminations over a controversial 1995 interview she gave to the BBC, and even "Diana, The Musical", a much panned and shortlived Broadway show.

"Diana still has an impact, there are still documentaries being made about her, stories written about her, people are still intrigued by this woman," said author Andrew Morton, whose 1992 biography first exposed the deep divisions in her marriage and with whom she secretly cooperated. "She just had a charisma, she had an appeal which went beyond her royal moniker - it was of an extraordinary human being," Morton said.

OMNIPRESENT

For the royals themselves, Diana is still omnipresent, not least for her two sons, Princes William, 40, and Harry, 37, who have spoken of the trauma her death caused, and how it affected their mental health for vears afterwards.

They were just 15 and 12 when they walked slowly behind their mother's coffin, past a throng of mourners, through the streets of London to her funeral.

"Every day, we wish she were still with us," William said when

the two brothers unveiled a statue in her honour last year at Kensington Palace in central London, her former home. "I feel her presence in almost everything that I do now," Prince Harry told a US television interview in April.

Prince Charles has slowly emerged from the shadow cast by his ex-wife's death, and has now been married for 17 years to Camilla, the woman Diana held responsible for their relationship failing. But, polls show the issue lingers with some.

The enduring fascination is also not just with her life, but the manner of her death.

A lengthy inquest concluded in 2008 Diana and al-Fayed were unlawfully killed by the grossly negligent driving of chauffeur Henri Paul and paparazzi photographers pursuing their limousine.

A police investigation which

looked at whether she might have been murdered, dismissed a host of conspiracy theories and determined Paul had been drunk and was driving too fast.

But, speculation that she was a victim of an assassination plot still endures, and one of Diana's former bodyguards made headlines this week by suggesting British security officers might have inadvertently caused the crash

In his 2010 biography, Blair wrote that his famous description of the "people's princess" now seemed "corny" and "over the top", but said it was how Diana saw herself and should be remembered.

"Was Diana, the queen of people's hearts? Just look at the evidence,' Morton said. "The mountains of flowers, the fact that people mourned her loss probably in someways greater than their own members of their own family."



business



The biggest risk to India's growth outlook is an escalation of geopolitical tensions, especially if these tensions spread to the Asian region JAYANTH R VARMA MPC MEMBER, RBI

UBER CREATES ₹44,600CR VALUE FOR INDIA IN 2021

Uber generated ₹44,600 crore worth value for India's economy in 2021, helping drivers earn an additional ₹1,700 crore in higher income, the ridehailing platform revealed Wednesday. Rides with Uber produced 1.5 lakh crore trillion in consumer surplus for the Indian riders in 2021 -- equivalent to 0.8 per cent of the GDP





RELIEF RBI allows AmEx to add new customers India to incentivise

We now aspire to take exports from \$675 billion to \$2 trillion by 2030 and students of the institute (IIFT) should be a part of this endeavour

PIYUSH GOYAL

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We plan to develop integrated hydrogen hubs to serve the industry and heavy-duty transport to be a

leading player in this space. This MoU with Ohmium is a step in our

we are bullish

MARTIN SCHWENK MD & CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ

SHORT TAKES

New Delhi: NDTV's share price rose 5 per cent, hitting the upper circuit in opening trade Wednesday, a day after the Adani group launched a hostile bid to take over the media house. The stock climbed 5 per cent to Rs 384.50 -- its upper circuit limit as well as 52-week high -- on the BSE after beginning the trade on a positive note. The company's market capitalisation climbed Rs 117.99 crore to Rs 2.478.92 crore on the BSE. On the NSE, it jumped 4.99 per cent to Rs 388.20 -- its upper circuit limit as also the one-year peak.

Future faces new insolvency plea

New Delhi: Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd is now facing a second plea filed by an operational creditor of the company before National Company Law Tribunal to initiate insolvency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. August 24: The Reserve Bank Wednesday lifted the restrictions on American Express Banking Corp and allowed onboarding of new domestic customers on its card network.

The central bank had imposed curbs on American Express Banking Corp for being non-compliant with the directions on Storage

THE REVENUE GROWTH

HAD GALLOPED 25 PER

A LOWER BASE IN THE

PANDEMIC-AFFECTED

FY21, THE CRISIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

report said Wednesday.

Mumbai, August 24: States' rev-

enue growth will slide to 7-9 per cent

in FY23 even as handsome GST col-

The revenue growth had galloped

25 per cent in FY22 courtesy a lower

analysed 17 states accounting for 90 per

In FY23, healthy tax buoyancy

will be supporting the revenue growth,

with Goods and Services Tax (GST)

collections and devolutions from the

Centre -- which together comprise

up to 45 per cent of the states' revenue

- expected to show robust double-

The agency's senior director Anuj

Sethi said the biggest impetus to the

cent of the aggregate GSDP, it said.

REPORT SAID

CENT IN FY22 COURTESY



of Payment System Data effective May 1, 2021.

"In view of the satisfactory com-

DESPITE ROBUST GST COLLECTIONS

States' revenue growth

pliance demonstrated by American Express Banking Corp with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular... On Storage of Payment System Data, the restrictions imposed... On onboarding of new domestic customers have been lifted with immediate effect," the central bank said in a statement.

In April 2018, all payment system providers were directed to ensure that their entire data (full end-to-

end transaction details/ information collected/ carried/ processed as part of the message/ payment instruction) relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

They were also required to report compliance to RBI and submit a board-approved System Audit Report (SAR) conducted by a CERT-In empanelled auditor within the specified timelines.

Tatas may have to write off AirAsia **India's loss**

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 24: India's Tata Sons will likely have to make a provision of Rs 26 billion (\$325.69 million) as accumulated losses for low-cost carrier AirAsia India which it's seeking to absorb into unit Air India and merge with Air India Express, the Economic Times reported Wednesday.

Earlier this year, Tata Group owned Air India proposed to buy the entire equity share capital of AirAsia India, in which Tata has a majority stake, to merge into a single airline. Tata Sons has an 83.67% stake in AirAsia India.

No decision has been taken on whether the write-off will be included in the balance sheet of Tata Sons or Air India, the Economic Times reported, citing officials close to the development.

Tata, Air India and AirAsia India did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Autos-to-steel conglomerate Tata bought state-run carrier Air India in a \$2.4 billion equity and debt deal earlier this year, regaining ownership of what used to be India's flagship carrier after nearly 70 years.

The deal included three entities - full-service carrier Air India, its low-cost arm Air India Express, and AI SATS, which provides ground-handling and cargo services.

rupee-settled exports to boost Russia trade

Indian firms bare already swapping out the dollar and euro for Asian currencies to settle trades to avoid Western sanctions imposed on Russia after their invasion of Ukraine



REUTERS

Mumbai, August 24: India may give incentives to exporters settling trades using rupees to boost the acceptability of the currency and increase the sales of goods to Russia, which has fallen because of western sanctions, according to government and industry sources.

The move is designed to boost Russian trade after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) put in place a mechanism for international trade settlements using the rupee last month.

The most likely incentive that will be granted would apply a current program for trades using fully convertible currencies such as the dollar and the euro to the rupee, which is only partially convertible, according to the three sources.

Under the existing programme, Indian exporters receive rebates on a portion of the taxes and customs duties accumulated during the entire process of manufacturing a good. The new incentive would apply those rebates to goods exported using the rupee as a currency, the sources said.

"The department of commerce is working with the central bank

who goes by the nickname "Mudge".

also claims that Twitter prioritizes

growing its user base over fighting

platform and its CEO Parag Agrawal

of issuing untrue statements on

account numbers because "if ac-

curate measurements ever became

public, it would harm the image

and valuation of the company."

In particular, Zatko accuses the

spam and bots, the filing says.

ensure facilitation of rupee-related transactions as foreign exchange realization in accordance with RBI's notification last month,' said one of the sources, a senior government official who did not want to be identified as the discussions are private.

"Steps will be taken to extend foreign trade policy benefits for such realisation," he added.

So far bankers and traders have not increased their use of the rupee for settlements as they are awaiting more details from the central bank and the government on the incentives to use the rupee, the sources said.

Guidelines are expected "soon" and will help boost trade with Russia, the sources said without elaborating on the timeline.

Another one of the sources, also a government official, said India is aiming to add trade worth \$6 billion to \$7 billion with Russia in the next two months.

India's imports from Russia, mainly crude oil, increased five times to more than \$15 billion from Feb 24, when Russia invaded Ukraine and the end of July, compared to the previous year, Reuters reported earlier this month. However, exports fell to \$852.22 million from \$1.34 billion in the same period.

India's luxury EV mkt AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, August 24: Twitter

uel tax collections are expected to be almost unchanged

🔿 entre's grants likely to see only marginal growth this fiscal

dditionally, GST compensation

cent last fiscal, should further grow by 15 per cent this fiscal, it said.

to be almost unchanged because gains from a 25 per cent increase in crude price and better sales volumes will be offset by the reduction in central excise on petrol and diesel in November 2021 and May 2022, and sales tax cuts by some states.

Centre's grants, including Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Finance Commission grants and revenue deficit, are likely to see only marginal growth this fiscal, it said.

Additionally, GST compensation pensation period July 1, 2022, it said.

The outlook is based on an assumption of real GDP growth at 7.3 per cent and no lockdown-related

to slide to 7-9% in FY23

to sustain and collections to further increase 20 per cent this fiscal, supported by better compliance levels,

15 per cent) will be acting as the mod-

The share of states in central taxes is expected to grow further this fiscal, the agency said, adding that while the proportions are determined by the Finance Commission, the overall kitty is linked with the central government's gross tax collections.

revenue growth will come from aggregate state GST collections, which had already rebounded by 29 per cent in FY22. "We expect this momentum

higher inflationary environment and steady economic growth," Sethi said. A flattish or low single-digit growth

in sales tax collections from petroleum products (8-9 per cent of total revenue) and grants recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission (13-

erating factors, it said.

This pool, which expanded 40 per

and the revenue department to impacts, it said. Mercedes set to lead TWITTER DECEIVED USERS: WHISTLEBLOWER

'THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

His filing argues that because Twitter reports a tally of users based on who can be read



Fuel tax collections are expected

payments, which were 7-9 per cent of revenue in past two fiscals, will also end, with the expiration of the com-

NITIN PRASAD CHAIRMAN, SHELL GROUP

We are very optimistic and to look at around, say 25 per cent of sales in the next five years (from EVs)

NDTV stock rises 5%

lections will help in the accretion, a base in the pandemic-affected FY21, the report by rating agency Crisil, which

proceedings. The latest petition is filed against Future Enterprises by Retail Detailz India, claiming default of Rs 4.02 crore before the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). "The company has received efiling confirmation from NCLT with respect to the filing of an application by an Operational Creditor Retail Detailz India Private under section 9 of the IBC for an alleged default amount of Rs 4.02 crore," Future Enterprises said in a late evening filing Tuesday.

TVS to buy 48% stake in DriveX

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Wednesday said it will acquire 48 per cent stake in Narain Karthikevan's preowned two-wheeler startun 'DriveX' for a consideration of Rs 85 crore. The company said it will acquire 48.27 per cent stake in NKars Mobility Millennial Solutions Pvt Ltd (NMMSPL), which operates under the brand 'DriveX'. through primary and secondary investments. Founded by Formula 1 driver Karthikeyan, DriveX is into leasing of two-wheeler motorcycles and scooters and selling, trading, and distributing pre-owned twowheeler motorcycles and scooters.

DreamFolks IPO fully subscribed

New Delhi: The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of airport service aggregator platform DreamFolks Services got fully subscribed within hours of opening for subscription Wednesday. The IPO received bids for 1,03,46,872 shares against 94,83,302 shares on offer, translating into 1.09 times subscription.

REUTERS

digit growth, it said.

New Delhi, August 24: German carmaker Mercedes-Benz plans to take

pole position in Mercedes' inroads India's luxury electric vehicle market, come as EV rival its country head told **Tesla recently put on** Reuters, helping cement its title as the hold plans to enter top-selling luxury India due to high car brand and keep ahead of rival Tesla. import taxes on EVs

India, Mercedes-Benz will launch three new electric cars this year. be the first company to assemble a luxury EV, and will set up a fast-charging network nationwide, Martin Schwenk

said in an interview. The company might also manufacture batteries domestically in the future, he said. "Now, we are really starting

our aggressive offensive into the EV market. In the next five years. 25% of our sales (in India) will be electric," Schwenk said. "Our ambition is to lead the market in the electric side as well.'

Mercedes will begin its push in India with an imported electric model of its AMG EQS 53 4MATIC performance car that it launched Wednesday.

misled users and US regulators about "extreme, egregious" gaps in its online protections, the platform's ex-security chief claimed in whistleblower testimony that could impact the court fight over Elon Musk's buyout bid.

Peiter Zatko's complaint, which was published Tuesday by US media, also accused Twitter of significantly underestimating the number of fake and spam accounts - a crucial point in Musk's argument for trying to cancel his \$44 billion deal to own the platform.

Zatko's filing to authorities including market watchdog Securities and Exchange Commission accuses Twitter of "negligence, will-



ful ignorance, and threats to national security and democracy.'

The ex-worker, who Twitter says was fired for poor performance, warns of obsolete servers, software vulnerable to computer attacks and executives seeking to hide the number of hacking attempts, both from US authorities and from the company's board of directors.

The hacker-turned-executive,

vertising -- not the actual number of accounts -- the true magnitude of spam bots is effectively unknown to the public.

Twitter fired back at its former worker, saying Zatko was fired in January for "ineffective leadership and poor performance."

'What we've seen so far is a false narrative about Twitter and our privacy and data security practices that is riddled with inconsistencies and inaccuracies and lacks important context," the firm said. The "opportunistic timing" of the allegations appears "designed to capture attention and inflict harm on Twitter, its customers and its shareholders," the statement continued.

WESTERN SANCTIONS India's 2nd largest refiner pays price for Russian root

REUTERS

In

New Delhi, August 24: Many global oil traders and banks have stopped dealing with Indian refiner Nayara Energy, a Rosneft affiliate, as they are worried about Western sanctions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, two people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Nayara per se has not been sanctioned as part of the international response to what Russia calls its special military action against Ukraine but sanctions are in place against Rosneft.

The Russian energy giant owns about 49% of Nayara which is India's second-largest private refiner, while Kesani Enterprises Co Ltd, a consortium led by Trafigura Group and Russia's UCP Investment Group, holds 49.13%.

They said Nayara was now dependent on state-run Middle Eastern producers, Chinese traders, companies supplying Russian oil as well as local crude

Most trading firms including Vitol and Glencore as well as producers in Canada, Latin America and Europe have declined to directly sell crude to Nayara



oil producers for its 400,000 barrels per day Vadinar refinery in western Gujarat state.

It is increasingly becoming difficult for the company, said one of the sources, adding that it has been unable to hedge for cracks and inventory.

Companies that have declined to deal with Nayara include Phillips 66, Occidental Petroleum Corp, Cepsa, Equinor, Gunvor, Koch, Petrogal, Respsol, Shell Suncor Energy, Ecopetrol and TotalEnergies, the second person said.

Banks and other firms that have refused to work on new hedging positions for Nayara include Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, JPMorgan, France's Engie as well as the core banking units of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, they said.

Nayara, which accounts for 8% of India's refining capacity, said it had longstanding relationships with its suppliers, works with a diverse set of suppliers and has appropriate contracts for the purchase of crude oil.

Apart from honouring the longand shorter-term contracts, our suppliers are also offering, and we pick up crudes on a spot basis on competitive terms, it said in an emailed statement.

Nayara has been a key buver of Russian oil, snapping up the discounted product shunned by some

NO EVIDENCE OF INDIAN FIRMS EVADING SANCTIONS: US OFFICIAL

Mumbai: The US Deputy Secretary of Treasury Wally Adeyemo Wednesday said there is "no evidence" of Indian companies circumventing the sanctions imposed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "I've seen no evidence of Indian companies circumventing sanctions that have been placed on Russia," Adeyemo told reporters during a visit to IIT-Bombay here. He added that companies around the world, including those in India, the US and Europe, are taking the sanctions seriously and implementing them as well. The remarks come days after reports quoted RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra saying that the US is concerned over India being used to export fuel made from Russian crude in violation of sanctions imposed by Washington.

western companies and countries. The higher intake of Russian oil and improved product cracks helped Navara's quarterly profit climb to a record Rs 35.6 billion (\$446 million) in April-June.

Some foreign banks and India's HDFC Bank have stopped offering trade credits for oil imports, banking and industry sources told Reuters in April.

India's CARE Ratings has also

placed Nayara's long-term ratings on 'credit watch with negative implications' due to sanctions against Moscow.

Some of Nayara's top management officials including its chief financial officer have left the company since Western nations began to impose sanctions on Russia. The company has notelaborated on the reasons for the departures.





Prannoy Stuns Nomota

LAKSHYA SAILS INTO PRE-QUARTERS, WHILE SRIKANTH **BOWS OUT OF BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 24: HS Prannoy stunned second seed Kento Momota in straight games to record a sensational win while reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen also sailed into the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the World Championships here Wednesday.

Unseeded Prannoy rose above expectations to shut the door on crowd favourite and two-time former world champion Momota 21-17, 21-16 in a second round tie.

Incidentally, it was Prannoy's first win over Momota in eight matches. In their previous clashes, the Indian won only one game against his higher-rated Japanese rival.

Earlier in the day, reigning Commonwealth Games champion Sen sailed into the pre-quarterfinals with a straight game win over Spain's Luis Penalver. The young Indian badminton ace Sen won his second round contest 21-17, 21-10, taking 72 minutes to complete the formality. Prannoy and Sen will face each other in an all-Indian

last 16 clash, Thursday.

However, last edition's runnerup Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of after a straight game defeat to World No.32 Zhao Jun Peng. Srikanth went down against his Chinese counterpart 18-21, 17-21 in a match lasting only 34 minutes

The 29-year-old was out of sorts in the opening game as it took only 12 minutes for Zhao to take a 1-0 lead in the match. The Indian, already on the back foot, tried to up the ante in the second game and led 16-14 but too many unforced errors helped Zhao secure the victory

The young Indian badminton ace Sen won his second round contest 21-17, 21-10, taking 72 minutes to complete the formality. After trailing 3-4, the ninth seeded Sen grabbed a six-point lead to be 13-. The Indian continued to stay ahead before comfortably wrap-

ping up the first game. Sen, a World Championship bronze medallist, then maintained his stranglehold over the Spanish shuttler and won the second game by a bigger margin.

In the second game, the first six were points shared between the two players, but the 21-yearold Indian pulled ahead riding on his



Enjoying a massive nine-point lead at one stage of the second game, it was only a matter of time before Sen completed the job.

Earlier, the Indian men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila moved to the pre-quarterfinals but Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy made a second round exit from the prestigious

tournament. The unseeded Arjun and Kapila upstaged eighth seeds and last edition's bronze medallists Kim Astrup

and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark 21-17, 21-16 in their

second round match. hey will face Hee Yong Kai Terry and Loh Kean Hean of Singapore next.

Ponnappa and Sikki, on the other hand, were handed a 15-21, 10-21 loss by top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan of China in 42 minutes. The other women's doubles pairing of Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh's also crashed out of the tournament, going down to third seeds Lee So Hee and Shin Seung Chan of Korea 15-21, 7-21.

The eighth seeded men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy thrashed Guatemala's Solis Jonathan and Anibal Marroquin 21-8, 21-10 to storm into Round of 16, where the duo will be up against Denmark's Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede.

Virat opens up on prolonged slump⁻

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: He doesn't find any particular pattern to his prolonged slump in form unlike 2014, but then to succeed in international cricket for as long as Virat Kohli has, it couldn't have happened without his ability to counter adversities.

The former India skipper has gone without an international hundred across formats for nearly three years now but he feels that there isn't much scope for course correction.

The reason being that he isn't having any particular technical problem like one he had during England tour of 2014 when he was poking at deliveries on off-stump channel

"I know where my game stands and you cannot run this far in your international career without having the ability to counter situations and counter conditions and counter different kinds of bowling. So, this for me, is an easier phase to process, but I don't want to put this phase behind me," Kohli said on Star Sports show 'Game Plan'.

He then spoke how a pattern of dismissals was detected on that tour and then after technical adjustments scored nearly 600 runs during the tour of 2018.

'What happened in England was a pattern, so something that I could work on and something that I had to kind of overcome. Right now, as you rightly mentioned, there is nothing that you can point out saying that the problem is happening here," Kohli noted.

However of late, Kohli has got out in every possible manner, to rising deliveries, to fuller balls, to swinging deliveries, to cutters, off-spin, leg-spin and left-arm spin. He feels that when there aren't any patterns, that's the best thing to have happened.

"So, that for me, is actually an easier thing to process because I know that I'm batting well and at times, when I start feeling that rhythm back, then I know that I'm batting well.

"So, that for me is not an issue, which wasn't the case in England (2014). I didn't feel like I was bat-



Having time off for him (Kohli) certainly, would (help him) just be able to regenerate mentally, physically, just be able to get away from the game of cricket.

This month that he's had off cricket will make sure that that light's shining very bright going into this Asia Cup, knowing there's a T20 World Cup coming up very soon as well.

So when you're able to have a break, and because the Indian cricketers in particular play so much cricket, for Virat to be able to have some time off, especially a month, that's just going to regenerate everything he needs to be able to take stock of what happened, freshen up mentally and physically. He's too good not to be able to find his groove. It'll only take him a couple of balls, get into the battle again, and away he goes

SHANE WATSON ON KOHLI

ting well at all. So, I had to work hard on one thing that could be exposed again and again which I overcame; right now this is not the case." he added.

As he gets ready for the Asia Cup, Kohli knows that he will have to fight these ups and downs which are part and parcel of an elite sportsman's life.

"I know there are ups and downs, and when I come out of this phase, I know how consistent I can be. My experiences are sacred to me," he said. "Whatever I have experienced in this phase or in the past, as well one thing that I can.

"So, this for me, is an easier phase to process, but I don't want to put this phase behind me. I want to learn from it and I want to understand what are the core values that I have, as a sportsperson and as a human being," he added

for AIFF elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi. August 24: After the termination of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), as demanded by the international football federation (FIFA), the returning offi-

mandate of the CoA to manage the affairs of the AIFF and also postponed the election, earlier scheduled August 28, by one week. The top court had said it is modifying its previous orders to facilitate the revocation of the susPRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Commonwealth Games gold medallist lifters Jeremy Lalrinnunga and Achinta Sheuli will clash for the lone 73kg spot in the Paris Olympics as the former's 67kg doesn't feature in the 2024 Games.

With the International

Fresh dates issued Jeremy-Sheuli in face-off

commonwealth VERSITY^{OF} MINGHAM LONGINES e·o CHASE 🕻 Dettol

UKK: Odisha Juggernauts end CQG's winning streak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 24: Odisha juggernauts ended Chennai Quick Guns' (CQG) winning run with a 51-41 victory in the Ultimate Kho Kho (IJKK) at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here Wednesday. It was a third successive win for Odisha Juggernauts.

dream runs by defending for 2.33 minutes and 2.59 minutes respectively, Juggernauts didn't allow CQG to score easy points and restricted them to 19-4 in the first seven minutes.

CQG came into the match after three back-to-back wins. Despite inform Ramji Kashyap presenting some challenge in the defence with his stay of 2.23 minutes, Juggernauts responded well to level the scores within the first five minutes of second turn before they ended the first innings with a 28-19 lead. All-rounder Subhasis Santra claimed four bonus points for Juggernauts during his stay of 3.04 minutes as CQG could manage to get only a narrow five-point lead of 37-32 at the end of third turn. Juggernauts added 19 more points to their tally in the final turn to end the game comfortably with 51-41 score.

cer issued fresh dates for the elections to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Executive Committee.

The Supreme Court had Monday said that the Executive Council (EC) of the AIFF shall consist of 23 persons - 17 members (including the president, treasurer and vicepresident) to be elected by the electoral college consisting of 35 associations representing states/union territories, and six members shall be drawn from eminent players - comprising four men and two women

After the SC order, the returning officer Umesh Sharma stated that the election will be held September 2 at the AIFF headquarter in Delhi and the results could be announced either September 2 or 3.

The nominations for the posts can be filed between August 25 and 27 while the scrutiny will be done August 28, the returning officer said.

The candidates will have a chance to withdraw the nomination August 29 while the returning officer shall prepare the final list of contesting candidates and put it on the AIFF website August 30.

The SC Monday terminated the

pension which has been imposed on the AIFF by FIFA and the holding of the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said: "The day-to-day management of the AIFF shall be exclusively looked after by the AIFF administration led by the Acting Secretary General. The mandate of the Committee of Administrators appointed by the order of this court stands terminated.

The top court, in its order, said: Time for the completion of the elections which were scheduled to take place August 28, 2022 shall stand extended by a period of one week. The Returning Officers shall, within the said period, refix the modalities for the filing of nominations from the stage which was reached August 13, 2022 and ensure that the elections are completed on schedule.

said returning officers (ROs) -Umesh Sinha and Tapas Bhattacharya – shall be deemed to be the ROs appointed by it for the purpose of conducting the elections, noting that there was no objection to their continuance by any of the contesting parties before it.

Weightlifting Federation (IWF) scrapping 67kg from the Paris Games, Jeremy, who won the gold in the category at the CWG, will bulk up to compete in the 73kg weight class.

However, India already has representation in the weight division in Sheuli, who is the national record holder and reigning CWG champion in the 73kg division. The two will now go head to head in a bid to seal qualification for the 2024 Olympics as only one lifter per country is allowed in a weight class

"I will increase my weight to 73kg," Jeremy, who is in the US for a three-and-half week strength and conditioning training camp in St. Louis, told this agency. "My natural weight is 65kg. So, going up will be difficult to increase my body weight," he added. This will not be the first time

Jeremy will have to bulk up. The 19-year-old lifter had won the 2018 Youth Olympics gold medal in Buenos Aires in the 62kg category. He had then moved to 67kg to comply with the new Olympic weight categories the IWF had introduced then.

However, the Mizoram lifter



conceded that he has struggled lifters will motivate each other to gain weight in the last two to do better. years. "My body weight has not

"It is good that Jeremy and Achinta will be in the same weight category. There should be healthy competition between lifters as otherwise they might take things easy," Sharma said.

'They both have to work really hard and improve to qualify. Now qualification will be tough as there are only five categories and everyone will be trying to get into these five classes," he added.

With this win, Juggernauts not only entered the top-2 on the points table with 12 points but also completed a league double over CQG. Earlier, they had won by eight points.

Nilesh Jadhav scored 15 points for Juggernauts, which included five brilliant dives. Skipper Milind Chavarekar and Suraj Lande supported him well with nine and eight points respectively. For CQG, P Narasayya and Manoj Patil struck eight points each.

With Gowtham MK and Jagannatha Murmu securing



Odisha Juggernauts' Suraj Lande dives to dismiss a CQG defender, Wednesday

Rahane to lead West Zone ROUND-U CKET

CR

3

NEW DELHI: A fit-again former India captain Ajinkva Rahane will lead a powerful West Zone side, which will have services of Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Shardul Thakur, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul Tripathi and Jaydev Unadkat among others, in

the Duleep Trophy scheduled in Tamil Nadu from

September 8-25. It was reported by PTI last Sunday that Rahane, who is recuperating from a groin injury, will make a comeback to competitive cricket with the Duleep Trophy. The Central Zone also announced its squad and most of the stars of Madhya Pradesh's ranji Trophy winning squad are there in the team including Yash Dubey, Shubham Sharma, Kumar Kartikeya along with all-rounder Venkatesh Iver.

India 'A' squad named NEW DELHI: Gujarat opener Priyank

Panchal was Wednesday named captain of the 16-member India 'A' squad for the three four-day games against New Zealand 'A', starting later this month. Apart from Panchal. the squad also includes the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Kuldeep Yadav, and Prasidh Krishna. Pace sensation Umran Malik, 22, has also been named in the squad. The squad: Priyank Panchal (C), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rajat Patidar. Sarfaraaz Khan, Tilak Varma, KS Bharat (wk), Upendra Yadav (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, Prasidh Krishna, Umran Malik, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal & Arzan Nagwaswalla.

Gill's set for county stint

centage will change.

been increasing. I am trying to

increase it since 2019 to get till

70kg. My diet plan and supple-

ments will change. Training will

also be a bit different. The per-

Championship have 67kg but the

aim is Paris Olympics," he added.

Weighing in on the situation, head

coach Vijay Sharma said the two

"Asian Games and World

SWANSEA (UK): Talented Shubman Gill will be representing Glamorgan for the remainder of the English county season joining a host of Indian players led by Cheteshwar Pujara, who has been plying his trade in the UK. According to 'ESPNCricinfo', Gill will be playing the remainder of the county season for Glamorgan subject to visa approval. Glamorgan plays in the Division 2 of English county. Gill will be the third Indian to don the Glamorgan jersey after former India head coach Ravi Shatsri (1987-1991) and ex-India captain Sourav Ganguly (2005). In the current season, Pujara (Sussex), Krunal Pandya and Mohammed Siraj (both Warwickshire), Navdeep Saini (Kent), Umesh Yadav (Middlesex), Washingtom Sundar (Lancashire) have all played in the first-class and list A competitions.

Bengaluru FC player 'racially abused'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 24: Bengaluru FC have alleged that one of their players was racially abused during the team's game against Indian Air Force in the Durand Cup football tournament here.

The Indian Super League giants said they have raised the issue with the "relevant authorities". The alleged incident took place at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan here Tuesday.

"Bengaluru FC is aware of a racist comment made by a player from the opposition, towards one

of our players, during the Durand Cup game that took place on Tuesday evening," the former ISL

champions said in a statement. "We are in touch with the relevant authorities in this regard. Our message is clear - discrimination has no place anywhere. Football is for everyone.

Bengaluru FC registered their second consecutive win in the Durand Cup as they blanked Indian Air Force 4-0. Roy Krishna (9th min), Sunil Chhetri (23rd min), Faisal Ali (71st min), and Siva Sakthi (93rd min) struck for The Blues as it secured a resounding win.

The goals came in early for Bengaluru, as Krishna opened the scoring in the ninth minute. Skipper Chhetri soon doubled the lead as he sneaked one past IAF goakeeper Shibinraj following a well-directed cross from Prabir Das in the 23rd minute of the game.

Youngster Faisal Ali made it 3- ২ 0 after he received an unerring cross from midfielder Suresh Wangjam. The goalfest was completed by another youngster, Shiva Shakti, as he beat the IAF goalie to make it 4-0 in the third minute of the stoppage time.

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