



PLEASANT SURPRISE

A teaser clip of Meghan Markle's new podcast 'Archetypes' on societal stereotypes seemingly features Deepika Padukone

LEISURE | P2



REMEMBERING GENOCIDE DAY

Thousands of Rohingya refugees hold rallies at various refugee camps Thursday in B'desh, marking 5 years since fleeing Myanmar

INTERNATIONAL | P10



PRANNOY THROUGH

HS Prannoy ends compatriot Lakshya Sen's journey at BWF World Championships sealing a last 8 berth in the process

SPORTS | P12



WORK OF ART: Sculptor Laxmidhar Rana and his team work on a seven-feet high bronze statue of former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy at Kathagada Sahi in Cuttack, Thursday. The statue will be installed at the Dhenkanal bus terminus on the occasion of Local Self Government Day

Govt didn't help in Pegasus probe: SC

In what came as a jolt, the apex court criticised the Centre for not helping the panel formed to investigate the allegations of snooping

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 25: A technical committee, constituted by the Supreme Court to probe allegations of snooping using the Pegasus software by the government, has submitted its report. It said that some malware was found in five phones but it can't be said to be that of Pegasus. However, the three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said Thursday that the Centre did not cooperate in the probe.

The Supreme Court bench informed that the committee said it did not find any conclusive presence of Pegasus spyware in 29 phones it examined. "The technical committee has said that Government of India has not helped it," the bench observed. The apex court listed the matter for hearing again after four weeks.

The panel, headed by former SC Judge Justice RV Raveendran, had submitted its report in three parts to the Supreme Court in July. In the report, the committee has recommended enactment of a law



on surveillance and improving right to privacy, enhancing cyber security of the nation, strengthening the protection of right to privacy of citizens, and also a mechanism for raising grievance regarding surveillance which is illegal.

Significantly, the Supreme Court in October last year had constituted a technical committee to probe the allegations of snooping using the Pegasus software. It comprised of Justice Raveendran, Alok Joshi, former IPS officer (1976 batch) who has worked as joint director, Intelligence Bureau and Dr Sundeeb Oberoi, Chairman, International Organisation of Standardisation/International Electro-Technical

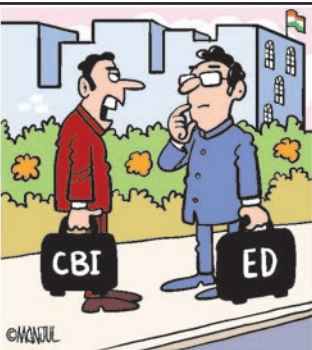
Commission/Joint Technical Committee.

The committee was tasked to enquire and investigate that whether the Pegasus suite of spyware was used on phones or other devices of the citizens of India to access stored data, intercept information or for any other purposes.

'2 PMLA aspects need a relook'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court agreed Thursday to hear a plea seeking a review of its verdict that upheld the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and said two aspects - not providing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and reversal of the presumption of innocence - 'prima facie' requires reconsideration. The apex court in its verdict had earlier upheld Section 24 of PMLA which puts the onus on the accused person to prove his innocence. The apex court issued notice to the Union government seeking its response on the review petition filed by Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and directed to list the matter before Chief Justice after four weeks. The bench comprising CJ NV Ramana and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, however, observed that the objective of PMLA is noble. "We are completely in support of prevention of black money or money laundering," the bench observed. **MORE P9**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't we form our own party? We will have our own govt in every state

Sore government under siege

JMM TO MOVE APEX COURT IF CHIEF MINISTER IS DISQUALIFIED AS MLA

AGENCIES

Ranchi, August 25: The Election Commission (EC) has sent a letter to Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais recommending cancellation of the Assembly membership of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, sources informed Thursday. If Bais goes ahead with the EC's recommendation, Hemant will have to resign as CM.

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and the BJP have been demanding disqualification of Hemant as MLA in an office of profit matter.



They have accused him of extending a mining lease to himself. Terming it as violation of the office of profit and Representation of the People's Act, the BJP and Das have written a letter

to the governor.

However, even if Hemant has to resign the JMM-Congress alliance will still have a majority in the Assembly. Unless the BJP again resorts to some means to woo opposition MLAs, the alliance which is led by Hemant will continue to be in power in Jharkhand.

Meanwhile in a late evening development, the JMM said that it will seek legal recourse if Hemant is disqualified as an MLA. "We will move the Supreme Court if necessary. Other options are also open to us," party spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said. **Continued on P4**

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	58774.72 ↓ 310.71
NIFTY	17522.50 ↓ 82.50
DOLLAR	80.36 ↑ ₹0.03
EURO	79.67 ↑ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹51,667 ↑ ₹228
SILVER	₹55,242 ↑ ₹305

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.6°C	33.5°C
MIN	23.3°C	23.5°C
Humidity	81%	82%
Rainfall	1.1mm	1.2mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

2 JUMBOS ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 25: Elephant deaths continued unabated in Odisha with two elephants being electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire at an extension centre of OUAT at Judia ghat under Sadar forest range in this district, officials said Thursday. Sources said that elephants often visit the OUAT campus which is full of greenery and a similar thing had happened early Thursday morning which led to the electrocution.

The deceased pachyderms were part of a herd comprising two male elephants, five females and two calves. The herd was staying in the Judia jungle for the last few days and strayed into the OUAT premises early Thursday morning, sources said.

Tragedy struck when the animals spread their trunks to eat the creepers growing on the live electric wires near the abandoned staff quarters. While two



of them got electrocuted, the others managed to avert danger. The carcasses were buried after post-mortem, officials said.

In the last three years 20 elephants have died in the Keonjhar forest division while four have been victims of electrocution in the last two years. Odisha have recorded 245 elephant deaths between 2019-20 and 2021-22, a report said earlier.

Meanwhile in a separate development, DGP SK Bansal informed the Odisha High Court that a joint task force comprising police personnel and Forest department officials have been formed to check elephant deaths in the state.

Two women die by suicide in city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: The state capital was rocked Thursday by two suicides of women that took place in different parts of the city. Police in both cases suspect the deaths by suicides due to love gone awry.

In the first incident, Pragnya Paramita Dhal died by suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling at her residence at Bhagabat Sandhan lane in Palasuni locality under Mancheswar police limits. She is survived by her husband Satyanarayan and a baby girl.

Police sources informed that the family had gone to attend a feast Wednesday evening at a neighbour's place. However, midway through the party she left in the wee hours of Thursday. **Continued on P4**

After 9-year fight, a matter of only 9 seconds

Residents had moved court in 2012 as Supertech sought to add towers to existing society; the final verdict came last year

AGENCIES

Noida, August 25: They are taller than the Qutub Minar, but in just nine to 10 seconds they will turn into debris when the Twin Towers here are demolished Sunday by explosives following an order of the Supreme Court. Incidentally, these two towers are the tallest ever to be destroyed in India. Mayur Mehta, project manager at 'Edifice Engineering', which is responsible for the demolition, said Thursday that initially Joseph Brixman had been chosen to press the final button for the blast. However, Mehta informed that the American has been replaced by Chetan Dutta, who is an Indian explosive expert.

Sources also informed that once the towers are demolished and the debris cleaned, a park will come up in its place. This is as per a map passed by the Noida Municipal Authority in which the entire vacated space is marked as 'greenery'. The SC has given a go-ahead for demolishing the twin towers with explosives. The exercise was supposed to start August 21 but the apex court accepted Noida Authority's request and extended the date of the demolition to August 28. The towers are being razed over grave violations of building norms, Mehta informed. The demolition will produce about 60,000 tonne of debris. Approximately 30,000 tonne will be used to fill the

3,700KG

EXPLOSIVES TO BE USED FOR DEMOLITION

3 MONTHS

REQUIRED TO CLEAR APPROXIMATELY 60,000 TONNE OF DEBRIS

PARK TO COME UP IN SPACE WHERE TOWERS STOOD



basement and the remaining amount will be disposed off. A total of 300 metric tonne of debris will be cleaned every day and 20 trucks will be used. It will take three months for the entire rubble to be cleared.

All the necessary arrangements have been made by the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) to conduct the demolition, said A Sachar, vice-president of the body.

"At least 3,700 kilograms of explosives have been installed to demolish the 40-storey towers. Explosives have been installed on all the floors and they will be connected with wires. For the past several weeks, work of installing explosives has been going on smoothly," informed Sachar.

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leisure



BARBIE FERREIRA SAYS SHE'S LEAVING EUPHORIA

Actress Barbie Ferreira says that she will not be returning to *Euphoria* for its third season. The actor announced her apparent departure via Instagram, writing in a story post: "After four years of getting to embody the most special and enigmatic character Kat, I'm having to say a very teary-eyed goodbye."

JOHN BOYEGA ISN'T RETURNING TO STAR WARS FRANCHISE

Actor John Boyega, who had a breakout moment with his role of Finn in the Star Wars sequel trilogy, is not keen on returning to the galactic franchise. John is currently awaiting the release of his films *Breaking and The Woman King*, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You've finally realised that diet and exercise are a must, and you especially need to take good care. Today, you may wish to eat something different. Tried Mongolian cuisine? Ganesh suggests that you go out with some friends who you've not been paying attention to.

TAURUS
You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesh. Family and friends might gather at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest. In all probability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesh.

GEMINI
Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER
You are feeling lucky today. The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky speculative markets, Ganesh may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness. It's better that you do nothing and spend some time with your family, make some changes in your house, or do anything to keep yourself busy.

LEO
Today, the force is with you. Well, at least part of the force that deals with being a smooth talker, says Ganesh. It is your power of expression that comes to the fore and stands you in good stead. Having mastered the art of communication, you now are a wizard of words who conjures showers of pearls with a mere twist of the tongue.

VIRGO
There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may cultivate hobbies in these fields, if they are not already your profession.

LIBRA
No matter what you do, some days are just not happening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour.

SCORPIO
The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two-pronged strategy, advises Ganesh. One - change your lifestyle, and two - visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesh counsels to take care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesh. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time.

AQUARIUS
Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesh suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

PISCES
You probably jumped out of bed this morning itching to talk to someone. And why not, since all your latent power of expression will spring out like a jack-in-the-box today. The pearls of wisdom you shower on people who are down-in-the-dumps today will make them feel good about their bluesy, tactum selves, says Ganesh.

Deepika in Meghan's new podcast!

Mumbai: A teaser clip of Meghan Markle's new podcast features voice clips of her upcoming guests and it seemingly includes Deepika Padukone as well. Meghan Markle is all set to deconstruct the history of societal stereotypes about women in her latest podcast *Archetypes*.

As revealed in previous news reports, Markle will speak at length about the double standards women face in society. She will be in conversation with Serena Williams and Mariah Carey among many other famous names for the weekly podcast. One among them, is believed to be top Hindi film actress Deepika Padukone.

After repeatedly watching the teaser clip, Deepika fans are convinced she will feature as one of the guests on the audio show. Taking to Twitter, fans shared the clip that had them convinced that it was Padukone who can be heard saying, "Sensitive and emotional."

Although it is yet to be confirmed if Deepika is in fact a part of the series, it comes as a pleasant surprise that she features as one of the guests in the series that is said to have approximately 12 parts. Both Deepika and Meghan have been advocates for the cause of mental health. Meghan's husband, Prince Harry has also been an advocate for the cause and even launched his own app early this year. AGENCIES



Priyanka gets a 'taste of home'

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, just like any other Indian staying abroad, misses home food and her latest social media post is a proof of that.

Filmmaker Boney Kapoor and his daughter Khushi visited Priyanka in the US. The father-daughter duo got the actress Indian snacks such as 'namkeen', 'poha' and 'khakra'.

The Sky Is Pink actress took to her Instagram story to share her gratitude for the 'taste of home' food she had been craving.

She wrote: "Thank you @boneyp Kapoor and @khushi05k for taste of home! So kind!"

Priyanka, who is married to pop singer Nick Jonas, made her international debut with *Quantico* in 2015. The thriller series was cancelled after three seasons in 2018.

On the work front, Priyanka who was last seen on screen *The Matrix Resurrections*, will next be seen in *Citadel*, a series produced by Russo Brothers. She will also be seen in *It's All Coming Back to Me* and *Jee Le Zaraa*. IANS

Rashmika shares pics that she thinks describe her

Chennai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna has now put out four pictures of herself on social media, saying these were the actual pictures that described her as she really was.

Taking to Instagram, Rashmika said: "I don't really remember when this was shot, but other than being an actor, I think these are the four pictures that just describe me as ME!"

"They say na - that pictures can speak a thousand words. It's such does. I don't remember when these were taken but I think I remember the feeling I had when these were taken. So well, this is me in my own little world."

"It makes me feel calm... looking at these pictures. It's so strange but I love it," she wrote.

The actress has been having a dream run in both Tamil and Telugu industries with all her recent films from *Pushpa* to the recently released *Sita Ramam* going on to become superhits.

She is now working on Vamshi Paidipally's bilingual film, *Varisu*, featuring actor Vijay in the lead. IANS



Mallika on being called a sex symbol

Mumbai: Actress Mallika Sherawat is strong, unapologetic and is known to wear her heart on sleeves. However, the actress is also subjected to trolls and social media negativity with people calling her names. The actress thinks people are entitled to think whatever they want as she stays away from social media for her good.

Mallika who made her debut in *Murder* established herself as a glamorous actor. She is often referred to as one of India's

'sex symbols'. When asked if she has a problem with this image, the actress shared that it's problematic for a woman to be reduced to just that.

She further added that she has no idea who writes all this and wondered if people actually take Wikipedia seriously. "I don't even know how, I don't pay attention to it. However people want to perceive me, it's their attitude. I just have to focus on what I am doing," she reacted.

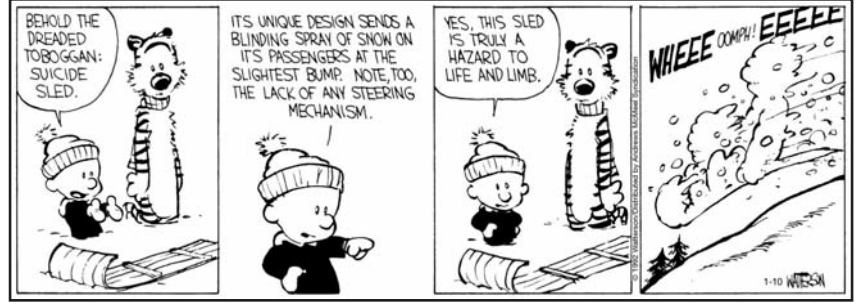
Meanwhile on the work front, the actress was last seen in *RK/RKay*, alongside Rajat Kapoor, Kubbra Sait, Ranvir Shorey, Manu Rishi Chadha, Chandrachud Rai, Abhijeet Deshpande, Abhishek Sharma, Grace Girdhar, and Vaishali Malhara. AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

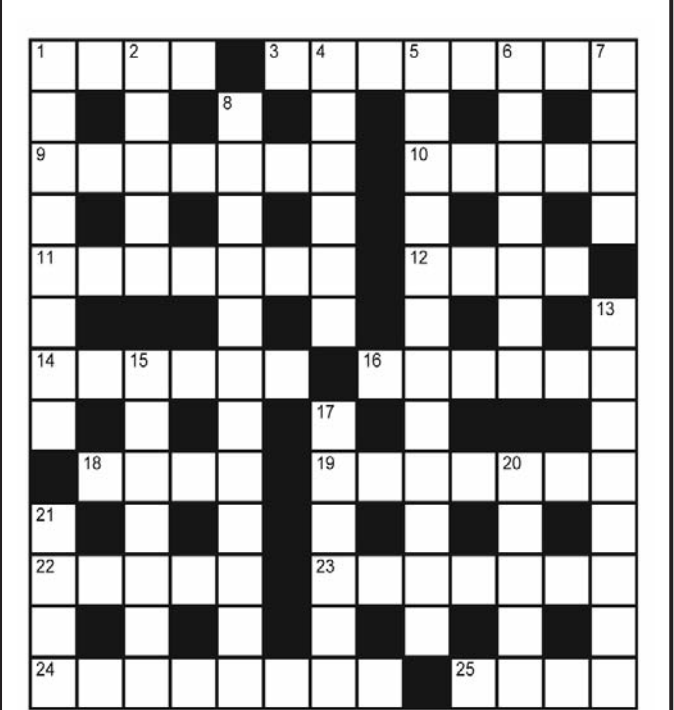


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Religious offshoot
 - 3 Chemist
 - 9 Ball field
 - 10 Empower
 - 11 Foot lever
 - 12 Family member
 - 14 Lama relative
 - 16 Exclamation of success
 - 18 Slave girl of opera
 - 19 Quiet and stealthy (3-4)
 - 22 Kind of code
 - 23 Pouched mammal
 - 24 Arena tickets
 - 25 Adolescent
 - 4 Concealed
 - 5 A second look
 - 6 Slow tempo, musically
 - 7 Cry of pain
 - 8 Birds of Jove (6,6)
 - 13 Car lot worker
 - 15 Hair style
 - 17 Agreement
 - 20 Matter of debate
 - 21 Fight
- Down**
- 1 Downer medication
 - 2 Orange container

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

State to invest 1K cr for VSSUT redevelopment



Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra and other officials during their visit to VSSUT, Burla, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: The state government has decided to invest more than Rs 1,000 crore for redevelopment of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla. Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra said Thursday.

Mahapatra along with Principal Secretary of Industries and Technical Education Hemant Sharma and Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian visited the institute and other places in Sambalpur district Thursday.

The three officials on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the VSSUT and held discussions with the faculty members, students and alumni associations about it. The team also visited the hostels, auditorium, laboratory and the academic block.

“As per the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a master plan will be prepared soon for the development of the technical institute,” Mahapatra said, adding, the plan is there to invest more than Rs 1,000 crore to make the institute as a centre of excellence (CoE).

The master plan will be prepared after holding discussions with all stakeholders including teachers, students, academia and alumni in 15 days, and the same would be put before the CM for his approval.

At present, about 5,000 students are staying in the campus. A plan is there to double the strength, said Mahapatra.

After thorough discussions, a detailed proposal will be prepared so that all required infrastructure is created in the VSSUT and stu-

■ The master plan will be prepared after holding discussions with all stakeholders including teachers, students, academia and alumni in 15 days, and the same would be put before the CM for his approval

■ At present, about 5,000 students are staying in the campus. A plan is there to double the strength

dents get quality education, said the Chief Secretary.

He further informed that the institute has 40 to 45 acres surplus land while another 80 acre has been identified for campus expansion.

Later, the officials also visited the Integrated Infrastructure Complex and Lady Lewis Girls High School that is being transformed under the 5T High School Transformation Programme. The team led by the Chief Secretary also visited the rehabilitation centre set up by Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SSEPD) department. The centre will be made fully functional in coming months. About 500 inmates can stay there and get the benefit, said Mahapatra.

Later, the senior officials visited the Samaleswari temple and reviewed the redevelopment works initiated under the Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives (SAMALEI) scheme.

The Samaleswari temple project has been slightly delayed due to delay in shifting of houses and change in master plan. However, efforts are there to complete the project on time, added Mahapatra.



IDENTITY MATTERS

Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena along with other dignitaries distributed ID cards to handicrafts artisans in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

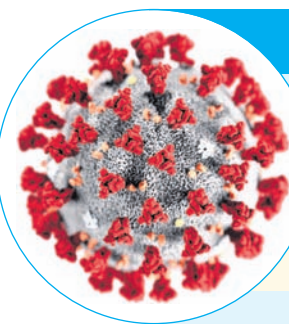
STARTUP ODISHA YATRA 2.0 TO KICK OFF TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0, aimed at spreading awareness about entrepreneurship and innovation among the people, is all set to kick off Friday.

The Startup drive will cover 30 districts spreading the word about the emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem of the state.

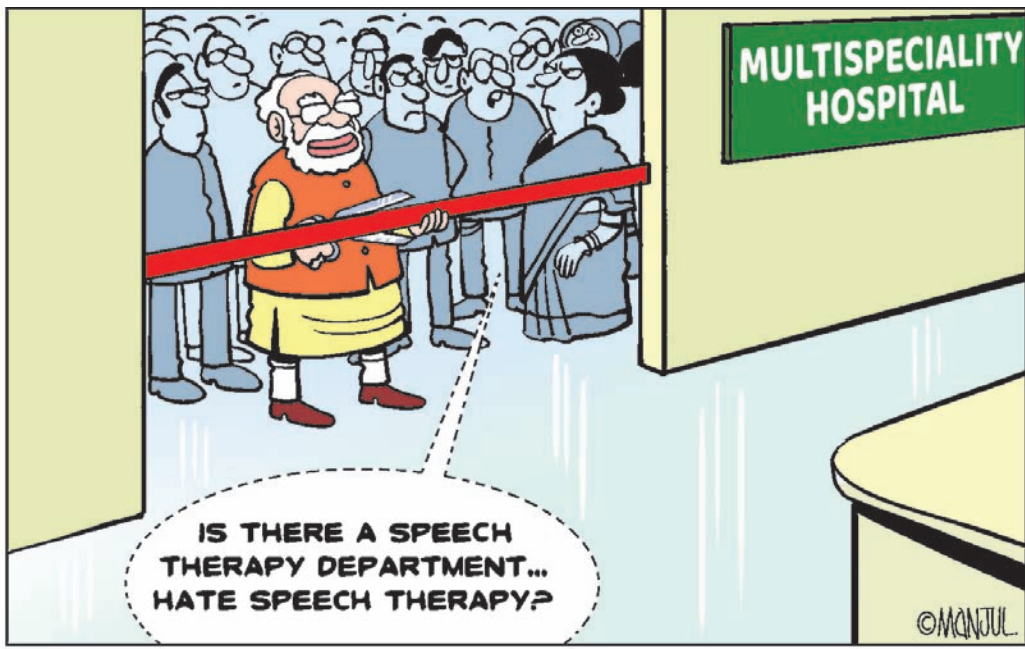
The initiative of MSME department Startup Odisha has been working with budding entrepreneurs of the state to nurture and promote innovations. It is also working to scale up viable business innovations, develop and improve product process and services to help build sustainable business models in the state.



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,37,34,380	57,86,01,435	64,81,229
India	4,43,78,920	4,37,57,385	5,27,488
Odisha	13,26,121	13,15,173	9,168

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Idco to set up two aluminum parks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Principal Advisor to Chief Minister Asit Tripathy Thursday said that the state government in association with private players has planned to set up two aluminum parks in Angul and Jharsuguda districts.

Addressing the gathering at inauguration of Propack Odisha-2022 and Odisha MSME Meet 2022 organised by Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME) on its 36th foundation day, Tripathy said the aluminum parks will be set up by Nalco and Vedanta with support from state government.

This apart, Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha (Idco) has also been given the task to set up



23 industrial parks in different regions of Odisha. For this, District Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA) will be working for the development of industrial sector in district levels which will be led by the district Collectors, he stated.

“Rs 600 crore is earmarked for Idco to set up industrial parks which will be allocated within

next three years. Idco is also developing 11 industrial corridors alongside Biju Expressway connecting Rourkela and Malkanagiri. State government is also considering a proposal to provide incentives for industrial development in the backward regions for which a new announcement is due,” Tripathy said.

Principal Secretary of MSME department Ranjana Chopra mentioned that the state government has instructed all discoms to set up a separate MSME Cell for grievances related to electricity at industrial houses.

“We are always in touch with the MSMEs in all the districts. While 95 per cent enterprises in the state are MSMEs, their contribution to employment generation is not encouraging. We now want to ensure the MSME sector’s growth for which we are ready to lend required handholding support,” Chopra said.

OASME secretary general Satwik Swain said the eastern regions of the state will have the largest engineering common facility worth Rs 30 crore near Choudwar in Cuttack.

CESU ex-DGM gets 1 year in jail for graft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: A special court here Thursday convicted Damodar Das, ex-deputy general manager, electrical, CESU Head Office, Idco Tower for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The court sentenced Das to one year of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on him. He would undergo an additional three months imprisonment if he defaults on payment of the fine, the court ruled.

Das was trapped while receiving bribe of Rs 30,000 at his residence July 19, 2008, while he was working as DGM, CESCO, Bhubaneswar. Later, when his residential house, paternal house and office were searched, he was found in possession of assets disproportionate to his known source of income.

The court, after examining 22 witnesses and examining 53 documents, found Das to have amassed assets worth Rs 8,58,613, which he failed to account for.

DOWN TO EARTH



An excavator deployed by BDA demolished illegal structures at Mahishakhala in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

2024 elections last opportunity: Jena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Senior Congress leader Jayadev Jena Thursday claimed that the 2024 Assembly election could be “last chance” for the party to come to power in Odisha as the people are annoyed with both BJD and BJP.

Jena, a former Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president, said all Congress leaders should come together and fight the 2024 election to return to power in the state after two decades. “If we cannot win the 2024 elections in Odisha, there is no scope for the party for another 15 years. And if Congress forms government in 2024, it will remain in power for another 15 years. Therefore, all the party leaders should come together and fight the elections to defeat both the BJD and the BJP,” Jena said.

“If Congress fails in 2024 Assembly election, even God cannot save the party,” he said.

OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak said though the Congress has only nine MLAs in the 147-member Assembly now, the party is optimistic about raising its number to 90 in the 2024 elections.

Describing the BJD and the BJP as two sides of the same coin, Pattanayak claimed that they are now “exposed” and the people have already “recognised their real face”.

STA extends HSRP deadline till Sept 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: The State Transport Authority (STA) Thursday extended the last date of affixing high security registration plates (HSRP) on old vehicles from August 31 to September 30 in view of the ongoing flood situation in the state.

The STA stated that all vehicles that have been registered prior to April 1, 2019 carrying Odisha Registration Mark and Registration Number ending with 1 and 2, can now affix the new HSRPs until September 30. However, the timeline for affixing HSRP for other series of vehicles remains same.

“As on August 24, a total of 7,06,215 vehicle owners have booked slot, out of which HSRP has been affixed in 4,08,680 vehicles. Old number



plates are easy to tamper with and can be misused by thieves. However, the HSRP plates come with a non-removable snap-lock and are difficult to replace. These plates are tamper-proof and come with two non-reusable locks,” said Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner of Transport.

It can be mentioned that no e-challan shall be issued and no fine shall be collected from any old vehicle registered prior to April 1, 2019 for plying vehicles without HSRP till August 30. After that challans will be issued in accordance with the last date given for various series of vehicle.

Tourist jumps into river, saves 2 sons; another still missing

PNN & AGENCIES

Rayagada, August 25: A pilgrim from Andhra Pradesh jumped into the swollen Nagavali river in Rayagada district Thursday and saved his minor two sons from being swept away while another went missing, police said.

The incident took place near a bridge on the river close to Goddess Majhi Ghariani Temple, the presiding deity of the region. The river is in spate due to heavy rains but there is no flood in the southern Odisha district.

C Gopalkrishna, a forest department worker who hails from Eluru district of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, was on a pilgrim and had reached Rayagada along with six others earlier in the day, officials said. The man and his three sons were bathing in the river after visiting the temple. On seeing his three minor sons being swept away, he immediately jumped into the river and could save two of them.

Bad news makes people feel powerless

If you have an obsessive urge to constantly check news, you are more likely to suffer from stress, anxiety as well as poor physical health, researchers have warned.

Being exposed to a 24-hour news cycle of continually evolving events can have serious impacts on mental and physical wellbeing, said the study published in the peer-reviewed journal Health Communication. During the last two years, humanity has lived through a series of worrying global events, from the pandemic to Russia invading Ukraine, large-scale protests, mass shootings and devastating wildfires.

For several people, reading bad news can make us feel temporarily powerless and distressed.

“Witnessing these events unfold in the news can bring about a constant state of high alert in some people, kicking their surveillance motives into overdrive and making the world seem like a dark and dangerous place,” said Bryan McLaughlin, associate professor of advertising at Texas Tech University in the US.

For these individuals, a vicious cycle can develop in which, rather than tuning out, they become drawn further in, obsessing over the news and checking for updates round the clock to alleviate their emotional distress. “But it doesn’t help, and the more they check the news, the



more it begins to interfere with other aspects of their lives,” McLaughlin added.

To study this phenomenon, known colloquially as news addiction, McLaughlin and his colleagues analysed data from an online survey of 1,100 adults.

Respondents were asked about how often they experienced feelings of stress and anxiety, as well as physical ailments such as fatigue, physical pain, poor concentration, and gastrointestinal issues. The results revealed that 16.5 per cent of people surveyed showed signs of ‘severely problematic’ news consumption.

Such individuals frequently became so immersed and personally invested in news stories that the stories dominated the individual’s waking thoughts, disrupted time with family and friends, made it difficult to focus on school or

work, and contributed to restlessness and an inability to sleep.

People with higher levels of problematic news consumption were significantly more likely to experience mental and physical ill-being than those with lower levels, even when controlling for demographics, personality traits, and overall news use.

The findings show that there is a need for focused media literacy campaigns to help people develop a healthier relationship with the news. “While we want people to remain engaged in the news, it is important that they have a healthier relationship with the news,” said McLaughlin.

In the case of problematic news consumption, research has shown that individuals may decide to stop, or at least dramatically reduce, their news consumption if they perceive it is having adverse effects on their mental health.

In addition, the study also called out the need for a wider discussion about how the news industry may be fuelling the problem.

“The economic pressures facing media outlets, coupled with technological advances and the 24-hour news cycle have encouraged journalists to focus on selecting ‘newsworthy’ stories that will grab news consumers’ attention,” McLaughlin noted.

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CM: State to develop vibrant higher education eco-system



334 new recruits
Thursday joined the state government colleges out of which 291 are laboratory assistants, 25 junior librarians and 18 physical education teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said that the state government is taking up various steps to develop a vibrant higher education eco-system in the state.

He said this during an induction programme for non-teaching staff for different government colleges in the state.

As many as 334 new recruits today joined the state government colleges out of which 291 are laboratory assistants, 25 junior librarians and 18 physical education teachers. An orientation programme was organized at the State Convention Centre in Loka Seva Bhawan.

Joining the programme on a virtual platform, the Chief Minister said that in the recent past, over 1,000 professors, associate professors, assistant professors and junior lecturers have been recruited in different government and non-government colleges. This has helped in increasing the student-

teacher ratio in the colleges, he pointed out.

Welcoming the new employees, the CM said that laboratory assistants and junior librarians have been appointed to give more thrust to quality education.

Their role in laboratories and libraries is essential to create a dynamic environment for education in institutions, he added.

He hoped that their sincerity and commitment will encourage scientific aptitude among the students. Focusing on sports, he said that the government has always encouraged sports to its fullest extent. In fact, Odisha is now a bright spot in the sports map of the globe, he added.

He said that the state is developing more playgrounds at school level, and stadiums at block level to groom sports persons from the very childhood.

“Recruitment of physical education teachers (PETs) will certainly play a positive role in enhancing the interest of our students in sports and help create more na-

tional and international players in our state,” he said. The Chief Minister hoped that the PETs will contribute immensely to creating a bright future for the students of the state.

Saying that 5T is a life skill that can help everyone to succeed in life, he hoped the new entrants in the colleges will create examples for others by following the 5T Mantra of the state government.

Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari thanked the Chief Minister for the focus on quality education. Odisha now becomes an education and sports hub. He expected the new recruits will work committedly to improve the education system in colleges.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that under the direction of the Chief Minister, the state is going through a continuous recruitment process for educational institutions. The 5T Initiative has made the recruitment process very fast, he added.

Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian moderated the programme. Higher Education Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi gave the welcome address while Director Higher Education offered the vote of thanks.



Media workshop on Gender Sensitive Reporting and Writing by Unicef at Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

MAN ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION

Cuttack Sadar: Bayalish Mouza police Thursday arrested a man on charges of extortion. The arrested was identified as Biranchi Narayan Muduli, 27, a resident of Brahmapur Kumbhar Sahi under the police limits. According to the police, Muduli demanded an extortion of Rs 1,000 from Naveen Bhoi at gunpoint after having food at the latter's fast food stall. Naveen gave in to Muduli's demand and handed him over two currency notes of Rs 500 denomination. However, Naveen informed ASI Sunil Kumar Dalai, who was on patrolling duty about the incident following which police launched a manhunt. They chased Muduli and nabbed him from near Sriram Market. They also recovered the money and seized the revolver from Muduli. A case (176/22) was registered and the accused was sent to the court.

Odisha logs 355 new Cov cases, 1 fatality

Bhubaneswar: The state's COVID-19 tally rose to 13,26,121 Thursday as 355 more people, including 80 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said. The toll rose to 9,168 as a 65-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Sundargarh. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said. Odisha had recorded 296 infections and two fatalities Wednesday. The state now has 2,148 active cases, while 403 more people have recuperated in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 13,14,752.

KISS & NWWA sign MoU to promote tribal students' welfare

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Indian Navy Welfare and Wellness Association (NWWA) Thursday signed an MoU with the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) to promote the wellness and welfare of tribal students. Under the pact, KISS shall also provide educational enhancement courses through KIIT for the naval families from the ongoing academic year.

The MoU was signed during the visit of the president of NWWA Kala Hari Kumar to the KIIT-KISS campus. Addressing the students, she said the entry of the children of naval family to the KIIT group of institutes “will be the anchor that will prepare them for life”.

Encouraging students of KIIT & KISS to build a career in the armed forces, she said that the country needs talented smart young men and women. “A career in the armed forces is both aspirational and inspirational. You could look both at the entry as an officer through the National Defence Academy or the Indian Naval Academy or join our sailor ranks”.

KIIT-KISS Founder Achyuta

Samanta expressed his gratitude to Kumar for initiating various educational initiatives and caring for everyone as a “family”.

Samanta said NWWA has a vision and mission to collaborate with institutes, academia and corporate to create sustainable models to further wellness and welfare activities. KIIT and KISS have a unique position to collaborate with NWWA to develop a welfare and wellness model as a mutually beneficial educational programme.

Focusing on KISS, the largest tribal institute in the world, Kumar expressed her delight over the “awe-inspiring” work being done at KISS and focus on tribal arts, crafts and linguistics. She said that NWWA will provide a platform for KISS-made products at its outlets across the country.

“I would like to emphasise the synergy that exists between vision and mission between NWWA and Kalinga institutes. These make us believe that the association today is nothing short of a divine association of the organisations that have a lot to each other and further the goals of welfare and the growth of our country,” she summed up.



Continued from P1

‘Implead all 11...

One of the counsels appearing in the matter said the petitioners are “third party” to the criminal prosecution in this case and have not made those, who were granted remission, as party in the plea.

“Why have you not included him as a party respondent?” the bench asked Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners. “Petitioners are directed to implead the persons who are released by virtue of order.... Issue notice. List after two weeks,” the bench said. The incident turned into a huge political controversy with the special court judge who convicted the men also raising questions about the Gujarat government's decision.

“Did they ask the judge under whom the case was heard? I can tell you that I heard nothing regarding this... In such cases, the state government needs to take advice from the central government as well. Did they do that? I haven't idea,” Justice UD Salvi had said.

Two women die...

Seeing Pragnya missing, her husband also returned home only to see the door bolted from inside.

When Pragnya did not open the door for a lengthy period, Satyanarayan informed the police. They came and broke open the door only to find her hanging from the ceiling. Police brought down the body and sent it for post-mortem before registering a case. Locals informed that Pragnya had been suspecting that her husband was having an affair with another woman and that probably prompted her to end her life.

In another case, in Tarini slum of Kharavela Nagar locality, 23-year-old Sasmita Barik also died by suicide Thursday. Police after sending the body for post-mortem said that she may have taken the drastic step after being ‘rejected’ in love. Sasmita, who originally is from Jagatsinghpur, was staying with her father and daughter at the slum. Her father who ran a salon, found her hanging when he opened his shop. Police are now examining her call records to ascertain the cause of her death.

1L community members to be trained in CPR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with American Heart Association (AHA), launched a programme ‘Community Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Education in India: Creating a Nation of Lifesavers’ Thursday.

Expert on the occasion opined that in India one in four deaths oc-

curs due to cardiovascular diseases. In the recent past, the country has witnessed many deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest outside hospital. Survival from cardiac arrest largely depends on how quickly CPR is started and the quality of CPR given. It is estimated that 98 per cent of the residents are not trained in CPR in the country.

CPR is an easy hand technique to maintain the heart function, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director (Co-Convenor AHA-AIIMS Collaborative) Ashutosh Biswas. Providing life saving simple CPR training in the community can help to large extent for the above purpose. In this context, AHA & AIIMS Bhubaneswar will train more than one lakh community members over two years, added Biswas.

Chief of Mission Aligned Business and Health Care Solutions, AHA, John Meiners, Convenor AHA-AIIMS Collaborative & President AIIMS Mangalagiri TS Ravikumar, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Medical Superintendent SN Mohanty, Dean (Research) Binod Kumar Patro, Dean (Exam) Manoj Kumar Mohanty, Programme Leader AHA-AIIMS Collaborative Priyamadhava Behera, and Divya Trikhia, Mission Advancement, Advisor AHA attended the programme.

Under the programme, five hundred master trainers will train at least 75 community members in Hands-only CPR. Through this effort more than one lakh community members will be trained in the next two years.

CJI was hopeful of ‘22 Rath Yatra with devotees

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 25: In July 2021, as the country was slowly getting over from the tragedies caused by the second Covid wave, some people approached the Supreme Court seeking permission to hold Rath Yatra rituals in various parts of Odisha.

Chief Justice NV Ramana, noting the havoc of Covid-19, refused to permit the performance of rituals at places other than Puri, while giving hope to the people that, “God (Jaganath) will allow us to hold rituals next year”. This was only one of the several Odisha-related cases that Ramana heard during his tenure of 16 months, which also saw recommendations of 11 judges to the Orissa High Court.

Ramana, who is set to retire Friday, also famously prevented Narendra Modi government from



appointing Rakesh Asthana as the CBI director, which the Modi government desperately wanted, giving the citizens of the country hope of a different kind soon after taking over as the 48th Chief Justice of India in April 2021.

There was also hope that several of the vital cases pending before the top court would be adjudicated. It was believed that with a longer tenure of 16 months, Ramana would hear significant cases like petitions against

Citizenship Amendment Act, abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, challenge to the electoral bonds, the hijab ban case and UAPA among others. But none of these significant cases saw the light of the day in the Supreme Court during his tenure. Petitions against the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, which divided erstwhile J&K into two Union Territories, were filed in August 2019. The petitioners argued that the decision to nullify Article 370 was unconstitutional. Though it was mentioned before the bench of the Chief Justice for early hearing in April this year, the SC didn't take up the matter during Justice Ramana's tenure.

Same was the fate of the petitions against Citizenship Amendment Act, which was enacted in December 2019 by the BJP government with provisions to

grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The petitions termed the act unconstitutional and in violation of Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. The case was last heard in January 2020.

Again the petitions challenging the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) were last heard in 2019. The petitioners argued that the act provides unbridled powers to the government without a “judicial application of mind” and violates the freedom of speech. Ramana, however, days before demitting the office heard petitions against Pegasus snooping row and also issued notice to the Gujarat government on the petitions challenging the remission of 11 convicts who gang-raped Bilkis Bano and killed several people during 2002 Gujarat riots.

Ruthe calls on OSDA chairman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Sean Ruthe, Political and Economic Officer, Head of Political and Economic Section at US Consulate in Hyderabad called on Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) chairman Subroto Bagchi at his office Thursday.

He was accompanied by Siba Prasad Tripathy, Political and Economic Specialist. Ruthe spent more than an hour discussing issues related to skill development for youth as well as broader economic and political aspects of the state. He was presented with a pattachitra painting from Odisha. Bagchi thanked Ruthe for his visit to Odisha and hoped for deeper cooperation and dialogue with the United States Consulate at all levels in future.

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New Right's Depravity

A recent crisis in northern Kosovo came and went quickly, because nobody wanted an escalation. But it will return, because Russia is manoeuvring in the Balkan shadows to stoke the tensions that gave rise to it. The mundane origin of the crisis shows how easily a spark can be fanned into a conflagration.

The Kosovo government had announced a measure requiring Serbs living in northern Kosovo to apply for local license plates, replacing their Serbian plates. But Serbs staged protests (with reports of gunfire) and road blockades at two border crossings, pushing Kosovo authorities to delay the measure for a month while they discuss next steps.

Serbia has long had a similar rule for Kosovar license-plate holders on its territory, and Kosovo was merely trying to apply the same standard. The problem, of course, is that Serbia doesn't recognise Kosovo as an independent state, even though the United States and around 100 other countries do.

This would be a purely local story were it not implicated in the geopolitical dynamic triggered by Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine. But as Vladimir Đukanović, an MP from the ruling Serbian Progressive Party, channeling Russia's rationale for invading Ukraine, recently mused, "Serbia might be forced to engage in the 'denazification' of the Balkans." Even the expression "forced to engage" echoes the Kremlin's farcical line about being provoked by NATO aggression to invade Ukraine.

Moreover, Đukanović's reference to "the Balkans" follows the same logic as the Russian line, which implies that all of Europe, caught in the vortex of self-destructive degeneracy (LGBTQ+, same-sex marriage, no clear gender distinctions, and so forth), ultimately will have to be "denazified." As Aleksandr Dugin, Russian President Vladimir Putin's court philosopher, explains, "We are fighting the absolute evil, embodied in Western civilization, its liberal-totalitarian hegemony, in Ukrainian Nazism..."

According to this new conservatism, Nazism, Communism, and woke hedonism all amount to the same thing. But this corraling of opposites really is too much even for a hardline Hegelian. It reveals the glaring inconsistency not just of Kremlin propagandists but also of the pro-Russian US and European Alt-right, which claim to embody traditional Christian values even as their words and actions countenance genocide and glorify sexual violence.

As a leading player in this culture war, the Kremlin has been intervening through its proxies not only in Kosovo but also in Bosnia, which it has warned against NATO membership. Unfortunately, the Western Leftists and pacifists have chosen simply to ignore the geopolitical dimension of Putin's "denazification" project. As Jeremy Corbyn, the former British Labour Party leader, recently complained, "Pouring arms in [to Ukraine] isn't going to bring about a solution, it's only going to prolong and exaggerate this war. We might be in for years and years of a war in Ukraine."

Implicit in this position is that Western governments should simply let Russia occupy Ukraine. Yet it is an odd "pacifism" that applies pressure on the victim (which must not defend itself too vigorously) and its supporters (which must not help the aggressor's target too much), rather than on the attacker. Western "pacifists" insist that we "de-demonize" Putin. There will have to be some kind of negotiation sooner or later, so we should treat him as a future partner. In fact, we should do the exact opposite: the attack on Ukraine compels us to re-demonize Putin, not personally but as an exponent of a dangerous geopolitical and ideological project.

There is mounting evidence that Russia is changing into something that is radically foreign to demizens of today's Western democracies, but all too familiar to students of European history. Consider the Russian Liberal Democratic Party's recent proposal to replace the term "president" with "pravitel'" ("ruler"). The former, according to the party, has "always embarrassed us," because it was first used in the US, spreading to the rest of the world only "much later."

While the New Right's main ideological target is Western "degeneracy," its fascination with strongman rule is permeated with obscenity. In a recent campaign appearance, Kari Lake, the Republican gubernatorial candidate in Arizona, gushed that her fellow Republicans Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis have "big dick energy."

This is a necessary, rather than contingent, feature of the New Right's defense of Christianity. To attract enough followers, its leaders must provide the surplus enjoyment ("the pure surplus of enjoyment over standard satisfactions") of the obscene. An ideology that allows its adherents to act on their worst impulses can mobilise millions.

To take another example, is Russia's "peacemaking military intervention" in Ukraine not like the "legitimate rape" that US Representative Todd Akin, then the Republican Senate nominee from Missouri, defined in 2012? According to Akin, abortion should be banned outright, because if a woman suffers "legitimate rape," her body will somehow know not to get pregnant.

Facing outrage at the remark, Akin claimed that he had "misspoken." What he meant was that there are "legitimate cases of rape" that police refer to "when they're doing an investigation or whatever." But his basic message remained: if a woman gets pregnant from rape, she must have secretly wanted it, because otherwise her body's "stress" response would have prevented it.

It is telling that Putin has referred to Ukraine in the same way. At a press conference February 7, he mocked the Ukraine government's objections to the Minsk agreements, adding, "Like it or not, it's your duty, my beauty." The sexual connotations of that line are well known for Russians and Ukrainians from "Sleeping Beauty in a Coffin," by the Soviet-era punk rock group Red Mold: "Sleeping beauty in a coffin, I crept up and f*cked her. Like it, or dislike it, sleep my beauty."

The implication is that the rape of a country sometimes is justified. The victim was asking for it. As with rape, what motivates the New Right is not love, but domination.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

In October 2021, two tractors with a large chain stretched between them cleared more than 2,000 hectares of forest in the Brazilian Cerrado, one of the world's most biodiverse areas. Tragically, such scenes have become all too familiar in the region.

In 2021 alone, 8,531 square kilometers of the Cerrado's forests, grasslands, and other native vegetation were destroyed – the highest rate since 2015. And in recent decades, 40-55% of the Cerrado biome has been converted to croplands, pastures, and tree plantations, with much of the deforestation making way for large industrial soy monocultures and cattle production. Agribusinesses have dispossessed thousands of communities in land grabs and destroyed the surrounding environment.

The Cerrado is a tragic and alarming example of how quickly the world's biological diversity is being lost. The region is estimated to be home to 12,000 plant species – 35% of which grow nowhere else in the world – as well as around 25 million people, including indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, and other communities where traditional livelihoods depend on biodiversity. All are in urgent need of protection. For the past few years, governments have been negotiating a new Global Biodiversity Framework under the auspices of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. But very little progress was made at the most recent round of talks in June, and though there is a global consensus on the urgent need to act, the current debate is based on two dangerously mistaken premises.

The first is the assumption that human societies and ecosystems exist separately from one another, implying that the best way to conserve biodiversity is to carve out protected areas that exclude all human activity. Hence, most of the focus today is on the "30x30" campaign to establish formal protections for 30% of all land and marine areas by 2030.

But this "fortress conservation" approach has already been tried, and it was shown to lead to systematic violations of local communities' rights. By deploying such strategies, governments risk sidelining precisely the people who live closest to the ecosystems that we are trying to protect, and who play a critical role in sustainably managing those resources to preserve their own livelihoods.

The second flawed premise guiding today's negotiations is that protecting biodiversity must be turned into a business. Instead of ensuring that industrial and financial activities are regulated to avoid harming people and the planet, the current proposals focus on trying to transform the biodiversity crisis into another opportunity to boost corporate profits.

In "green" business and financial circles, the current buzz is about "nature-based solutions," a term used to describe interventions ranging from reforestation to carbon markets. The concept has a nice ring to it, and it has been endorsed by the UN Environment Assembly. But it is dangerously ill-defined.

Those who use the term seldom refer to human rights and tend to focus instead on offsetting schemes, such as carbon markets, which tie the protection of biodiversity in one place to its ongoing destruction elsewhere. Rather than a remedy, "nature-based solutions" are becoming part of the problem, serving as a license for business as usual, or even encouraging more land grabs in areas traditionally



Agribusinesses have dispossessed thousands of communities in land grabs and destroyed the surrounding environment

managed by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Governments need to look beyond "30x30" and "nature-based solutions" to put human rights at the center of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Doing so acknowledges that human societies and natural ecosystems are inextricably connected, and that biodiversity protection requires a shift to more sustainable social and economic models.

A human-rights lens sharpens the focus on those people and communities who are most affected by today's destructive practices. It shows that we need to address the drivers of biodiversity loss – extractive and industrial activities – rather than entrusting protection of the world's ecosystems to corporations and financial markets. Governments are required to hold these entities accountable for the damage they cause to the environment and human communities, and to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, and others who have long helped protect the world's precious ecosystems.

Our food systems are a prime example of why we need a different approach. The crops and animal breeds that feed humanity co-evolved with human farming communities over the course of millennia. But with the expansion of industrial farming models since the twentieth century, we have radically broken from this tradi-

tion, destroying 75% of biological diversity in our food and agriculture. Most food systems today are based on deforestation, land degradation, use of pesticides, pollution, high energy consumption, genetic homogeneity, and socioeconomic inequity.

We cannot solve the biodiversity crisis without transforming these dysfunctional food systems. In their place, we can embrace agroecology, which has been shown to be a powerful and effective approach to food production, distribution, and consumption. Agroecology fosters biodiversity by stimulating synergies within ecosystems to boost resilience and productivity. Instead of degrading the land, agroecology revitalises soils and contributes to their restoration and conservation. This approach – oriented toward generating integral well-being – has always been taken by indigenous peoples, peasants, and other smallholder food producers. Traditional, collective knowledge of sustainable farming (much of it held by women), together with locally adapted and self-reliant innovations, is central to these groups' management systems. Protecting this knowledge and supporting agroecology is essential to the shift toward a more sustainable, healthy, and just manner of producing, distributing, and consuming food.

This year's biodiversity negotiations are a crucial opportunity for world leaders to agree on a plan to protect both nature and people. But a new framework will succeed only to the extent that it guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants, and other smallholder food producers, while putting the world's food systems on a path toward agroecology.

Sofia Monsalve is Secretary-General of FIAN International. Georgina Catacora-Vargas is President of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Slavoj Žižek

An ideology that allows its adherents to act on their worst impulses can mobilise millions

Sofia Monsalve & Georgina Catacora-Vargas

WE CANNOT SOLVE THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS WITHOUT TRANSFORMING DYSFUNCTIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Boost to India-Australia ties

The sixth meeting of the Australia-India Education Council (AIEC) took place at Western Sydney University Monday last. AIEC is a unique platform in India-Australia partnership for ministerial engagement on policy and operational issues across the education sectors in both countries. In addition to deepening and widening this collaboration, it also marked the growing ties between the two countries, which are increasingly bonding in view of the convergence of their concerns in various sectors, especially in security. Both countries face a common threat posed by a belligerent and expansionist China.

The meeting was co-chaired by Union Education & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his counterpart Jason Clare, as per procedure, including representatives from government, academia and industry. Pradhan, who was on a four-day visit to Australia, at the time of writing, said, "AIEC is a highly effective forum to further advance ties and boost engagements in skill development, in education and in research priorities." Pradhan called on Australian universities and skill-building institutions to set up campuses in India and for col-

laborating with their Indian counterparts on other areas. It was also agreed to offer dual degree programmes in order to encourage two-way student mobility and enhance people-to-people linkages. The proposed dual degree will enable a student, Australian or Indian, to do a part of the degree in either country. This will also necessitate close formal collaboration between the universities.

The aforesaid developments in education sector signify the growing closeness between India and Australia. Both countries have historical, structural commonalities. They share multiple ties – political, economic, security, education, linguistic and sporting. In 2009, a 'strategic partnership' was set up between the two countries and the relations have been growing ever since.

Like AIEC, Australia-India Council (AIC) is a larger forum established May 21, 1992 on the advice of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The Council came up following a thorough inquiry into various aspects of India-Australia relations. AIC has a broad spectrum covering entire gamut of relations between the two countries. AIC also raises awareness about each other and promotes exchanges

between two countries. Having talked a bit about the latest developments in educational collaboration, it is in order that we look at a few other sectors.

Perhaps the front-running sector is defence which is guided by four major agreements -- the 2006 Memorandum on defence cooperation; the 2009 joint declaration on security cooperation and the 2014 bilateral Framework for Security Cooperation; and the 2020 Australian-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The cooperation consists of strategic dialogues, period interactions between respective services, staff and training exchanges. In military partnership, the cooperation is quite comprehensive involving dialogues, coordination, information exchanges including on third countries, military exercises in air, water and on the ground, defence commerce and technical cooperation.

In military, a joint naval exercise called AUSINDEX is conducted between India and Australia every year starting from September 2015 at Visakhapatnam. The objective of this exercise is to strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and inter-operability between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.

People-to-people contact could be traced to the colonial period

when the British East India Company shifted Indian workers and labourers from the Indian Subcontinent to Australia. Presently, out of Australia's 24 million people, about half-a-million are of Indian origin. As of 2017, more than 60,000 students from India were studying in Australia. More than two lakh Indians visit Australia every year. The fastest-growing foreign language in Australia is Punjabi.

In economic relations, India is Australia's largest export market for gold and chick-peas, the second largest market for coal and copper ores and the third largest market for lead and wool. Indian exports to Australia consist largely of refined petroleum, outsourcing services, pulse, gems, jewellery and medicines. Significantly, in 2007, Australia supplied uranium to India, which went a long way towards strengthening the relationship.

Negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement started in 2001 which is somewhat deadlocked. This should materialise. India and Australia should build a strong and formidable partnership in view of common stakes in the region.

The writer is Professor, International Relations, JIMMC. ©INFPA



DK Giri

BOTH COUNTRIES FACE A COMMON THREAT POSED BY A BELLIGERENT AND EXPANSIONIST CHINA

WORDSWORTH

Barbecue

We have to go back to the West Indian island of Hispaniola in the seventeenth century to begin the search for this word. The local Arawakan Indians had a method of erecting a frame of wooden sticks over a fire in order to dry meat. In their language, Taino, they called it a barbacoa, which Spanish explorers borrowed. This word seems also to have been applied by Europeans to sleeping platforms raised off the ground to reduce the risk of snakebite, presumably without the fire underneath. That extraordinary seaman William Dampier was the first person to use the word in this variant sense, in his New Voyage round the World of 1699: "And lay there all night, upon our Borbecu's, or frames of Sticks, raised about 3 foot from the Ground". It seems that the word began to be applied quite quickly to cooking meat rather than drying it, and for such outdoor cooking to become a social event, even though barbecues in those days differed from the modern suburban ritual in that animals were often cooked whole over pits of hot coals (the Oxford English Dictionary has a lip-smackingly wonderful definition of the process: "To broil or roast (an animal) whole; e.g. to split a hog to the backbone, fill the belly with wine and stuffing, and cook it on a huge gridiron, basting with wine". The first example known is of the verb, in a work by Aphra Behn of 1690: "Let's barbicu this fat rogue", showing that it was well enough known even then to be used figuratively.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Empathise with prisoners

Sir, The Supreme Court recently asked the Centre and the states to come up with a uniform policy to set free prisoners languishing in jails for ten years or more. Those in jails for ten years could be released on bail and the sentences of prisoners who have completed fourteen years in jails may be remitted, the top court said considering India is celebrating 75 years of Independence. 'Good behaviour' and 'single crime' may be considered for release. According to the SC, if every case is allowed to reach a logical conclusion, and every time it has to step-in as a last resort, then it may take hundred years to tackle case pendency in courts. Also, it is high time for the Centre and states to follow, in letter and spirit of the law, orders of the apex court regarding release of undertrial prisoners. India has the third highest undertrial population in Asia. But the courts in the country are so overburdened that the undertrials have nothing to curse but their own fate for the long wait.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Welcome move

Sir, The Supreme Court agreeing to consider listing a plea challenging the grant of remission by the Gujarat government to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case is reassuring. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana told advocate Aparna Bhat and senior advocate Kapil Sibal to file the case records. The move to release the prisoners undergoing life sentences for killing 14 people and assaulting a pregnant woman has triggered national outrage.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Unfair criticism

Sir, The Supreme Court has rightly taken high exceptions to the criticism of allopathy by Baba Ramdev. There are cases when the terminally ill patients have lost battle for survival despite good treatment. That does not suggest that allopathy is of no use. More patients have regained health after using allopathic medicine. Allopathy system cannot be dispensed with just because all the patients undergoing treatment do not survive. While competition between allopathy and ayurveda is healthy on healthcare front, no other system is a substitute for allopathy. Ramdev is welcome to popularise ayurveda and propagate the efficacy of ayurvedic system. But he has no right to denigrate allopathy just like allopathy doctors have no right to condemn ayurveda.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

of the day quote

India has always stood against violence and extremism. We condemn the horrific attack on Salman Rushdie and we wish him a speedy recovery



ARINDAM BAGCHI | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

There should be a free and fair inquiry against all political leaders, including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and MP Raghav Chadha, as well as Punjab government officials who facilitated the ₹500-crore AAP excise scam



SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SAD PRESIDENT

We can defeat the BJP only if we all move together. Time has come when you all need to come into action leaving everything else behind



KAMAL NATH | MPCC PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Meghalaya hikes petrol, diesel prices

Shillong: The Meghalaya government hiked the prices of petrol and diesel, state taxation minister James PK Sangma said. The tax on petrol was 13.5 per cent or ₹11 per litre, whichever is higher. It has been revised to 13.5 per cent or ₹12.50 per litre, whichever is higher, he said. The tax on diesel was 5 per cent or ₹4 per litre, whichever is higher. It has been revised to 5 per cent or ₹5.50 per litre, whichever is higher, he added.

JD(U) to contest LS polls in UP too

Lucknow: After snapping its ties with the BJP in Bihar, the Janta Dal (United) is working to expand and strengthen its base in Uttar Pradesh, ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections in 2024. The JD(U) is particularly focusing on the districts of east Uttar Pradesh bordering Bihar. The JD(U) has appointed former MP from Jaunpur Lok Sabha seat Dhananjay Singh, as the party's national general secretary.

Amit Shah reviews situation in J&K

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday reviewed the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, including the security arrangements along the border with Pakistan, officials said. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and senior officials of the Centre and the Union Territory administration attended the meeting chaired by Shah.

Fisherman killed on Indo-B'desh border

Guwahati: A fisherman, along the India-Bangladesh border in Assam's South Salmara district was shot dead by BSF patrol party which allegedly mistook him to be a smuggler, police said Thursday. Villagers alleged that the Border Security Force (BSF) patrol in Gudli village Wednesday night, without confirming the identity, opened fire on Maniruzzaman, 24, as he was laying nets for fishing. The injured fisherman succumbed to his injuries while being taken home, police told the media.

Drugs, pistol, recovered

Chandigarh: After forcing a Pakistani drone to return in the wee hours of Thursday, the Border Security Force (BSF) recovered drugs, pistol and ammunition from near the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab's Gurdaspur district.

AAP VS BJP

BJP tried to poach 40 MLAs: Kejriwal

The CBI is currently probing alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the Kejriwal government's new excise policy and has named his deputy Manish Sisodia, who holds excise portfolio, as one of the accused in its FIR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 25: A high-voltage drama unfolded Thursday with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal summoning the AAP MLAs at his residence as he accused the BJP of trying to topple his government by offering ₹800 crore to 40 of his legislators for switching sides and asked if this money came from GST collections, PM CARES Fund or some of its "friends".

Kejriwal visited Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat along with Aam Aadmi Party MLAs to pray for the country, asserting that the AAP government is stable as his party legislators are not for sale. AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said the "Operation Lotus" by the BJP has failed.

The BJP hit back hard, saying the AAP's allegations were like a "movie script" and the party was indulging in theatrics.

The day began with AAP leaders claiming that nearly a dozen party MLAs were incommunicado ahead of the meeting at the chief minister's residence, even as after the head count exercise later they said all the 62 party MLAs were accounted for.

Bhardwaj said 53 MLAs were physically present in the meeting while one -- Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan -- attended it over phone. Seven MLAs, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, were out of station and minister Satyendar Jain is in jail. "They(BJP) need 40 MLAs to



Even mattresses and walls at my deputy Manish Sisodia's residence were searched by the CBI but not even a single unaccounted penny was found. A day after the CBI's raids, Sisodia was approached by the BJP with an offer of the Chief Minister's post and to betray Kejriwal. I am lucky to have Sisodia, who has no greed for the Chief Minister's post



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

loose their heads rather than get sold out.

"Even mattresses and walls at Sisodia's residence were searched by the CBI but not even a single unaccounted penny or objectionable documents was found," he said in reference to recent raid by the central agency at his deputy's residence in connection with alleged irregularities in the excise policy. The agency has named Sisodia as an accused in the case.

"I am extremely happy that no MLA has yielded under pressure. They want to poach 40 MLAs, but I want to tell the people of Delhi that they have voted for a hardcore honest government. Neither me nor my MLAs and ministers will betray the country and be sold out," Kejriwal said.

He said the AAP MLAs prayed at Rajghat for peace to prevail in the country at a time "attempts" were being made to "topple state governments".

"They toppled the Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Goa governments, they're after the Delhi Government now, they are

topple my government. They have kept aside ₹800 crore for toppling the Delhi government. People of the country want to know about the source of this money- is it from GST or the PM CARES Fund? Have some of their friends given them this money?" Kejriwal told reporters at Rajghat.

Kejriwal in the same breath also praised his deputy Sisodia and MLAs saying they will prefer to

HC REFUSES TO STAY AGNIPATH SCHEME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Delhi High Court Thursday refused to stay the Centre's Agnipath Scheme for recruitment in the armed forces and asked the central government to file its reply on a batch of petitions challenging the scheme.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad granted four weeks to the Centre to file the response.

The court asked the Centre to file a consolidated reply on petitions challenging the scheme and separate replies on those pleas which



have challenged the recruitment processes in accordance with the previous advertisements in the Army, Navy, and Air Force before the introduction of the Agnipath Scheme.

Counsel for one of the petition-

ers urged the court to stay the operation of the scheme till the petitions are decided.

The court, however, refused to stay the scheme saying that it was not passing any interim order and will hear the matter finally.

"We will not stay it. If you succeed you will get it," the bench orally said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for some other petitioners, said the court may say that the appointment through the Agnipath Scheme will be subject to the outcome of the writ petitions.

To this, the bench said, "it is always there".

Navy set to commission INS Vikrant Sept 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, August 25: India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant will be able to play a role in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral S N Ghormade said on Thursday, ahead of the warship's commissioning September 2.

He said the aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and they will be completed by mid-2023, adding MIG-29K jets will operate from the warship for the first few years.

At a press briefing, Vice Admiral Ghormade said the commissioning of INS Vikrant in Kochi September 2 in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not only make India enter an elite group of nations capable of manufacturing aircraft carriers above 40,000 tonnes category but will also reflect the country's unity and diversity.

The vice chief said equipment for the aircraft carrier has been manufactured in 18 states and union territories including places such as Kolkata, Jalandhar, Kota, Pune,

The Navy has been pitching for three aircraft carriers to deal with China's growing naval prowess and its growing influence over the Indian Ocean region

At present, India has only one aircraft carrier -- INS Vikramaditya -- which is a Russian origin platform

The INS Vikrant has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1,700 people, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers

Vikrant has a top speed of around 28 knots and a cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles

Delhi, Ambala, Hyderabad and Indore.

"It will be an unforgettable day for India. It will reflect India's growing prowess in defence manufacturing," he said. Vice Admiral Ghormade said India now has an eco-system to build the next aircraft carrier and noted that deliberations are underway for it. Explaining the sched-

BSF FORCES PAK DRONE TO FLEE

The Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have chased away a drone that came from Pakistan. According to sources, the drone intruded a couple of hundred metres inside Indian territory in the Ramdas sector past midnight, post which the BSF opened fire, forcing it to flee back



Sonali Phogat death: Goa Police file murder case

AGENCIES

Panaji, August 25: Goa Police Thursday pressed a charge of murder against two associates of BJP leader Sonali Phogat after a post-mortem report mentioned that there were "multiple blunt force injuries" on her body.

Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code was added to the case related to the death of the 42-year-old leader, a senior police official told PTI here.

Sudhir Sagwan and Sukhwinder Wasi, who had accompanied Phogat when she arrived in Goa August 22, were named as accused in the case, he added. Her brother Rinku Dhaka had filed a complaint against the two men at Anjuna Police Station Wednesday.

A panel of forensic experts from the Goa Medical College and Hospital conducted the autopsy on her body Thursday morning after her family agreed to the procedure. Dr Sunil Shrikant Chimbolkar of the Forensic Science Department of GMCH in his report reserved the opinion on the cause of death.

"The cause of death due to the best of my knowledge and belief is reserved pending chemical analysis. Histopathology and serological reports of the tissues preserved," the report said.

"However there are multiple blunt force injuries over the body. In view of the above, the manner of death is for the investigating officer to ascertain," it added. Phogat, who hailed from Hisar in Haryana and found fame on TikTok, was brought dead to the St Anthony Hospital in Anjuna in North Goa



district August 23 morning.

The cause was given as a suspected heart attack. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told reporters in Panaji Thursday that state Director General of Police Jaspal Singh was personally monitoring the investigation.

The autopsy was earlier scheduled Wednesday, but Phogat's brother claimed she was murdered by two of her associates and the fam-

ily would agree to autopsy only after an FIR was registered against them. On Thursday morning, Sonali Phogat's nephew Mohinder Phogat told PTI that the family had consented to autopsy on condition that it would be video-graphed. Dhaka, her brother, had alleged that a short while before her death, Phogat had spoken to her mother, sister and brother-in-law. She sounded disturbed during the conversation and complained against her two colleagues, he claimed.



Activists hold placards during a protest demanding justice for Indra Meghwal, a Dalit boy from Rajasthan who allegedly died after he was beaten up by his teacher in Mumbai, Maharashtra

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION-V, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: eern5bbsr@gmail.com, Tel- (0674) 2392424
No.4023, dtd.22.08.2022

No.B-508: **Notice for Building work**
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.11 of 2022-23

Number of the work	-: 01 (One) Building Work
Period of completion	-: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
Date & time of sale & receipt of bid document in the office of Inviting Authority	-: From 26.08.2022 at 11.00 AM To 05.09.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
Date & Time of opening of bids	-: 06.09.2022 at 11.30 AM
Name & Address of Inviting Officer	-: Executive Engineer, R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the state Govt portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any amendment /cancellation/retenders will be available in the website.

Sd./ Executive Engineer
R&B Division-V, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34135/11/0013/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
No.M-34: E-mail: eefedcuttack@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.1288/ Dt.19.08.2022

1. No. of works	: 04 (Four) Number of Civil Works
2. Type of Works	: Civil Works
3. Approximate Estimated Cost	: Rs.12.55 Lakhs to Rs.35.36 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: B & C
5. Period of Completion	: 06 (Six) Calendar Months
6. Date of Sale & Receipt	: Dt.02.09.2022 at 2.00 PM of Dt. 14.09.2022 (Working days only)
7. Date of Opening	: Dt.16.09.2022, at 11.00 A.M.
8. Name of Office Inviting Bid:	: Executive Engineer (C) Directorate of Fisheries Odisha, Cuttack

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents & can be downloaded from the Government of Odisha website (<http://www.odisha.gov.in>). Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./ Executive Engineer (C)
Directorate of Fisheries, Odisha, Cuttack
OIPR-06030/11/0003/2223

Saffron surge worries BJP, SDPI ups concern for Cong

POLITICS OF DIVISION



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 25: Ruling BJP and Opposition Congress, which have subtly or openly practiced the politics of division are confronting a catch-22 situation as their politics of polarisation is showing all signs of boomeranging on them in Karnataka.

Hindutva forces, activists who worked in tandem with ruling BJP and worked shoulder to shoulder in elections across the state are now taking a position against the ruling BJP in Karnataka. On the other hand, the Congress party's claim over minorities is being challenged by the rise of Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Popular Front of India (PFI).

After the hijab crisis and boycott calls on Muslim leaders, the BJP insiders explained that Hindu youth came into the fold of RSS and other Hindu organisations, which pleased the ruling BJP government. However, the situation is just opposite in the present scenario, where the BJP workers and Hindu activists, who identified with the BJP over decades, are expressing their unhappiness over the party.

Dharmendra, State General Secretary Akhila Bharata Hindu Mahasabha talking to IANS stated, "The expiry date of BJP is very near. We are contesting for more seats. The organisation is much more powerful. We will change the political scenario in the state. The

BJP party will get a powerful blow across Karnataka," he stated.

The ruling BJP is now showing the same attitude of the Congress party once it displayed when it ruled the whole of India except for three states. The BJP is indulging in dividing castes, religion more aggressively than the Congress. The party workers are disenchanted with the development and finding parallel parties and organisations. They are coming into the fold of Akhila Bharatha Hindu Mahasabha, Dharmendra explains.

Sri Rama Sene has not only issued an open challenge to BJP questioning its commitment towards Hindutva, but has called for the people to not believe the assurances of the saffron party.

It's not only the Hindutva forces, the BJP cadres are also antagonised with the party following the viral videos and photos of the accused in the Bajrang Dal activist Harsha murder case making merry in the prison.

Before the leaders could assuage the outburst, murder of BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Kumar Nettare in Dakshina Kannada district took place and the Hindutva activists and BJP workers booted BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel and prominent RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat who came to attend funeral.

The angry mob tried to turn Kateel's vehicle upside down. Social media campaigns were

taken up condemning the statements of the Chief Minister and Home Minister. The statements such as strict action will be initiated, accused will not be spared were ridiculed. The members of the ABVP laid siege to Home Minister Araga Jnanendra's residence causing severe embarrassment to ruling BJP.

Senior Advocate Majid Khan, State Working Committee member of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) told IANS that a major chunk of minorities and Dalits have moved from the Congress party to SDPI. Even BJP workers are also joining the SDPI, he added.

"We have been involved in their communities, wards. We don't talk of the sky, but we speak about the ground. We will make Dalits understand how they are humiliated and kept in a state of helplessness," he said.

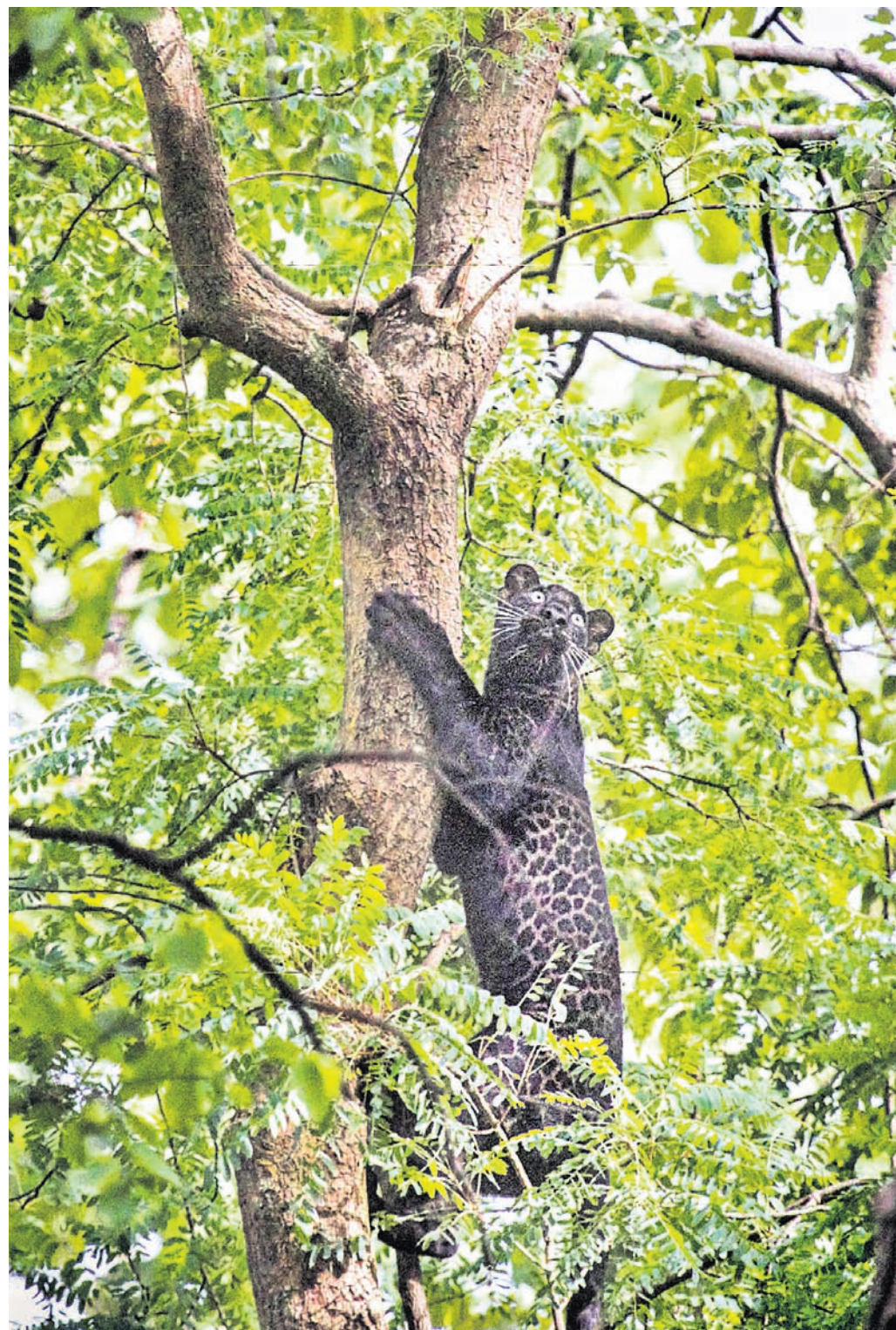
The SDPI took a padayatra for Dalit man Dinesh, who was murdered, from Belthangadi town to Mangaluru. This forced the government to issue Rs 8 lakh compensation. Two dalits were torched to death in Tumakuru district, it is SDPI who launched agitation and booked cases against upper caste perpetrators, said Khan.

"We are in the battlefield now and planning to contest in all the Assembly seats and surely deliver blow to not only the Congress but also to the BJP," Majid Khan explained.

Sensing the danger, CT Ravi, the National General Secretary and the BJP MLA made an appeal that if any party which works for Hindus it is only the BJP. The statements against the party would only benefit the anti-Hindu forces. On the other hand, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and others constantly demanded the ban on the SDPI.

However, insiders in both parties said that the leadership was concerned with the rise of the Hindu organisations as well as SDPI.

PENCH'S RARE BLACK PANTHER SPOTTED AGAIN



ELUSIVE BIG CAT: A rare black panther was spotted in Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve after two years, in Seoni district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seoni, August 25: A rare black panther has been spotted in Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve after two years, attracting wildlife enthusiasts from across the country, a forest official said Thursday.

The species became famous through author Rudyard Kipling's famous classic 'The Jungle Book', which had a fictional black panther character named 'Bagheera'.

"The black panther has been spotted after a gap of two years. Since the last few days, tourists have spotted the nine-month-old black panther cub with its mother on trees, mountains and other areas of the Pench Tiger Reserve's 'Telia beat,'" Khavasa forest ranger Rahul Upadhyaya told PTI.

Last time, a black panther was spotted in the Pench Tiger Reserve in July 2020. That feline must have turned two now. It was separated from its mother and was seen in the Khavasa forest area close to neighbouring Maharashtra, he said.

The black panther cub spotted now and the feline seen two years ago were born to the same mother, he said.

In the first litter, she had given birth to two cubs, of which one was of normal colour and the other one was black, the official said.

The second time, she gave birth to three cubs, including one black that has now become the centre of attraction, he said.

Tourists from West Bengal, Nashik, Mumbai and many other parts of Maharashtra are flocking to the Pench Tiger Reserve to catch a glimpse of the rare feline.

A panther is born black due to a genetic mutation, a wildlife expert said.

In 'The Jungle Book', the black panther 'Bagheera' was shown as a friend and protector of a boy named 'Mowgli'.

MP FLOODS

Chouhan joins rescue ops, Cong for relief to affected

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 25: With at least three districts of eastern Madhya Pradesh affected by floods after 30 hours of heavy rainfall, Chief Minister Shivraj Chouhan, apart from carrying out the aerial survey, also led the rescue operations on the ground.

Meanwhile, the Congress has sought immediate relief for the affected people.

The Chief Minister along with disaster relief teams Wednesday participated in rescue operations after carrying out the aerial survey of the affected areas. He also reached to the people trapped in flood and made announcement through loud speaker in residential colonies in Vidisha.

Chouhan assured the people trapped in flood that things will be alright and the government will compensate for damaged crops and all other losses. "Once the flood is over, a survey would be conducted to assess the loss of properties and crops, and I assure that the government will provide all possible help. Houses that were collapsed or damaged due to rain, will be rebuilt by the government," he announced.

The rainfall relatively relented Wednesday providing relief to the people, especially in the flood affected areas.

Compensating against the heavy loss after the assessment of damaged crops and properties would

definitely put a huge burden on state exchequer, especially at a time when the state is grappling with the financial debt of over three lakh crore.

While Chouhan has been leading the rescue operations from the front and visiting the flood areas, damage to newly build reservoirs, dam and roads have elevated challenges for him as the Congress accused the BJP government of corruption, especially on Karam dam built on the Narmada river in Dhar district.

The Karam dam, which was constructed recently, could not survive for one season rainfall and seepage on its wall had put the lives of over one lakh people in three adjoining districts in danger; however, joint quick action by army personnel and disaster relief teams averted the catastrophe last week.

The Rs 304-crore Karam irrigation project is already under probe and the state government has acknowledged this in the assembly.

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said on Wednesday that lakhs of people have been affected by the heavy rains in many districts. Farmers' crops have been ruined, people are homeless and living in relief camps, a large number of houses have been damaged and household and food items have been washed away.



10-DAY ASSEMBLY SESSION IN KARNATAKA FROM SEPT 12; STORMY SCENES EXPECTED



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 25: The stage is set for a high voltage Assembly session in Karnataka. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs JC Madhuswamy stated Thursday that the session will be held between September 12 and 22.

Madhuswamy stated that the decision had been taken to conduct a 10-day session at a Cabinet meeting. The Opposition Congress and JD(S) are likely to target the ruling BJP over the law and order situation in the state.

The revenge killings in Dakshina Kannada district are likely to be discussed at length during the session.

The murder of Masood allegedly led to the killing of BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Kumar Nettare which in turn led to the killing of Mohammad Fazil Mangalpet. The investigations have proved that all three killings were revenge murders. Though Masood was killed in a road rage case the investigations have shown that the accused had links with Hindutva organisations.

The Opposition is waiting to swoop on the ruling BJP over the preferential treatment in Praveen's case. The BJP has given Rs 25 lakh compensation and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai visited his family.

However, the government functionaries did not visit Masood and Mohammad Fazil's families. Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and former CM H D Kumaraswamy from the JD(S) have criticised the government over the issue.

Siddaramaiah had also stated that he would raise the issue of 40 per cent commission by BJP ministers. State Congress president DK Shivakumar has stated that the BJP is misusing the government agencies and he is prepared to face any consequences. He is also likely to launch attacks on the ruling party.

With assembly elections fast approaching, the BJP has the daunting task of defending itself from the attacks of the opposition parties as well as highlighting its achievements.

Move to add maths, science in madrasas likely to create row



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, August 25: The ruling BJP in Karnataka has taken up an exercise to ascertain whether the children studying in madrasas are getting formal education as per the Education Rights Act. This, however, is being criticised by the opposition leaders, who allege communal designs in it.

The officials have started preparing to visit madrasas following the order by the Education Minister BC Nagesh, sources said Thursday.

Minister Nagesh has discussed the necessity of formal education in madrasas and he had also mentioned the demands made by the parents of students studying in madrasas to give their children modern education to enable them to get jobs. However, he maintained that the government has not taken

any decision so far.

The exercise though seems to be progressive at the outset is likely to create a controversy.

Afsar Kodilipet, State General Secretary for Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) told IANS that it was an agenda of Keshava Krupa (RSS headquarters in Bangalore) to make the Muslim children devoid of their religious education.

"The madrasa system is 1,400 years old. In the beginning the students were taught horse riding, artifacts and now they are giving job oriented education. More than 900 madrasas are enrolled under the Wakf Board. They are teaching maths, science, social science and even taking computer classes," Afsar explained.

"We would have welcomed the move of BJP government if they had spoken about improving the infrastructure of madrasas. This is implementation of a hidden agenda by the communal BJP. 8,000 government schools in Karnataka have been closed down this year and the government is not saying a word on that," he said.

Jumbos join as leopard search enters 20th day in Belagavi

The big cat has been prowling in the residential areas and outskirts for the past 20 days and attacked a construction labourer

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Belagavi (Karnataka), August 25: The mega operation launched to catch a prowling leopard here was continuing Thursday, the 20th day of search. Elephants have now joined the search team and schools continue to remain shut in precaution.

Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Nitesh Patil directed the schools to carry out online classes, which have been shut for the past 18 days. More than 200 personnel from the forest, police departments have launched the search operation. Sharpshooters, wildlife activists and anaesthetic experts were also in the team.

Since the team has failed to catch

the leopard in the surrounding areas of the Golf Club in Belagavi, the residents of Hanumannagar, Jadhav Nagar and Camp region are scared to even come out of their houses. The leopard, which surfaced before the team Tuesday, managed to escape by a whisker.

Two elephants, 'Arjuna' and 'Aale', have arrived from Sakrebailu Elephant camp and they are stationed in the premises of the Golf Club. The elephants arrived in the early hours and will join the team soon.

The authorities have also got a special drone to detect the hiding place of the leopard. A special team from Bangalore will handle the drone with algorithm technology. The drone will scan every inch of



the 250 acres of the Golf Club, sources said.

The Karnataka Forest Department and district authorities of Belagavi district have

launched a mega operation in the city to catch the leopard. The big cat has been prowling in the residential areas and outskirts for the past 20 days and attacked a con-

struction labourer. It was also seen in the premises of the Golf Club of Belagavi, located in the heart of the city. The authorities have found pug marks in all corners of the city. The 22 schools have been closed for 18 days as a precautionary measure.

The movements of the leopard were captured by a private bus driver and the development led to panic among the residents.

The forest officials are on to their job and planning to trap the prowling leopard in a cage. The authorities have been trying to catch the leopard for the past 20 days after the incident of attack on a construction labourer in Jadhavnagar of Belagavi city. The search operations have been scaled up further.

of the day quote

Justice can never be one-sided, it is impartial. In a democracy, judiciary and media are important pillars. If one loses credibility, the other pillars also get affected

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

I was surprised when a mall in Gurugram was said to be mine by certain news channels. What I have gathered is that it is a mall that was inaugurated by some BJP leaders of Haryana. These media channels thrive on building false narratives

TEJASHWI PRASAD YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

We are bringing a scheme in which we are waiving surcharge and interest. They can pay the principal amount either at one go or give it in three installments

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Crime Branch raids PC George's residence

Kottayam (Kerala): The Crime Branch wing of Kerala police Thursday raided senior Kerala politician P C George's residence at Erattupetta in the district. This action claimed to have been taken in connection with the 2017 actress assault case was politically motivated, said George and his son Shone George to mediapersons after the raid. The intention was to find what evidence his father was going to submit to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he alleged. This was evident from the fact that the Crime Branch wanted to know what documents were there in the house and also wanted to take his mobile phone, he said.

2 kids die due to mysterious fever

Indore (MP): Two brothers, one five years old and another two years old, died due to a mysterious fever in Indore district while another sibling was in critical condition, a health official said Thursday. Civic officials have sealed an illegal clinic run by a quack who had treated them initially. Shivansh (5) and Yuvraj (2), residents of Baigram village, 50 km from here, died Wednesday. Both had fever but it was not clear if the cause was viral infection or bacteria and experts were examining the case, said Block Medical Officer Dr Faizal Ali.

Two arms suppliers held

New Delhi: Two member of an interstate gun-running racket were held by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police. DCP Jasmeet Singh said that the accused were identified as Pramod Kumar and Rohtas. 12 good quality pistols and 45 live cartridges were recovered from their possession. They are suppliers of an interstate arms syndicate led by an MP-based illegal arms manufacturer.

Man beaten to death

New Delhi: A 31-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by four people in north Delhi's Timarpur area when he went to take revenge for his brother's assault, police said Thursday. They said the incident took place on August 13 but it came to light after a purported video of the incident surfaced online showing the victim held down on the ground as two people beat him up with sticks.



The future needs flexible workplaces, a work-from-home ecosystem and flexible work hours

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DRDO GETS NEW CHIEF

Distinguished scientist Samir V Kamat was Thursday appointed as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), according to a Personnel Ministry order



SC agrees to relook its PMLA verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Supreme Court Thursday agreed to have a relook at its verdict upholding the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and said "prima facie" the two aspects of not providing an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and reversal of the presumption of innocence require reconsideration.

The apex court said this as it agreed to hear a plea seeking a review of the judgment that had upheld the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers relating to arrest, attachment of property involved in money laundering, search, and seizure under the PMLA. It also issued notice to the Centre.

At the same time, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said the object of the PMLA is noble and the offence of money laundering is serious, adding the court is completely in support of prevention of black money and money laundering and that the country cannot afford such types of offences.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, was hearing a plea filed by Congress MP Karti Chidambaram seeking a review of its July 27 judgement in the PMLA case.

"There is no need for elaborate arguments. We three feel that only two aspects which may be necessary to be re-looked into the judgement," it said. Referring to the two aspects relating to not providing ECIR to the accused and reversal of the presumption of innocence, the bench said after reading the judgement, "prima facie" it feels that these are the two issues that require reconsideration. The court also said what-ever interim protection was there in the matter, it would be extended by another four weeks and the matter would be listed before an

appropriate bench.

In its July 27 verdict, the court had said the supply of a copy of the ECIR in every case is "not mandatory" and it is enough if the ED discloses the grounds of arrest while apprehending an accused.

It observed that an ECIR cannot be equated with the First Information Report (FIR) under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in view of the special mechanism envisaged by the PMLA, 2002 and that authorities are "not police officers as such".

On the aspect of reversal of the presumption of innocence, the court had said that when a person is accused of having committed the offence of money laundering, the burden of proving that proceeds of crime are untainted property shall be on the accused. The judgement was delivered on a batch of over 200 petitions filed by individuals and other entities questioning various provisions of the PMLA, a law which the opposition has often claimed has been weaponised by the Centre to harass its political adversaries.

The verdict had evoked contrasting responses from the BJP and the Congress, with the ruling party hailing it as a "landmark judgement" and its rival expressing concern that it would increase the possibility of the probe agency's "political misuse".

A host of top opposition politicians including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, P Chidambaram, his son and MP Karti Chidambaram, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, TMC MP and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and Delhi minister Satyendar Jain are among those under the ED's lens for alleged money laundering.

During the court hearing Thursday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said he has a lot of submissions to make in the matter.



Aerial view of the flood-affected areas as seen by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during his survey, in Kota district

PTI PHOTO

Raja Singh sent to jail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 25: Suspended BJP MLA T Raja Singh Lodh was sent to jail Thursday after Hyderabad Police arrested him and invoked Preventive Detention (PD) Act.

Police took the MLA into custody from his residence in Mangalhat amid tight security and continuing protests for his re-arrest for allegedly making derogatory comments about Prophet Muhammad.

Raja Singh, who has been arrested for second time in three days, was later shifted to Cherlapally Jail on the city outskirts.

The police announced that it has invoked PD Act against Raja Singh, a rowdy sheeter of Mangalhat Police Station, on the orders of Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand.

According to the police, Raja Singh has been habitually delivering provocative and inflammatory speeches and driving a wedge between communities leading to public disorder. A total of 101 criminal cases registered against him since 2004.

SC Pegasus hearing: Cong, BJP trade barbs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Congress and the BJP traded barbs Thursday over the Supreme Court's observations in the Pegasus matter with the Opposition party alleging that the government's "non-cooperation" was an acceptance that it had "something deeper to hide" and the ruling party asking Rahul Gandhi to apologise for his charges.

The apex court said the technical panel appointed by it to probe the unauthorised use of Pegasus has found some malware in five mobile phones out of the 29 examined but it could not be concluded that it was due to the Israeli spyware. After perusing the report submitted by former apex court Justice R V Raveendran, Chief Justice N V Ramana also noted that the Central government did not cooperate with the Pegasus probe.

The BJP claimed that the opposition's attack on the government over the Pegasus issue was all part of a "motivated campaign" aimed at weakening and defaming Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country.

BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad wondered if Rahul Gandhi and the Congress will apologise after the



PM and his government's non-cooperation with the SC appointed committee is an acceptance that they had something deeper to hide and want to crush democracy

RAHUL GANDHI

Supreme Court-appointed panels found some kind of malware in five mobile phones.

Opposition parties, so-called intellectuals, some NGOs and a section of the media ran a sustained campaign against the government, Prasad told a press conference.

He also alleged that the Congress has so much animus against Modi and his government that it resorts to falsehood to expand the party but ends up shrinking further after its lies are exposed.

The Congress should take on the BJP in elections and not through such "sponsored" campaigns, he said, noting the ruling party has constantly prevailed over its rivals in polls.

3 ultras killed as Army foils infiltration bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 25: Three terrorists were killed as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Thursday.

The terrorists tried to sneak into this side of the LoC near Madiyan Nanak post in the Kamalkote area of Uri sector in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, they said. Srinagar-based PRO, Defence, Col Emron Musavi said an operation was launched following an input from the Army's intelligence agencies about a possible infiltration bid along the LoC.



The infiltration attempt was foiled near Madiyan Nanak post in Kamalkote area of Uri sector in north Kashmir's Baramulla district

"On the afternoon of August 24, multiple ambushes were laid to trap the infiltrators. Intensive electronic surveillance of the suspected area led to the detection of the (infiltration) attempt at 7 am on August 25," he said. Col Musavi said terrorists were hoping to use the cover of thick undergrowth, foliage and rainfall and low clouds to infiltrate. "The contact with the terrorists was established at about 8.45 am on August 25 in the forward areas of the Indian side of the LoC, leading to heavy exchange of fire in which the terrorists were killed," he said.

The spokesman said the detailed search of the area was concluded at 2 pm and bodies of three terrorists, two AK rifles, one Chinese M-16 rifle along with other war-like stores were recovered.

Monsoon likely to withdraw from 1st week of Sept: IMD

Monsoon rains have been nine per cent above normal for the country as a whole, but states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Manipur have reported deficit rainfall of over 40 per cent of the long period average, leaving the farmers in a lurch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Southwest monsoon is likely to enter its withdrawal phase in the first week of September, nearly a



fortnight ahead of the normal date, the weather office said Thursday. The normal date for withdrawal of the southwest monsoon is September 17. However, the actual withdrawal of the southwest monsoon usually happens either earlier or later given the dynamic nature of the weather systems.

"Conditions are likely to become favourable for the commencement of withdrawal of southwest monsoon from some parts of north-west India during the week beginning September 1," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in the extended range forecast released on Thursday.

Monsoon rains have been nine per cent above normal for the country as a whole, but states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Manipur have reported deficit rainfall of over 40 per cent of the long period average, leaving the farmers in a lurch.

Uttar Pradesh and Manipur have reported 44 per cent deficit rains than the long period average, followed by Bihar (41 per cent each), Delhi (28 per cent), Tripura and Jharkhand (26 per cent each). As of August 18, farmers had sown rice on 343.7 lakh hectares, which was 30.92 lakh hectares above last year and 53.36 lakh hectares below the normal sowing for the period under review.

The less coverage for area sown

to rice has been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, regions considered the rice bowl of the country. The sowing of pulses, particularly arhar or tur, and groundnut too has declined due to the truant rains. For the weather office, the monsoon season begins on June 1 and ends on September 30.

Last year, monsoon entered the withdrawal phase on October 6, a good 19 days after the normal date of September 17. According to IMD data, the monsoon withdrawal started on September 28 in 2020, October 9 in 2019, September 29 in 2018, September 27 in 2017 and September 15 in 2016.

Rlys seeks feedback from staff on urinals in locomotives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Railways has sought feedback from its running staff on urinals to be installed in locomotives, after complaints were raised over the unhygienic conditions under which they have to answer nature's call while driving trains.

Officials said that after a comprehensive feedback is received, the Railways will zero in on the model of urinal they will install in locos to facilitate staff.

Last week, the Railway Board issued orders to the chief electrical locomotive engineers (CELEs) of all 17 zonal railways to take feedback from the running staff (as-

sistant loco pilots and loco pilots).

"The CELEs are taking feedback from running staff on their mobile phones from loco pilots. This feedback is like a stakeholder survey to know what they are comfortable with before implementing the new system. After this, the Railway Board will decide on the installation of urinals," an official said.

However, the Indian Railway Loco Running Men Organisation, the association of loco pilots, is not satisfied with this decision of the Railway Board. They argue that there is a need to have toilets in locos and not urinals, contending that it would not be adequate. Six years after the then railway



minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first locomotive fitted with a bio-toilet, 97 have been installed so far, officials said. Indian Railways

has more than 14,000 diesel-electric locomotives. Of more than 60,000 loco pilots on its rolls, about 1,000 are women, most of whom drive

"If the toilets are installed, then more women will be able to drive the locos and need not settle for desk jobs," a woman loco pilot said

short-distance goods trains. "If the toilets are installed, then more women will be able to drive the locos and need not settle for desk jobs," a woman loco pilot told PTI.

PTI had last month flagged the issue where women running staff

explained how they had to choose being in office because of issues they faced while on the road with lack of toilets in locos.

The Railways said in a statement that subsequent to the Railway Budget announcement in 2013 and persistent demand, a decision was taken to provide water closets (toilets) in electric locos being built by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW). So far, 97 electric locos have been fitted with water closets, it said.

The Railways only assigns short 200 km-300 km stretches to women, that too with their approval. But shifts can often extend to 12 hours.

Men, too, have to squat on the side of the tracks, which is unhygienic, some staffers said.

international



We see Indian partners as indispensable partners. And the US-India Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the advancement of a free and open Indo-Pacific region

SHOCKING INCIDENT

A three-year-old girl woke up at her own funeral after doctors mistakenly pronounced her dead. The incident took place in Mexico August 17, according to local publication El Universal. The girl was rushed to the hospital where the doctors unsuccessfully tried to revive her and declared her dead again



of the day quote

In every brief, we tried to say: let's stop the fear narrative. It (Covid lockdowns) was always wrong from the beginning. I constantly said it was wrong

India continues to advocate for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to violence. We encourage talks between Ukraine and Russia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has himself, more than once, spoken to them, in this regard

China firmly opposes any third party (US) meddling in the border issue and hoped India will abide by the bilateral agreements not to hold military drills near the Line of Actual Control

FATE STILL HANGS IN BALANCE

Rohingya mark 5th anniversary of exodus to Bangladesh

More than a million Rohingya now live in the world's largest refugee settlement in southern Bangladesh, with little prospect of returning to Myanmar, where they are mostly denied citizenship and other rights

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kutupalong, August 25: Thousands of Rohingya refugees held "Genocide Remembrance Day" rallies Thursday across a huge network of camps in Bangladesh, marking five years since fleeing a military offensive in Myanmar. In August 2017 around 750,000 of the mostly Muslim minority streamed over the border with mainly Buddhist Myanmar to escape the onslaught, which is now the subject of a landmark genocide case at the UN's top court. Today there are nearly a million Rohingya, half of them under 18, in rickety huts in camps where the mud lanes regularly become rivers of sewage during monsoon rains. On Thursday thousands staged rallies in many of the camps, hold-

ing banners, shouting slogans and demanding a safe return to their home state of Rakhine in western Myanmar. "Today is the day thousands of Rohingya were killed," young leader Maung Sawyeddollah said with tears in his eyes as he led a rally in Kutupalong -- the world's largest refugee settlement. "Only Rohingya can understand the pain of the 25th of August. Five years ago this day nearly one million Rohingya were displaced. On this day in 2017 more than 300 of our villages were burnt down to ashes," he said. Many shouted slogans also demanding the repeal of a 1982 law that stripped them of their citizenship in Myanmar, where they are widely seen as foreigners. Several attempts at repatriation



have failed, with Rohingya refusing to return without security and rights guarantees. Rohingya community leaders complain that the security situation in the Bangladeshi camps -- surrounded by barbed wire -- is also de-

teriorating, with at least 100 people killed in violence since 2017. Many of the killings are blamed on a Rohingya insurgent group, as well as gangs involved in drug smuggling and human trafficking that find easy recruits among the many bored young men in the camps. "It's a prison for the Rohingyas. The life of the Rohingyas has worsened in these five years," said one young activist, declining to give his name for fear of retaliation from Bangladeshi police. "Rohingya shops were demolished. We need to take permission to go out of the camps to meet our relatives. We feel unsafe because of violence and the rising number of targeted killings," he said. A survey of the refugees published by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) Thursday showed that the camps were becoming increasingly unhygienic. It said that 76 percent of respondents said toilets were overflowing, up from 38 percent in 2018. Acute watery diarrhoea cases have increased by 50 percent compared to 2019 and cases of skin infections like scabies have also soared. Fires are common. Last year, a massive blaze left around 15 people dead, 560 injured and up to 10,000 families -- more than 45,000 people -- displaced. The United Nations

All we want is a safe and dignified return to our homeland. Unfortunately, our cries have fallen on deaf ears. The international community is not doing anything. Here in the camps we are languishing in tarp and bamboo shelters and barely surviving on handouts
SAYED ULLAH | COMMUNITY LEADER
The Rohingya are nationals of Myanmar and they have to be taken back
SHEIKH HASINA | PM, BANGLADESH
High Commissioner for Refugees or UNHCR has called for more funding from the international community. To ease overcrowding, Bangladesh authorities have relocated about 30,000 Rohingya to an island but there are worries it is prone to flooding.

Putin bolsters armed forces size

IN RECENT YEARS, THE KREMLIN HAS EMPHASISED ON INCREASING THE SHARE OF CONTRACT SOLDIERS AS IT SOUGHT TO MODERNISE THE ARMY AND IMPROVE ITS READINESS

Moscow, August 25: Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday ordered the Russian military to increase the size of the country's armed forces by 137,000 amid Moscow's military action in Ukraine. Putin's decree, which takes effect January 1, didn't explain whether the military will beef up its ranks by drafting a bigger number of conscripts, increasing the number of volunteer soldiers or using a combination of both. The presidential decree seeks to boost the number of Russian armed forces' personnel to 2,039,758 overall, including 1,150,628 servicemen. A previous order put the military's numbers at 1,902,758 and 1,013,628 respectively at the start of 2018. The Kremlin has said that only volunteer contract soldiers take part in what it calls the "special military operation" in Ukraine, rejecting claims that it was pondering a broad mobilisation. Russian media and non-governmental organizations say Russian authorities have sought to bolster the number of troops involved in the military action in Ukraine by attracting more volunteers, engaging private military contractors and even offering amnesty to some prisoners in exchange for a tour of military duty. The Russian military rounds up draftees twice a year, during the

spring and in the fall. Putin ordered the drafting 134,500 conscripts during the latest spring draft. In recent years, the Kremlin has emphasised increasing the share of volunteer contract soldiers as it sought to modernise the army and improve its readiness. Before the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine, the Russian military had over 400,000 contract soldiers, including 147,000 in the ground forces. Military observers have noted that if the campaign in Ukraine drags on, those numbers could be clearly insufficient to sustain the operations in Ukraine, which has declared a goal of forming a 1-million-strong military.



■ Russia has not said how many casualties it has suffered in Ukraine since the first weeks of the campaign, when it said 1,351 of its soldiers had been killed
■ Western estimates say the actual number could be at least 10 times that, while Ukraine says it has killed or wounded at least 45,000 Russian troops since the conflict
■ All Russian men aged 18-27 must serve one year in the military, but a large share avoid the draft for health reasons or deferments granted to university students

Russian strike killed 22 civilians on I-Day

Kyiv: A Russian missile attack killed 22 civilians and set a passenger train on fire in eastern Ukraine, officials in Kyiv said, with missile strikes north of the capital as Ukraine marked its Independence Day under heavy shelling. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned of the risk of "repugnant Russian provocations" ahead of the 31st anniversary Wednesday of Ukraine's independence from Moscow-dominated Soviet rule, and public celebrations were cancelled. In video remarks to the United Nations Security Council, Zelenskyy said rockets hit a train in the small town of Chaplyne, some 145 km west of Russian-occupied Donetsk in eastern Ukraine. "Chaplyne is our pain today. As of this moment there are 22 dead," he said in a later evening video address, adding that Ukraine would hold Russia responsible for all it had done. "Russia's missile strike on a train station full of civilians in Ukraine fits a pattern of atrocities. We will continue, together with partners from around the world, to stand with Ukraine and seek accountability for Russian officials," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Twitter. Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed the attack Thursday and said some 200 Ukrainian military personnel had died in the attack.

BRAHMOS INCIDENT

Pak rejects India's closure; demands joint investigation

Karachi, August 25: Pakistan rejected India's closure of the incident of the firing of a supersonic missile into Pakistani territory March 9, and reiterated demand for joint probe, said a statement by Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued Wednesday. The Indian Air Force Tuesday said at the end of its inquiry that the government had sacked three officers for accidentally firing a missile into Pakistan in March, an incident that the two nuclear-armed rivals handled calmly as there were no casualties. The BrahMos missile -- a nuclear-capable, land-attack cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India -- was fired March 9, prompting Pakistan to seek answers from New Delhi on the safety mechanisms in place to prevent accidental launches. "Pakistan categorically rejects India's purported closure of the highly irresponsible incident and reiterates its demand for a joint probe," a foreign office statement said. The measures taken by India in the aftermath of the incident and the subsequent findings and punishments handed by the so-called internal court of inquiry are totally unsatisfactory, deficient and inadequate, it added. It added the government had dismissed the three officers with immediate effect Tuesday. If indeed India has nothing to hide then it must accept Pakistan's demand for a joint probe in the spirit of transparency, the handout added.

SHORT TAKES

Monkeypox cases drop 21%: WHO

Geneva: The number of monkeypox cases reported globally dropped by 21% in the last week, reversing a month-long trend of rising infections and a possible signal the outbreak in Europe may be starting to decline, according to a World Health Organization report issued Thursday. The UN health agency reported 5,907 new weekly cases and said two countries, Iran and Indonesia, reported their first cases. To date, more than 45,000 cases have been reported in 98 countries since late April.

US man sentenced to death in China

Beijing: A US citizen sentenced to death by a Chinese court for "intentional homicide" of his former girlfriend lost his appeal Thursday, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Following a trial held in "open session" the High People's Court of Eastern China's Zhejiang Province rejected the appeal of the defendant, US citizen Shaded Abdulmatee, CCTV reported. The initial ruling by the lower court held that after a disagreement over the pair's break-up in June 2019 the defendant arranged to meet and talk with the victim, a woman surnamed Chen, at a bus stop in Ningbo before killing her.

Pak court extends Imran's custody

Islamabad: A Pakistani court Thursday extended former premier Imran Khan's protection from arrest through the end of the month, officials said, after police filed terrorism charges against the country's popular opposition leader. The court protected Khan from arrest until September 1 over accusations that during a speech over the weekend, he threatened police officers and a female judge. The developments before the court relief for Khan had raised fears of violent clashes between police and Khan.

Al Qaeda leader's body missing

Kabul: The Taliban has not found the body of Ayman al-Zawahiri and are continuing investigations, group spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Thursday, after the United States said they killed the al Qaeda leader in an airstrike in Kabul last month. The United States killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his hideout in July, US officials said, in the biggest blow to al Qaeda since US Navy SEALs shot dead Osama bin Laden more than a decade ago.

In a first, India votes against Russia in UNSC

Washington: New York: India was among the 13 countries who voted in favour of a proposal seeking to allow Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) virtually. As the UNSC meeting began, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations Vassily A Nebenzia requested a procedural vote concerning the Ukrainian president's participation in the meeting through video conference. Russia voted against while China abstained from voting. "The result of the voting is as fol-



lows: 13 votes in favour, one vote against, one abstention. The proposal to invite Volodymyr Zelenskyy,

CRITICS FEAR INFLATION

Student loan forgiveness to help over 40mn in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 25: More than 40 million Americans could see their student loan debt reduced -- and in many cases eliminated -- under the long-awaited forgiveness plan President Joe Biden announced Wednesday, a historic but politically divisive move in the run-up to the midterm elections. Fulfilling a campaign promise, Biden is erasing \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those with incomes below \$125,000 a year, or households that earn less than \$250,000. He's canceling an additional \$10,000 for those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college. It's seen as an unprecedented attempt to stem the tide of America's rapidly rising student debt, but it doesn't address the broader issue -- the high cost of college. Debt forgiveness will free up hundreds of billions of dollars for new consumer spending that could be aimed at homebuying and other big-ticket expenses, according to



economists who said this would add a new wrinkle to the country's inflation fight. "Both of these targeted actions are for families who need it the most: working and middle class people hit especially hard during the pandemic," Biden said at the White House Wednesday afternoon. The cancellation applies to federal student loans used to attend undergraduate and graduate school, along with Parent Plus Loans. Current college students qualify if their loans were issued before July 1. For dependent students, their parents' household income must be below \$250,000.

17-year-old becomes youngest person to fly solo around world

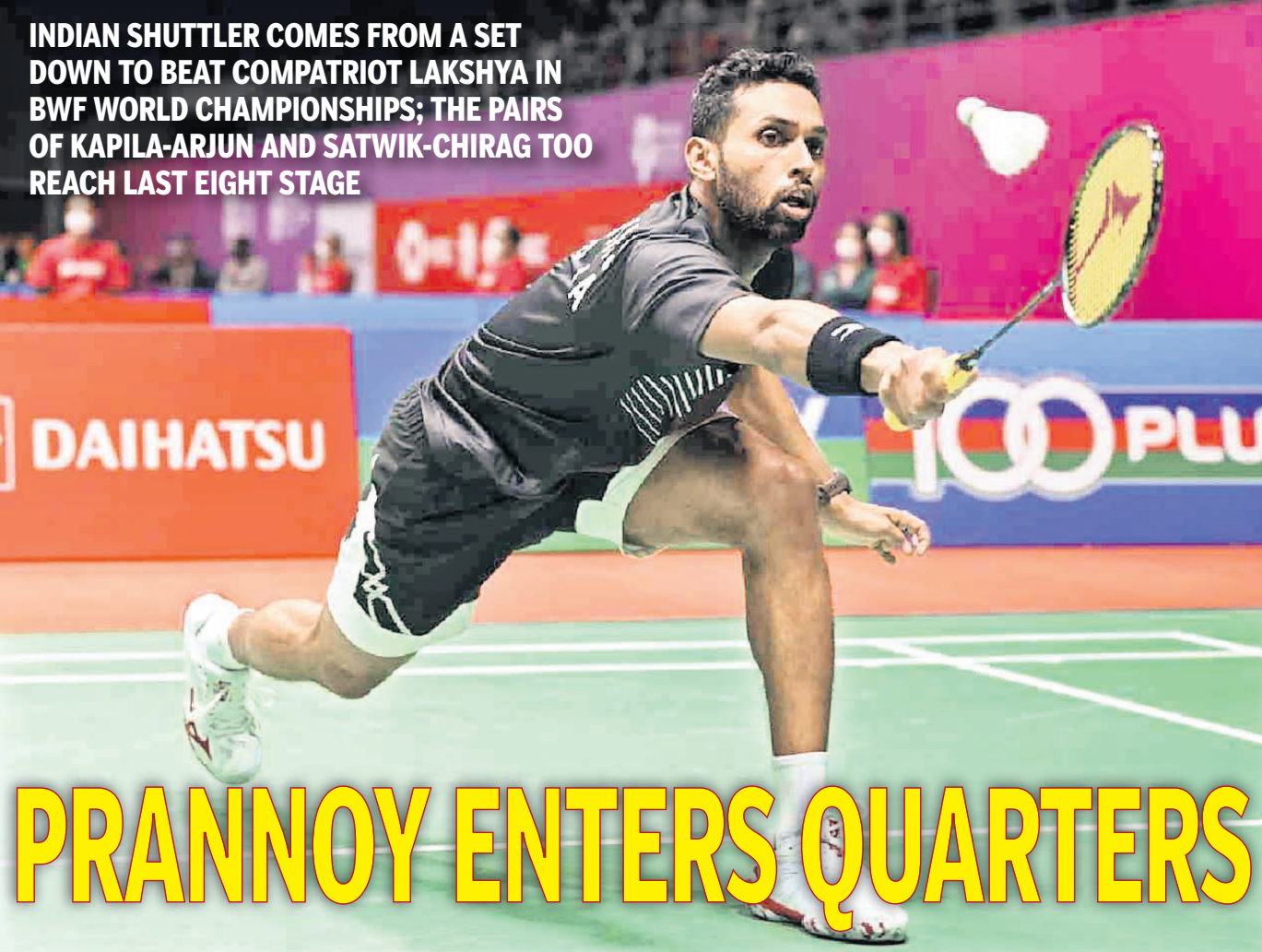
His journey broke two Guinness World records, including the one set by his sister Zara, 19, who completed her own trip around the globe in January this year



been easy to give up. But I kept going, even when it seemed like I wouldn't be able to make it to the end," he said. "Amazing to finally be here again and to have done my goal," he said with a wide smile. "It took a little bit longer than I had hoped for, but it was very exciting, very interesting trip and I don't regret at all going on it." Rutherford's journey took longer than planned due to permit delays that forced him to alter his

route twice and fly over Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, North America and back to Europe. His favourite flyovers ranged

from the Sahara Desert to Greenland and Iceland. But his trip was also full with challenges, like a 10-hour flight from Japan across the Pacific Ocean to the uninhabited US Attu Island during bad weather. In Sudan, his solar panel system fell down because the heat melted the glue maintaining it in place combined with extreme haze. In India, monsoon rains entered his main fuel tanks and soaked his aircraft including some documents on board. Rutherford became the youngest person to fly around the world solo, taking the title from Travis Ludlow, who was 18 when he completed his attempt last year. For now, he is not planning on breaking any new records but to go back to school and catch up with his studies. Rutherford, who gained his pilot's licence in 2020 when he was 15 after training with his father, hopes his five-month voyage will encourage young people to pursue their dreams.



INDIAN SHUTTLER COMES FROM A SET DOWN TO BEAT COMPATRIOT LAKSHYA IN BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; THE PAIRS OF KAPILA-ARJUN AND SATWIK-CHIRAG TOO REACH LAST EIGHT STAGE

PRANNOY ENTERS QUARTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 25: India's H S Prannoy staged a spirited comeback to beat compatriot and CWG champion Lakshya Sen to enter the singles quarterfinals while the men's doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun continued their impressive run to make the last eight stage at the World Championships here Thursday.

It was a gruelling one hour and 15 minute battle between Lakshya and Prannoy who eventually eked out a 17-21, 21-16, 21-17 over his teammate. It was the fourth meeting of the year for the two Indians after Prannoy's win, their head-to-head record standing at 2-2.

Prannoy will now face China's Zhao Jun Peng in the quarterfi-

nals. Besides Prannoy, the two Indian men's doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also moved into the quarterfinals.

However, Olympic bronze medalist Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the World Championship after going down to Busanan Ongbamrunphan in a hard-fought women's singles pre-quarterfinals.

The 32-year-old went down 17-21, 21-16, 13-21 to her Thai opponent, who extended her head-to-head record against the Indian to 5-3. Saina was immediately put under pressure by Ongbamrunphan as she raced to 11-3 in the opening game.

The two-time World Championship medalist was able to bridge the gap to 17-19 but

Ongbamrunphan held her nerve to take the first game. The late surge in the previous game gave Saina confidence as the former World No.1 led 11-7 at the break. Playing aggressively, she continued to dictate terms, forcing the match into decider.

The third game was played on an even keel until the interval, but Ongbamrunphan started to gain momentum and opened up a five point lead as Saina slowly started losing steam.

In the end, the 26-year-old Ongbamrunphan, who has now won the last five matches against Saina, had seven match points as she sealed her quarterfinal berth.

The unseeded Indian duo of Arjun and Kapila had to toil hard for 53 minutes as it came from behind to win

the round of 16 clash against Terry Hee and Loh Kean Hean of Singapore 18-21, 21-15, 21-16.

The two have enjoyed a good run in the tournament. They had 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.

Satwik and Chirag, on the other hand, breezed past the Danish pair of Jeppa Bay and Lasse Molhede 21-12, 21-10 in 35 minutes.

Arjun and Kapila will cross swords with the third seed women's pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in the last eight stage while Satwik and Chirag will take on second seeds Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan in the quarterfinals.

Need to reform football structure, says Bhutia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: Indian senior and age-group teams can qualify for World Cups "on merit" in near future if the country's football structure is "reformed" with more focus on grassroots development, the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia said after filing his nomination papers for the AIFF president's post.

Former captain Bhutia Thursday filed fresh nomination papers ahead of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections scheduled to be held September 2. His nomination was proposed by Andhra Football Association (AFA) and seconded by Rajasthan FA.

"Indian teams, in age groups as well as senior teams, can qualify for World Cups on merit in the coming years but for that you need reforms and clean-up in the country's football system," Bhutia told this agency.

"We need more focus on grassroots development, we also need to give more emphasis on state associations because the talented youngsters will come only from the states. So, more budget will have to be allocated to the states."

The Indian men's team featured in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017 as the hosts. The women's side will also take part in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in October as the world body is likely to revoke the ban imposed on the AIFF for "undue influence from third parties" in a few days.

The 45-year-old Bhutia, who retired in 2011 after becoming the first Indian to play 100 international matches, said he will try to allot more money to the state associations if he is elected president of the AIFF.

"We have to focus more on two things. One is grassroots devel-



opment and the other is more funding to state associations. There is no substitute to grassroots development, that is well known. But I want more focus and activity in that direction," said the talisman of the national team in his playing days.

Bhutia also said that the players will be at the centre of all activities and they will be given more facilities. "I will work for a player-centric system, give more facilities to the players. The travel and accommodation of the players will be upgraded with more budget.

"For example, now if players from Arunachal Pradesh are to take part in a national champi-

onships in Kerala, they travel by train for three days. But my endeavour will be to allow the players travel by air."

Bhutia had earlier filed his nomination for the president's post which was to be held August 28 under the aegis of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA).

But, in a verdict August 22, the SC terminated the mandate of the CoA, disallowed the inclusion of 36 former players in the electoral college and postponed the polls by a week in order to salvage the Women's U-17 World Cup whose hosting was jeopardised after FIFA suspended the AIFF.

SHORT TAKES

Standing tickets for Indo-Pak tie released

DUBAI: Standing room tickets were released Thursday for the highly anticipated ICC Men's T20 World Cup fixture between India and Pakistan at the MCG October 23. The general tickets for the marquee game were sold out within five minutes of going on sale in February. Over 4000 standing room tickets will be available for 30 Australian dollars and sold on a first come, first served basis, said the International Cricket Council. "A limited number of packages also remain available for purchase via the ICC Hospitality and ICC Travel & Tours programmes," said the ICC. The organisers will also launch a re-sale platform closer to the tournament's opening match October 16.

Barca, City play out draw to help fight ALS

BARCELONA: Barcelona and Manchester City drew 3-3 in a friendly to raise money and awareness for the fight against ALS. More than 91,000 fans were at the Camp Nou for the match, with the proceeds going to help raise funds for research against ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, an incurable neurodegenerative disorder. The honorary kickoff was taken by Juan Carlos Unzué, the former Barcelona goalkeeper and goalkeeping coach who has the disease and helped promote the friendly. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Freddie de Jong and Memphis Depay scored for the hosts. Man City got goals from Julián Álvarez, Cole Palmer and Riyad Mahrez deep into stoppage time.

Another piece of history awaits Neeraj

LAUSANNE: A fit-again Neeraj Chopra can create another piece of history when he takes part in the Diamond League Meeting here Friday. A top-three finish here will ensure Chopra a berth in the Diamond League Finals in Zurich September 7 and 8 as he is at fourth spot in the standings with seven points. He had finished second in the Stockholm leg - his first-ever podium - June 30. The top six in the standings will make the Zurich Finals. He can become the first Indian to win a Diamond League Meeting. Before Chopra, discus thrower Vikas Gowda is the only Indian to have finished in top-three in a Diamond League Meeting. Gowda had finished second twice - in New York in 2012 and in Doha in 2014 - and third on two occasions - Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.

US OPEN QUALIFIERS

Yuki advances; Nagal Ramanathan bow out



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

While World No.241 Ramanathan went down to American teen Bruno Kuzuhara 3-6, 5-7 in one hour and 28 minutes, Nagal lost to Canadian Vasek Pospisil 6-7, 4-6.

Yuki, who is ranked World No.552, downed a higher-ranked Albot (107) 7-6(7-4), 6-4 in a match that lasted one hour and 34 minutes. While Yuki got off to a slow start in the first set, the Indian bounced back and stretched the opening set to a tie-breaker, in which he triumphed.

With a far better breakpoint conversions in the second set coupled with a decent net play, Yuki pocketed the second set to enter the next round. The 30-year-old will take on Belgium's Zizou Bergs in the second qualifying round of the Grand Slam event.

Yuki, who spent the most of last three years nursing knee injuries and recovering from multiple operations, played his first Grand Slam qualifier earlier this year at the Australian Open, where he lost in the second round of qualifiers.

Unvaccinated Djokovic out of US Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 25: Novak Djokovic will not play in the US Open, as expected, because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 and thus is not allowed to travel to the United States.

Djokovic announced his withdrawal from the year's last Grand Slam tournament on Twitter Thursday, hours before the draw for the event was revealed.

"Sadly, I will not be able to travel to NY this time for US Open," Djokovic wrote, wishing luck to his fellow players, and said he would "keep in good shape and positive spirit and wait for an opportunity to compete again."

Play is scheduled to begin at Flushing Meadows Monday. Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. Three of Djokovic's Slam trophies came at the US Open, in 2011, 2015 and 2018.

He also was the runner-up there a half-dozen times, including last year, when his pursuit of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969 ended with



a loss in the final to Daniil Medvedev.

Foreign citizens who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 are currently unable to enter the US or Canada, and Djokovic has said he won't get the shots, even if that prevents him from playing in certain tournaments.

The US Tennis Association has said all along it will follow government rules about vaccination

status for this year's Open. There is no vaccine mandate at the tournament for players or their support teams - meaning that an unvaccinated American would be allowed to compete - and spectators will not be required to wear masks.

Djokovic missed the Australian Open in January after a protracted legal saga ended with his depor-

tation from that country because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. He also sat out four significant tournaments in North America in 2022, including in Montreal and Cincinnati recently.

He did play in the French Open, where he lost in the quarterfinals to Nadal, and at Wimbledon, where Djokovic won the title.

After beating Nick Kyrgios in the Wimbledon final July 10, Djokovic said he "would love" to participate in the last Grand Slam tournament of the year at Flushing Meadows, but he also acknowledged, "I'm not planning to get vaccinated."

About three weeks later, Djokovic posted on social media that he was holding out hope of getting the chance to play in the US Open, writing: "I am preparing as if I will be allowed to compete, while I await to hear if there is any room for me to travel to US. Fingers crossed!"

Djokovic has spent more weeks at No.1 than anyone else in the history of the ATP rankings. He is No.6 this week, in part because no rankings points were awarded at Wimbledon this year.

Mukesh's journey from 'khep' to India 'A'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: It was sometime in 2014 that Cricket Association of Bengal had arranged for 'Open Trials' for its ambitious flagship project "Vision 2020". Hundreds had turned up on each day of the trials at the Eden Gardens with bowling coach Ranadeb Bose and cricket director Jaydeep Mukherjee in charge of nets.

There was an announcer who would call up aspirants' (batter and bowlers) name on a loudspeaker and they would head towards the nets.

"I was playing for a first division club Shibpur Institute and that season, we were fighting to save relegation. I remember it was a crucial game that but I wanted to try my luck at the trials," Mukesh Kumar could paint a vivid imagery of that afternoon which changed a lot of things and has now culminated into his maiden India A call-up.

"I used to get paid peanuts as it wasn't one of the rich clubs. So there would be days when I would play two to three "khep" games to supplement my income," said the

man from Bihar's Gopalganj who made Kolkata his adopted home.

For the uninitiated, "khep" in Bengal means playing unauthorised private club games, mainly tennis ball tourneys where you could be paid between Rs 500 to Rs 5000 for a game.

"That day, I was determined to give that trial and see if the track of my career changed. But it could have been completely different had Rano sir (Bose) not been there," he remembered.

"Since I was among the last few in queue, I told the guy before me that I want to relieve myself and hence just keep my place as I would be back from washroom.

"I came back after 10 minutes (from Eden centre strip to gallery washroom takes time) and suddenly there wasn't anyone. Rano sir and Jaydeep sir were standing and I told them I have come for trials.

"They checked my name and I saw a red cross against my name as announcer called multiple times and I wasn't there. I pleaded and Rano sir gave me an old SG Test and told me to bowl," Mukesh narrated like a pro.



"I bowled an inswinging Yorker and batter lost his balance. Rano sir went to Jaydeep sir and I saw the red cross turn into red tick. That

day led to this day," said the man, who has been Bengal's most consistent red ball bowler.

Gopalganj in Bihar is known for sending its men to CRPF and Indian Army. "I had appeared for CRPF exams thrice but probably cricket was my calling and I could never bring myself to believe that I needed the job."

By 2012, he had completed his B Com and his father, who was a cab driver, called him to Kolkata. Mukesh had first gone to Kalgait club but they had Ashok Dinda playing for them with a set team.

He was pretty quick compared to 2nd division quicks and often the edges off his outswinger won't be caught by slip fielders as they found it difficult to get their hands out of pocket on chilly mornings.

But once he got through trials things started looking up for him. Once his medical tests were done, he was found to be malnourished as he didn't have proper diet which was difficult to arrange for his dad, who had by then got three of his four daughters married.

"I was youngest of the six but we had severe financial problems. It was Rano, who spoke to then CAB secretary Sourav Ganguly, who arranged for my stay at Eden

Gardens and my diet was taken care of," he recalled those hard days as he spoke from his apartment in Dum Dum, where he has recently moved in after five good first class season.

"I had come through the ranks having played Buchi Babu and then waited for my turn. The endeavor would be to keep working hard," the 28-year-old, who has 100 first class wickets from 27 games, said.

This year, he was one among the net bowlers of Delhi Capitals but what most coaches like about him is his ability to pick up top wickets. Also the fact that he had faced lot of hard times also made him a tough cookie.

"When Bengal was having a dream season in 2019-20 where we played finals, I was struggling with my father's failing health. I would train in the morning and tend to him at the hospital during evenings. But he passed away due to brain hemorrhage," said Bengal's assistant coach Sourashish Lahiri.

For someone who played serious cricket only after graduation (21 years), Mukesh has experienced a really sharp rise.