

features Deepika Padukone LEISURE

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since fleeing Myanmar INTERNATIONAL P10

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 | 2022

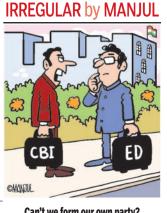
PRANNOY THROUGH

HS Prannoy ends compatriot Lakshya Sen's journey at BWF World Championships sealing a last 8 berth in the process SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



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



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

Soren 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

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

ing right to privacy, enhancing

cyber security of the nation,

strengthening the protection

of right to privacy of citizens,

and also a mechanism for rais-

ing grievance regarding sur-

Significantly, the Supreme

Court in October last year had

constituted a technical com-

mittee to probe the allegations

of snooping using the Pegasus

software. It comprised of Justice

Raveendran, Alok Joshi, for-

mer IPS officer (1976 batch)

who has worked as joint di-

rector, Intelligence Bureau and

Dr Sundeep Oberoi, Chairman,

Electro¬Technical

veillance which is illegal.

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 threejudge 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

BILKIS CASE: SC SEEKS REPLY FROM CENTRE, GUJ GOVT

New Delhi: Was there application of mind while considafter two weeks. ering remission, the Supreme Court asked Thursday and issued notice to the Centre and the Guiarat government on a plea challenging the release of 11 convicts in the 2002 case of



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

International Organisation of Standardisation/International posted the matter for hearing The 11 men convicted in the case walked out of the Godhra sub-jail August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed Chidar baram and directed t



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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 staving 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 deaprtment 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, Pragnva 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 build-

ing norms, Mehta informed. The demolition will produce about 60.000 tonne of debris. Approximately 30,000 tonne will be used to fill the

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-storev 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.

Bilkis Bano's gangrape and murder of seven of her family members including her threevear-old kid.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana asked the petitioners to implead all 11 who have been granted remission as parties in the matter. The bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath, more than 15 years in jail.

Deliberating on the issue that has led to huge debate on the issue of relief in such heinous cases, the court said the question is whether there was application of mind while considering the issue of remission and whether it was within the parameters of law which needs to have a Continued on P4 relook.

list the matter before Chief Justice after four weeks. The bench comprising CJI 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





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

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

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? Ganesha 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 Ganesha. 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 host ing, foresees Ganesha

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. Ganesha 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 vourself busy.

LEO

Well, at least part of the force that deals with being a smooth talker, says Ganesha. 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.

There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writ-0 ing 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

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.

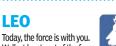
Meghan Markle is all set to deconstruct the history of societal stereotypes about women in her latest podcast Archetypes

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 infact a part of the series, it comes as a pleasent 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



Mallika on being called a sex symbol 'sex symbols'. When asked if she has

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.

THE NEXT TIME YOU SERVE, TAKE THE BALLS

OUT OF THE CAN!

EEEEE

1-10 WERSH

C

WHEEE OOMPR

CI ALINI

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

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, Chandrachoor Rai, Abhijeet Deshpande, Abhishek Sharrma, Grace Girdhar, and Vaishali Malhara

Priyanka gets a 'taste Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, just of home' 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 Khus<mark>hi visited</mark> Priyanka in the US. The fatherdaughter 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 cra<mark>ving</mark>.

She wrote: "Thank you @boney.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, riyanka who was last seen on screen The Matrix Resurrections, will next be seen in Citadel, a series proluced

Russo Brothers. She will also be seen in It's All Coming Back to Me and Jee Le Zaraa.

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 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.

 $/ | \rangle$ 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 capa ble of handling your erratic behaviour.

SCORPIO

of your health.

SAGITTARIUS Today, you will most cer-

The day today is riddled

with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two



AGENCIES

CROSSWORD

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.

SUDOKU

SOL

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pronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One change your lifestyle, and two - visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesha counsels to take care

PEANUTS

tainly 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 Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

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

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha sug gests 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, taciturn selves, says Ganesha.



MECHANISM

CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



YES, THIS SLED

IS TRULY A HAZARD TO LIFE AND LIMB.

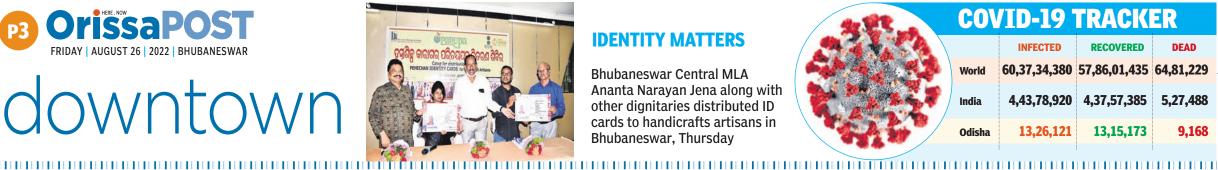
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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



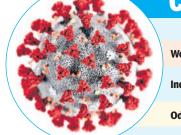


downtown



IDENTITY MATTERS

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



COVID-19 TRACKER

INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
60,37,34,380	57,86,01,435	64,81,229
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13,26,121	13,15,173	9,168
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STARTUP ODISHA State to invest 1K cr for YATRA 2.0 TO **KICK OFF TODAY VSSUT redevelopment** POST NEWS NETWORK

The master plan will be

prepared after holding discussions

with all stakeholders including teachers, students, academia and

alumni in 15 days, and the same

approval

would be put before the CM for his

At present, about 5,000 students

are staying in the campus. A plan is

He further informed that the in-

Later, the officials also visited the

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

ited the Samaleswari temple and re-

viewed the redevelopment works

initiated under the Samaleswari

Temple Area Management and

Local Economy Initiatives

The Samaleswari temple proj-

(SAMALEI) scheme.

Later, the senior officials vis-

Mahapatra.

there to double the strength

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.

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

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.

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 r

dents get quality education, said the Chief Secretary. stitute has 40 to 45 acres surplus land while another 80 acre has been identified for campus expansion. Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra Integrated Infrastructure Complex and other officials during their visit to VSSUT, Burla, Thursday and Lady Lewis Girls High School that is being transformed under "As per the instruction of Chief the 5T High School Transformation Minister Naveen Patnaik, a mas-Programme. The team led by the ter plan will be prepared soon Chief Secretary also visited the rehabilitation centre set up by

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 Chandra Mahapatra said Thursday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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.

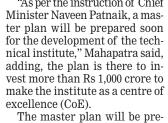
The three officials on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the VSSUT and held discussions with the faculty members, students and alumni associations about it. The team also visited the hostels, auditorium, laboratory and the academic block.

CESU ex-DGM gets 1 year in jail for graft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: August 25: A spe cial 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



pared 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.

ect has been slightly delayed due After thorough discussions, a to delay in shifting of houses and detailed proposal will be prepared change in master plan. However, efso that all required infrastructure forts are there to complete the projis created in the VSSUT and stuect on time, added Mahapatra.

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 Pattnayak 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, Pattnayak 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

due," Tripathy said.

TO EARTH





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

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 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.

0D33V3882

plates are easy to tamper

with and can be misused by

thieves. However, the HSRP

It can be mentioned that no e-challan shall be issued to 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.

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

f 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, largescale 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,² McLaughlin noted.





downtown

CM: State to develop vibrant higher education eco-system



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.

OrissaPOST

FRIDAY | AUGUST 26 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAF

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 nongovernment 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.

Two women die...

"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-

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

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 verv 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

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's 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 on-

going 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 vi-

OP PHOTO

sion 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

1L community members to be trained in CPR



POST NEWS NETWORK curs due to cardiovascular diseases. In the recent past, the coun-

'Community

Bhubaneswar, August 25: All

India Institute of Medical Sciences

(AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, in collab-

oration with American Heart

Association (AHA), launched a

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(CPR) Education in India: Creating

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 25: In July

2021, as the country was slowly get-

ting 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

Chief Justice NV Ramana, not-

ing 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

(Jagannath) will allow us to hold rit-

uals 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

Ramana, who is set to retire

Friday, also famously prevented

Narendra Modi government from

to the Orissa High Court.

said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director (Co-Convener 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, Convener 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

MoU SIGNING **F CEREMONY Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be Unive Bhubaneswar, Odis

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? Ihavenoidea," Justice UD Salvi had said.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I Nilakantha Bhoi, aged about 35 years, S/o. Lachim Bhoi, Village-Pendramal, PS- Kegaon, Dist.- Kalahandi (Odisha) do hereby solemnly state on oath as follows:- That the land of Khata No.32 of Mouza-Pendramal with an area of AC.22.43dec. stands record in the name of Nilakantha Bhoi (myself), Purnami Bhoi and Ahalya Bhoi as per final patta of current settlement & it was under my custody. That I, lost the original patta on dated 25.7.2022 while travelling from Pendramal to Kegaon by motorcycle. This was also reported in **Kegaon Police Station** vide SDE No.04/05.08.22 Deponent Nilakantha Bhoi

ing 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 as-

year-old Sasmita Barik also died by

suicide Thursday. Police after send

a Nation of Lifesavers' Thursday. Expert on the occasion opined certain the cause of her death. that in India one in four deaths oc-

of Odisha.

programme

try 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, Collaborative Priyamadhaba Behera, and Divva Trikha. 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

grant citizenship to non-Muslim

migrants from Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, and Pakistan, The pe-

titions termed the act unconstitu-

tional and in violation of Article 14

of the Indian Constitution. The

case was last heard in January 2020.

ing the Unlawful Activities

Prevention Act (UAPA) were last

heard in 2019. The petitioners

argued that the act provides un-

bridled powers to the govern-

ment without a "judicial appli-

cation of mind" and violates the

freedom of speech. Ramana, how-

ever, days before demitting the

office heard petitions against

Pegasus snooping row and also is-

sued notice to the Guiarat gov-

ernment on the petitions chal-

lenging the remission of 11

convicts who gang-raped Bilkis

Bano and killed several people

during 2002 Gujarat riots.

Again the petitions challeng-

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.

Soren government...

Meanwhile Hemant blamed the BJP for the controversy. "It seems BJP leaders and their puppets have drafted the report which is in a sealed cover," Hemant told reporters that he has not received any communication officially. Sources, however, said that BJP is seeming confident about their petition against him.

However, the same sources also pointed out that even if Hemant has to resign as CM the JMM-Congress alliance, led by him, has a majority in the Assembly. So after resignation, he can again stake a claim to form the government in Jharkhand. Jharkhand Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Alamgir Alam ruled out any threat to the ruling coalition in the state. "Even in the probability of (Hemant) Soren, who is also the JMM executive president, being disqualified from Assembly in an office of profit case, there is no threat to the government. It is a policy matter: Our government will continue. Hemant Soren continues to be our leader," Alam asserted.



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

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OMBADC's mega drinking water projects in doldrums

RESIDENTS OF MINING-HIT DISTRICTS SUFFER DUE TO LACK OF CLEAN AND HYGIENIC WATER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 25: Hopes regarding availability of clean drinking water to residents of localities affected by mining in Odisha may just seem like a pipe dream. The programme remains a non-starter with work on 29 mega drinking water projects to come up in six mining-affected districts moving at a snail's pace, a report said.

OrissaPOST

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The projects are being imple mented in various phases with funds available from Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OM-BADC). Sources alleged that the projects are yet to get completed due to the apathetic attitude and lack of sincerity of the consultancy agencies.

Taking advantage of the situation, some firms have revised the contracts and have managed hike the cost of the projects. However, the slow pace and the substandard quality of work have sparked resentment among the concerned residents

According to reports available from the state Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department (RWSS), funds worth ₹5.889.30

Miscreants decamp

with ATM in Jajpur



crore had been sanctioned for the projects till July 31, 2022. So far 3.099.57 crore has been spent. The RWSS claims the close to 90 per cent work on these projects has

been completed. The problem unfortunately is that all the projects have been shown as 'under construction' since the last five years. Earlier. the departmental report pointed out irregularities and errors in the construction of some projects. Sources said that on the basis

of the Shah Commission report. the Supreme Court had directed the Odisha government to collect

₹18,000 crore from errant lease holders as penalty for looting minerals. The OMBADC was formed with the funds collected from these leaseholders. It was decided that OMBADC funds will be spent on seven sectors by obtaining the approvals of its board of directors and other authorities. The implementation of drinking water projects was given the highest priority under the scheme.

Accordingly, work for 29 mega drinking water projects started in phases since 2018 in mining affected districts like Angul, Mavurbhani, Koraput, Jaipur, Sundargarh and Keonjhar. Many consultancy agencies like NCC (Nagarjun Construction Company) L&T, Voltas and Megha Engineer and Infrastructure Ltd have received the contracts to implement the projects.

It has been alleged that severe irregularities have taken place in two mega projects being handled by NCC in Sukinda block of Jajpur district. RWSS has also pulled up the agency for its lack adaisical attitude, but even then the projects are showing no signs of completion. Surprisingly, despite the pace at which the NCC is working, it has still managed to get an additional ₹6 crore sanctioned for the project.

A BSF official explains about a firearm to school students at a weapons exhibition organised as part of initiative to encourage students join the paramilitary force in Chitrakonda of Malkangiri district **MAMITA MURDER CASE** Charges framed against Gobinda Sahu, his aide

POST NEWS NETWORK

state

G STAR SARIYAPALL YOUTH SPORTS CLUB

Bolangir, August 25: The Kantabanji additional district judge (ADJ) court in Bolangir Thursday framed charges under sections 363, 302, 120(B) and 34 of IPC against the accused Gobinda Sahu and his aide Radheshyam Chandi in the sensational murder of teacher Mamita Meher.

It may be recalled that charges have been framed against the accused 10 months after the gruesome murder of the teacher.

The prime accused Gobinda and his aide Radheshyam Chandi were produced at the Kantabanji ADJ court for hearing of the case. The next hearing has been scheduled September 8 and 9.

The counsel of Gobinda Sahu said that charges against Sahu were baseless and pleaded against framing of charge. Notably, Mamita Meher, a 26year-old teacher of Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district was killed October 8 last year. Subsequently, her charred body was found buried in an under-

Police October 17 had detained the prime accused Gobinda Sahu and kept at Titilagarh police barrack from where he managed to escape. Two days later, he was arrested

construction stadium near the school.

Police October 17 had detained the prime accused Gobinda Sahu and kept at the Titilagarh police barrack from where he managed to escape. Then police searched for him and arrested him October 19 from a sugarcane farm at Budhipadar village.

During the course of investigation. police had also arrested Sahu's driver Radheshyam Chandi. Bolangir police in February had filed charge sheets of more than 2,000 pages in the murder case against prime accused Sahu and his driver Radhe in Bangomunda judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) court.

Port town to host Agniveer rally

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, August 25: As many as 21,000 youths from 10 districts will participate in an Agniveer recruitment rally for Indian military scheduled for October 7 in Paradip port town of Jagatsinghpur district. The rally scheduled from

October 7 to 14 will be held at Gopabandhu Stadium in the town. Youths from districts like Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, and Puri will participatein the recruitment rally for Indian military. A preparatory committee meeting was held at the Collectorate here.



PURI KONARK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY V.I.P. ROAD, PURI

Auction Notice No.655/PKDA, Puri, Dtd. 24.8.2022 1 (One) No. Flat of 'D' Category in Nandighosh Enclave, Goudabada Sahi, Puri Town, Dist: Puri is for sale through auction for details please visit www.pkdapuri.in or www. puri.nic.in. The last date of receipt of sealed application is fixed to 22.9.2022.

By Order of Vice-Chairman Sd./-Secretary

WEAPONS EXPO

HM in soup for sexually harassing 5 minor girls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, August 25: Miscreants uprooted and decamped with an automated teller machine (ATM) of the State Bank of India in Jajpur district in the dead of the night, police said Thursday.

The daring loot came to light in the morning after a local found the ATM missing from the kiosk at Neulpur Chhaka in Dharmasala block, around 50 kilometre north of Cuttack.

Preliminary investigation sug gests that the miscreants might have cut the machine with a gas cut ter late Wednesday night and taken it away in a vehicle, Dharmasala Police station Inspector Rakesh Tripathy said, Bank officials could not tell the accurate figure about

the cash as a private company loaded the cash in the ATM

PNN & AGENCIES Deogaon, August 25: The head-

master of an upper primary school under this police limit in Bolangir district landed in soup on charge of molesting and sexually harassing five girl students in the school, Thursday.

The accused was identified as Biswanath Budhia, 48, headmaster of the Mursingh Upper Primary (UP) School at Murasingh village. The girls claimed that the head-

master called them to his chamber and sexually exploited them. The matter came to the light after one of the girls narrated her ordeal before her mother.

The irate parents met the school managing committee president Ramesh Pradhan and lodged a complaint with him. A meeting was

convened to discuss the issue on the school premises in the afternoon.

Angry villagers and guardians gheraoed the school and gave away slogans against the headmaster. On being alerted, Deogaon Assistant Block Education Officer

(ABEO) Ajit Kumar Mishra reached the school. Deogaon police also rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the fuming locals and bring the accused headmaster to police station. The villagers and guardians also gheraoed the police van and re-

fused to hand over the headmaster. Action will be taken against him after the probe gets completed. Deogaon IIC Tarabati Pradhan said. Deogaon BEO Gobardhan Bhoi said that the accused headmaster has been suspended from his post. Tension was palpable in the area when reports last came in.

People drink floodwater in marooned villages

EAST COAST RAILWAY

OP PHOTO

1 Tender Notice No. EL OP-T-09-2022 Name of Work : OUTSOURCING OF NON-COR ACTIVITIES OF MEMU CAR SHED, KHURD ROAD FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. Advertised Value (₹): 1,25,00,776.14, EMD (₹) : 2,12,500/-, Cost of Tende (₹) : 5,900/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

2.Tender Notice No. ELOP-T-10-2022 Name of Work : MAINTENANCE OF CREW LOBBY AND RUNNING ROOM AT TALCHE INCLUDING PROVISION OF SUBSIDIZED MEALS FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Advertised Value (₹): 2,94,49,677.68, EMD (₹) : 2,97,300/-, Cost of Tender Document (₹) : 11,800/-, Period of Completion: 730 Days. Bidding Start Date : 29.08.2022 (For both the tenders), Date and time of closing of

tender: 1530 hrs (for SI.No.1) & 1700

Diarrhoea cases are being reported from the 14 districts affected by the deluge as people are drinking contaminated water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, August 25: Unable to get potable water in marooned villages in parts of Odisha, a number of people are forced to drink what is available - the muddy and contaminated water that has accumulated in villages in the past few days due to flood.

Though water in flooded rivers has receded significantly and is flowing below the danger mark, many villages still remained marooned.

Many mud houses have been collapsed or damaged, food has become scarce, and there is no place to attend to nature's call. Diarrhoea cases are also being reported from the 14 districts affected by the deluge as people are drinking contaminated water.

"We are managing with dry food like flattened rice, but unable to get a drop of water to drink. Tube wells and other sources of drinking water are submerged in the flood. We are forced to drink the flood water," Makara Dalei of Nayabali village under Baliapal block of Balasore district.

He said villagers are not even able to boil the flood water and make them



drinkable due to lack of fuel.

Those who had cooking gas connection are also affected as cylinders have been swept away along with other household articles after flood water entered homes, he said.

There is no power in the area due to the flood and water cannot be supplied under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation scheme.

Minati Sethy, a septuagenarian woman, said she is not able to cook because of lack of dry firewood.

Elderly people of her Uluda village under Bishnupur gram Panchayat, who could not be evacuated, are virtually starving, she said.

Sethy said she has been surviving with watered rice which was cooked three days ago before the flood water of the Subarnarekha river inundated their village.

Her 10-year-old granddaughter Geeta, who was shifted to a high land

on the river's embankment. does not realise the plight of the villagers. The girl was heard reciting an Odia poem from her textbook when a PTI reporter visited the river bank in Baliapal block.

"The administration has not provided safety to the people. It is foolish to expect drinking water from them,' said the dejected elderly woman.

The Balasore district administration, however, said it is providing food to over 7,000 evacuated people who are lodged in 40 shelter homes. Of the 136 marooned villages in

Balasore district Wednesday, 115 are in Baliapal block. The situation is more or less sim-

ilar in other affected blocks like packets Bhograi, Basta and Jaleswar, said medicine Harish Behra, a local school teacher. kits for There is scarcity of drinking water, the flood-

polythene sheets and healthcare servaffected ices for the elderly and pregnant people.

women, he said.

Women in groups are going on boats in search of a place where they can attend to nature's call.

"Now only the blessings of Indra Dev (Rain God) can save us," said Mamata Patra, sitting in a makeshift tent on an embankment in Bhogarai area. Director of Public Health Service. Dr Niranjan Mishra, said in Bhubaneswar that as many as 900 cases of diarrhoea have been reported from 14 flood-affected districts.

The disease spreads due to consumption of contaminated water, he said

The Water Resources Department said that the flood situation has improved in the Mahanadi and Subarnarekha river svstem.

The peak flood water has already passed, but it may take time for the water to recede from villages in low laying areas, the department's chief engineer BK Mishra said.

Residents of Ganjam district have sent three truck loads of essential

water

bottles,

Ph. No.: 06858-295528, email id: dfonabarangpur2021@gmail.com

DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICE, DASARA PADA, NABARANGPUR

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the District Fisheries Officer, Nabarangpur, Odisha - 764059 invites sealed bids from LICENSED AUTHORISED DEALERS/SUB-DEALERS as per schedule of requirement for supply and installation of floating fish feed mill (200 - 250 Kg./hour capacity) at Kosagumuda of Nabarangpur district.

The tender forms can be obtained from the undersigned on producing application and payment of Rs.2000.00 (Rupees two thousand) only by Bank Draft (Non-refundable) of any scheduled bank in favour of District Fisheries Officer, Nabarangpur. The tender papers can also be downloaded from www.nabarangpur.nic.in notifications from 24.08.2022 to 26.08.2022. Downloaded application should also contain Bank Draft of Rs.2000/- in favour of District Fisheries Officer, Nabarangpur.

Interested authorized dealers are required to submit their technical proposal and financial proposal in two separate envelopes. The technical proposals should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount of Rs.25000.00 (Rupees twenty five thousand) only in shape of Bank Draft in favour of District Fisheries Officer, Nabarangpur (Refundable). The technical and financial bids along with EMD must be delivered (By Regd./Speed Post) at the office of the District Fisheries Officer, At; Dasara Pada, Nabarangpur - 764059 on or before 13.09.2022 (3.00 P.M.). The tenders will be opened in presence of the purchase committee and the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend on the same day i.e. 13.09.2022 at 4.30 P.M. in the office chamber of C.D.O.-cum-E.O., Zilla Parishad, Nabarangpur. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- District Fisheries Officer, Nabarangpur



CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, N. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001 Regional Office : 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 5th Floor, Chowringhee Court Opp. Nehru Chindren's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B. Branch Address : Annapurna Complex, 559, Lewis Road, Cuttack-Puri Road, Bhubaneswar - 751 014 Branch Address : Sreemaa Construction, 3rd Floor, Naya Chowk Link Road, Madhupatna, Cuttack - 753 010



DEMAND NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13[2] OF THE SECURISATION AND RECONSRTUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

You, the under mentioned Borrower / Mortgagor is hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and that the Notice under 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post Ack. Due for Borrower/s has been returned undelivered. Hence, you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned against the said account with Interest accuring there from within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against you by exercising its right under Sub-Sec (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with interests and cost. It is needles to mention that this notice is ed to you without prejedice to any other remedy available to the Company

SI. No.	a) Loan Account Number b) Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower	Loan Amount	Date of Demand Notice & Demand Notice Amount & Date of NPA	Description of the Property / Secured Assets
1.	 a) Loan A/c. Nos. : X0HEBHU00003065228 and X0HECUK00003144097 b) 1. Narayan Mohanty, Palla, Pallahat, Jagannathpur, Begunia, Khordha, Odisha - 752 056. Also at : Totapada Panabaraj, Khordha, Odisha - 752 056. 2. Sujata Das, Konark Nagar, Jagannathpur, Pallahat, Begunia, Khorda - 752 056. 3. M/s. Sri Khetra Gurukul Educational Trust, Palla, Pallahat, Jagannathpur, Begunia, Khordha, Odisha - 752 056. 4. M/s. Indira Public School, Totapada Panabaraj, Khordha, Khurda - 752 056. 	Rs. 38,00,000/- & Rs. 1,00,000/- Totalling Rs. 39,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs only)	16.08.2022 Rs. 22,32,062.44 and Rs. 1,07,135.69 Totally Rs. 23,39,198.13 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Eight and Thirteen Paisa only) as on 12.08.2022 Date of NPA : 05.08.2022	Item No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the land comprised in Khata No. 866/376, Plot No. 899, Mouza- Palla, Tahasil - Khorda, P.S Khurda No. 128/1, Dist- Khurda, measuring an Area of Ac.0.090 Decimal having Kissam-Gharabari and bounded as follows : On the North - Basanta Manjari Pattanaik, On the South - Bhuban Bihari Pattanaik, On the East - Self (Plot No. 894/1900) (NH-16), On the West - Village Road. Item No. 2 : Govt. of Orissa, Khewat No. 1(Ka), Thana No. 128/1, Tahasil, Sub Registrar & District - Khurda, under Mouza-Palla, Khata No. 127, Sthitiban, Plot No. 894/1900, Kisam-Gharabari (Vacant Land), sold area Ac.0.146 Secs. Boundary : North-Plot Nos. 893 & 894, South - 895 and 894/1900, East - 889, NH-16(Khordha- Balugaon), West - Plot No. 896.
	te : 26.08.2022 ce : Bhubaneswar, Cuttck (Odisha)		Cholama	andalam Investment And Finance Company Li Authorised C

2 killed in accident

Chhatrapur: Two people died after the bike they were riding or collided with a road divider on NH-16 in Chhatrapur Thursday. The deceased were identified as Suman Das of Berhampur ad Danda Pal of Hiniilicut area. Reports said, while the two were going on a bike from Berhampur to Balugaon, near the CRDA Chhak, their bike collided with the divider and the two were thrown off the bike. On being informed, police officials and fire personnel seized the bodies and the bike. A case was

registered in this connection.

DENIED MONEY FOR PHONE, YOUTH KILLS SELF POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, August 25: A 20year-old youth committed suicide by consuming pesticide after his mother refused to give him money to buy a mobile phone at Badamahuladiha village under Chinamalipasi panchayat of this block in Keonjhar district, Wednesday night. The deceased was iden-

tified as Biswamitra Nayak mother to give him ₹2,000 of the village. Ghatagaon poto buy a mobile phone to



lice registered a case of which his mother declined. unnatural death and handed over the body to his family members after conducting a post-mortem, Biswamitra asked his

Enraged, he consumed pesticide to end life. Family members noticed froth oozing from his mouth and rushed him to the Patana community health centre where he succumbed during treatment.



Thursday.

a mobile phone







FOCUS ECOSYSTEM

HUMAN RIGHTS & BIODIVERSITY

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 sys-

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

destroyed the surrounding environment tematic violations of local commanaged by indigenous peoples munities' rights. By deploying and local communities.

Governments need to look bevond "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 prerefer to human rights and tend to

cious ecosystems. Our food systems are a prime example of why we need a different approach. The crops and animal breeds that feed humanity coevolved 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 biologi cal 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 wellbeing – 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 con-

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 worlds' food systems on a path toward agroecology.

Agroecology. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

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suming food.
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n October 2021, two tractors with a large chain stretched between them cleared more than 2,000 hectares of forest in the

Georgina

WE CANNOT SOLVE THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS WITHOUT TRANSFORMING DYSFUNCTIONAL **FOOD SYSTEMS**

New Right's Depravity

THE MOTHER

There is no better way to become friends than to

laugh together.

recent crisis in northern Kosovo came and went quickly, because nobody wanted an escalation. But it will return, because Russia is maneuvering 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 liberaltotalitarian hegemony, in Ukrainian Nazism...³

According to this new conservativism, Nazism, Communism, and woke hedonism all amount to the same thing. But this corralling 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 member-

ship. 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 denizens 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.



Slavoj Žižek

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

mobilise millions

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



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-

The sixth meeting of the laborating with their Indian coun-Australia-India Education terparts on other areas. It was also talked a bit about the latest devel-Company shifted Indian workers Council (AIEC) took place at agreed to offer dual degree pro-opments in educational collabo- and labourers from the Indian Sub-



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 sus-

tainably managing those resources

to preserve their own livelihoods.

ing today's negotiations is that

protecting biodiversity must be

turned into a business. Instead of

ensuring that industrial and fi-

nancial activities are regulated

to avoid harming people and the

planet, the current proposals focus

on trying to transform the biodi-

versity crisis into another oppor-

tunity to boost corporate profits.

cial circles, the current buzz is

about "nature-based solutions,"

a term used to describe interven-

tions 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

Those who use the term seldom

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 be-

coming part of the problem, serv-

ing as a license for business as

usual, or even encouraging more

land grabs in areas traditionally

dangerously ill-defined.

In "green" business and finan-

The second flawed premise guid-

Sofia Monsalve &

Catacora-Vargas

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

WORDS**WORTH**

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 barbacòa, 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.



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

CHINA

grammes 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, lingual and sporting. In 2009, a 'strategic partnership' was set up between the two countries and the relations have been being 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

ration, 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 continent 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 medicaments. Significantly, in 2007, Australia supplied uranium to India, which went a long way towards strengthening the relationship.

Negotiations for 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. ©INFA

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 stepin 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

Sir, The Supreme Court has rightly taken high exceptions to the criticism of allopathy by Baba Ramdev. There are cases when the

Unfair criticism

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 \rightarrow 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 rightto condemn ayurveda.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010





national



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

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



uote

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

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

AGENCIES

"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 ac-

counted 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





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 Keiriwal. I am lucky to have Sisodia, who has no greed for the Chief Minister's post ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

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 re-

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

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

BJP 'purifies' Rajghat with Ganga jal

New Delhi: The BJP Thursday sprinkled 'Ganga jal' on Rajghat after AAP legislators had visited the memorial, and its MP Manoj Tiwari took the point further by comparing Arvind Keiriwal to Joseph Goebbels and accusing him of lying repeatedly. The Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), saying its various allegations were like a "movie script" meant to mislead the public on the "scam" in Delhi's now-scrapped excise policy 2021-22. The BJP alleged that by visiting Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Raighat, AAP supremo Keiriwal has desecrated the place and the BJP workers sprinkled 'Ganga jal' there to "purify" it.

setting a dangerous precedent for this country," Kejriwal said. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said his party has been consistently asking the AAP to come clean on its excise policy, but the Kejriwal dispensation has been trying every possible "trick" in the book to divert people's attention elsewhere.

"The fact that they (AAP leaders) have gone to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial means they have definitely committed an act which is to be considered a sin. So, in order to purify it, the BJP workers will sprinkle Ganga Jal on the Samadhi," Trivedi said.

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 postmortem 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 **Police initially** Medical College and registered a case

Hospital conducted the autopsy on her body of unnatural Thursday morning death and sent after her family agreed to the procedure. Dr Shrikant post-mortem. Sunil Chimbolkar of the Forensic Science which took take Department of GMCH place Thursday 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

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.

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



have challenged the recruitm

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 peti tioners, 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 al-





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

MP from Jaunpur Lok Sabha seat Dhananjay Singh, as the party's national general secretary.

Amit Shah reviews situation in J&K

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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.

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

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 petitionways there". 10

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 PTI PHOTO

9 killed, 15 injured in K'taka road accident

Navy set to commission INS Vikrant Sept 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tumakuru (K'taka), August 25: At least 9 people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident near Kalambella here during early Thursday morning, police sources said.

The incident happened at about 4.30 AM, when a lorry hit a passenger vehicle. The deceased are said to be daily wage workers from various parts of Raichur district and were on their way to Bangalore, sources said.

The injured have been shifted to hospital for treatment. The "cruiser" (a multi-utility vehicle) in which the victims were travelling was said to be crowded with nearly twenty-four passengers, sources said, adding that the deceased include a couple of children.

According to sources, some of the deceased were members of the same family. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoling the incident has announced ex-gratia to the family of the deceased and those injured.





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-

uled launch of trials of aircraft landing on board INS Vikrant from November: Vice Admiral Ghormade such an exercise after commissioning of an aircraft carrier is a normal practice in all advanced nations.

"We hope to complete it by the middle of next year and we will put in all efforts so that the aircraft carrier is operationally ready with the aircraft. The aircraft which are available with us are MiG-29Ks," he said.

The Navy is in the process of procuring 26 deck-based aircraft and it has narrowed down on Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet and French aerospace major Dassault Aviation's Rafale M aircraft.

Vice Admiral Ghormade said the Navy is currently undertaking a comprehensive evaluation process of two aircraft, but added the procurement would be for an interim period as the government is looking at an indigenously developed deck-based jet for the aircraft carrier.

Asked whether the commissioning of the INS Vikrant will help India in protecting its maritime interests more vigorously in the region in the backdrop of China's attempts to increase its maritime influence in countries like Sri Lanka and the Maldives, he said the warship will provide required deterrence.

"Commissioning of the aircraft carrier will provide the required deterrence considering the growing strength of our neighbours and to enhance our maritime capability. Therefore, it (commissioning of INS Vikrant) is going to be a very big event for us," the vice chief said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA							
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER							
R&B DIVISION-V, BHUBANESWAR							
E-mail ID:eernb5bbsr@gmail.com, Tel- (0674) 2392424							
No.4023, dtd.22.08.2022							
No.B-508: Notice for Building work							
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.II of 2022-23							
Number of the work :- 01(One) Building Work							
Period of completion :- 03 (Three) Calendar Months							
Date & time of sale & receipt of :- From 26.08.2022 at 11.00 AM							
bid document in the office To 05.09.2022 at 5.00 P.M.							
of Inviting Authority							
Date & Time of opening :- 06.09.2022 at 11.30 AM							
of bids							
Name & Address of :- Executive Engineer,							
Inviting Officer 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.							
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		ERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
		uttack@gmail.com
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1. No. of works	:	04 (Four) Number of Civil Works
2. Type of Works	:	Civil Works
3. Approximate Estimated	:	Rs.12.55 Lakhs to
Cost		Rs.35.36 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	- 39	B&C
		06 (Six) Calendar Months
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TWO STATES MADHYA PRADESH

Saffron surge worries BJP, **SDPI ups concern for Cong**



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 to 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 booed 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 SDPL





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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

OrissaPOS

FRIDAY | AUGUST 26 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAR

Seoni, August 25: A rare black panther has been spotted in Madhva 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 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

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



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



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 Shivrai 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 survev of the affected areas. He also reached to the people trapped in flood and made announcment 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 rebuild 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



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

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.

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

Afsar Kodlipet, 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 990 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 pre-

caution. 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 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 Jadhavnagarof Belagavi city. The search operations have been scaled up further.









launched a mega operation in the

city to catch the leopard. The big

cat has been prowling in the resi-

dential areas and outskirts for the

past 20 days and attacked a con-





national



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





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 Harvana. These media channels thrive on building false narratives

TEJASHWI PRASAD YADAV BIHAR DEPUTY CM



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 Pinaravi Vijavan, 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

Scagrees to relook Sided, it is impartial. In a democracy, judiciary PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The

Supreme Court Thursday agreed to have a relook at its verdict up-

holding the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA) and said

"prima facie" the two aspects of

not providing an Enforcement Case

Information Report (ECIR) and re-

versal of the presumption of in-

nocence require reconsideration.

agreed to hear a plea seeking a

review of the judgment that had

upheld the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers relat-

ing to arrest, attachment of property involved in money launder-

ing, search, and seizure under the

PMLA. It also issued notice to the

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

The bench, also comprising

Justices Dinesh Maheshwari

and C T Ravikumar, was hear-

ing a plea filed by Congress

MP Karti Chidambaram seek-

ing a review of its July 27

judgement in the PMLA case.

arguments. We three feel that only

two aspects which may be neces-

sary to be re-looked into the judge-

ment," it said. Referring to the

two aspects relating to not pro-

viding ECIR to the accused and re-

versal of the presumption of in-

nocence, the bench said after

reading the judgement, "prima

facie" it feels that these are the

two issues that require reconsid-

eration. 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

"There is no need for elaborate

such types of offences.

Centre.

The apex court said this as it

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 rul ing 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 al-

During the court hearing Thursday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said he has a lot of submis-





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

3 ultras killed

as Army foils

infiltration bid

Srinagar, August 25: Three ter-

rorists were killed as security forces

foiled an infiltration bid along the

Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector

of Jammu and Kashmir, officials

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 dis-

trict, they said Srinagar-based PRO.

Defence, Col Emron Musavi said an

operation was launched following

an input from the Army's intelli-

gence agencies about a possible

infiltration bid along the LoC.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

said Thursday.

Raja Singh
sent to jailSC Pegasus hearing:
Cong, BJP trade barbs INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 "noncooperation" 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

PEGASUS

PM and his **aovernment'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

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

custody Mangalhat amid tight security and continuing protests for his re-arrest for allegedly making

leged money laundering. sions to make in the matter



Hyderabad, August 25: Suspended

BJP MLA T Raja Singh Lodh was

derogatory comments about

Raja Singh, who has been ar-

The police announced that it

has invoked PD Act against Raja

Singh, a rowdy sheeter of

Mangalhat Police Station, on the or-

ders of Hyderabad Police

Singh has been habitually deliv-

ering provocative and inflam-

matory speeches and driving a

wedge between communities lead-

ing to public disorder. A total of

101 criminal cases registered

against him since 2004

According to the police, Raja

Commissioner CV Anand.

rested for second time in three

days, was later shifted to Cherlapally

Prophet Muhammad

Jail on the city outskirts.

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 guack 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 MPbased 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

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 com-

prehensive 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 feed back 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 sur-

> official said. 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.

vev 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 However, the Indian Railway

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 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 PTL

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 sideof the tracks, which is unhygienic, some staffers said.

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

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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 northwest 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

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, 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

"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 warlike stores were recovered.

to rice has been reported from West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh, regions considered

in polls.

September 15 in 2016. Rlys seeks feedback from staff on urinals in locomotives

"If the toilets are installed, then more

women will be able to drive the locos and need not settle for desk jobs," a woman







international WHITE HOUSE IN THE HOUSE INTE HOUSE IN THE HOUSE INTE HOUSE



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 KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY,

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



uote

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

RISHI SUNAK FORMER CHANCELLOR, UK

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

RUCHIRA KAMBOJ INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, UN

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 TAN KEFEI SPOKESPERSON FOR MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, CHINA

SHORT TAKES

Monkeypox cases drop 21%: WHO

Geneva: The number of monkeypox cases reported globally dropped by 21% in the last week, reversing a monthlong 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

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 Sawyedollah 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 deteriorating, 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 Rohingvas 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 in-

fections 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

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

All we want is a safe and

The Rohingva 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.

BRAHMOS INCIDENT

Pak rejects India's closure; demands joint investigation

REUTERS

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 nucleararmed rivals handled calmly as there were no casualties.

The BrahMos missile - a nuclearcapable, 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.

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**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

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 con-

tract 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-mil-

lion-strong military.



it has suffered in Ukraine since the first weeks of the campaign, when it

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

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

Russia has not said Western estimates say the actual number could how many casualties 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

said 1.351 of its soldiers had been killed

Kyiv: A Russian missile attack

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 Shadeed Abdulmateen, 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 nolice 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 have 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.

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

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-



In a first, India votes against Russia in UNSC

lows: 13 votes in favour, one vote against, one abstention. The proposal to invite Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine to participate in today's meeting via VTC, has been adopted," Chinese Ambassador to the UN and UNSC President Zhang Jun said Wednesday.

It must be noted that Russia objected to Volodymy Zelenskyy's virtual participation, noting it does not oppose him addressing a UNSC meeting in person

Earlier, India Wednesday announced that it is ready to dispatch its 12th consignment of humanitarian aid to Ukraine consisting of twenty-six types of medicines on a special request from the Ukrainian side.

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.

CRITICS FEAR INFLATION

Student loan forgiveness

to help over 40mn in US

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* REUTERS

Sofia, August 25: A British-Belgian teenager became the voungest person to fly solo around the world Wednesday after a fivemonth journey that saw him battle monsoon rains, searing heat

and bureaucracy. Cheers went up as 17-year-old Mack Rutherford landed at an airfield near the Bulgarian capital Sofia after flying 54,124 km (33,631

miles) and visiting more than 30 countries since he departed from the same site in his Shark Aero microlight airplane March 23.

"There were many points in my journey where it would have



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

There were many points in my journey where it would have 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

MACK RUTHERFORD | YOUNG AVIATOR

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 voungest 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.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

had died in the attack.

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 re-

ceived 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.











After 8 years of systemic reforms, the economy has been able to ride out more severe global shocks with macroeconomic stability, a healthy financial sector, food security and a government and industry that have learnt to work together ASHIMA GOYAL | RBI MPC MEMBER

INDIA POST TO START DOORSTEP SERVICES

India Post is working on projects and technologies to provide government services at the doorstep and add 10,000 post offices this year to enhance its reach, a top official said Thursday. Department of Posts Secretary Aman Sharma at a CII conference said that the government has provided the department with ₹5,200 crore for the modernisation of the post offices using technology





We expect investment of around Rs 2.5-3 lakh crore to come into the industry. Rs 3 lakh crore is a big investment. This is

also leading to good employment generation. Our estimate is 5G will reach almost all parts of the country in the next 2-3 years

ASHWINI VAISHNAW TELECOM MINISTER

We are always trying hard on how we bring the new models as fast as possible to the (Indian) market. We are always working in that direction SHARAD AGARWAL CHIEF, LAMBORGHINI INDIA

We have very

very big ambitions for Tanishq in the Gulf **Countries and North** America. We would have around 20 to 30 stores in the next 2-3 years

CK VENKATARAMAN MD, TITAN

SHORT TAKES

ESIC adds 15.47L members in June

New Delhi: Around 15.47 lakh new members joined the ESICrun social security scheme in June 2022, according to official data released Thursday. The latest data is part of a report -- Payroll Reporting in India: An **Employment Perspective** June 2022 -- released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). It showed that the gross new enrolments with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) rose to 1.49 crore in 2021-22, from 1.15 crore in 2020-21. It was 1.51 crore in 2019-20 and 1.49 crore in 2018-19.

.....

Singtel to sell 3.3%

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel

Singtel for 2.25 billion

stake in Bharti Airtel

promoter Bharti Telecom will

buy a 3.33-per cent stake from

Singapore dollars or about Rs

12.895 crore in 90 days, the

Bank credit growth quickens in Q1: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, August 25: Bank credit growth accelerated to 14.2 per cent

in the quarter ended June 2022 from 6 per cent in the same period of the previous year, RBI data showed Thursday. In the quarter ended March

2022, bank credit had expanded by 10.8 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Thursday released the 'Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs for June 2022'. This data is collected from all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), which include regional rural banks (RRBs), small finance banks (SFBs) and payments banks (PBs).

"Credit growth has been broadbased: all the population groups (i.e., rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan), all the bank groups (i.e., public/private sector banks, foreign banks, RRBs and SFBs) and all the regions of the country (i.e., central, eastern, north-eastern, northern, southern and western) recorded double-digit annual credit growth in June 2022," as per the data. Aggregate deposit growth year-on-year has remained in the range 9.5-10.2 per cent during the last five quarters.

Metropolitan branches continue to account for over half of the bank deposits and their share increased marginally over the last one year. The share of current account and

savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has been increasing over the last three years (42 per cent in June 2020, 43.8 per cent in June 2021 and 44.5 per cent in June 2022).

As credit growth is outpacing deposit growth in the recent period, credit-deposit (C-D) ratio has been on the rise, the data showed.

In June 2022, C-D ratio stood at 73.5 per cent at all-India level (70.5 per cent a year ago) and 86.2 per cent for metropolitan branches of banks (84.3 per cent a year ago).

Government restricts I-T dept collects **3**28 crore in taxes export of wheat flour from ITR-U filing

Russia and Ukraine are the major exporters of wheat, accounting for around one-fourth of the global wheat trade. The war between the two countries has led to global wheat supply chain disruptions, thus increasing the demand for Indian wheat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The government Thursday decided to put restrictions on the export of wheat or meslin flour to curb rising prices of the commodity.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

The decision of the Cabinet "will now allow to put a restriction on the export of Wheat Flour which will ensure a curb on rising prices of wheat flour and ensure food security of the most vulnerable sections of the society," an official statement said.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will issue a notification to this effect.

Russia and Ukraine are the major exporters of wheat, accounting for around one-fourth of the global wheat trade. The war between the two countries has led to global wheat supply chain disruptions, thus increasing the demand for Indian wheat. As a result, the price of wheat in the domestic market has

shown an increase. In order to ensure food security of the country, the government put a prohibition on export of wheat in May. However, this caused a jump in overseas demand for wheat flour.

Sensex snaps 2-day rising streak on fag-end sell-off

THE RUPEE DECLINED **BY 7 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 79.93 AFTER MOVING IN A NARROW RANGE AGAINST THE US DOLLAR**

NDTV's business rivals include Times Group's Times Now and Network18's CNN-News18, controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani

REUTERS

leat flour exports from India have registered a growth of 200% during April July 2022 compared to the corresponding period in 2021

n 2021-22, India exported wheat flour worth \$246 million. The exports stood at about \$128 million during April-June this fiscal

Earlier, there was a policy not to prohibit or put any restriction on the export of wheat flour and therefore, a partial modification of the policy was required by withdrawing the exemption from ban/ restrictions on export in order to ensure food security and put a check on mounting prices of wheat flour

in the country, the statement added. 'The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for amendment of policy of exemption for wheat or meslin flour from export restrictions/ ban," it said.

In July, a DGFT notification said the government had imposed a condition on exports of wheat flour or atta, maida and semolina.

"Export policy of wheat flour (atta) remains free but export shall be subject to recommendation of inter-ministerial committee on export of wheat," the notification had said.

When asked about the Cabinet decision, an official said that earlier the export regime for wheat flour was "free" but now it is restricted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Incometax department has collected around Rs 28 crore in taxes after about 1 lakh returns were filed by taxpayers under the newly introduced return filing form called ITR-U, that was notified this year as part of the Budget 2022-23.

CBDT Chairman Nitin Gupta said the scheme was brought by the Union government for the benefit of taxpayers so that they can comply with their tax responsibilities without getting into hassles of the law.

The abbreviation ITR-U stands for 'income tax returnupdated' and is avail- The gross collection able to taxpayers for stands at ₹5,73,170 filing updated returns for 2019-20 and 2020-21 lakh crore while the financial years or as- net (after issuance of sessment years 2020refunds) collection is 21 and 2021-22.

Taxpayers filing this ₹4,79,552 lakh crore form, which can be

filed within 2 years of the end of the relevant assessment year, will have to give reasons for updating the income -- return previously not filed or income not reported correctly or wrong heads of income chosen or reduction of carried forward loss

"We have got around 1 lakh returns... (under the ITR-U). The taxpayer may have paid additional tax or they may be a new filer. Around Rs 28 crore worth tax collection has been done under this scheme so far,' Gupta said during an interaction.

The CBDT boss said such schemes could also be utilised by those categories of taxpayers who have in-

INCON

come from online games, lotteries and betting etc.

"This is a provision for them to come forward and pay taxes rather than face the conse-

quences of penalty or any other legal ac tion under the income tax law," the CBDT chairman said.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames pol-

icy for the income-tax department. The Budget presented by the Union government this year in February permitted taxpayers to update their ITRs within two years of filing, subject to payment of taxes, a move aimed at helping correct any discrepancy or omissions. A taxpayer would be permitted to file only one updated return per assessment year.

The CBDT chief said the department is looking at all such businesses including online betting and gaming and cited the example of raids conducted by the taxman against a Mumbai-based group en gaged in online cricket betting and gaming in February.

NDTV seeks to block Adani's takeover

REGULATORY GROUNDS

tempt by Asia's richest man has triggered concerns among journalists and politicians that change of ownership could undermine its editorial integrity.

In a stock exchange filing, NDTV said its founders Prannoy and Radhika Roy have since 2020 been barred from buying or selling shares in India's securities market, and so cannot transfer shares which Adani was trying to secure in a bid to exert control. Adani's conglomerate Tuesday said it was seeking a controlling stake in the news channel, a move NDTV said was "entirely unexpected" and was taken without any discussion or consent of the network.



Shares in NDTV rose to the maximum permitted limit of 5% in early trade Thursday.

NDTV's business rivals include Times Group's Times Now and Network18's CNN-News18, controlled by Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani

At the heart of Adani's attempt

is a little-known firm called

Vishvapradhan Commercial Private

Limited (VCPL), founded in 2008,

from which the Roys had years ago

taken a Rs 4 billion (\$50 million) loan.

In exchange, they had issued war-

rants convertible into equity shares.

it had acquired VCPL and was mov-

ing ahead to exercise those rights.

The Adani Group said Tuesday



telecom operator said Thursday. Bharti Group chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal's family and Singtel own Bharti Telecom (BTL). The acquisition is to be completed over a period of 90 days. "Bharti and Singtel have agreed to work towards equalising their stake in Airtel over a period of time." Bharti Airtel said

ED now raids **Coinswitch Kuber**

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday searched the premises of leading crypto exchange CoinSwitch Kuber for alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations. Coindesk reported, quoting an ED official, that five premises tied to the CoinSwitch Kuber were searched, including the residences of directors, the CEO, and the official properties. A company spokesperson told IANS that they receive gueries from various government agencies.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 25: Equity benchmarks capitulated in the last hour of trade Thursday to break their two-session winning run, with IT, finance and bank stocks playing spoilsport amid expiry of monthly derivative contracts.

A weakening rupee also weighed on sentiment, traders said. After remaining in the positive

territory for most part of the ses-

Bajaj Finance led the losers

among the Sensex constituents,

falling 1.81 per cent, followed by

rising up to 0.46 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.20 per cent and the smallcap index went up 0.17 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT and teck fell 0.88 per cent each, FMCG declined 0.45 per cent, oil & gas 0.40 per cent and industrials 0.35 per cent.

sion, the 30-share BSE Sensex sud-Consumer discretionary goods denly came under selling pressure and services, consumer durables, towards the fag-end, tumbling 310.71 metal and realty ended in the green. points or 0.53 per cent to settle at Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong and

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty Shanghai ended higher. dropped 82.50 points or 0.47 per Bourses in Europe were trad-

ing in the positive zone during mid-session deals. Wall Street had posted gains Wednesday. Meanwhile, the international

PowerGrid, Infosys, TCS, IndusInd oil benchmark Brent crude climbed Bank, Axis Bank, NTPC and Larsen 0.17 per cent to \$101.3 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors Only five counters clocked gains (FIIs) bought shares worth a net Rs - Maruti Suzuki, SBI, Dr Reddy's, 23.19 crore Wednesday, according Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan, to exchange data.

Mumbai, August 25: India's New Delhi Television Ltd Thursday sought to block Gautam Adani's attempt to acquire a majority stake in the news network, saying regulatory restrictions meant the bid from the billionaire tycoon's group could not proceed.

NDTV is regarded by some as one of the few independent voices in India's rapidly polarising media landscape, and the takeover at-

Mumbai. August 25: Sales of listed

non-finance private companies in-

creased by 41 per cent in the quar-

ter ending June 2022 to Rs 14.11

lakh crore, according to Reserve

on the performance of the private

corporate sector during the first

quarter of 2022-23 drawn from

abridged quarterly financial re-

sults of 2,749 listed non-govern-

Indian Oil to spend \$25bn for 2046 net-zero goal

The Reserve Bank released data

Bank data released Thursday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The 2020 Securities and

LISTED PVT FIRMS SALE RISE 41% IN Q1

The expansion in sales was

22.3% in Jan-March 2021-22

April-June 2021-22 quarter

ment non-financial companies.

"Driven by broad based demand ex-

pansion across industries, the man-

ufacturing sector recorded impressive

sales growth of 41.6 per cent (y-o-y) in

Q1:2022-23, which was aided by both

As per the central bank's analy-

volume and price effects," it said.

quarter and 60.6% in



Exchange Board of India order cited by NDTV stated the regulator had prohibited the Roys from trading in Indian markets until November 26, 2022, after an investigation found they made wrongful gains linked to suspected insider trading of NDTV shares.

'This seems like an effort by NDTV to stall or slow down the

sis, annual sales growth of infor-

mation technology (IT) companies.

which remained steady in positive

terrain even during the Covid-19

pandemic, stood at 21.3 per cent

during the April-June quarter of the

Further, sales of non-IT serv-

ices companies swelled by 62.1 per

cent (y-o-y) in the first quarter

2022-23, as the service activities

continued their ascend on strong

revival path after the second wave

of the pandemic a year ago.

current financial year.

Robust growth gives RBI room for more rate hikes: Report

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 25: The strong growth offers room for the Reserve Bank of India to raise rates by another 60 basis points as the central bank seeks to stamp out high inflation, DBS Group Research said in a note Thursday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of current fiscal year likely surged 16% vear-on-vear based on most leading indicators, the research house estimated

Favourable base effect after the onset of Delta coronavirus variant last year will additionally lift the year-on-year GDP numbers, Radhika Rao, senior economist at DBS Group Research, wrote in the note.

"Resumption in service sector activity added to the momentum, besides manufacturing," Rao said. The research house's fiscal year 2022-2023 GDP growth forecast of 7% year-onyear will see India emerge the fastest-growing economy in Asia this year, she pointed out.

On the investment side, "lead indicators have been encouraging." "Resilient growth provides the room for RBI to prioritise inflation," she said. She expects RBI to raise rates by another 60 bps inthe current fiscal year, adding to the 140 bps already done.

LIC dilutes stake in Nagpur Power

New Delhi: LIC has diluted its stake in Nagpur Power & Industries by over 2 per cent through open market sales. bringing down its stake to 8.33 per cent. The governmentowned life insurance behemoth in a regulatory filing Thursday said its shareholding in Nagpur Power & Industries has diluted from 10.56 per cent (13.82.743 shares) to 8.33 per cent (10.90.747 shares) of the paid-up capital of the company. There is a decrease of 2 per cent in holding during the period from September 30, 2021, to August 24, 2022, at an average cost of Rs 58.94, LIC said.

India, one of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters, is aiming to reach net-zero emissions for the country by 2070 REUTERS

58,774.72.

& Toubro.

cent to 17,522.45.

New Delhi, August 25: Indian Oil Corp. the country's top refiner. plans to invest more than \$25 billion to achieve net-zero emissions from its operations by 2046, its chairman SM Vaidya said at an annual shareholders meeting Thursday. IOC plans an investment of over

Rs 2 trillion (\$25 billion) to mitigate emissions to about 0.7 billion metric tonne of carbon dioxide a year by then

Vaidya said IOC has prepared a roadmap to achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions - that is,



emissions produced from its crude refining operations and energy consumption.

Most of IOC's efforts will be targeted at decarbonising its refineries and petrochemical complexes, OC plans for green hydrogen to account for about 5% of its overall hydrogen output by 2027-28 and 10% by 2029-30 OC will have electric vehicle charging facilities at 10,000 fuel stations in two years:

which account for 97% of its operations. he said

IOC along with its subsidiary Chennai Petroleum Corp controls about a third of India's 5 million barrels per day (bpd) of re-

The company is embarking on a decarbonisation journey that will be crucial destiny but also for the **India's independence** (2046), Indian Oil will be operationally independent

SM VAIDYA | CHAIRMAN, IOC

Vaidya said IOC aims to raise

of emissions

its refining capacity by a third to

fining capacity.

2.14 million bpd by 2024/25, and increase the proportion of petrochemicals produced from each barrel of oil to 15% by 2030 to meet rising local demand and boost fuel exports.

To cut emissions, IOC plans to use renewable energy to fuel its capacity expansion and is setting up green hydrogen plants at its Panipat and Mathura refineries.

IOC plans for green hydrogen to account for about 5% of its overall hydrogen output by 2027-28 and 10% by 2029-30. Vaidya also said IOC will have

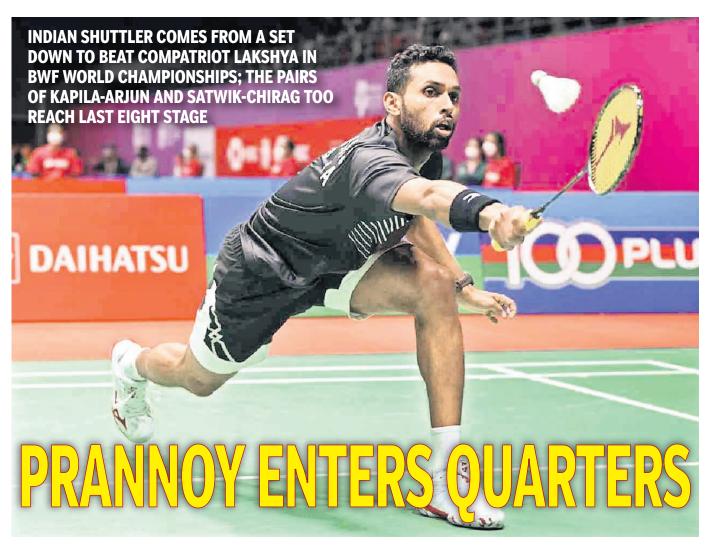
electric vehicle charging facilities at 10,000 fuel stations in two years.



not only for the company's

planet. On the 99th year of





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 25: India's H S Prannov 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 headto-head record standing at 2-2.

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

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.

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 medallist Saina Nehwal was knocked out of the World Championship after going down to Busanan Ongbamrungphan 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 Ongbamrungphan as she raced to 11-3 in the opening game.

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

Ongbamrungphan 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 Ongbamrungphan started to gain momentum and opened up a five point lead as Saina slowly started losing steam.

In the end, the 26-year-old Ongbamrungphan, 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 58 min-

utes 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.

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 Indonesian 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.

associations because the talented youngsters will come only from the states. So, more budget will have The two have enjoyed a good to 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

by Rajasthan FA.

told this agency.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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



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

Need to reform football

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 playercentric 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

polls by a week in order to sal-

US OPEN QUALIFIERS Yuki advances; Nagal Ramanathan bow out

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

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. Diokovic 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 season, when his pursuit of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969 ended with



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.

onships in Kerala, they travel by

train for three days. But my en-

deavour will be to allow the play-

nomination for the president's

post which was to be held August

28 under the aegis of the Supreme

Court-appointed Committee of

SC terminated the mandate of

the CoA, disallowed the inclusion

of 36 former players in the elec-

toral college and postponed the

But, in a verdict August 22, the

Administrators (CoA).

Bhutia had earlier filed his

ers travel by air."

He did play in the French Open, where he lost in the quarterfinals to Nadal, and at Wimbledon, where Djoković 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 acknowl-

edged, "I'm not planning to get

About three weeks later, Djokovic

posted on social media that he was

vaccinated.'

vage the Women's U-17 World Cup of the AIFF. 'We have to focus more on two from Arunachal Pradesh are to whose hosting was jeopardised things. One is grassroots develtake part in a national champiafter FIFA suspended the AIFF.

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 Gehriq's disease, an incurable neurodegenerative disorder. The honorary kickoff was taken by Juan Carlos Unzue, the former Barcelona goalkeeper and goalkeeping coach who has the disease and helped promote the friendly. Pierre-Emerick Aubamevang, Frenkie de Jong and Memphis Depay scored for the hosts. Man City got goals from Julián Álvarez, Cole Palmer and Rivad 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 topthree 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.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, August 25: India's Yuki Bhambri advanced to the men's singles second round after a hard-fought win over Moldovian Radu Albot in the US Open qualifiers here.

However, the country's highestranked men's singles player. Ramkumar Ramanathan, and Sumit Nagal made early exits after losing their respective qualifying matches in straight sets.

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.



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

legal saga ended with his depor-

Djokovic missed the Australian Open in January after a protracted

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 Gopalgunj who made Kolkata his adopted home. For the uninitiated, "khep" in

Bengal means playing unauthorized 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. While he had passion for cricket

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 Kalighat 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 Sourasish Lahiri.

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

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