**JOB SATISFACTION** 

Actor Kangana Ranaut says that most gratifying job in the world is to make movies

LEISURE



#### NARROW ESCAPE

The world narrowly escaped a radiation disaster when electricity to Europe's largest nuclear power plant was cut off for hours

INTERNATIONAL P10

#### DUO CREATES HISTORY

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian men's pair to win a medal at the **BWF World Championships** 

SPORTS P1

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

2 fake univs

in state: UGC

New Delhi, August 26: The

University Grants Commission

(UGC) Friday declared 21 univer-

sities, including two in Odisha, as

fake and not empowered to confer

Nababharat Shiksha Parishad in

Rourkela and North Orissa

University of Agriculture and

Technology in Mayurbhanj as fake.

recognised institutions which are functioning in contravention of

the UGC Act, have been declared

as fake universities and these are

not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Rajnish

Delhi has eight fake univer-

sities -- All India Institute of

Public and Physical Health

Sciences: Commercial University

Ltd. Daryaganj; United Nations University; Vocational University;

ADR-Centric Juridical University;

Indian Institution of Science

and Engineering; Viswakarma Open University for Self-Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual

Uttar Pradesh has seven such universities -- Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy,

"At least 21 self-styled, un-

The UGC has declared

POST NEWS NETWORK

any degree

Jain said.

University).

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 | 2022

#### **CM writes to Centre** seeking adequate supply of fertilizers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Aug 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday urged Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers during the ensuing kharif season.

The department of fertilizers quirement of Odisha up to the end of July. However, there is a severe shortfall in supply of DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) and shortfall in supply of MOP (muriate of potash) to the state against the requirement, Patnaik said in a letter to Mandaviva



swing," pointed out the CM.

production during the previous

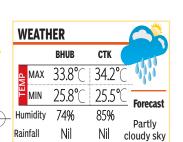
As the August-September month

#### RREGULAR by MANJUL



post, why would he aspire for any other office of profit?

#### **MARKET WATCH VARIATION INDEX** SENSEX **58833.87 1** 59.15 DOLLAR 80.28 ₹0.07 **1** ₹0.13 **EURO** ₹556 ₹51,146 GOLD ₹515 SILVER ₹54,874



# **VOLUME 12, ISSUE 147 | www.orissapost.com**

has supplied urea as per the re-

During the current kharif sea son as on July 31, 2022, the overall availability of DAP has been 69 per cent against the pro rata requirement with a shortfall of 46,877 MT (metric tonnes), he said, adding, till July end, there is a shortfall of 46,877 MT of DAP and 1010 MT of MOP in the state.



these fertilizers as there has been a good spell of monsoon after a dry spell which has triggered the agricultural operations to a full

Patnaik also mentioned that the state has suffered a loss in crop vear due to natural calamities like Yaas, Jawad and Gulab.

"It is envisaged to make good the loss with a good harvest expecting a near normal monsoon in line with the forecast of IMD. Therefore, supply of this most critical input fertilizer should be as per the requirement," he said

happens to be the peak demand period for different fertilizers. Patnaik said, a short supply during this juncture would adversely affect the agricultural production in the state.

#### 900 cases of waterborne diseases were reported from 14 districts over the past fortnight since heavy

Bhubaneswar, August 26: With around 100 villages still remaining marooned due to the twin floods in the Mahanadi and Subarnarekha river systems. Odisha has reported around 900 cases of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases over the past

rain started lashing the state

PNN & AGENCIES

fortnight, an official said Friday. The state government has also received reports of 88 cases of snakebites from 14 flood-hit districts, where around 10 lakh people have been affected by the calamity, Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra said. He said that no death has been reported in snakebite incidents and every block

has anti-venom drugs. "The situation is not alarming," Mishra claimed, even as he did not confirm any recent diarrhoea deaths as "we have to investigate the cause." The official said 900 cases of waterborne diseases were reported from 14 districts over the past fortnight since heavy rain started lashing the state, adding that the situation was under con-

Floods lead to spurt

in diarrhoea cases

trol in Koraput and Rayagada the two areas worst affected by diarrhoea. In Koraput, around 70 people were infected over the past week and there are 21 active cases now, a district official said

At least 17 people have died of diarrhoea and hundreds were infected in several districts due to the outbreak that began in July-end. Diarrhoea cases are now being reported from the deluge-hit districts after incessant rain over the past two weeks due to three back-toback weather systems, including a deep depression.

The official had urged the people earlier to drink water only after boiling it or using halazone tablets,

which act as a disinfectant. Around 350 medical relief centres and 120 mobile medical teams are active in the flood-affected areas, where 10 lakh halazone tablets and 2 lakh oral rehydration salt sachets have been distributed. Mishra said.

#### **WATER WOES**

- People were reportedly drinking contaminated water amid a shortage of fresh drinking water sources in marooned villages
- There is a risk of spreading waterborne diseases like cholera and iaundice due to the consumption of contaminated water
- State government has received reports of 88 cases of snakebites from 14 flood-hit districts

#### **MORE RAIN IN STORE: IMD**

Bhubaneswar: Odisha is bracing up for likely spell of heavy rain Saturday after being battered by twin floods in Mahanadi and Suranarekha river systems. The IMD in its latest bulletin said Odisha is likely to witness heavy rain and issued yellow warning for thunderstorm in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhadrak Boudh, Nayagarh, Khurda, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Angul and Dhenkanal August 27. The IMD said that Bhubaneswar and its adjoining areas will see partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or thundershower. Ten lakh people were affected by the flood in 14 Odisha districts and 100 villages are still marooned. At least six persons have lost their lives in the natural calamity, officials said

#### **Decks cleared for India to conduct** women's U-17 WC

Zurich, August 26: World football governing body FIFA Friday lifted the ban imposed on the AIFF after the Supreme Court terminated the mandate of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), clearing the decks for India to host the Women's U-17 World Cup in October.

FIFA had suspended the All India Football Federation August 15 for "undue influence from third parties" and the revocation came 11 days after that.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to undue third-party influence," the FIFA said in a statement.

"The decision was taken after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the committee of administrators that was set up to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.'

"As a consequence, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 scheduled to take place on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned.' The Kalinga Stadium in

Bhubaneswar will host all the India matches in the group stages FIFA said it and the AFC will

continue to monitor the situation and will support the AIFF in conducting its elections in a timely manner.

#### Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (open university), and Bhartiya Shiksha Parishad, Locals carry their belongings in a boat from a flood-affected area during the ongoing monsoon season in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Friday. PTI PHOTO according to the UGC.

# Azad quits Cong, blames it on Rahul

■ In a five-page no holds barred letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Azad described her as a 'nominal figurehead' and alleged that all important decisions were being taken by Rahul or rather worse his security guards and PAs'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 26: Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad Friday ended his five-decade association with the party, terming it 'comprehensively destroyed' and lashing out at Rahul Gandhi for 'demolishing' its entire consultative mechanism.

Laying bare the many schisms in the party, Azad wrote a five-page no holds barred letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, describing her as a "nominal figurehead" and alleging that all important decisions are being taken by Rahul Gandhi or rather worse "his security guards and PAs'

Azad, whose resignation from all positions in the party, including its primary membership, comes ahead of crucial organisational elections, accused the leadership of committing a "giant fraud" on the party in the name of "farce and sham" internal polls.

He said no such exercise had taken place at any level and lists are being prepared by the coterie that runs the AICC. In his scathing criticism of the leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, the 73-year-old termed the former Congress chief a "non-serious individual at the helm.

Proxies, Azad wrote to Sonia Gandhi, are being propped to take over the leadership and they will be nothing more than "a puppet on

Azad has been almost a constant in the party's decision-making processes through the decades.

### 'Unknown sources gave ₹15,077cr to national parties from 2005-21'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: The national parties have collected more than ₹15,077.97 crore from unknown sources between 2004-05 and 2020-21, an analysis by the poll rights body Association for Democratic

Reforms, showed The total income of national and regional parties from unknown sources for 2020-21 stands at ₹690.67 crore. ADR considered eight national parties and 27 regional parties for this analysis.

The national parties comprised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian National Congress (INC), All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Community Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Communist Party of India (CPI) and National People's Party (NPEP).

The regional parties included AAP, AGP, AIADMK, AIFB, AIMIM, AIUDF, BJD, CPI(ML)(L), DMDK,



MNS, NDPP, NPF, PMK, RLD, SAD, SDF, Shiv Sena, SKM, TDP, TRS and YSR-Congress.

The analysis conducted on the basis of the parties' Income Tax Returns (ITR) and donations statements filed with the Election

Commission of India (ECI) found that between FY 2004-05 and 2020-21, the national parties have collected ₹15,077.97 crore from unknown sources."For FY 2020-21, eight national political parties have declared ₹426.74 crore income from unknown sources and 27 regional parties received ₹263.928 crore income from unknown sources," it said.

During FY 2020-21, Congress declared ₹178.782 crore as income from unknown sources which is

41.89 per cent of the total income of national parties from unknown sources (₹426.742 crore), the analysis said. BJP declared ₹100.502 crore as income from unknown sources which is 23.55 per cent of the total income of national parties from unknown sources.

The top five regional parties in terms of unknown income are YSR-Congress with ₹96.2507 crore, DMK with ₹80.02 crore, BJD with ₹67 crore, MNS with ₹5.773 crore and AAP with ₹5.4 crore.



# eisure



#### **HOME ALONE ACTOR** CONVICTED OF RAPE

Devin Ratray, who played Kevin's older brother Buzz in the popular film franchise Home Alone, is reportedly being investigated for allegedly raping a woman in New York. Lisa Smith claims that the actor attacked her in his Manhattan apartment in 2017 after possibly spiking her

#### BRITNEY DEACTIVATES **INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT**

Britney Spears has deactivated her Instagram account. After deleting Instagram, Britney took to Twitter and wrote, "I'm learning every day is a clean slate to try and be a better person and do what makes me happy ... yes I choose happiness today".



GaneshaSpeaks,com

Your attractive personality is always at the disposal of others, and today you could benefit immensely through it. However, there is room for improvement and you could be drawn towards charity work. Ganesha says you will surely feel satisfied by helping the needy

#### **TAURUS**

of work are due for a field day today. The day will be particularly outstanding for Administrators and executives are likely to get richer by the end of the day. Even if you are engaged in some other work, you will stand out and get noticed for your overall excellence. Businessmen can expect to get into new partnerships and ioint ventures. This is a very auspicious day for launching new projects.

#### GEMINI

You will want some change in your daily routine today. You are likely to be fed up of the rut of daily life and are looking for a refreshing change. You need to apply your inherent creativity to your work to get more satisfaction out of it and to ease the boredom of your daily schedule, says

#### CANCER

Don't meddle in others' affairs today, suggests Ganesha. For they will not take it kindly. Adopt the middle path. Ganesha feels that you must keep your bravado and boldness in check

Your pride and self-confidence will help you to excel in whatever task it is that you take up today. Other people will also praise you. You will buy new clothes and other possessions that you have been

Today will be a pleasant day full of surprises and unforeseen changes. You may go for a long  $\bar{\text{d}}\text{rive}$  with your beloved. The trip will be very interesting and will calm your frayed nerves. All in all, Ganesha says, it is an optimistic and happy day, so go ahead and get the best out of it

Ganesha says you will have a good time with your famiv members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesha says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

#### SCORPIO

Your sixth sense would work wonders today, as per to what Ganesha has to say. Trust your instincts and work accordingly Work enthusiastically and dedicatedly. When the pressure of work mounts on you, take a break and unwind with the help of soft music.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Work is likely to keep you or toes. At work place, you and your opinions will be in demand. Those who are associated with stock exchange and shares will be happy to gain profits during the afternoon. Wait and watch the end result in the evening.

#### CAPRICORN

Actions speak louder than words. Your sincere efforts and honest intentions will motivate others also to put in their best, feels Ganesha. You'll be like a friend, philosopher and guide to them. People will follow you, but it has a darker side to as many will even over take you. It is certainly not a pleasant sight to see opportunities pass by!

#### AOUARIUS

You will seek spirituality as you feel thoroughly dejected by your present situa tion. Ganesha says that even struggling courageously with circumstances requires a spiritual endeavour. These trying times give you the patience to deal intelligently with challenges and setbacks.

#### **PISCES**

Your spiritual and religious streak comes to the fore. You will likely visit a place of wor ship to soothe your troubled soul Meditative techniques may also be resorted to in your quest for peace and calm, savs Ganesha.



Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh admires the work of her co-star Akshay Kumar in their upcoming film Cuttputlli. She says that she had only heard of his discipline but got to witness it on the sets

Speaking about her experience working with Akshay, Rakul said: "I have always been a huge fan of Akshay sir, I had only heard of his dis-

cipline but now I "I think he



work, and being diligently involved in every process of it. Also what I love about Akshay sir is that his energy on set is to bring everyone together and that's something I learned, so, all in all, it was an amazing experience,' added the De De Pyaar De ac-

Akshay plays Arjan Sethi, a dutiful sub-inspector who vowed to keep the people of Kasauli safe. However, fate has other plans as the killer strikes from the shadows of terror, leaving behind no trace of evidence, except a body.

# Mrunal reacts boycott trend

Mumbai: Mrunal Thakur starrer Telugu romance drama Sita Ramam has been doing well, amid this scenario where calls for boycotting films are picking up.

Ask the actor if she thinks it's justified to call for such boycotts, and she replies, "I just feel achha kaam karte raho, log aayenge aur dekhenge. I believe in good work. There's the quote ki achha kaam karte raho, logon ka kaam hai kehna. I don't know about others but Lam whatever because it is

ence. Thanks to them for being honest. People should watch the movie if you like it. If you don't 'like it, it's fine."

On the success of Sita Ramam, Mrunal exclaims, "Fortunately, it is not just box office, but people love it too. Romance is an integral part of our lives, and I felt that romantic films were stopped being made. The kind of appreciation and feedback I have been getting from actors from the south is just in-



of photographs from the sets of her upcoming movie Emergency and said that the most gratifying job in the world is to make movies.

Manikarnika actress posted the images on her Instagram story. The first picture has Kangana explaining a scene to a person. It also features an ambassador car.

"Most gratifying job in the world is to make cinema this morning on #emer gency shoot,"

she wrote. She then shared a picture of her standing and looking at a scene. "And of course my

favourite directing pose." she wrote. Kangana added 'Filmmaking my first love''

*Emergency*, as the title suggests, is all about the state of national emergency declared by Indira Gandhi June 25, 1975. It lasted till



Soman. Manikarnika films presents Emergency which is written and directed by Kangana Ranaut. The film is produced by Renu Pitti and Kangana Ranaut



# When Meena Kumari sold her bungalow for Saawan Kumar

#### MUMTAZ HAD BOUGHT THE HOME OF THE PAKIZAAH ACTRESS AND THE AMOUNT WAS SPENT IN THE MAKING OF KUMAR'S GOMTI KE KINARE

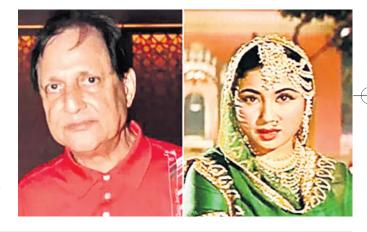
Mumbai: Veteran filmmaker and lyricist, Saawan Kumar Tak passed away Thursday after a battle with heart and lung ailments. One of his career's highlights was his association with the legendary Meena Kumari. They worked together in the film *Gomti Ke Kinare*, a movie that was Saawan Kumar's debut as a director.

In one of his previous interviews, Kumar had revealed that

Meena Kumari had convinced Kumar to direct the film, when initially he had only intended to produce it. In a retrospective feature with a film magazine, Kumar had revealed that the shooting of the film was delayed because of Meena Kumari's failing health. He added, "I told her. 'Because of the delay I have exhausted all the finances.' She said, 'Don't worry.' I needed one and half lakh rupees. After five to six days, she gave me the amount saying, 'I am not giving you charity. You can return the money. Later, I came to know that she had sold her bungalow in Bandra to

Mumtaz to give me that money." The Souten director revealed that Meena Kumari would insist that he shoot the film because she could go away anytime. He had further revealed, "We began shooting. I would hold her and duck down when the lights went on. When the last shot was canned, everybody clapped and threw flowers. We even celebrated her birthday on the set. We stopped her car at the gate and asked her to walk to the set. The path was strewn with flowers. We even got her a cake.'

Gomti Ke Kinare featured both Meena Kumari and Mumtaz along with Sameer Khan (brother of Sanjay Khan).



To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

5 9 4

5

5

2

6 9

6

3

9

4

3

2

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

8

9

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

9

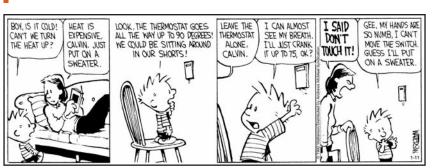
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8

#### **PEANUTS**



#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



#### BREVITY



### FUN

# **CROSSWORD** Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com

#### Across

- 1 Kind of
- measures 5 The Boy Who
- Cried Wolf
- 8 Aquarium
- denizens (3,6) 9 Sailor's assent
- 10 Informal
- language
- 12 All together
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- 15 Type of pear 17 Croupiers' tools
- 19 Your (Fr.) 20 Faux
- 22 Mount Sinai
- name
- 23 Latticework
- <u>Down</u> 1 Office stations

2 Camel hair fabric

- 11 Tap sites

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5 State in NE

4 Make-up maven

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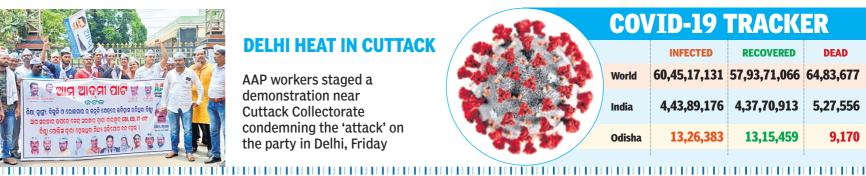
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# SECT PHARMACY

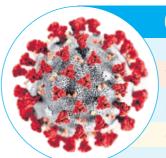
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# | Sept contact of a contact of



#### **DELHI HEAT IN CUTTACK**

AAP workers staged a demonstration near **Cuttack Collectorate** condemning the 'attack' on the party in Delhi, Friday



**COVID-19 TRACKER** 

60,45,17,131 57,93,71,066 64,83,677 5,27,556

# 10 more eco-retreats, 3 nature camps on cards



NEW ECO-RETREATS: Deomali hilltop in Koraput district, Jakam in Kalahandi, Nawana in Similipal, Silviculture Garden in Phulbani, Muhana Muhana at Puri's Astaranga, Kotia in Koraput, Khadakhai dam in Rairangpur, Mahendragiri in Berhampur, and Kanjipani Ghat and Hadagarh dam in Keoniha

PCCF (WILDLIFE) SASHI PAUL SAID THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT INCREASE IN FOOTFALL IN THE ECO-TOURISM RETREATS

IT INCREASED BY THE REVENUE ALMOST 142 PER GENERATED CENT IN THE DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS PERIOD FROM 11,500 IN INCREASED FROM 2017-18 TO 70,216 RS 3.40 CRORE TO IN 2021-22 RS 10.52 CRORE

**NEW NATURE CAMPS:** Rani Duduma in Koraput, Dhaltangarh in Cuttack, and Bhandarnahar near Jhadeswari temple of Navagarh

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 26: The state government Friday decided to develop 13 more eco-tourism retreats in different parts of the state, an official said

The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra.

"Ten new spots have been chosen for development of eco-retreats with night stay facilities, and three for development of nature camps for day tourists," he said.

thorities concerned to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities when

Mahapatra directed the au-

Since most of the spots are lo-

est officers (DFOs) and supervising officers concerned were asked to pay regular visits to the spots.

Mahapatra also called for involving local communities for upkeep of the facilities.

The eco-retreats will be developed on Deomali hilltop in Koraput district, Jakam in Kalahandi, Nawana in Similipal, Silviculture Garden in Phulbani, Muhana Muhana at Puri's Astaranga, Kotia in Koraput, Khadakhai Dam in Rairangpur, Mahendragiri in Berhampur, and Kanjipani Ghati and Hadagarh Dam in Keonjhar.

The nature camps for the day tourists will be developed in Rani Duduma in Koraput, Dhaltangarh in Cuttack and Bhandarpahar near Jhadeswari temple of

PCCF (wildlife) Sashi Paul said that as of now 50 eco-retreats and nature camps are operational across the state. The new facilities will take the number to 63.

> "The popularity of these retreats is increasing with growing footfall and income generation. Online booking facility is also available. So far, around Rs 95 crore has been invested in the development of such facilities," he said.

There has been a constant increase in footfall in the eco-tourism

It has increased by almost 142 per cent in the last five years from 11.500 in 2017-18 to 70,216 in 2021-22, the official said.

The revenue generated during the period increased from Rs 3.40



Servitors carried delicacies from Alamchandi Temple to Srimandir in Puri on the occasion of Saptapuri Amavasya, Friday

## Min for timely launch of Talcher fert plant

Bhubaneswar, August 26: Reviewing the status of Talcher Fertilizers Ltd (TFL), Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Bhagwanth Khuba Friday directed the officials concerned to ensure timely commissioning of the plant.

During his two-day visit to the plant, the minister underscored the importance of the plant for

meeting the target of urea production and instructed the officials of TFL and Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) to meet the deadline for commissioning of the plant.

Notably, the Centre has set a target to complete the TFL by September 2024.

"A detailed root cause analysis." corrective & committed action plan is being formulated to expedite the project, which will mark several steps towards AtmaNirbharta in fertilizers," he said.

Khuba reviewed the project functioning and held a meeting with key officers of TFL and PDIL to take stock of the project status. He met the contractors and sub-contractors engaged in the construction of the project and discussed with them about progress of their respective work orders.

The MoS also visited the plant site to review the construction status of each unit. Khuba was given an overview on the project model by senior officials of TFL and PDIL on the occasion.

Later, the minister also undertook inspection of the railway corridor, raw-water pipeline corridor and intake well pump house facility at Brahmani river.

After receiving guard of honour from the CISF, the Union minister undertook plantation at Vikrampur Guest House, TFL.

### CM flags off Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday launched the Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0, a flagship initiative of Startup Odisha, that will cover more than 100 educational institutions in 30 districts in 60 days

Launching the event, Naveen said Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0 will provide an entrepreneurial exposure to the young minds and instil the culture of idea generation among the youth.

The state is on a mission to create 5,000 startups by 2025 and Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0 will be pivotal in bringing innovative ideas to the forefront, he said.

Odisha currently has more than 1,300 recognised startups, around 40 per cent of which are led by women, generating 10,000 employment opportunities, it was learnt.

During the Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0, bootcamps will be organised at various institutions across the state to encourage generation of ideas and develop the spirit of entrepreneurship.

With Odisha being the hub of talented and innovative minds, the ideas pitched at Startup Odisha Yatra 2.0 campaigns and bootcamps will be a catalyst in identifving ideas and innovators across

# Hold PLAC meetings regularly, PSUs told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: In order to make procurement process easier for local enterprises, Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were Friday urged to hold Plant Level Advisory Committee (PLAC) meetings for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of the state at regular intervals.

Addressing a seminar on 'Public Procurement Policy for MSMEs and Role of CPSUs', at ProPack Odisha Meet-2022, MSME development and facilitation officer (DFO) PK Gupta urged CPSUs to organise these meetings which will enable MSMEs to understand specific requirement of big industrial houses.

"Chairman and CEOs of a CPSU head PLAC meeting and local entrepreneurs are also members of it. If meetings are held on regular interval, entrepreneurs would get an opportunity to interact with decision makers and can understand specific requirement of the organisation. Then they can prepare products which are suitable to them and their chances of getting orders will increase," Gupta said.

He also urged all CPSUs to organise PLAC meetings as earliest



Dignitaries at the seminar on 'Public Procurement Policy for MSMEs and Role of CPSUs' at ProPack Odisha Meet-2022 in Bhubaneswar, Friday

MSME development and facilitation officer (DFO) PK Gupta urged CPSUs to organise meetings which will enable MSMFs to understand specific requirement of big industrial houses

Nalco Director Sadashiv Samantray said that the state government is serious about payment delay to MSMEs and the CPSUs cannot import anything less than Rs 200 crore which is a big thrust for local entrepreneurs

as possible. He also suggested setting up of display centres as it has been found that usually small entrepreneurs do not feel comfortable to visit big plants or offices.

Detailing about making necessary changes in Samadhan portal, he stated that orders worth Rs 40,000 crore have been executed by PSUs and Central ministries till date. Contribution of MSME to it stands at 39 per cent which is much higher than mandated 25

per cent procurement target. "However, in case of ST/SC and women entrepreneurs the contribution level is less than 1 per cent which is far lower than the mandated target of 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively for these two cat-

egories which need improvement,"

Gupta said. Meanwhile, Nalco Director Sadashiv Samantray said that the state government is serious about payment delay to MSMEs and the CPSUs cannot import anything less than Rs 200 crore which is a

big thrust for local entrepreneurs.

#### Retired techies, cops to examine road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: In a bid to ensure road mishaps are properly analysed, the Odisha Road Safety Society, under the State Transport Authority (STA), Friday invited applications for the empanelment of retired engineers and police officers.

According to STA, the empanelled officials will conduct joint inspection of the mishap site and submit a detailed report which would help ascertain the exact cause that led to the accident, thereby suggesting remedial measures

"Applications have been invited from civil engineers who have retired from the post of assistant executive engineers or equivalent in any PSUs or their subordinate offices in the field of road construction and road safety," said an STA official quoting the letter.

The official said that serving faculty members of government engineering colleges and research institutes, who have worked in either of the fields-road construction, road accident or road safety-

can also apply. Similarly, retired police officers not below the rank of inspector can apply for empanelment with the Road Safety Cell of STA.

# FOR HC IN CAPITAL "WE DEMAND ODISHA HIGH COURT AT THE STATE CAPITAL"

Members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association staged a demonstration on the District and Sessions Court premises, Friday, demanding setting up of Orissa High Court in the Capital City

## Naveen lauds Mission Shakti on Women's Equality Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, on the occasion of Women's Equality Day, Friday, reaffirmed his and government's commitment to removing all barriers on the way of women's progress

Through his official Twitter account, Naveen said, "On Women's Equality Day, we reaffirm the commitment to remove every barrier for women to excel. Women empowerment continues to be cornerstone of all our initiativeswhether it is higher political representation or Mission Shakti, which has charted an epoch journev in women empowerment."

He said that the Mission Shakti scheme of the government has been a huge success, as it has paved the way for women empowerment in the state.

The Odisha Cabinet had approved the Mission Shakti scheme with a budgetary allocation of Rs

he Odisha Cabinet had approved the Mission Shakti scheme with a budgetary allocation of Rs 4.973.39 crore for five years - 2022-23 to 2026-27

he scheme has the objective of empowering women through gainful activities by providing credit and market linkage

N early 70 lakh women have so far been organised into 6 lakh groups in all blocks and urban local bodies

4,973.39 crore, for five financial vears – 2022-23 to 2026-27.

Empowerment of women has been one of the key development goals taken up by the state government. It is well-known that economic empowerment of women significantly contributes to their social empowerment.

As such, helping women to achieve economic independence by enabling them to have jobs and income has been accorded the highest priority. Therefore, promotion of women's self-help groups

(WSHGs) under the aegis of the 'Mission Shakti' programme was adopted in 2001 as a key strategy for achieving women empowerment.

Mission Shakti, which was launched in the state March 8, 2001 on the eve of International Women's Day, is the self-help mission for women empowerment through the instrument of WSHGs that take up various socio-economic activities.

gainful activities by providing credit and market linkage. It is a flagship programme of the state government.

The programme has the objective of empowering women through

Nearly 70 lakh women have been organised into six lakh groups in all blocks and urban local bodies of the state so far.

To strengthen the activities of the existing WSHGs and provide momentum to formation of new WSHGs, constant handholding andmonitoring is undertaken throughout the year.

### Min greets Puri teacher picked for Nat'l Awards



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Friday congratulated Iswar Chandra Nayak, an assistant teacher at the Government UP School, Kanapur in Puri district, who has been selected for the National Awards.

The minister appreciated Nayak's dedication and service towards teaching and said that his achievement has brought pride

"It is a matter of great pride and

joy for the people of entire Odisha that Iswar Chandra Nayak from the state has been selected for the National Awards to Teachers," Dash said.

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Awards on the the teachers September 5, 2022

Nayak, a resident of Bangurush Patana village in Puri district, has been working in the Puri school for the last 22 years, has been chosen for the awards for his unique style of teaching and contribution to the education system.

An alumnus of the Institution of Engineers, Kolkata, and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Varanasi, 50-year-old Nayak has authored 18 books including many on the textile heritage of Odisha and the school education system. His last book, 'Aliaru A Aa', published in 2021, deals with ways to bring marginalised children



An excavator deployed by the CMC pulled down an illegal structure in the Rajendra Nagar area of Cuttack, Friday

#### Investiture Ceremony -POST NEWS NETWORK

**DPS Kalinga observes** 

Bhubaneswar, August 26: The School Cabinet for 2022-23 of DPS Kalinga was sworn-in during the Investiture Ceremony held Friday. The Chief Guest for the day was Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL) executive director Debabrat Mishra.



appointees and shared his experiences as a Master Mariner. He advised the students about having courage, being decisive and meet life challenges with confidence. Vice Chairperson Mala Mishra addressed the students and encouraged them to be humble and dutiful.

The oath was administered by Principal Anuradha Rakshit who advised the appointees to focus on goals and not on roles.

# 262 new Cov cases,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 26: State's Covid-19 tally rose to 13.26.383 cluding 47 children, tested positive for the virus, a Health de-

The state's death toll due to the infection mounted to 9.170, with

Odisha had recorded 355 new

The state now has 1,987 active

### 2 deaths in state

Friday as 262 more people, inpartment bulletin said.

one fatality each in Bhubaneswar and Keonjhar, it said.

cases and one fatality Thursday.

cases, while 13.15.173 patients have recovered from the disease.

# **HE dept: Implement** Green Passage plan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: The Higher Education department Friday directed all the colleges and universities to implement the Green Passage Scheme in the higher ed ucation institutions. Higher Education special sec

retary Rajashree Mohanty said that the old Green Passage scheme has been modified to accommodate children of Covid-19 victims. children of single parent who is not the bread winner of the family and children studying in purely private institutions

The modified scheme was issued August 6, 2022 and the department directed the colleges and universities to display the scheme at the notice board of the institution concerned for wider aware ness of students.

The Green Passage scheme of Higher Education department has been providing free higher education to children without biological or adoptive parents. After the Covid-19 outbreak, many children in Odisha lost either both the parents or single parent who were the

Bhubaneswar, August 26: With

floods having become almost an an-

nual phenomenon in Odisha, the

state Congress unit Friday urged the

BJD government to convene a meet-

ing of experts and leaders of all par-

ties to find out a permanent solution

Addressing a presser here, Odisha

Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC)

to deal with the calamity.



■ The Green Passage scheme of Higher Education dept has been providing free higher education to children without biological or adoptive parents

The scheme will cover the costs of admission, tuition and examination fees of children for school and higher education, including technical

As many as 24,405 children aged below 18 years have lost either their mother or father or both parents due to Covid-19 and other reasons in Odisha during the pandemic

bread winners of the family. Therefore, the Green Passage scheme is also to cover the children who lost their parents to the

The scheme will cover the costs of admission, tuition and examination fees of children for school and higher education, including technical education, engineering and other studies. These children will also be entitled to a pension of Rs 2,000 per month, including advance pension for June, July and

As many as 24,405 children aged below 18 years have lost either their mother or father or both parents due to Covid-19 and other reasons in Odisha during the pandemic between April 1, 2020 and

Cong bats for expert advice on flood mgmt president Sarat Pattnayak said 'gross state for a discussion on how to mitigate the problem." he stated He said as many as 10 lakh people

> The party's flood committee chairman and former minister Panchanan Kanungo alleged that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 'zero casualty'

### Make City garbage free: BJP to BMC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 26: As many parts of the Capital city have virtually turned into dumping vards, the Bhubaneswar unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Friday staged a demonstration here demanding immediate disposal of the garbage.

BJP leaders and workers took out a protest march to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) office here and staged demonstration in front of the office.

"Due to the careless attitude of the BMC authorities, the residential colonies in the city have turned into garbage dumps," alleged



Singh. If the problem is not solved within 48 hours, the BJP will hit the streets and stop vehicular movement in the city, warned Singh.

Accusing the BMC officials of creating this problem, another BJP leader Dillip Mohanty said that the tenure of old contractors engaged on the job has expired. So, new contractors were appointed for this purpose. "However, the (bribe) among the officials has not been completed so far. That's why it is being delayed and ultimately, the citizens are bearing the brunt,' he alleged. On the other hand, Bhubaneswar mayor Sulochana Das admitted that

deal for distribution of money

there is a problem in some wards as dumping of garbage at Daruthenga was stopped due to protest by villagers following an accident. We have initiated talks with the villagers and negotiation is on. We are planning to dispose of

the garbage within the same ward

by converting it to compost through

the micro composting centres

### Paddy sowing down by 5.99 per cent ginally at 44.07 lakh ha against

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: Area sown to paddy declined by 5.99 per cent to 367.55 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing Kharif season as a shortfall in rains has led to less coverage in some states, according to the agriculture ministry data released Friday.

Paddy was sown in 390.99 lakh hectare in the year-ago period, the data showed

It is the main Kharif crop, sowing of which begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon from June and harvesting from October onwards.

As per the data, less paddy area s reported from Jharkhand -- 10.51 lakh hectare (ha), West Bengal (4.62 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (3.45 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (2.63 lakh ha), Bihar (2.40 lakh ha), and Odisha (2.24 lakh ha) till August 26 this Kharif

Area sown to paddy remains lower even in Assam (0.49 lakh ha). Madhya Pradesh (0.46 lakh ha). Haryana (0.44 lakh ha), Tripura



As per the data, less paddy area is reported from Jharkhand -- 10.51 lakh hectare (ha), West Bengal (4.62 lakh ha), Chhattisgarh (3.45 lakh ha), Uttar Pradesh (2.63 lakh ha), Bihar (2.40 lakh ha), and Odisha (2.24 lakh ha) till August 26

There was a 4.95% decline in total pulses area to 127.71 lakh ha till August 26 of the kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) against 134.37 lakh ha in the year-ago period

(0.22 lakh ha), Nagaland (0.21 lakh ha), Meghalaya (0.18 lakh ha), Punjab (0.12 lakh ha), Maharashtra (0.07 lakh ha), Jammu & Kashmir (0.05 lakh ha), Goa (0.03 lakh ha), Mizoram (0.03 lakh ha) and Sikkim (0.02 lakh ha) in the period.

Besides paddy, there was a 4.95 per cent decline in total pulses area to 127.71 lakh ha till August 26 of the Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop vear (July-June) against 134.37 lakh

ha in the year-ago period. Tur/arhar area was down mar-

47.20 lakh ha, while that of urad acreage was lagging slightly at 36.15 lakh ha compared to 37.91 lakh ha in the comparable period

Oilseeds coverage too was lagging as the area coverage was down marginally at 186.48 lakh ha till August 26 of this Kharif season against 188.62 lakh ha in the yearago period.

However, in the case of coarsecum-nutri cereals, the sowing was slightly up at 176.33 lakh ha from\_\_\_ 169.39 lakh ha a year ago.

Among cash crops, cotton acreage remained up at 124.55 lakh ha, and the sugarcane area was slightly higher at 55.59 lakh ha year-onvear. Jute/mesta area remained flat at 6.94 lakh ha till August 26, the data showed.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) the country has received 9 per cent higher southwest monsoon rains till August 24. However, east and north-eastern India have reported 19 per cent deficient rainfall in the same period.

#### **Police cautions** against cyber fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 26: Odisha Police Friday asked the people to be alert of fake messages saving that their electricity will be discontinued by the office because of non-pay ment of bills from previous months.

Earlier, considering the increasing cases of cyber fraud activities against electricity consumers, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha Government, had also re-issued an advisory against the unscrupulous elements, who are at tempting to trap consumers by sending them electricity supply disconnection threat through SMSes.

The discom has also requested all its consumers to only connect to its dedicated 24X7 toll free customer care numbers 1912 / 18003457122 for any clarification related to power supply or disconnection.

for discharging flood water. Experts in flood management, water management and hydrology from across the country should be invited to the

"The state government cannot

escape its responsibility by blam-

ing Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

BJD government was to be blamed for the twin floods in the Mahanadi and Subarnarekha river systems.

in 15 districts were affected in the twin floods, which also damaged crops over nearly 20 lakh hectares.

mission has completely failed as at least '17 people have died'.

# 2050 net-zero target can boost India's GDP 7.3% by 2032: Report

hould India ramp up its ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, it could boost GDP by 7.3 per cent (USD 470 billion) and create almost 20 million additional jobs by 2032, a new research shows

Achieving net zero emissions by 2070 could boost India's economy by as much as 4.7 per cent above the projected baseline growth in GDP terms by 2036 — worth a total of USD 371 billion, illustrates modelling and research commissioned by the High-level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero.

Launched in May, the commission has four members -- former Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-Moon, former vice chairman of Niti Aavog Arvind Panagariya, and global head and director of Climate Business, International Finance Corporation, Vivek Pathak.

The commission launched the "Getting India to Net Zero" report on Friday, which said India achieving net zero by 2070 would boost annual GDP bу up to 4.7 per cent by 2036.

Net zero will also bring notable benefits for Indians. The transition will see a net increase in employment opportunities, creating 15 million jobs beyond a baseline scenario by 2047. Households could save as much as USD 9.7 billion in energy costs by 2060, it said.

Yet, achieving net zero emissions will require India to grapple with a series of challenges, the foremost being finance: according to the modelling, India will need around USD 10.1 trillion in cumulative economy-wide investment to meet its 2070 target While India could decarbonise

using carbon revenues or other

domestic tax-raising mechanisms

to fund green investments, lever-

At the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will achieve net zero

free up domestic finance for de-

velopment, poverty reduction and

management of social impacts,

emissions by 2070 aging international support would

The transition will see a net increase in employment opportunities, creating 15 million jobs beyond a baseline scenario by 2047. Households could save as much as USD 9.7 billion in energy costs by 2060

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

helping mitigate the negative impacts on households from higher prices and taxes, commission said.

pivotal moment for Asian and Indian leadership especially, with India assuming the G20 presidency in 2023 and the Asia Pacific Group hosting COP28.

At the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow last year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070

Net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out. The commission said policies, especially to boost renewables and electrification, could make net zero possible by mid-century.

"Ending new coal as soon as possible by 2023 and transitioning from unabated coal power by 2040 would be particularly impactful for reaching net zero emissions closer to mid-century," it said.

bitions are not just important for the global fight against climate change – they can also be a boon for the country's own sustainable and inclusive development."

Ban Ki-moon, the current president and chair of the Global Green Growth Institute, said, "The time is ripe for India to formalise and implement its 2030 and 2070 emission targets and to continue to strengthen them. India is already feeling some of the worst impacts from emissions and pollution, with extreme heat, floods, premature deaths and more.

Panagariya said India promises to emerge not only as a model for healthy, sustainable and strong economic growth, but also as a global manufacturing hub for the global net-zero economy

As the host of the G20 in 2023. India can showcase its action and encourage other countries to follow suit, cooperate and invest, he added.

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## NORTH ODISHA FARMERS SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi/Rupsa, August 26: Back-toback floods have dealt a severe blow to thousands of farmers in the northern districts of Odisha, including Bhadrak and Balasore.

Sources said 20 villages in the four panchayats of Sundarpur, Olaga, Aradi and Nandapur under Sadar and Chandbali blocks have been severely affected by floods. Paddy saplings have been completely damaged in these villages.

Hectares of farmlands are still under floodwaters in many villages including Bodak, Kuleipada, Paratia, Doharapatana, Sundarpur, Khatuapatana, Phana, Aradi, Muan, Santatra, Bhuinpur, Koilakha, Bankamuhan, Batral and Champasahi villages

"Paddy plants submerged in floodwaters have turned rotten. There is no chance of a successful harvest this year. While our survival has turned difficult due to the floods, the ad-



ministration has not provided us with relief," locals lamented. They also demanded immediate assessment of crop loss and compensation.

A large number of houses have also suffered damages due to floods at Doharapatana, Muan, Santara and Bodak.

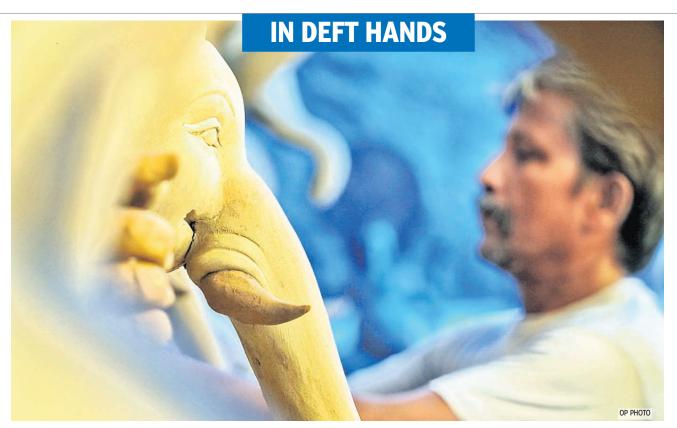
When contacted, Chandbali tehsildar Sushant Sutar informed that crop losses will be assessed soon and assistance will be provided as

per government rules.

Reports from Rupsa said that over 30,000 hectares of farmlands are still submerged in floodwaters from Subarnarekha river in 18 panchayats under Basta block of Balasore district. Kharif paddy has been badly damaged. Officials of the agricultural department have already visited the flood-hit areas.

Floods caused by the Jalaka river have affected paddy farming in Gadapada, Routpada, Mathani, Dudhahansa, Basachakurai, Baharda, Kudia, Darada, Mukulisi and Idada while floodwaters from Subarnarekha have played havoc in Sathoshpur, Bhelora, Karua, Paunsakuli, Raghunathour, Kadarmya, Churmara and Putura panchayats. Farmers here also demanded immediate survey of the crop loss and compensation.

When contacted, Block Agriculture officer Harihar Nayak said that a team has been formed to



Ahead of Ganesh Charturthi, an artisan is busy giving finishing touches Friday to an idol of Lord Ganesh at the Dussehra ground in Angul

# Satellite mapping to check excess mining

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 26: Days after the topic of illegal and excess mining of minor minerals at various stone quarries in Dharmasala tehsil of Jajpur district was raised in the state Assembly, steps have been initiated to prevent the plundering.

Questions were raised in the Assembly over the loot of minerals in violation of various provisions of the Odisha Minor Minerals Concession Rules-2016 and the Odisha Minor Minerals Concession Rules (Amended)-2017 and 2018.

Sources said that a decision has been taken to carry out satellite mapping of the mines that have been leased out. Since the announcement, the lease holders have turned panicky.

Sourcesinformed that the Dharmasala tehsildar had floated a tender June 2 for satellite mapping of the mines where huge quantities of black stone have been plundered over the years. A company by the name of 'My World Geology', bagged the tender for satellite mapping.

Mines of 20 lease holders who have carried out mining between 2015 and 2017 will be measured

Dharmasala tehsildar had floated June 2, a tender for satellite mapping of the mines where huge quantities of black stone have been plundered for many years. A company by the name of 'My World Geology', bagged the tender for

Mines of 20 lease holders who have carried out mining between 2015 and 2017 will be measured through satellite

The administration has already directed recovery of penalties from five errant lease holders. However, investigations into the extent of the loot have allegedly been tampered with. As result, the state exchequer has lost over ₹700 crore as authorities have failed to assess the exact amount of excess mining

through satellite, officials said. The administration has already directed recovery of penalties from

satellite mapping

five errant lease holders. However, investigations into the extent of the loot have allegedly been tam-

Sundargarh, August 26: Bonai

block of Sundargarh district has

been included in the Odisha Millets

Mission (OMM) programme. A tri-

partite memorandum of under-

standing (MoU) has been signed be-

tween ATMA (under the Agriculture

and Farmers' Empowerment de-

partment), technical consultancy

agency Wasson and a local voluntary

organisation to encourage people

take up millets farming and other

nutritious crops in Bonai block.

pered with. As result, the state exchequer has lost over ₹700 crore as authorities have failed to calculate the exact measure of extra mining, sources said.

There are a number of cases relating to illegal stone mining, excess mining, mineral transportation and sales without transits in Jajpur district. Many such cases are subjudice at the Orissa High Court, Lokyukta and the National Green Tribunal (NGT), officials informed.

A few months ago, mines of four lease holders were mapped through satellite. On the basis of the report, and following a direction from the district collector, the tehsildar served demand notices to them for recovery of fines worth ₹105.87 crore.

Sources said that Jyotsna Jena, Ranjan Jena, Sribas Jena, Rashmiranjan Panda and Mahendra Swain had been leased out four guarries in Dankari hills in 2017-18 for a period of five years. However, it was alleged that they resorted to excess stone mining. The Orissa High Court had heard a related case on this development and issued an order for investigation.

Following a directive from the

'Millets Mission' boost for Bonai block

tiative of the Odisha government

and is supporting women self-help

groups (WSHGs) to set up 76 'mil-

let tiffin centres' at various com-

munity locations in 13 tribal-dom-

inated districts. The initial

groundwork for the purpose has

Sources said farming of millets

is being promoted in 12 blocks in-

cluding Bonai in Sundargarh.

Millets and other nutritious crops

have been cultivated in over 6,000

hectares in the 2022-23 Kharif sea-

son. Now, farming of such crops has

already been set in motion.

Jajpur district collector the lease deeds of the five were cancelled in 2019.

However, Ranjan, one of the lease holders, appealed against the verdict to another bench of the high court and got his rights to mining restored and resumed operations under a new plan.

A satellite investigation based on the first plan and the new one was again carried out. It was found that excess excavation had been carried out and authorities imposed a penalty of ₹23.32 crore on Ranjan. However, sources pointed out that penalty amount should have been over ₹100 crore keeping in mind the excess mining that had been done.

Sources also informed that illegal and excess mining are being carried out at places like Baratali, Pakhara, Muraripur, Jogada, Batijanga, Aruha and Nanapur where explosives are used to disintegrate stones. This has caused crack in houses in the peripheral villages

Dharmasala tehsildar Swagat Das said that satellite investigation of illegal and excess mining will be done and the violators will be pe-

In Bonai block, millets and other

nutritious crops have been culti-

vated in 100 hectares so far. Another

250 farmers will also be encour-

aged to take up this type of farm-

ing. Funds will be provided from the

district mineral foundation (DMF).

only four blocks like Kutura,

Nuagaon, Kuanrmunda and

Rajgangpur were included. Four

more blocks including Gurundia,

Lathikata and Lahunipada were

added to the OMM programme in

In the initial phase of OMM,

13,000 hectares.

accepting a bribe of ₹12,000 from a parent, officials said. Sanjay Samal, the principal of Kumiharia SC & ST Development High School, was caught red-handed by the Vigilance sleuths while taking the bribe from the parent for issuing an original board certificate. mark-sheet and school-leaving certificate of the latter's daughters, the officials stated. A case has been registered in this connection at the Rourkela vigilance police station.

Headmaster arrested for graft Bhubaneswar: Sleuths of the Odisha Vigilance department arrested Friday a school teacher in Sundargarh district for demanding and

#### **EAST COAST RAILWAY** E-AUCTION OF BULK ADVERTISEMENT RIGHT

ASSETS DESCRIPTION: E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR BULK ADVERTISEMENT

RIGHTS CONTRACTS FOR OUT OF HOME (OOH) PACKAGE CONSISTING OF CIRCULATING AREAS OF RAILWAY STATIONS, LEVEL CROSSING GATES, ROAD OVER BRIDGES / ROAD UNDER BRIDGES & ON RAILWAY LAND ALONGSIDE RAILWAY TRACK ETC. AT IMPORTANT STATIONS & AREAS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION'S JURISDICTION EXCEPT SAMBALPUR STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 05 (FIVE) YEARS.

LOCATIONS: OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION'S JURISDICTION EXCEPT SAMBALPUR STATION AUCTION START DATE & TIME : 05.09.2022 at 1200 hrs., AUCTION CLOSE DATE & TIME :

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No.B-518 e-Procurement Notice, ANGUL (R&B) DIVISION Bid Identification No.- 09 of 2022-23

e-mail ID- angulrbdivision@yahoo.co.in

Number of Works 01 (One) number of Building works Approximate estimated 61.12 lakhs

Period of completion 02 (Two) Calendar months

Date & Time of availability : Dt.29.08.2022 at 10.00 A.M. of bid document in the

Last date/ Time for receipt: Dt.13.09.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.

of bid in the portal Dt. 14.09.2022 at 11.00 A.M. Date of opening Bid

Name and address of the : Superintending Engineer,

Office inviting Bid Angul (R&B) Division, Angul The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https:/tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer

OIPR-34074/11/0004/2223 Angul (R&B) Division

bids in the portal

Officer Inviting bid

3. Amount put to tender

mode only.

Name & Address of the

## Notably, OMM is a flagship inibeen expanded in an additional

#### POST NEWS NETWORK From over 5K malaria patients in 2018, the Berhampur, August 26: Vectornumber of infected persons has come

'Operation Daman' checks

malaria in Ganjam district

borne disease malaria is on the wane in Ganjam district with only 442 persons testing positive for it in 2021, a report said. The disease had turned into an endemic in the last few years in the district. However, due to stringent measures adopted by the district health department, it has been brought under control. The success has been achieved

due to malaria control programme 'Operation Daman' launched by the Odisha government in 2017 and 2018. Various teams of the Health department visited remote and inaccessible areas under different blocks of Ganiam district and conducted mass testing of villagers. Blood samples of the villagers

were examined and those testing positive were immediately given medicines. The villagers were urged to keep their surroundings clean and mosquito larvae growing in the drains and cesspools were destroyed. The villagers were also urged to use mosquito nets at night.

As a result, the number of malaria patients started decreasing from 2019. Proper arrangements have also been made in all community health centres (CHCs) to test the blood samples of suspected malaria patients while free medicines are distributed to them if the reports are positive. Mosquito nets have been distributed to over 19 lakh people in 13 blocks of the district in 2020-21, officials said.

When contacted, district malaria officer Dr Santosh Kumar Padhi down to 442 in 2021 said that use of  $\mbox{mosquito}$  nets has

brought the disease under control. He informed that despite the reduction in the number of malaria cases 'Operation Daman' is continuing in the remote areas. He pointed out that the disease can be completely eradicated if people become conscious about it.

A total of 3,390 persons tested positive for malaria when 4,14,847 blood samples were tested in 2019. In 2020, blood samples of 3,38,170 persons were examined and 1,929 tested positive for malaria. Similarly, blood samples of 3,93,120 persons were examined in 2021. but the number of infected people decreased drastically to 442. It should be stated here that in 2018, 5,761 persons had tested positive for malaria. Officials also said that the district has a zero fatality rate as far as malaria is concerned in the last three years.

The district health department has also taken a series of steps to create awareness on vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue. It has launched awareness vehicles and organised street plays to educate people on the two diseases. Also insecticides and various medicinal liquids are being regularly sprayed into drains, cesspools and stagnant water bodies to destroy mosquito larvae.

# Efforts on to make Koraput caves major tourist spots



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 26: Koraput district is endowed with a number of scenic spots, apart from several ancient caves. As these caves attract many tourists and researchers, the district administration is exploring the possibility of promoting them to attract more and more people.

A decision has been taken recently to develop the caves into attractive tourist spots. It has been decided to illuminate the caves and also develop proper road connectivity to them.

"Caves will be illuminated while proper roads will be constructed leading to the caves to make footfalls of tourists easier," said Koraput District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar here Friday.

Officials said that caves at Gupteswar under Boipariguda block; Kutunipadar under Laxmipur block; Paruamali under Semiliguda; Pedabalda near Ambapalli under Pottangi; Raj caves near Balmki Ashram under Nandapur block and Nageswar caves near Balda will be developed in the first phase.

All these caves located amid scenic beauty have been attracting some tourists even though many of these places don't have proper motorable roads.

In view of the tourism potential of these places, the district administration has started groundwork for their development.

Some caves will be restored naturally along with necessary infrastructure development.

"These areas will be made plasticfree zones. Development work at Gupteswar is already underway. After the rainy season, existing roads to the other caves will be restored and repaired. Besides, the development of Kolab ghat is in full swing. OICC has been awarded the

work at ₹25 lakh." Akhtar said. Facilities are also being developed at the Nageswar caves. The collector has also visited a number of sites to supervise how development work is progressing.

Notably, the state-level 'Parab' festival was first organised with aim of promoting the caves as tourist places.

Lighting facilities and good roads to these caves are expected to boost tourism sector which will ultimately create scope of employment for local people, officials said.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. **MAIN DAM DIVISION, BURLA** AT/PO- BURLA, DIST-SAMBALPUR (ODISHA) 768017 Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice NO. MDD-e-05/2022-23 (Online) Email Id: semaindamdivn@gmail.com

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

**Estimated Cost** Rs.8.20 to 31.00 lakhs Period of completion 3 (Three calendar) months 05.09.2022 at 10 A.M. Date & Time of available of bid document in the Portal

14.09.2022 upto 05.00 P.M. Last date/time for receipt of Date of opening of bid

15.09.2022 at 11.00 A.M. Superintending Engineer

Main Dam Division, Burla At/PO- Burla, Dist.- Sambalpur, Odisha Email:- semaindamdivn@gmail.com Further details, any corrigendum or addendum can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Main Dam Division, Burla

#### WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION

e-mail:bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.EE (R&B) BDK-7/2022-23

No.B-511: No.2938/Dt.20.8.2022 Nature of Work **Building Works** 2. Number of Works 4 (Four) Nos. of Building Works

39,41,643/-, 37,82,333/-

Class of Contractor

Dt.29.08.2022 at 10.00 AM 5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the porta

6. Last Date/Time of receipt of: Dt.07.09.2022 upto 05.00 PM

bid in the portal Date of Opening of Bid Dt.08.09.2022 at 11.30 AM

8. Name & Address of the Superintending Engineer, Office Inviting Bid Bhadrak (R&B) Division 9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further

details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http//tenderso-

disha.gov.in." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Bhadrak (R&B) Division OIPR-34079/11/0008/2223

Rs.39,63,111/-, 39,19,300/-,





### Multi-source Feedback

The Centre's 360-degree evaluation system for senior IAS, OPS and IFoS officers has found a new enthusiast in the Indian Railways. The Railways Board has introduced a process that allows peers and juniors to evaluate their reporting officers. The move obviously has Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's back, with the benign nod of approval from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Sources have informed DKB that the Board wrote last week informing employees that it plans to create "multi-source" feedback of officers while generating their annual performance appraisal report. The feedback will be submitted anonymously and recorded in the database of the concerned official. Apparently, there shall be no way to trace back the feedback to the superior or subordinate officer who submitted it. The move will likely bring 20,000 officials under the scanner.

The move has evoked a mixed response from the rail officers, say sources. Some question the 'deviation' from the 114-year-old rail administration structure at a time when the railways are undergoing a major makeover, including the creation of an eight-cadre Indian Railway Management Service under which rules for becoming a member or chairperson of the Railway Board have been changed.

However, some officials welcome the move saying it will make a positive  $% \left\{ 1,2,...,n\right\}$ difference in the prevailing work culture. It would also lead to some officials seeking voluntary retirement. They would, in fact, like the system to be further extended to receive feedback from non-railway persons such as contractors and vendors who are also part of the rail system. Also, while the system will be used to evaluate officials, there is no clarity on who will evaluate the Board members. That's a loaded question that Vaishnaw will have to answer!

#### Freedom of Expression

Smita Sabharwal, senior IAS officer and Secretary to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has waded into a controversy after tweeting on the release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano rape



case in Gujarat. Sabharwal suggested to the Centre that the civil service be ungagged and allowed to express their personal opinions.

As expected, a row has broken out over her comment. While the BJP has criticized her (also along expected lines), the former IAS Officers Association of United Andhra Pradesh president BP Acharya said the babu did not cross any line and there was nothing wrong with her tweets on the case. Babus are mostly perceived as toeing the 'official' government line always, but clearly some chafe against the constraints placed on them by service rules.

Sabharwal has received support from many of her peers for speaking out. Sanjiv Gupta, a former secretary in the Home Ministry, among others, has praised her bold stance. But hopefully, we can expect some positive gains from this episode if it leads to a debate within government and the civil service and some changes in the service rules on freedom of expression of government

#### **Bhalla gets third extension**

It is the season of continuity. Close on the heels of the second extension for Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet gave a one-year extension to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla until August next vear.

This is the third time that Bhalla, a 1984 batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer, has been given an extension. He was first appointed Home Secretary in August 2019 and was supposed to attain superannuation in November 2020. Interestingly, Bhalla had succeeded Gauba in the top post in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Both officers have proved their administrative abilities and carried out some of the Modi sarkar's most important policies. Bhalla oversaw the passage of key and controversial legislations in Parliament such as the Citizenship Amendment Act and the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. He also supervised the creation of the Ram Mandir Trust and played a critical role in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sources have informed DKB that while the rules state that no officer shall be granted extension in service beyond the retirement age of 60 years. the Centre can give extension in service to the Home. Foreign and Defence secretaries and Director of Intelligence Bureau and Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing among others in "public interest" on a case-to-case basis. Bhalla and Gauba clearly fall in this rare category.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

#### WISDOM CORNER

It is very simple to be happy, but it is very difficult to be simple.

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

Dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let vou sleep

#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### Alcopop

his is a type of alcoholic drink designed and marketed to appeal to young people. The term is a blend of alcohol with pop in the old sense of a sweetish, effervescent fruit drink. Alcopops are an Australian invention which first came on the market in Britain in the summer of 1995, but which later spread to North America, Japan and elsewhere. They are broadly fruit drinks fortified with alcohol — a more formal name for them is alcoholic lemonades - usually with about 5% of alcohol by volume, which makes them rather stronger than most beers. Their makers have always denied that they are expressly targeted at underage drinkers, but a survey of more than 3,000 young people in Britain a couple of years ago, at the height of the craze, found that nearly two-thirds of boys and half of girls were drinking them by the age of 16, and some regular drinkers were as young as 11. The government promised action to curb their promotion to the under-18s, and some supermarkets stopped selling them in response to public pressure, but they have in any case gone out of fashion in Britain, with young people turning to lager instead.

#### Yuletide

My dictionaries of British origin firmly mark this as archaic or dialectal, which will come as a surprise to all the journalists, advertisers and Christmas card scribes who cheerily borrow it as a useful alternative name for the Christmas season. Traditionally, it's true, it has been more a Northern English and Scots word than a common southern English one, and you will be very unlikely to hear it casually used at the supermarket checkout. Yule and Yuletide don't refer only to Christmas day but to all the traditional festive twelve days of Christmas. That goes back to a time before the Christian festival had been thought of. It derives from the Old Norse jól, which was the name of a pagan festival at the winter solstice (and which survives in the modern Scandinavian greeting god Jul, Good Yule or Merry Christmas). The beginning of that festival was marked with the ceremonial lighting of the Yule clog or Yule log, a big log laid across the hearth and lit with a piece of wood from the previous year's log. A traditional Scots dish was Yule brose, the seasonal version of a kind of porridge made from oats on which was poured the juices from boiled meat. The Edinburgh Magazine reported in 1821 that it was usual to put a ring in the communal bowl of Yule brose; the person who got it in their spoon was taken to be the member of the company to be first married.

#### FOCUS HEALTH

# **COMBATING DISINFORMATION**



A. Haseltine

**IN A MISGUIDED EFFORT TO APPEAR AUTHORITATIVE**. **PUBLIC-HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE RARELY TRANSPARENT ABOUT THE NUANCES AND FLUID NATURE OF WHAT THEY** 

**COMMUNICATE** 

s the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rochelle Walensky recently acknowledged, poor public-health communication and messaging throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has damaged the public's trust in health agencies and institutions. This, in turn, contributed to well-known problems such as vaccine hesitancy, noncompliance with mask recommendations and other protective measures, and general misinformation about the virus and how it is transmitted.

According to a 2021 poll from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, only 52% of Americans now place a great deal of trust in the CDC, and only 37% have much confidence in the National Institutes of Health or the Food and Drug Administration. State health departments fare little better. They are trusted by just 41% of Americans, with local health departments trusted by 44%, and the same poll shows that positive ratings of the public health system declined from 43% to 34% between 2009 and 2021.

Clearly, public-health agencies need to win back the public's trust. not just to combat crises like COVID-19 and monkeypox, but also to address a wider range of ongoing health issues. This process must start with a commitment to community engagement, partnerships across other sectors such as housing and education, effective communication at every level, and transparency and integrity in decision-making.

Public-health officials often base their recommendations on incomplete data; as the data evolve, so will the recommendations. However, in a misguided effort to appear authoritative, public-health officials are rarely transparent about the nuances and fluid nature of what they are communicating.

A perfect example is the early advice on how SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted. The CDC was adamant that the coronavirus was spreading on surfaces and not through the air, rather than acknowledging that airborne transmission was still a strong possibility. This ap-



By depicting monkeypox as a sexually transmitted infection, public-health officials could give people the false impression that they are not at risk, preventing them from seeking a diagnosis or isolating if they do contract the virus

proach bred confusion and distrust, because the CDC eventually had to change its advice (as it should have foreseen). After acknowledging that SARS-CoV-2 was spreading through droplets, it finally also conceded that it was spreading through aerosol particles.

As this example shows, credibility often gets confused with infallibility resulting in public-health officials who may be slow to admit mistakes – further undermining their credibility. Transparency is key, especially at a time when peddlers of online misinformation will seize every opportunity to discredit public-health officials. Successful public-health communication establishes credibility by being effective, not by being unchanging.

Another cornerstone of sound communication is clarity. Publichealth officials must explain how data and recommendations relate to people's everyday lives. Whether the information is correct or incorrect is a moot question if the public doesn't understand what is being communicated.

Here, US officials failed the messaging test again when they did not make clear that COVID-19 vaccines' effectiveness was measured by hospitalizations, not infections. The public believed that vaccines would block transmission and infection; but when the Delta and

Omicron variants emerged and caused breakthrough infections to surge, distrust and "booster-shot fatigue" duly followed. As of August 3, only 32% of Americans had received their first booster shot.

In this case, public-health officials could have used the example of the Salk polio vaccine to assure the public that a vaccine doesn't need to prevent infection or transmission outright to eradicate a disease. Or, they could have emphasized how much the vaccines reduce the burden on our hospitals. Unfortunately, other historical

lessons seem not to have sunk in. Many public-health officials have been committing a grave error by stigmatizing monkeypox as a disease that only threatens gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Yet while it is true that this population has been disproportionately affected by the current outbreak, monkeypox can be transmitted in any situation where there is close skin-to-skin contact with lesions.

By depicting monkeypox as a sexually transmitted infection, public-health officials could give people the false impression that they are not at risk, preventing them from seeking a diagnosis or isolating if they do contract the virus. The situation is not dissimilar to the (incorrect) early

messaging about HIV/AIDS spreading only among homosexual pop-

More broadly, public-health messages are best understood and most likely to be believed when they come from trusted individuals within the communities that need to be reached. The messenger is often as important as the message, especially in communities where structural racism and historical traumas have left people disinclined to trust medical authorities.

Rather than issuing authoritative statements and assuming that they will be heeded, local publichealth officials should think of their messaging as being part of an inclusive conversation. They should seek out community voices and trusted advocates such as faith leaders, shelter managers, and food-bank directors to collaborate on messaging and reaching populations that may be vulnerable to health disparities.

Another good approach is the one pioneered by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Health Services Planning Councils. These are community groups appointed by local officials whose members represent the general public, people living with HIV, funded service providers, and other health and so cial service organizations. Planning Council members work together to identify the care needs of people living with HIV. They then determine which services are highest priority, and how much funding should be committed to each. This model of inclusive decision-making could be applied more broadly to public-health planning and resource allocation.

The current climate of "alternative facts" and rampant disinformation presents many challenges to effective public-health communication. But by learning from past mistakes and developing messages that are clear, inclusive and conveyed by the right sources, we can start the difficult but necessary process of rebuilding trust in public-health agencies before the next big crisis strikes.

The author is a scientist, infectious disease expert, and President of the global health think tank ACCESS Health International. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### SPECTRUM FLOOD FURY

By Dhurjati Mukherjee

**IT NEEDS TO BE** 

**UNDERSTOOD** 

THAT OVER THE

YEARS, FLOODS,

**LANDSLIDES AND** 

**OTHER NATURAL** 

**DISASTERS HAVE** 

**REFUGEES THAN** 

FROM ALL THE

**WARS WE HAVE** 

**FOUGHT** 

**LED TO MORE** 

# Holistic strategy vital

very monsoon season brings √ with it headlines of flash ✓floods, landslides and the number of people killed or rendered homeless. Floods are most lethal in India as these account for over 40 percent of deaths out of all natural disasters. These are also the costliest among disasters. accounting for around 70 percent of economic losses caused by all disasters. Between 1980 and 2017, India experienced 235 floods, which led to 126,286 deaths and affected 1.93 billion people. The economic losses due to floods stood at a humongous \$58.7 billion.

The population fatality by floods is the highest in Uttar Pradesh followed by Bihar, Gujarat and Assam with Manipur witnessing the lowest number. However, in recent years, Assam and the north-eastern states have been witness to high levels of inundation.

This year also heavy rainfall has been affecting north-eastern India, particularly in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya since early May, triggering landslides and causing river overflow and floods that have resulted in casualties and damage. Media reports indicate several fatalities due to floods and landslides. About 40,000 persons have been displaced to relief camps, while over 197,000 people have been affected. 12 relief distribution centres have also been opened up.

Not just in the North-East but several other states such as Guiarat. Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand not to speak of Maharashtra's capital Mumbai have witnessed heavy rainfall and a flood-like situation. But surprisingly there has been deficient rainfall in West Bengal and Odisha. Obviously, climate change has made this possible as flood prone areas are suffering due to deficiency in rainfall, while drought prone regions are witnessing heavy rainfall.

The major factors causing floods are obviously meteorological factors such as heavy rainfall, tropical cyclones and cloud burst, physical factors such as large catchment area, and inadequate catchment area and, of course, human factors like deforestation, siltation, faulty agricultural practices, bursting and overflow of dams and, accelerated urbanisation.

Coming to the question of impacts of floods, it is a well-known fact that this affects the poorer and marginalised sections of society, mainly residing in rural areas.

In the NDMA Act, 2005, the responsibilities to act and provide relief flow from the Centre to the bottom (local governance bodies). This means that in a disaster situation, the uniformed forces that go down to the site for relief and response works, which may not be familiar with terrain, find it necessary that local self-governance bodies, such as panchayats, aware of both the area and people much better, would give a helping hand.

With that in mind, after the 2018 Kerala floods, the state government saw the need to alter its disaster management governance. In January 2020, under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, the state government passed an order for the "preparation of disaster management plans by local self-government institutions". Reports reveal that including these disaster plans into Gram Panchayats' Annual Plans has been completed successfully. They are currently gearing towards another round of listing down their projects for relief and response, along with mitigation and flood-proofing activities for their villages.

It needs to be understood that over the years, floods, landslides and other natural disasters have led to more refugees than from all the wars we have fought. Thus, though with the advancement of technology such as satellite and remotesensing equipment, flood waves are being tracked as the water level rises, evacuation and proper rehabilitation is not being successfully

Therefore, the focus of an effective strategy should be on mapping of flood prone areas to give proper indication of water flow during floods and land use control, thereby reducing the danger of life and property, when the waters inundate the flood plains and the coastal areas.

At the same time, authorities should strictly monitor that no major development should be permitted in the areas which are subjected to high flooding.

Finally, to mitigate the impact of floods, there is a need for states to devise long-term disaster management policies which should reach the rural population. The government also need to spend more on flood prevention measures.

# etters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Let's appreciate good cricket

Sir, An India-Pakistan cricket match, especially in an ICC tournament, arouses great interest and is always looked forward to with a lot of excitement. But, our electronic media needlessly creates pre-match hype, which adds a lot of pressure on our players. The hysteria among fans on social media, fuelled by some high-intensity jingoism in chat shows on television channels, turns any Indo-Pak cricket match into a kind of war. And tomorrow's T20 Asia Cup encounter between the two countries will be no different either. The long political rivalry and the diplomatic loggerheads that these two nations are always at will hardly have any relevance when it comes to cricket. So, irrespective of whoever wins tomorrow's game, let's appreciate good cricket.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

#### Cow milk for health care

Sir, Milk is a widely consumed health beverage across the world. Especially, we Indians cannot live without our trusted cow's milk, it happens to be an inseparable part of our daily diet. Right from being a daily dose of good health to being that perfect ingredient for various sweet and savory delicacies, cow milk can amp up the taste as well as health quotient of a dish. Known for its innumerable health benefits and cow milk is a perfect replacement for a complete balanced meal. Cow milk is often compared with other forms of milk available in the market such as goat, buffalo, camel, sheep or even the non-dairy milk such as soy, almond, oatmeal. But cow's milk has some unique nutrients, which cannot be compared with any other

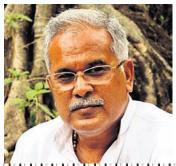
Jayanthy Subramaniam, MUMBAI

#### Doctor's day out

Sir, When COVID imploded, India was in the forefront of the vaccination effort, including our own home-grown vaccine. In spite of the tough times both doctors and health workers do their best and never look for a break in services. The sincerity and the integrity displayed by them are unparalleled and deserve all appreciation. They do have family members to look after and a number of them are having small kids to take care of. Still, they go about the task with the same integrity for a long stretch of time without a grumble.

> Krishnan Subramani **CHENNAI**

# national



The government's threepronged strategy of trust, development and security has resulted in decline in **Naxalite activities** 

BHUPESH BAGHEL

#### **WELCOME STEP**

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to develop Kannauj as a perfume tourism destination. The state government will be holding an international perfume fair in the district in December





The party had given Ghulam Nabi Azad, who ended his fivedecade association with the outfit, everything during his long innings, and his comments on the party scion Rahul Gandhi were

M MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS LEADER



PONDICHERRY CM







#### SHORT TAKES

#### Scam busted

Anand (Gujarat): A fake marriage certificate racket has been busted in Gujarat's Anand district, which was operating for the past two to three years, officials said Friday. If a person was ready to pay a hefty amount for availing a marriage certificate, it was sent to the person's mobile phone. After preliminary inquiry, a village panchayat secretary (Talati) has been suspended and a department probe has been initiated against the official.

#### 7 held for cyber fraud

Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh): The Sitapur police has busted a pan-India gang of cyber frauds by arresting seven people, including two Nigerian nationals, who used to dupe gullible people by offering them expensive 'gifts' at throwaway prices. During initial interrogation, the gang, also comprising five Indians, has allegedly confessed to have duped at least 120 people across India of crores of rupees. Cases against the gang have been registered in New Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and

#### Army to deploy light tanks

New Delhi: The Army is set to procure a fleet of light tanks for deployment in highaltitude areas in eastern Ladakh under 'Proiect Zorawar' to bolster its overall firenower and operational prowess to deal with any eventualities. Sources in the defence and security establishment said the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) or the initial approval to the project is likely to be accorded by the defence ministry next month. The plan for deployment of the light tanks comes amid the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh that severely strained the ties between India and China.

#### Another AQIS member arrested

Goalpara (Assam): A member of the banned Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) with suspected links to Ansarul Bangla Team (ABT) was apprehended in Goalpara district in Assam on Friday, the second such arrest on two consecutive days, police said. This is also the fourth arrest of members of the AQIS, an affiliate of the international terror outfit Al-Qaeda, from the district in a week, district superintendent of police V V Rakesh Reddy said. The arrested person has been identified as Hafizur Rahman, a teacher of Kabaitari Ma Arif Madrasa in Bongaigaon and a resident of Goalpara. He was allegedly involved in recruiting youths to the AQIS from the area and also had links with members of ABT, Reddy said.

# **Exits of Azad, Sibal leave G-23** change seekers in disarray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation from the Congress Friday marked the most high-profile exit of one of the "Group of 23" (G-23) leaders, who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi two years ago for a "collective and inclusive leadership" in the organisation, exposing the fault lines in the grand old party.

The G-23, the members of which were lampooned by the party loyalists after their letter became public on August 24, 2020, has virtually disintegrated over the last two years with the resignations of Azad and Kapil Sibal, seen as the prime movers of the initiative, and others such as Shashi Tharoor, M Veerappa Moily and Mukul Wasnik making peace with the high-com-

Leaders such as Jitin Prasada and Yogananda Shastri have also quit the Congress to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) respectively. Prasada is a minister in the Uttar Pradesh government now, while Shastri heads the Delhi unit of the NCP.

Former Union minister Anand Sharma, who created a flutter recently by resigning as the chairman of the party's steering committee for Himachal Pradesh, months ahead of the Assembly polls in the hill state, appears to be mending his



#### **Eight J&K Congress leaders quit**

Jammu: Hours after former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad quit the Congress, eight senior party leaders including three former ministers resigned the party's primary membership, with sources indicating they may form a new party soon. More leaders, perceived to be close to Azad, are contemplating to resign, the sources said. Former ministers R S Chib, G M Saroori and Abdul Rashid; former MLAs Mohammad Amin Bhat, Gulzar Ahmad Wani and Choudhary Mohammad Akram; former MLC Naresh Gupta and party leader Salman Nizami have resigned in Azad's support, sources said.

ways by asserting his loyalty to the Congress.

"It is also necessary that all of us work together towards achieving our common goal," Sharma said, reiterating that he remained a lifelong Congressman.

The other signatories to the letter sent to the Congress chief two years ago were Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Prithvirai Chavan, Manish Tewari, Milind Deora, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, Vivek

Tankha, Renuka Chowdhary, P J Kurien, Raj Babbar, Kuldeep Sharma, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Kaul Singh Thakur, Ajay Singh and Sandeep Dikshit.

While Tankha has been rehabilitated and sent to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in June. Deora and Tharoor have been given party responsibilities in Maharashtra for the "Bharat

#### **HATE SPEECH CASE** SC relief to Yogi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 26: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed an appeal against denial of sanction to prosecute Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in an alleged 2007 hate speech case.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Hima Kohli and C.T. Ravikumar said: "It appears from the record that the forensic report of the CD which forms the basis of the prosecution was found to be tampered and edited as per the report dated 13.10.2014, submitted by the CFSL which position has not been disputed by the appellants

The bench pointed out that the investigation was closed on May 6, 2017, however a protest petition was pending before the trial court. "In the circumstances, we do not think it necessary to go into the contentions raised by both sides on the issue of denial of sanction for prosecution and the legal pleas sought to be raised in relation to the said issue," it added.

During the hearing in the matter, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the Uttar Pradesh government, submitted that nothing remains in the case and the CD was sent to the CFSL, and it was found to be tampered with.



# BJP serial killer of govts, says Kejriwal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 26: The BJP's 'Operation Lotus' has turned into the mud after coming to Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, adding that he wants to bring the confidence motion in the assembly to show there is no defection in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

While referring to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he said that a 'serial killer that murders all governments has come to the city'. He said while addressing the special session of the Delhi assembly.

"The BJP has dismantled several governments and now they have turned towards Delhi. There is a serial killer of governments in our country. The pattern is the same," Kejriwal said on Friday.

"They have brought down many governments so far, a serial killer has come to the city. This is the pattern of toppling the government everywhere. First send CBI-ED, raid, then scare. We have not done anything wrong, we are not afraid of jail", Kejriwal added.

He said: "Their rate in Maharashtra was Rs 50 crore. Even if Rs 20 crore is considered, then Rs 5,500 crore has been spent for 277 MLAs and Rs 800 crore has been kept for Delhi. Where did this Rs 6,300 crore come from?'

"All this money from GST (Goods and Services Tax) and inflation is being spent for two things -- buying MLAs and to write off loans of the billionaire friends of the government,



The BJP has dismantled several governments and now they have turned towards Delhi. There is a serial killer of governments in our country. The pattern is the same

ARVIND KEJRIWAL I DELHI CM

Kejriwal alleged in his address. The special session of Delhi

Assembly has been called amid a political blame game between the AAP and BJP over Delhi government's excise policy and the alleged offer from BJP to destabilise the government. AAP has been alleging that the BJP was luring party MLAs to topple the Kejriwal government.

"When Maharashtra government was to be toppled, the GST was imposed on milk, curd and buttermilk, when the debts of friends have to be waived, then petrol and diesel have become expensive. There is news that the government of Jharkhand is about to be toppled... in the next few days, GST will be imposed on something or the

# Pendency massive challenge: Ramana



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: Terming pendency of cases a "huge challenge", outgoing Chief Justice of India N V Ramana Friday expressed regret for not being able to pay much attention to issues of listing and posting of matters for hearing in the Supreme Court.

The outgoing CJI Friday, said there is a need to deploy modern technology tools and artificial intelligence to find a solution.

'Even though we tried developing some modules, because of the compatibility and security issues, we could not make much progress," Justice Ramana, who was heading the ceremonial bench, said

He said during the COVID-19 pandemic, the priority was running of the courts and unlike commercial establishments, "we cannot secure the technological tools from the market directly"

"We have to admit the fact that

We have to admit the fact that the pendency is a huge challenge before us. I must admit that issues of listing and posting of matters is one of the areas on which I could not pay much attention. I am sorry

NV RAMANA | OUTGOING CJI

the pendency is a huge challenge before us. I must admit that issues of listing and posting of mat ters is one of the areas on which I could not pay much attention. I am sorry for that," the outgoing CJI said, adding, "We are busy in fire-fighting on all days".

Recently, senior advocate and former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Dushvant Dave had said that the CJI should not have the power to assign and list cases, and a fully automated system for allocation be put in place in the top court.

He had referred to the problems faced by young lawyers in getting their matters listed in the apex

In his first farewell speech for the day, Ramana said the needs of the judiciary were different from those of the rest.

He said unless the bar was willing to extend its whole-hearted cooperation, it would be difficult to bring in necessary changes.



Fishermen cast their net in Yamuna river in the backdrop of Taj Mahal in Agra

#### Mumbai police warned of 'Somalia-like' attack

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 26: The Mumbai police Friday received a warning - this time cautioning them to "avoid a Somalia-type attack" in India, in the reference to the attack on a hotel in the

African country's capital. The latest warning was received on the Mumbai Traffic Police helpline number from an international number and the matter is being probed as per established procedures of the Mumbai Cyber Police Cell. The series of threats, and warnings are being taken seriously

particularly in view of the ensuing 10-day Ganeshotsav festival start ing from August 31 when lakhs of people troop out on to the roads.

The latest message came after the first potential threat on August 18 when a yacht with 3 AK-56s and ammunition washed ashore in Raigad, followed by WhatsApp messages on August 20 warning of a "26/11-style" attack in Mumbai. The police were on high alert after an extortion threat was received by the Hotel Lalit near the Mumbai Airport on August 23, failing which bomb blasts would be triggered at the hotel, but it turned out to be a hoax

### Govt working on new method of toll collection



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 26: The government is working on a new system for toll collection through automatic number plate reader cameras, which will read vehicle number plates and automatically deduct toll from the linked bank accounts of vehicle owners.

While the purpose is to remove toll plazas on national highways. some commuters are apprehensive that it will force them to adopt a new way to pay toll.

The new system will operate through automatic number plate reader cameras, which will read vehicle number plates and automatically deduct toll from the linked bank accounts of vehicle owners.

Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari recently said that a pilot of this scheme is underway and legal amendments to facilitate this transition are also being moved.

"In 2019, we made a rule that cars

have different number plates. Now, the plan is to remove toll plazas and put cameras, which will read these number plates and toll will be deducted from the account directly. We are also doing a pilot of this scheme," said the minister.

The minister mentioned that there is no provision under the law to penalise the vehicle owner who skips the toll plaza and does not

pay.
"We need to bring that provision under the law. We may bring in a provision for cars which do not have these number plates to get them installed within a certain period of time. We will need to bring in a Bill for this," he added.

Earlier, during a Question Hour in the Upper House in the first week

# Taiwan looking at 'tea culture' to boost cultural ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: Taiwan is looking at using its "tea culture" as a new source of soft power diplomacy to boost cultural and peopleto-people connect with India's Northeastern region.

Taiwan's representative to India, Ambassador Baushuan Ger, says Taiwan produces distinctive varieties of tea and the common tea culture between the two countries can act as a catalyst to deepen bilateral cultural ties.

Ger was speaking at an event titled 'Chai pe Charcha with Taiwan' which was attended by Taiwanese tea experts, diplomats, India entrepreneurs in the tea industry, academics and a group of students from Taiwan.

The initiative to enhance cultural ties between the two countries comes amid escalating tensions between Taiwan and China



following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to the self-governing island.

Currently, a team of students and experts in tea processing from Taiwan's National Chung Hsing University is visiting India. The university, one of oldest and largest educational institutions in Taiwan, started the 'Wisdom Tea Platform' for promoting tea research and collaboration between industries and academics.

The platform organised a series of workshops and events promoting tea and developing tea-related products. It also provided courses for students and the general public to learn about tea culture in Taiwan.

It also trains tea masters for promoting tea art and helping industries improve their products. Under the 'Wisdom Tea' initiative, Taiwan is now exploring ways to boost people-to-people connect with India. It has already established contact with Tea Board of India and Tocklai Tea Research Institute in Assam. Taiwanese officials said the team from the National Chung Hsing

University (NCHU) that is currently on a visit to India comprised two professors, four representatives from tea industries, two professional tea masters, and five postgraduate students. They have visited Assam and

Mizoram in the past two weeks and will travel to Meghalaya after the short visit to Delhi."The significance of this team is that five students from Taiwan will conduct an internship in tea estates in India," said a Taiwanese official.

"This is the first time in history Taiwanese students learning tea processing in India, and first time Taiwanese tea experts working in India since the introduction of Assam tea to Taiwan a century ago," he said.

will come with company-fitted number plates. So, the vehicles that have come in the last four years

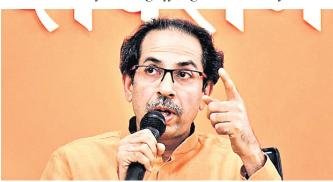
of August, the Minister said toll plazas have created many problems like traffic snarls and long queues, which the government wants to end. He said the government is looking for two options -- satellite-based toll system where the GPS will be there in a car and the toll will be directly subtracted from the passenger's bank account and the other option is through number plates.

**FESTIVE PREPAREDNES** 

#### SATURDAY | AUGUST 27 | 2022 | BHUBANESWAF

# **Sena joins hands** with Maratha outfit Sambhaji Brigade

Announcing the new tie-up at a press conference, Thackeray also took on his former ally, the BJP, saying that "some people" think that democracy means finishing off regional identity



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 26: Shiv Sena chief Uddhay Thackeray Friday announced an alliance with Sambhaji Brigade, a prominent Maratha organisation. The alliance was ideological and forged to uphold the Constitution and regional pride, he said.

The development came at a time when the Thackeray-led Sena is still recovering from the impact of Eknath Shinde's rebellion and resultant loss of power in Maharashtra

Announcing the new tie-up at a press conference here, Thackeray also took on his former ally, the BJP, saying that "some people" who think that democracy means finishing off regional identity and regional parties are speaking and behaving in uncontrolled manner.

Sambhaji Brigade had hit national headlines in 2004 when its activists were accused of ransacking the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune as part of protests against an objectionable passage in James Laine's biography of King Shivaji.

But the accused in the case were acquitted in 2017. To a question about the ideological dissonance that might arise in the alliance. Thackeray asked whether

the BJP was working according to the ideals of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Over the last two months, he was being contacted by parties which are ideologically closer to the Sena and also those whose ideology is diametrically opposite, the former Chief Minister said. But all these parties think that they should come together to save regional pride and regional parties, Thackeray added. Talking about the ongoing legal battle between his faction and the rebel Sena MLAs led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in the Supreme Court, Thackeray said the outcome will decide whether there will be democracy or autocracy in the country.

He also announced that he will be touring the state around Dussehra and is currently focusing on building the party organisation. Manoj Akhare, the chief of Sambhaji Brigade, said the organization formed its political wing in 2016. Reacting to the news, Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule told reporters in Nagpur that as no mainstream party was willing to join hands with Uddhav Thackeray, he was now forging alliance with a party whose candidates could not even save their deposits in the last Assembly polls.

# **Website launched**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, have launched www.Askiitm.Com to clear doubts of IIT aspirants on a range of subjects such as placement, faculty, academics and campus culture, the institute said Friday.

Visitors can browse the site and get information on questions already posted on the site or ask about their own. The website is an

Calling upon JEE candidates to utilise the website, professor V Kamakoti, Director, IIT-Madras, said though aspirants rely on social media, there is so much in-

The need for a credible source of information is very high. I am thrilled that the passionate alumni of this great institute are pro-

The site allows anyone to ask a question related to the institute, which would be answered within 48 hours by a group of alumni and student-volunteers through email and/or Whatsapp. The new question would be available on the site for the benefit of others.

Speaking about it, professor Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean (Alumni and Corporate Relations), IIT Madras, said the alumni are best placed to answer questions about IIT-Madras since they have first-hand experience of both the institution as well as placements after graduation.

As part of the initiative, the IIT-Madras Alumni Association is hosting interaction events in Chennai, Hyderabad and Vijayawada between September 2 and 4. Those appearing for JEE can attend the events and ask questions to the director and the alumni present, a release said.



# for IIT-M aspirants

Chennai, August 26: The alumni

alumni-run initiative.

formation that it is confusing.

viding this via askiitm," he said.





Idols of Lord Ganesha are covered with plastic sheets to protect them from rains, ahead of the upcoming 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

# TN: PETA submits report on abuse of elephant in temple

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 26: Just when it looked like that life was improving for this temple elephant, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India, has submitted a new veterinary inspection report to forest department officials in Tamil Nadu and Assam showing the continued abuse of the captive tusker, Jeymalyatha.

The shocking report also reveals that the tusker was beaten so savagely she can be heard screaming in pain in a viral video filmed at the holiest of places -- the sanctum sanctorum of the Krishnan Kovil temple, where she is kept chained to the floor. Previously, a video showed Jeymalyatha screaming while being beaten by two mahouts at a rejuvenation camp.

Although the Tamil Nadu Forest  $Department\,had\,encouraged\,PETA$ India to inspect the elephant and report on its findings, the mahout

SHOCKING REPORT

Thirukovil temple for over a decade and she is now at the nearby Krishnan Kovil temple e recent evidence of

tigating team to openly take photographs and video footage.Cruelty to Jeymalyatha appears to be so routine that the mahout used pliers to painfully twist her skin to control her even in front of inspectors.

refused to allow the group's inves-

For the four hours during which inspectors were with the elephant, no water or food was offered. And as she's forced to spend most of her life on concrete, her feet are painfully

put in place after numerous other mahouts were caught infected, PETA India stated Friday. Following complaints filed by PETA India and the intervention

to Animals Act. 1960, was regis-

tered against the mahout.

while performing their duties. The Army has evinced keen interest to utilise Garuda Aerospace expertise and technical knowledge of the government body the in the field of drone technology to Animal Welfare Board of India use drones more effectively, the company said in a statement here. after two viral videos showed mahouts beating Jeymalyatha, a first information report under sections of the Indian Penal Code. 1860, and the Prevention of Cruelty

The Army intends to further the usage of drones in its day-to-day activities as well as bolster effectiveness of special missions by detecting and disrupting transnational organised criminal networks, it said.

Garuda Aerospace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

to offer multipurpose

drones to Indian Army

Chennai, August 26: Drone startup

Garuda Aerospace would be

offering its multipurpose drones for

strategic and tactical operations

Garuda Aerospace has been

invited by the Army to dispatch

its technical team to undertake

the modification and help them

maintain timeline and operations

of the Army, the company said.

#### Now, Tamil culture & heritage mandatory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

for engg students

Chennai, August 26: The engineering students of Anna University in Tamil Nadu will now have to learn the heritage and culture of the state in their engineering syllabus. The university has designed two unique courses, Ariviyal Tamil (Scientific thoughts and studies in Tamil) and Tamilar Marabu (Heritage of Tamils).

The university has made both these courses mandatory for all engineering students with Arivival Tamil being taught for the first semester and Tamilar Marabu for the second semester. The courses are taught to provide an insight



to the students into the rich culture and heritage of the state. The courses would also provide the students detailed information on the engineering techniques that were practiced in Tamil Nadu to construct architectural marvels.

Anna University Vice Chancellor, RVelraj told IANS that the curriculum for the courses is being prepared and would be released before the commencement of the first semester classes.

He also said that the universitv has decided to include these two subjects as part of engineering studies for the students to understand the rich Tamil cultural heritage and to make the students connect with their roots, appreciate, and preserve it.

The Vice Chancellor also said that the course material will be printed in both Tamil and English. He said that the preference was for preparing the material in Tamil language only as it would help the students have a better grip on the mother language.

### Eight suspected cases reported in Pune district



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, August 26: Eight suspected cases of lumpy skin disease in cattle have been reported from a village in Junnar tehsil of Pune district, a senior official has said.

A team of the district health department's disease investigation section will visit the Mandave village during the day to collect samples for examination, said Ayush Prasad, chief executive officer of the Pune Zilla Parishad.

The area is located about 90 km

from Pune city. Seven bulls and a cow were found to have symptoms of the viral infection in the village but no death has been reported, Prasad had said Thursday.

"Isolation measures such as the closing of (animal) markets, prevention of transportation and ring vaccination would be taken. Aggressive treatment is being given to the unwell animals," he said in a statement.

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 26: Nearly seven weeks after losing power in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has revamped the party in Uttar Pradesh - its second biggest unit outside the home state, officials

said here Friday. A sparkling new 46-member Uttar Pradesh Shiv Sena (UPSS) team has been formed, incorporating a first -- a Muslim woman Nazia Khan appointed as General Secretary (GS) -- along with two other women leaders, Sonu Singh

Thakur and Savita Shrivastav. According to UPSS Chief Spokesperson and office head Vishvjeet Singh, the 46-member apex body comprises the state President Anil Singh Thakur, 10 Vice Presidents, 6 GS, 11 Secretaries.



6 State Organisers, a 3-member panel of spokespersons, and 8 state executive committee members.

'These appointments have been made with the approval of the Party President Thackeray with immediate effect, and now we shall plunge full-fledged into preparations for ensuing Uttar Pradesh civic polls, the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2027 UP Assembly elections," said Singh. The Sena plans to contest all the upcoming civic elections in Uttar Pradesh putting up a maximum number of candidates with possibility of local alliances, as decided by the central leadership, said a party leader in Mumbai.

The Uttar Pradesh leaders are also likely to be deployed for the ensuing Maharashtra civic elections to woo the north Indian voters, particularly in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad and certain other regions where they are in significant numbers, he added. Singh said the new body will launch a state-wide membership drive with a target of over 100,000 people who will be enrolled by December. 'Thereafter, in all the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, we shall launch an intensive membership drive with at least 100,000 enrolments per dis trict before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," said the Chief Spokesperson. Shiv Sena, which has been on the fringes in Uttar Pradesh since 30 years, almost equivalent to its rule over the country's biggest and richest civic body, BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), now plans to spread wings in a big way in that state

# The rise and fall of the Pani Panchayat in Maharashtra

IANS/ 101REPORTERS

Pune, Aug 26: It was as a sevenyear-old growing up in Naigaon that Balasaheb Kad saw the concept of Pani Panchayat transform his drought-prone village into a region of plenty.

'Canal construction, lift irrigation schemes and collective management of water resources benefited many farmers," he recalls. THE PANI PANCHAYAT MODEL OF WATER EQUITY

It was the visionary Vilasrao Salunkhe who first mooted the concept of water equity, after observing the plight of rural folk during the 1972-73 drought in Maharashtra. Being a common property resource (CPR), Salunkhe felt that water should not be distributed in proportion to the size of the land. Salunkhe's model of participatory develop-

ment so impressed the then Maharashtra Chief Minister Vasantdada Patil that he coined the slogan 'Pani Adwa, Pani Jirwa,' (hold water, harvest water) in consultation with Salunkhe.

THE NAIGAON EXPERIMENT In drought-prone Naigaon, water had always been scarce. In 1972, the village suffered a devastating drought. Taking 40 acres of barren land from the village temple trust, Salunkhe constructed a pond on it. When the rains arrived in June, the ponds accumulated water, reducing the severity of the drought and leading to good crops. THE PRINCIPLES OF PANI

PANCHAYAT The Pani Panchayat system functioned on the basis of 'Panchsutri',

or five principles: Water should be shared on the basis of the number of members per family, not in proportion to

the land owned. Every household was given water rights up to a maximum of 25 acres, with an allocation of 0.5 acre per capita. Land in excess was to be rain-fed.

All members had rights to irrigation. These rights were not attached to the land. If the land was sold, water rights would revert to the Pani Panchayat. Members were to contribute 20 per cent of the initial capital cost, with the remaining 80% being provided by the GGP as an interest-free loan, in case of non-availability of government subsidy. In case of availability of 50 per cent through government subsidy, the remaining 30 per cent would be met by GGP as an interest-free loan.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE SYSTEM Unfortunately once water was ensured through judicious administering of resources, the very principles governing its management were ignored by the beneficiaries. In Mahur, farmers started cultivating sugarcane, which the Panchsutri principles had barred.

Justifying the departure, farmer Ram Jagtap tells 101Reporters, "We had saved water by applying rules of controlled extraction from the waterbodies. It was through our own efforts that we made it last through summers, which probably the government couldn't. Seasonal crops do not guarantee the kind of returns sugarcane can; sugarcane can enrich lives." The sarpanch of Naigaon, who saw everything unfold in his village, recalls the decline of the Pani

Panchayat system. Naigaon resident Sanjay Hole, who had worked with Salunkhe in his village, says: "Salunkhe used to insist that at least half an acre of land be cultivated as per the principles of the Pani Panchayat. Many schemes were then implemented in Naigaon, Purandar and

other parts of Maharashtra."

The underlying reasons for de-

parture from the participatory model of the Pani Panchayat, though, were summed up by Salunkhe's daughter Sonali Shinde, who is now Managing Director of the Pani Panchavat.

THE CURRENT SCENARIO Recently, authorities sanctioned

Rs 2.62 crore for the repair of the many canals and water bodies that Salunkhe had built when he worked in these villages. The repairs are  $\rightarrow$ currently underway.

While the implementation of the noble idea appears to be on the decline, it remains to be seen whether villagers will wake up to the benefits of the Pani Panchayatand cooperative management in the days to come, once again.

# national



**Prime Minister Modi gets** insecure seeing good work by others. I have not seen a more insecure person than him. Had Arvind **Kejriwal been the prime minister, he** would not have done something like in some other government

#### **WOMAN KILLS TODDLER IN UP**

In a shocking incident, a woman sacrificed her 18-month-old nephew as a part of a 'tantrik' ritual. The incident took place at Malakpur village under Adampur police station in Amroha district





no comparison northeastern state and Delhi as the national capital is

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

The Congress everything to Azad saab. Today, his because of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv

Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao and Sonia Gandhi. I do not think the way he has expressed this sentiment can be called proper ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM



there is no governance, as stated by Minister Madhuswamy himself

SIDDARAMAIAH | CONGRESS LEADER

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Anil Deshmukh** hospitalised

Mumbai: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh was taken to the state-run J J Hospital here after he fainted in the prison on Friday, an official said. Deshmukh. lodged in the Arthur Road prison here in an alleged corruption case, felt dizzy and fainted, a prison official said. The Nationalist Congress Party leader also complained of chest pain. His blood pressure was found to have increased and ECG report was abnormal, the official said. adding that Deshmukh was undergoing treatment at the hospital now.

#### **Eight injured**

Thane: Eight school children were injured when a truck rammed into a stationary state transport bus in Maharashtra's Thane district on Friday, an official said. The accident occurred around 7.30 am at Sapne on Wada Manor road, he said. A truck rammed into the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus, which had halted at a bus stop to pick up passengers, depot manager Madhukar Dhangda said.

#### Six found dead

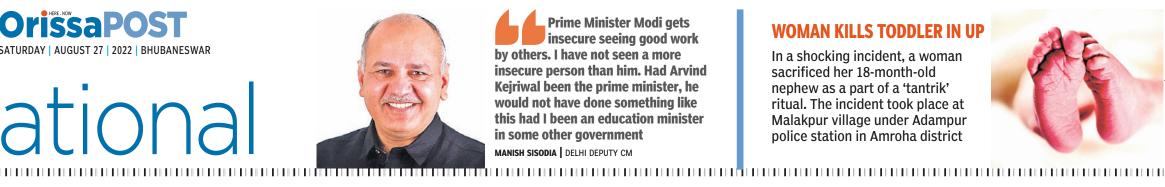
Chandigarh: Six members of a family were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Balana village of Ambala in Haryana Friday, police said. As per preliminary investigation, Sukhvinder poisoned the family before killing self by hanging. The bodies have been sent to the Civil Hospital at Ambala City for a postmortem examination.

#### Two more tremors in J&K

Jammu: Two more tremors jolted Jammu and Kashmir Friday as 11 tremors occurred in the union territory during the last four days. Data revealed by the National Center for Seismology (NCS) recorded two tremors in J&K on Friday. First tremor measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale occurred at 3.28 a.m. with latitude 33.17 degrees north and longitude 75.57 degrees east. The epicentre was 3.5 kms north-east of Doda town. The depth was 5 kms inside the earth's crust.

### Yogi's OSD

Basti: Motilal Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Officer On Special Duty (OSD), died Friday in a road accident. His wife is in critical condition and has been referred to the Gorakhpur Medical College.



this had I been an education minister MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

# Sonali's drink was spiked: Goa cops

The motive behind her murder could be "economic interest", said a senior police official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, August 26: BJP leader Sonali Phogat was fed some "obnoxious chemical" through her drinks by the two accused during a party at a North Goa restaurant which apparently caused her death, police said Friday.

The motive behind her murder could be "economic interest", said a senior police official. Sudhir Sagwan and Sukhwinder Singh, named as accused in the case related to Phogat's `murder', were her associates and had arrived in Goa with her on August 22.

They have been detained by Goa Police and would be arrested soon, said Inspector General of Police Omvir Singh Bishnoi. Both the accused were seen mixing "some obnoxious chemical substance" in the liquid which was fed to Phogat twice, he said.

The incident took place at Curlies Restaurant at Anjuna in North Goa district on the intervening night of August 22 and 23, Bishnoi said. Sagwan and Singh confessed during questioning that they had intentionally mixed the substance

in her drinks, he said.

The motive behind killing her could be some "economic interest," the IGP said. The two men were seen taking Phogat to the washroom of the restaurant around 4.30 am on August 23 and the three of them were inside the washroom for two hours, he said.

Custodial interrogation will throw light on what happened during those two hours, Bishnoi added. Two other women were also with the accused at the party and were seen cutting a cake, he said, adding that both were being questioned.

Asked about the "multiple blunt force injuries" on her body mentioned in the post-mortem report, Bishnoi said as per the accused these could have been caused by abrasion while she was being taken to the hospital. When she was taken to the hospital, there were no visible injuries, hence the doctors suspected that she died due to a heart attack, the IGP said.

But Phogat seemed to have actually died due to the substance she was fed at the restaurant, he said.

Police will also record the statement of taxi drivers who ferried her from Curlies restaurant to the hotel where she was staying and later to the hospital, Bishnoi said. More people were supposed to join Phogat and others from Mumbai, the police official said.



### Freebies can push state to bankruptcy, says SC ing the State, as the same falls

New Delhi, August 26: Freebies are extended utilising taxpayers money and may push the state towards "imminent bankruptcy", the Supreme Court said Friday, as it directed that the pleas against the practice of political parties promising pre-election handouts be listed before a three-judge Observing that issues raised

before it require an "extensive" hearing, the top court said though all promises cannot be equated with freebies as they relate to welfare schemes or measures for the public good, fiscal responsibility cannot be dispensed with under the guise of electoral promises. It said these schemes are not only part of the Directive Principles of State Policy but are also a responsibility of the welfare state.

"Freebies may create a situation wherein the state government cannot provide basic amenities due to lack of funds and the State

denying the fact that in an true power ultimately lies

is pushed towards imminent bankruptcy. In the same breath, we should remember that such freebies are extended utilising taxpayers' money only for increasing the popularity of the party and electoral prospects," a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said.

People ride a boat to cross the swollen Ganga river following incessant monsoon rainfall in Patna

The court order on Justice Ramana's last day in office comes against the backdrop of the freebies versus welfare scheme debate that has sparked a political slugfest in recent weeks.

with the electorate The apex court said that there can be no denying the fact that in an electoral democracy, the true power ultimately lies with the

he top court said the

issues raised by the

'extensive hearing' before

he apex court said that

any concrete orders can

there can be no

electoral democracy, the

parties require an

be passed

electorate. "It is the electorate that decides which party or candidate comes to power, and also judges the performance of the said party or candidate at the end of the legislative term, during the next round of the elections. "This Court has generally stayed its hand when confronted with issues relating to a prising Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar, said The top court said the issues raised by the parties require an "extensive hearing" before any con-

outside the ambit of the Court's

jurisdiction," the bench, also com-

crete orders can be passed It noted there are certain preliminary issues that may be needed to be deliberated upon in these

The issues included the scope of judicial intervention with respect to the reliefs sought in these pleas, whether any enforceable order can be passed by this court in these writ petitions and whether the appointment of a commission/expert body by the court

would serve any purpose. The bench said it was argued before it that the 2013 judgement delivered by a two-judge bench of the apex court in the matter of S Subramaniam Balaii vs The Government of Tamil Nadu and

### **RJD** leader elected as M-16 rifle recovery unusual: Army

**Bihar Assembly Speaker** 

Patna, August 26: Veteran RJD leader Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was on Friday unanimously elected as Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

The post had fallen vacant upon resignation of Vijay Kumar Sinha, against whom a no confidence motion was moved by the 'Mahagathbandhan', after it came to power in the state earlier this month. Chaudhary was escorted to the Chair by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Sinha, a senior BJP leader, who has now become the Leader of the Opposition.

The proceedings were, however, marked by BJP members creating a ruckus over "dropping" from the list of businesses a report of the Ethics Committee.

The report was on the conduct of several MLAs of the RJD, which was then in the opposition, in March last year when Sinha was held hostage inside the Speaker's chamber for several hours.

#### Man shot for refusing to accept torn note

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shahjahanpur, August 26: A 21year-old pizza delivery man in Uttar Pradesh was shot by two men when he refused to accept a torn Rs 200 note as payment. The victim, Sachin Kashyap, was rushed to a hospital. SHO of Sadar Bazar, Amit Pandey said an FIR has been registered against the accused, Nadeem Khan, 27 and his brother Naeem, 29. The two have been arrested and

country-made pistols were recovered from their possession. Nadeem had ordered a pizza over the phone when the outlet was about to close at 11 pm Wednesday. At around 11:30 pm, Sachin and his colleague, Ritik Kumar, delivered the food and left after taking payment. The colleagues then went to buy a soft drink with the Rs 200 note that they were paid with. However, the shopkeeper told them it was torn. The two went back, knocked on Nadeem's door, and requested him to replace the note. However: Nadeem got angry and started abusing them. Soon, his brother came out and allegedly shot Sachin with a country-made pistol.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, August 26: The Kerala

High Court Friday directed the

State government to issue necessary

orders to close down if any religious

place or prayer hall is functioning

without necessary permission, ob-

serving that the people of the south-

ern State were "exhausted with re-

ment to issue a separate circu-

lar/order prohibiting change of

category of a building to a reli-

gious place/prayer hall except in

inevitable circumstances and in

the rarest of rare case, and that

also only after getting a report

from the police and the Intelligence

ascertaining the ground realities

of that particular place.

The court directed the govern-

ligious places and prayer halls."

#### The Army said two AK series weapons, one Chinese M-16 weapon and ammunition were recovered from the

Pakistani militants killed in Kamalkote area of Uri while trying to infiltrate into the Indian side

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 26: Security forces have recovered a Chinesemade M-16 assault rifle from the three militants killed Thursday during an anti-infiltration operation along the Line of Control in Uri, with the Army describing the recovery as "unusual".

The army said two AK series weapons, one Chinese M-16 weapon and ammunition were recovered from the Pakistani militants killed in Kamalkote area of Uri while trying to infiltrate into



the Indian side.

'Usually, we find AK series and at times, the M-4 rifles being recovered. This M-16 is a Chinesemade 9-mm calibre weapon. This is an unusual recovery," General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 19 Infantry Division Major General Ajay Chandpuri told reporters in Baramulla in north

He, however, said it would be premature to say if this hints at a probable nexus between the Pakistani Army, terrorists, and the Chinese Army."It would be too premature to speculate on the larger context of it. So, I think, we will have to really examine and go into the details." he said.

On the number of militants on the launchpads across the LoC, Maj Gen Chandpuri said based on multiple inputs "there were close to 100-120 terrorists attempting to infiltrate and present in 15-20 launchpads which are close to the LoC", opposite this sector alone.

"So, while the ceasefire under-

to push in these people from anyway possible. This one attempt

standing is largely holding good

The court issued the order while

disposing of a plea filed by a Society

called Noorul Islam Samskarika

Sangam seeking to convert a com-

mercial building at Amarambalam

Grama Panchayat to a Muslim

place of worship at a village near

Nilambur in Malappuram district.

retary to issue necessary or-

ders/circulars directing the com-

petent authority as per the Manual

of Guidelines to consider each ap-

It directed the State chief sec-

he said, with each passing day, the level of technology and alertness is improving. "So, the infiltration has come down significantly, which is also indicated by the peace in the hinterland. So, we feel they are getting more and more desperate

for the benefit of the people on the

both sides, the presence of ter-

rorists on the launchpads and their

continuous attempts to infiltrate are

The GoC said Pakistan is des-

perate and frustrated, and will con-

tinue to try to infiltrate terrorists

and send in arms and ammuni-

tion despite a robust anti-infiltra-

includes very difficult terrain and

then there were spells of inclement

weather. So, despite the vigilance,

there are gaps from where they

try and infiltrate terrorists and

war-like stores," he said. However,

The LoC is over 740 km which

on," he added.

tion grid in place.

made early in the morning is indicative of their desperation and their frustration," he said.

Kerala HC orders to close down illegal religious places cation for religious places and

> prayer halls, it said. "Because of the peculiar geographical location of Kerala, it is known as 'God's own country'. But we are exhausted with religious places and prayer halls and we are not in a position to allow any new religious places and prayer halls except in the rarest of rare cases," the

> High Court said. The court observed that the Society sought to change the commercial building into a Muslim place of worship at a place where there are about 36 mosques within 5-km radius of this building and "then why another prayer hall for the petitioner is a million dollar question." The petitioner moved the court after the district authorities rejected its demand.

"Even then the petitioner wants another place of worship for the reason that 'five times prayer' is necessary for a Muslim and therefore, a prayer hall is necessary within the vicinity of every Muslim. If this is allowed then in every nook and corner of the State, place of worship and prayer halls would be necessary", the court said while doing a detailed consideration of the matter.

In its order, the court, referring to 2011 census report, said there are a sufficient number of religious places and prayer halls to all the communities in the state. The court said the government and the local bodies should be vigilant while granting permission for religious places and prayer halls in future.

### dies in accident

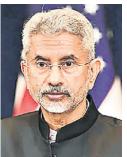


"The Chief Secretary of State of Kerala and the State Police Chief shall issue necessary orders/circulars directing all the officer concerned to see that there is no illegal functioning of any religious places and prayer halls without obtaining permission

as per the Manual of Guidelines and if any such religious place or prayer hall is functioning without necessary permission, to take necessary steps to close down the same forthwith", Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said in the order. plication to start religious places and prayer halls strictly and the approval can be granted only in appropriate cases. In the order/circular, it should

be clearly mentioned that the distance to the nearest similar religious place / prayer hall is one of the criteria while considering the appli-

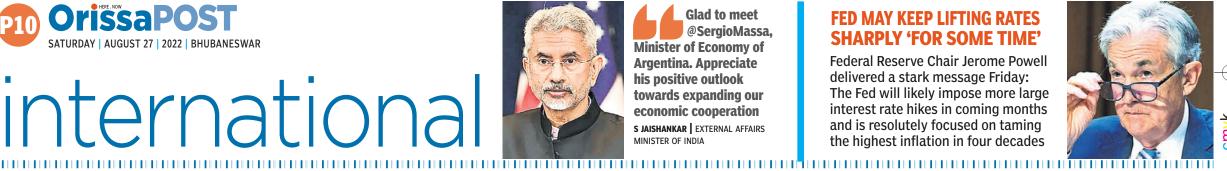
# international



**Glad to meet** @SergioMassa, **Minister of Economy of Argentina. Appreciate** his positive outlook towards expanding our economic cooperation S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### FED MAY KEEP LIFTING RATES **SHARPLY 'FOR SOME TIME'**

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered a stark message Friday: The Fed will likely impose more large interest rate hikes in coming months and is resolutely focused on taming the highest inflation in four decades



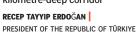


The negative attributed to me about PM Shehbaz Sharif are misleading and

teachers are to receive a considerable and added

putting in extra hours voluntarily EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

I once again declare to the whole world that our struggle will not end until we secure our southern borders with a 30kilometre-deep corridor



#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### China, US sign deal on audit dispute

Hong Kong: The US audit regulator said Friday it has signed an agreement with Chinese regulators, taking a first step toward inspecting and investigating registered accounting firms in China and Hong Kong. The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) said it was the most detailed and prescriptive agreement the regulator has ever reached with China.

#### Philippine ferry catches fire

Manila: A Philippine ferry carrying 82 passengers and crew caught fire as it was approaching a port south of Manila Friday and at least 73 of those aboard have been rescued, the coast guard said Search and rescue efforts were continuing after nightfall for the passengers and crew of the M/V Asia Philippines, an inter-island cargo and passenger vessel which came from nearby Calapan city in Oriental Mindoro province, the coast guard said.

#### **Turkish pop star** jailed over joke

Ankara: Turkish pop star Gulsen has been arrested on charges of "inciting hatred and enmity" with a joke she made about Turkey's religious schools, the country's staterun news agency reported. The 46-year-old singer and songwriter, whose full name is Gulsen Colakoglu, was taken away from her home in Istanbul for questioning and formally arrested late Thursday. She was then taken to a prison pending trial.

#### Law against sexual violence in Spain

Madrid: People in Spain will have to explicitly voice their consent to sexual acts in the future to ensure that they are not criminal, under a legislation passed by Parliament. The conservative People's Party (PP) and rightwing populist Vox party voted against the so-called "Yes Means Yes" law, arguing that it goes against the spirit of innocence until proven guilty, reports dpa news agency.

#### Moderna sues Pfizer

New York: Biotechnology major Moderna Friday sued rival Pfizer and BioNTech over alleged infringement of its messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine technology patents. In the lawsuit filed in the US and Germany, Moderna alleged that Pfizer and BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine 'Comirnaty' unlawfully infringes patents Moderna filed between 2010 and 2016 for its foundational mRNA technology, critical to vaccine, 'Spikevax'.

# Queen may appoint new UK PM in Scotland: Report

It is very rare for any British monarch not to anoint a new Prime Minister at Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 26: In a historic first, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is likely to conduct the traditional ceremony to appoint a newly elected leader as the country's Prime Minister at her Balmoral Castle residence in Scotland, according to

Kyiv, August 26:-The world nar-

rowly escaped a radiation disas-

ter when electricity to Europe's

largest nuclear power plant was

cut off for hours. Ukraine's presi-

dent said, urging international

bodies to act faster to force Russian

said Russian shelling Thursday

had sparked fires in the ash pits of

a nearby coal power station that dis-

connected the Zaporozhzhia plant

from the power grid. A Russian

official said Ukraine was to blame.

sured power supply vital for cool-

ing and safety systems at the plant,

Zelenskyy said, praising the

Ukrainian technicians who oper-

ate the plant under the gaze of the

acted after the blackout, then we

would have already been forced to

"If our station staff had not re-

Russian military.

Back-up diesel generators en-

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

troops to vacate the site.

a media report Friday.

The 96-year-old monarch, who has been experiencing age-related mobility issues, is on her annual summer vacation in Scotland.

'The Sun' newspaper claims that secret plans have been drawn up for her to receive either former Chancellor Rishi Sunak or Foreign Secretary Liz Truss at her Balmoral base rather than make the journey down to Buckingham Palace in London or Windsor Castle in southeast England.

The new Conservative Party leader will be elected on September 5 and is then scheduled for an audience with the

'Ukraine narrowly

escapes N-disaster'

west of the plant, expressed alarm

entire world is afraid. I really want

the situation to become peaceful

again," said businessman

Volodymyr, 35, who declined to

be overcome and additional facil-

ities to be operational." Ukraine's

"I want the power shortages to

"Of course everyone is afraid, the

at the situation.

give his last name.

Queen the day after to be formally appointed as Boris Johnson's suc-



**Russia has put Ukraine** 

and all Europeans in a

situation one step away

from a radiation disaster...

**Every minute that Russian** 

troops remain at the nuclear

power station there is a risk

of the plant's two functioning re-

actors had been reconnected to

Vladimir Rogov, a Russian-ap-

pointed official in the occupied

town of Enerhodar near the plant.

blamed Ukrainian armed forces

for Thursday's incident, saying

they caused a fire in a forest near

the plant. Meanwhile, authori-

ties began distributing iodine

tablets to residents near

Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

Friday in case of a radiation

leak, amid mounting fears that

the fighting around the complex

Concerns about the site have

could trigger a catastrophe.

reverberated across Europe.

of a global radiation

catastrophe

that grid.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY

Downing Street. A final decision on whether she stays on will be announced publicly next week because the outgoing and incoming prime ministers need advance notice, the newspaper said.

It would be the first time in living memory that the so-called "kissing of the hands" of the monarch by the leader of the majority party in Parliament happens outside London or Windsor.

"It may not be the best choice to make the Queen travel 1,000 miles there and back for a 48-hour visit when the Prime Ministers can easily get to Balmoral instead," the source added. According to the report, when the Queen arrived in Scotland last month for a 10-week holiday she had hoped to make the journey south once the new prime minister is elected and her Windsor Castle residence in Berkshire had been earmarked for the traditional constitutional ceremony.

Back in 1952, the Queen conducted the ceremony with her first Prime Minister Winston Churchill at Heathrow after she flew back from Africa as a new monarch following her father King George VI's death. Every other Prime Minister since has travelled to Buckingham Palace.

#### Racist abuse on 4 **Indian-American** women in Texas



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 26: Four Indian-American women have been racially abused and smacked by a Mexican-American woman in the US state of Texas who hurled racist slurs at them that they are "ruining" America and should "go back to India".

The incident took place on Wednesday night in a parking lot in Dallas, Texas. The woman, who has now been arrested, is seen in the video identifying herself as a Mexican-American and assaulting a group of Indian-Americans.

"I hate you Indian. All these Indians come to America because they want a better life," Esmeralda Upton is seen saying in the video.

The video shows her telling the group of women to "Go back to India. You... People are ruining this country," the CBS News reported. The video has now gone viral and sent shock waves among the Indian-American community across the United States.

The video shows Upton using racial slurs, and at one point physically smacking at least two of the women. The person who posted this video wrote, "this incident occurred in Dallas. Texas after my mom and her three friends went to dinner".

The mom is seen contesting the arguments made by the Mexican-American woman and requesting her not to make racial slurs. At one point in time, the Mexican-American woman, who says she was born in the United States, is seen assaulting the mom and her other friends as well.

# Truss faces flak over 'jury's out' remark on Macron

The Foreign Secretary said the "jury is out" on whether Macron is a "friend or foe" of the UK and that if she becomes the Prime Minister she will "judge him by deeds, not words"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 26: Britain's prime ministerial hopeful Liz Truss, in the race against former Chancellor Rishi Sunak to succeed Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party leader, came under fire Friday over her remarks about French President Emmanuel Macron.

She was responding to a quickfire question at a hustings event in Norwich Thursday evening and in response to the same question, Sunak replied that the French President was a "friend" and has previously said he wants to reset the UK's relationship with Europe if he wins the race to succeed Johnson.

The Opposition Labour Party accused Truss of a "a woeful lack of judgement" as it would be seen as an insult of one of "Britain's



accusing the Cabinet minister of "grandstanding", while striking a more diplomatic tone. "It is never good to lose one's

bearings. Let me put it another way. Whoever the person is who is considered the next leader of Britain, I don't have any doubts. Britain is a friend of France," said the French president. You know, we live in a com-

plicated world. You have more and more illiberal democracies, authoritarian democracies, of powers of imbalance. If we are not able between French and British to say whether we are friend or foes - the term is not neutral – we are heading for serious problems,' he said. "So, I say that the British peo-

ple, the United Kingdom is a friendly, strong and allied nation, regardless of its leaders, and sometimes in spite of its leaders or the little mistakes they may make in grandstanding," Macron added.

#### RAIN EMERGENCY **DECLARED IN PAK**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 26: Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province\_ Friday declared a rain emergency in several districts with immediate effect till August 30 after disaster management officials warned that the Swat River has reached "high to very high" flood levels.

The emergency was declared on the recommendation of the district administration and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) after flash floods wreaked havoc in Swat, Shangla, Mingora, Kohistan and other areas.

In a flood advisory issued on Friday, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's **Provincial Emergency Operations** Centre said that water flows in Swat River at Khawazakhela point and its tributaries/nullahs had reached high to very high flood levels - 227,899 cusecs - which "may result in a dangerous situation for communities living nearby'



#### overcome the consequences of a rastate nuclear company Energoatom diation accident," he said in a video said electricity for the plant's own address Thursday evening. needs was now being supplied Residents in the capital Kyiv, some through a power line from Ukraine's 556 km (345 miles) to the north-Trump search affidavit to be

released: portions blacked out

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 26: The Justice Department is set to release Friday a heavily blacked out document explaining the justification for an FBI search of former President Donald Trump's Florida estate earlier this month

when agents removed top secret government records and other classified documents. The document, ex-

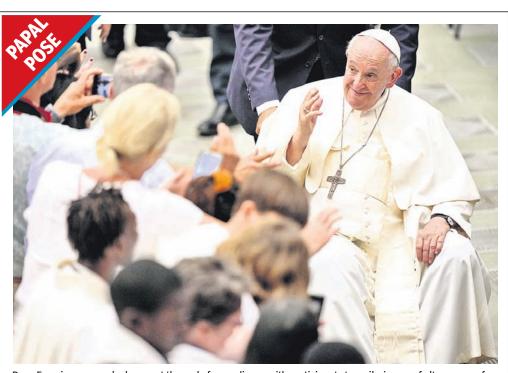
pected by noon, is likely to offer at least some new details about an ongoing criminal investigation that has brought fresh legal peril for Trump just as he lays the groundwork for another potential presidential run. Though Justice Department officials are expected to have removed sensitive details about witnesses, and the scope and direction of the probe, the affidavit may offer the fullest description yet about the events leading up to the Aug. 8 search of Mar-

The document being released is the redacted form of an affidavit, or sworn statement, that the FBI submitted to a judge so it could

obtain a warrant to search Trump's prop-

Affidavits typically contain vital information about an investigation, with agents spelling out to a judge the justification for why they

want to search a particular property and why they believe they're likely to find evidence of a potential crime there. But affidavits routinely remain sealed during pending investigations, making the judge's decision to reveal portions of it all the more striking.



Pope Francis waves as he leaves at the end of an audience with participants to a pilgrimage of altar servers from France, in the Pope Paul VI hall at the Vatican

### **ENERGY**

### T'S EAT OR HEAT FOR SHOCKED EUROPEANS

REUTERS

London, August 26: No more ironing, limited oven use and showering at work - Europeans are trying to keep their energy use down but the bills keep climbing.

As wholesale gas and electricity prices surge, millions of people in Europe are now spending a record amount of their income on energy, data show.

Citizens in other European countries too are voluntarily taking action to cut consumption as gas, electricity and fuel prices sky-rocket due to war in Ukraine, sanctions on Russia and the aftermath of the coronavirus pan-

The benchmark European gas price has soared 550% in the past 12 months. The cost of energy for British consumers will rise by 80% from October, regulator Ofgem said on Friday, taking average annual household bills to 3,549 pounds (\$4,188).

European governments have rushed to offer aid, but data shows the assistance hasn't made a significant difference to households.

This winter, Britons will spend an average 10% of their household income on gas, electricity and other heating fuels as well as domestic vehicle fuels, mainly petrol and diesel, twice the amount in 2021, according to Carbon Brief's calculations of official data.

This makes the current energy crisis more severe than those of the 1970s and 1980s. An oil producer's oil embargo and the Iranian revolution in 1979 caused blackouts and long queues in petrol stations in the West. At the peak of that crisis in 1982, people in the UK paid 9.3% of their income on energy. UK charity National Energy Action (NEA) esGas prices for families in top European economies



timates 8.5 million UK households could be in fuel poverty after October when Britain's cap increases, up from 4.5 million last October. A household is defined as living in fuel poverty if it is low

income and needs to spend 10% or more of its income on energy, according to NEA and other British charities. The definition is unofficially used in other European countries

Energy's share of household spending hits record highs in

Rising bills force households to cut energy use

risis in Europe looks worse than in other developed economies

#### **EAT OR HEAT**

Keetley lost his job as a council adviser in April and lives on 600 pounds (\$706.44) a month from a social security scheme. Half of that goes on rent, he said, with the remainder barely covering essentials.

He now eats one meal a day and despite reducing energy consumption to a minimum, he spends more than 15% of his income on energy bills. A third of UK households have reduced cooker and oven use, a study by the Financial Fairness Trust showed, a third have reduced the number of showers they take,

and half have turned down the temperature in their homes.

'People are doing a lot to try to keep their bills down but they are going up anyway. That's why we want to see more action from government," said Jamie Evans, senior research associate at Bristol University who was involved in the Financial Fairness Trust's study.

Dawn White, who has renal failure, says she fears Britain's spiralling energy costs mean she will no longer be able to afford her life-saving treatment.

In Turkey, gas prices more than doubled in July from a year ঽ earlier, while electricity prices surged 67% year-on-year, according to Turkish Statistical Institute data.

In the European Union, Italian and German families are amongthe worst hit by surging gas prices, IEA data shows.

the development of Moderna's own mRNA

# business

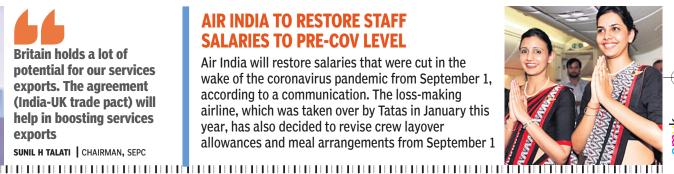


**Britain holds a lot of** potential for our services exports. The agreement (India-UK trade pact) will help in boosting services exports

SUNIL H TALATI | CHAIRMAN, SEPC

#### AIR INDIA TO RESTORE STAFF **SALARIES TO PRE-COV LEVEL**

Air India will restore salaries that were cut in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic from September 1, according to a communication. The loss-making airline, which was taken over by Tatas in January this year, has also decided to revise crew layover allowances and meal arrangements from September 1





India's vision to Zero by 2070, GAIL comprehensive study on science-

based Net-Zero ambition and intends to achieve 100% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and a 35% reduction in Scope 3 emissions by 2040

MANOJ JAIN | CHAIRMAN, GAIL



We are touching new areas which were never touched like asset reconstruction companies, gaming, betting etc

NITIN GUPTA | CHAIRMAN, CBDT

IHCL is wellpoised to meet 300-hotel portfolio by 2025, driven by an asset-light model to achieve profitable



MD & CEO, INDIAN HOTELS CO LTD

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### **Bank credit up** by 15.32%: RBI

Mumbai: Bank credit grew by 15.32 per cent to Rs 124.305 lakh crore and deposits by 8.84 per cent to Rs 169.49 lakh crore in the fortnight ended August 12, the RBI data showed. In the fortnight ended August 13, 2021, bank advances stood at Rs 107.79 lakh crore and deposits at Rs 155.72 lakh crore, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as August 12 released Friday. In the previous fortnight ended July 29, bank credit grew by 14.52 per cent and deposits by 9.14 per cent. In FY 2021-22. credit rose by 8.59 per cent and deposit by 8.94 per cent.

#### Forex reserves dip to \$564.053bn

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves fell \$6.687 billion to \$564.053 billion in the week ended August 19, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. In the previous week ended August 12, the reserves declined \$2.238 billion to \$570.74 billion. The drop in the reserves during the week ended August 19 was due to a fall in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) and the gold reserves, as per the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by RBI Friday. FCA fell \$5.779 billion to \$501.216 billion in the reporting week.

#### MLDL breaches \$1bn market cap

New Delhi: Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra Friday said the market capitalisation of its realty firm Mahindra Lifespace has crossed \$1 billion, proving sceptics wrong that the company could not survive without transacting in black money. The milestone has vindicated the Group's entry into the real estate sector, he said. Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd (MLDL) is the real estate arm of the Mahindra Group. The market capitalisation of the company was at Rs 8,032.51 crore.

#### BharatPe's annualised TPV at all-time high

Mumbai: Fintech platform BharatPe Friday said it has reached an all-time high of \$20 billion in annualised total payments value (TPV). expanding its footprint to 400 towns and cities, as it leaves the sordid Ashneer Grover saga behind. The company aims to surpass its target of \$30 billion in payments by March 2023

# India to grow at 7.4% in FY23

FM SAID IMF AND WB HAVE TAKEN COGNISANCE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY BY SAYING THAT IT WILL BE AMONG THE FASTEST GROWING ONES IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 26: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said the Indian economy will grow at 7.4 per cent in this fiscal and continue at the same level in the next fiscal as well

She said the "conservative" 7.2 per cent growth estimate of the RBI is also in sync with the expectations of the global bodies and stressed that three or four institutions cannot be wrong on their expectations.

... Estimates have also shown based on the developments, that we are definitely at that range... 7.4 (per cent) and that level will continue even next year,' Sitharaman said while speaking at the FE Best Banks Awards event here.

She quoted the projections by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and others for the growth figure.

She said the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have projected India's growth to be the fastest for the next two fiscal years, and their estimates are in sync with that of the Reserve Bank of India as well.

"The global situation continues to be challenging and it is not the right time to throw caution to the winds as yet," she said.

"The export sector will face difficulties as the global growth slows down and the government will work with such entities facing the headwinds," she said.

To a question of private capex, which is seen as trailing by some,



Sitharaman said the substantially higher tax collections suggest to newer investments and manufacturing units set up by the industry.

The finance minister said the tax collections cannot be going up without new investments and urged the corporate sector to speak more about it.

She also exhorted the media to "debunk" the narrative of the Centre taking away revenues from cess and surcharges, and not "perpetrate" it.

Sitharaman said the cess collected by the Centre is ultimately spent on health, education and infrastructure creation on the ground in the states itself, and claimed that the Centre spends more than the money it collects through such cess and surcharges in a particular state.

When asked whether the Centre plans to continue with the free food distribution initiative started in the pandemic which ends in September, Sitharaman said the government will take a call on it as the deadline nears

She reiterated that it's "not time

at all" to start charging for the unified payment interface (UPI) transactions in the country, stating that the government is keen to support it because of the advantages of digitisation for people and also its ability to increase transparency.

To the RBI's discussion paper cautioning against big bang privatisation of state-run lenders. Sitharaman said this is a policy matter on which the government will take a considered call. She also welcomed the quick clarification given by the RBI a day after the release of the paper.

Meanwhile, underlining that there is a need for a rigorous debate on freebies, she said that political parties making pre-poll promises should make budgetary provisions for taking care of the expenditures and not push the burden on to other entities.

Sitharaman said power discoms and generating companies have been seen to bear the brunt of such freebies as they get paid in part or in some cases not at all, despite having no role to play in the an-

#### **Base effect to** help lift growth to double-digits in April-June qtr

Bangalore: The economy is forecast to have expanded by an annual 15.2% in the April-June quarter, thanks to a weak base last year and a rebound in consumption as pandemic restrictions eased, a Reuters poll found. That expected strong double-digit growth rate in Asia's third-largest economy, based on the median forecast from an Aug. 22-26 Reuters poll of 51 economists, would be up sharply from a reported 4.1% growth rate in the preceding quarter. If realised, growth would be the fastest in a year, but slightly weaker than the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 16.2%. Forecasts ranged widely, from 9.0% to 21.5%. But most economists said any blowout growth figure would be mostly down to it coming off a low base caused by the impact of the Covid-19 delta variant on economic activity. "If we go back 12 months ago, the impact in the delta wave back then was quite severe on growth. So it is mostly a base effect story and I think a lot of forecasters are under estimating how strong this statistical lift is going to be," said Miguel Chanco, chief emerging Asia economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. The Reuters poll also expects the economy to slow considerably to 6.2%, 4.5% and 4.2% in the current and following quarters, highlighting a below-potential growth trajectory for the second-most populous

## Essar to sell port infra to AM/NS for ₹19,000 crore

New Delhi, August 26: Essar group Friday announced the signing of a \$2.4 billion (Rs 19,000 crore) deal to sell certain ports and power infrastructure to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel in one of the largest post-pandemic merger and acquisition deals in India.

In a statement, the Ruia-run firm said the deal also envisages a 50-50 joint venture between Essar and Arcelor Mittal for building a 4 million tonnes a year LNG import terminal at Hazira in Gujarat.

Without giving details, it only identified certain ports and power infrastructure that are primarily captive to operations of the Hazira steel plant, which was acquired by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) in 2018-19, as part of the deal.

AM/NS India had acquired Essar Steel for around Rs 42,000 crore in bankruptcy proceedings in 2018-19 and had claimed the acquisition had given it the right to the licence of port operations. But Essar Bulk Terminal, part of the Essar group, opposed it saying the Hazira port was not a part of the bankruptcy process.

The matter went to the courts where it was being argued. The two have now reached an agreement over it

 $\,$  AM/NS said the deal covers a 25 million tonne per annum capacity jetty at the all-weather, deep draft bulk port terminal at Hazira, Gujarat, captive and adjacent to the Hazira steel plant.

It also includes a 16 million tonne all-weather, deep draft terminal at



The deal covers port assets in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as well as two power plants at Hazira and an electricity transmission line

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh along with an integrated conveyor connected to AM/NS India's 8 million tonne a year iron ore pellet plant in the port city. A 12 million tonne deep-water

jetty at Paradip, Odisha along with a dedicated conveyor that handles 100 per cent of pellet shipments from AM/NS India's Paradip pellet plant is also part of the deal. The deal also includes a 270 MW

multi-fuel power plant at Hazira, which has a long-term power purchase agreement with the adiacent steelmaking facility. A 515 MW gas-based power plant, along with allied land, is also part of the transaction. ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India

(AM/NS India) is a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, two of the world's leading steelmakers.

#### **TAKEOVER TUSSLE**

### Adani contests NDTV's defence

Mumbai, August 26: Adani Group Friday contested claims by New Delhi Television (NDTV) that regulatory curbs restricted its founders from selling their stake. prolonging the battle for control of a news network seen as bastion of independent media.

The takeover bid launched by a group led by Asia's richest man, Gautam Adani, has fanned concerns over editorial integrity at NDTV.

NDTV Thursday sought to block Adani's move by saying its founders Prannoy and Radhika Roy have since 2020 been barred by India's market regulator from buying or selling shares in India's securities market, and so can't transfer the shares Adani is trying to secure.

But Adani said in a statement Friday that the NDTV founders' arguments were "baseless, legally untenable"

It said the founders' investment entity was not part of any regulatory restrictions and was "bound to immediately perform its obligation and allot the equity shares" to the conglomerate.



Adani said that the NDTV founders' arguments "baseless, legally untenable"

#### **OPEN OFFER FOR ACC, AMBUJA LAUNCHED**

New Delhi: Adani group Friday launched its Rs 31,000-crore open offer to acquire 26 per cent additional stake from the public shareholders of Swiss firm Holcim's two Indian listed entities ACC Ltd and Ambuja Cements. In May this year, the Adani Group had announced that it had clinched a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim Ltd's businesses in India for \$10.5 billion. Markets regulator Sebi granted approval for the open offer last week. The open offer is estimated at over Rs 31,000 crore if fully subscribed. In two separate regulatory filings, Ambuja Cements and ACC have submitted their letter of offers for the open offer, launched by the Adani family group's Mauritius-based firm Endeavour Trade and Investment.

"Two sides are clearly at loggerheads now and might have to go to the regulator or courts for relief," said Sumit Agrawal, founder of Indian law firm Regstreet Law Advisors and a former official of India's market regulator.

Shares in NDTV rose to the maximum permitted limit of 5% in morning trade on Friday, marking their third straight day of gains after Adani showed its hand. The shares are currently trading at their highest level in around 14 years.

### US insists on India to join Russia oil price cap coalition

With oil prices surging past \$100/barrel mark, the US along with other G7 nations is looking at ways to target Russian economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 26: The US Friday pressed India to join a coalition seeking to impose a price cap on Russian oil aimed at squeezing revenue streams for Moscow and softening the global energy prices. US Deputy Secretary of Treasury

Wally Adevemo, who is on a threeday visit to India, discussed with policy makers about economic relations between the two nations as well as measures to limit earning of Russia post its invasion of Ukraine.

Adeyemo said energy and foodgrain trade by Russia has been kept out of sanctions and nations like India were free to enter into deals using any currency, including local currency.

"Indian policy makers are interested in learning more about joining the global price cap coalition to keep Russian fuel prices in check as it is aligned with India's objective of lowering energy prices from con-



teraction with media here. "We think that objective is aligned

with our objective, which is to reduce Russia's revenue. So we're providing them with information. We're going to continue the conversation with them," he added. The G7 countries are inclined to-

wards having a price ceiling on Russian oil. "It is in the best interest of our people to get energy but also to deny Russia revenues that they can use to prop up their economy and the further the war in Ukraine. Our goal ultimately is to try and build out a coalition that is going to join us in implementing

the price cap," he said. Earlier in the day, Adeyemo met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and among other topics, they discussed about Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and India's G20 Presidency.

#### **Central Bank Of India GM visits Capital** Bhubaneswar: Smruti Ranjan

Dash, General Manager, Central Office, Mumbai visited Bhubaneswar Friday During his visit, a Mega Credit Camp was organised at IMAGE, Siripur, here in which the bank distributed sanction letters to different customers of capital region aggregating to an amount of Rs150 crore. Dash interacted with valued customers and emphasised upon improving customer service. Later, he also interacted with all branch managers and advised them to reach every needy customer and provide them utmost support in improving their financial conditions. The programme was held in presence of Anadi Biswas, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar along with other senior bank officials. The programme concluded with SK Golani, Assistant General Manager addressing vote of thanks to all notables



# India's digital lending rules spark disruption; firms plan pushback

Citing concerns over high rates and unfair practices, the Reserve Bank this month said a loan borrower must deal directly with a bank, dealing a blow to prepaid card providers and shopping websites which act as intermediaries and instantly process deferred loan payments

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 26: India's stricter digital lending rules have disrupted card services of foreign-backed fintech firms and jeopardised loan offerings of Amazon, prompting companies to chart a lobbying pushback, according to industry sources and a document seen by Reuters.

India's digital lending market has grown quickly and facilitated \$2.2 billion in digital loans in 2021-22, with startups attracting foreign backers and giving traditional banks a run for their money in the credit

The new rules have already hit prepaid card offerings of Tiger Globalbacked Slice and Accel-backed startup Uni, which have partnered with banks and allowed users to split purchases into interest-free easy repayments, a feature not available with typical credit cards. Solving "time-sensitive money

crunches" made Uni popular: its cards were swiped for \$67 million on average monthly, much more than credit card usage of some smaller private and public banks in India. The RBI has said the new rules

were to be implemented immediately, but added that "detailed instructions will be issued separately." Still, Uni suspended its card serv-

ices this week due to the RBI rules, hitting hundreds of thousands of users, while Slice has put new card issuance on hold. Worries are also rising that the rules will throttle plans of bigger

players Amazon.com Inc and

three industry sources said.

ules seen hitting Amazon, Flipkart loan fferings-sources

ank on changes-sources online merchant, while the bor-

in-tech firms acting as loan facilitators hit by

if online merchants can't receive payments directly.

'It is likely that seamlessness of availing credit by the customer will be severely impacted," the Internet and Mobile Association of India, a top industry group representing Amazon and Flipkart, said in a draft internal lobbying document crafted in collaboration with consulting group PwC.

The group plans to push the RBI to carve out direct merchant payments as an exception under the new rules

Sources said that two other groups representing payment firms and digital lenders also plan to lobby RBI to reconsider some provisions.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS Among other new rules, the RBI from their banking partners, not the borrowers. And the firms must also appoint nodal officers and have

better checks on user data. Rahul Sasi, a cybersecurity expert who was on an RBI panel that helped draft the new regulations, told Reuters that while some disruption due to the new rules is inevitable, the ultimate aim is to protect consumers.

'The idea has been to always let the businesses run, it was not about killing the fin-techs," he said.

Nevertheless, fin-tech firms are worried, and fear more regulations are on the way. Swapnil Bhaskar, head of strategy at Indian digital banking solutions provider "Niyo", said the rules could lead to industry consolidation and slowdown an industry that has grown

Walmart's Flipkart to expand their rower later makes loan payments to That's because currently Amazon popular buy-now-pay-later schemes and Flipkart facilitate loans for the lender. The new RBI rules. has said fin-tech firms should recover that have tapped millions of users, their shoppers. The bank pays the sources say, could impact this route charges of facilitating a digital loan at a rapid pace.

# INDIA'S DAY OUT AT WORLDS

PAIR OF SATWIK, CHIRAG CLAIM COUNTRY'S FIRST MEN'S DOUBLES MEDAL AT BWF WORLD **CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER MAKING THEIR WAY** INTO THE SEMIFINALS, WHILE **PRANNOY BOWS OUT** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, August 26: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty Friday became the first Indian pair to win a medal in the men's doubles competition at the World Championships but HS Prannoy's impressive run ended in agony as he went down narrowly in the men's singles quarterfinals here.

Satwik and Chirag, the World No.7 combination, which had claimed the Commonwealth Games gold medal earlier this month, stunned the local favourites and defending champions Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi 24-22, 15-21, 21-14 in an hour and 15 minutes to claim its maiden medal at the prestigious tournament.

It is India's second World Championships medal in the doubles event with Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claiming a bronze way back in 2011 in the women's doubles.

Overall, it's India's 13th medal at the showpiece with PV Sindhu winning five, including a gold in 2019, and Saina Nehwal (silver and bronze) claiming two. Kidambi Srikanth (silver), Lakshya Sen (bronze), B Sai Praneeth (bronze) and Prakash Padukone (bronze) were the other medallists.

It could have been double delight for the country but China's Zhao Jun Peng had other plans as he broke Indian hearts with a 19-21, 21-6, 21-18 win over former World No.8 Prannoy, who went down on one knee with his head hanging in disappointment after the gutwrenching loss.

Earlier, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila's fine run also ended after the Indian pair lost 8-21, 14-21 to three-time champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan in another men's doubles quarterfinals.

Having assured themselves of at

least a bronze, Satwik and Chirag will now face the sixth seeded Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the semi-

Satwik and Chirag came out with a lot of intent as they dominated the proceedings early on to establish a lead of 12-5 in the first game but the Japanese pair reeled off seven points on the trot to eke out a 16-14 advantage. However, the Indian duo fought tooth and nail to ensure it had the advantage after the opening game.

Takuro and Yugo made a strong comeback in the second game after breaking off at 9-9 following a tight battle. With the match hanging in balance, the Indian pair once again found its bearings as the two strengthened their defence and mounted an attack to lead 11-5 at the interval.

Satwik and Chirag then extended the lead to 14-8 before they were called for a fault for touching the net during a return. The duo lost the point but soon managed to put that behind, lead-

Yugo produced some sensational shots, including a powerful smash and a cross court return, to keep the Japanese duo's chances alive with three points. Two shots going wide from the Japanese pair put India a couple of points away from the win at 19-13.

The Indians then grabbed seven match points with another superb return which their opponents failed to negotiate. A tad nervous, Satwik faltered on his serve but Yugo sent the shuttle to the net as Chirag let out a cry in cel-



Championships.

Linthoi Chanambam

New Delhi, August 26: India's Linthoi Chanambam claimed a historic gold at the World Cadet Judo Championship in

day of the Asian Cadet & Junior

Judo Championship 2022 at

Bangkok. Linthoi claimed her gold

medal in the 63kg category of the

One of India's brightest prospects on the Judo mat, Linthoi

first showed glimpses of her tal-

ent when she won gold at the

A part of the IIS' judo pro-

gramme since 2017, she has

been on several exposure

trips under the guidance of

head coach Mamuka

Kizilashvili, including

camps at the University

of Tsukuba, in Japan,

Georgia and most recently in Bosnia and Herzegovina

ahead of the World Cadet

Championships in 2018.

cadet event.

Sub-junior

National Championships in Chandigarh, fol-

November

last year,

Linthoi struck gold at the

lowed by another at the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championships, coming the in Bangkok, in July. The Sports first from the coun-Authority of India (SAI) took note try to win a medal in the tournaof the young athlete's remarkable achievement Friday. The 15-vear-old from Manipur "LINTHOI WINS's 1st EVER

GOLD AT WORLDS. Reigning Asian Champion Linthoi Chanambam (W-57kg) defeat's Bianca Reis 1-0 to win at Cadet World C'ships 2022. She scripts history to become Champion by winning 1st ever medal for India at the Worlds across any age-group, the SAI tweeted.



## CL draw: Reunions for Lewa, Haaland Asian cricket powerhouses set for continental showdown

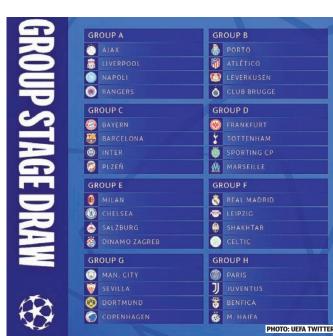


INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Istanbul, August 26: Robert Lewandowski and Erling Haaland will swiftly come toe-to-toe with their former teammates following Thursday's group-stage draw for the Champions League. Fresh from his move to Camp Nou

in the transfer window. Lewandowski will return to familiar surroundings with Barcelona and Bayern Munich – who boast 11 Champions League titles between them.

And another reunion will see Haaland come up against Borussia Dortmund, whom he left to join Pep Guardiola's Manchester City.



Chelsea, England's most recent winners of the competition, will have to contend with Milan; Liverpool face a trip to Napoli, and Tottenham tackle Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt.

Both sides of Madrid have

favourable draws on paper, with Real drawn with RB Leipzig, Shakhtar Donetsk and Celtic, while Atletico Madrid tussle will go up against Porto, Bayer Leverkusen

and Club Brugge. Group of death



The draw of the UEFA Champions League group stage witnessed Group C as the 'Group of Death', which contains Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Inter Milan and Viktoria Plzen.

Humiliated 8-2 by Bayern in a one-off quarterfinal in 2020, Barca were twice beaten by the Germans last season as they failed to survive the group stage. Since then, Barca have made signings in an attempt to restore former glories.

"Only football writes such stories," said Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic. "Barcelona have got stronger. They've done a thing or two in the transfer market. There will be some exciting games,"

Salihamidzic added. Three-time European champions Inter hope striker Romelu Lukaku can rekindle his partnership with Lautaro Martinez after the Belgian endured a difficult time at Chelsea. Inter have won just one knockout tie since claiming a 2010 treble under Jose Mourinho.

Czech champions Viktoria Plzen have never progressed from the group stage in three previous attempts.



INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICES

New Delhi, August 26: The 2022

Asia Cup, to be played in the T20I

format, promises an enthralling ride for fans who would be eager to see the best sides in Asia going head-to-head against each other.

In 13 matches from August 27

to September 11, across Dubai and Sharjah, the top six teams from

Asia will be vying for the trophy which was established 38 years

The positioning of the tourna-

ago co-incidentally in the UAE.

ment comes at a very interesting

There is a lot riding on the Asia Cup for the five teams ahead of the World T20. Defending champions and seven-time winners India will be looking to execute their attacking, ultra-aggressive approach with the bat, which has given them the desired results in a high-stakes competition, starting with their Group A opener against arch-rivals and two-time champions Pakistan in Dubai Sunday.

Sunday's clash, dubbed as the 'greatest rivalry' in the world of cricket, will also be the first meeting between these two teams after facing off in the World T20 last year in the UAE, where Pakistan secured a resounding 10-wicket victory over India, their first such victory in Men's World Cups.

While India crashed out in the Super 10 stage, Pakistan were undefeated till eventual champions Australia cut their fairy-tale run in the semifinal.

For India, the greatest concern will be the form of Virat Kohli, who hasn't scored a century in international cricket since 2019 and has been in a prolonged lean patch. Sunday's match against Pakistan



Virat Kohli would like to get his form back ahead T20 World Cup

#### will see the talismanic batter play his 100th T20I game and eyes will be firmly on whether he can get his groove back which made him one of the best batters in the world after taking time off the game post July 17.

Even greater concern for India will be how Kohli and a returning KL Rahul mould their game as per India's new attacking approach with the bat. They also have to see who among Rishabh Pant or Dinesh Karthik are in the eleven while seeing the best bowling combination in absence of impact pacers

Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel. Pakistan, on the other hand, are without premier left-arm pacer



It will be the best Asia Cup ever in my opinion. Earlier there used to be India. Pakistan and Sri Lanka but now all teams are dangerous including Afghanistan and **Bangladesh. This tournament** 

is very important for all teams from Asia. It is practice

before the World Cup

Shaheen Shah Afridi, out due to a knee injury. With a top three of captain Babar Azam, who is in mercurial form, apart from wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan and left-handed Fakhar Zaman, Pakistan's dependence on the trio will increase, especially with a relatively inexperienced batting order after them.

In Group B, Afghanistan, under Mohmmad Nabi's captaincy, will be looking to beat the higher-ranked opponents, something they couldn't do in last vear's T20 World Cup. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan will be undoubtedly their key player, and Afghanistan would want their batters to step up to the occasion.

Sri Lanka have shown a lot of promise and good results at home under captain Dasun Shanaka and new head coach Chris Silverwood. A good showing in the Asia Cup will bring smiles on the faces of people struggling to live normally back home.

Bangladesh, whose struggles in the shortest format are well-known, will be eyeing an upward swing under Shakib Al Hasan's captaincy. With Sridharan Sriram brought in as the side's technical director. they would be looking to get their mojo back in T20Is.

#### TOP HONOURS FOR BENZEMA. PUTELLAS AT UEFA AWARDS ISTANBUL: Karim Benzema and Alexia Putellas won UEFA's player

of the year awards, making it a sweep for Spanish clubs. Benzema had been the heavy favorite for the men's award after scoring 15 Champions League goals to lead Real Madrid to a recordextending 14th European title. Putellas won a second straight UEFA women's best player award after helping Barcelona reach the Champions League final in defense of its title. Barcelona lost to Lyon. The coaching awards went to the winners of the two biggest events last season - Carlo Ancelotti of Madrid and Sarina Wiegman, who led England to the Euro 2022 title.



#### **Bhambri knocked out**

NEW YORK: India's singles challenge at the US Open qualifiers came to an end as Yuki Bhambri was handed a straight-set defeat by Belgium's Zizou Bergs in the second round here. The 30-year-old went down 3-6, 2-6 to his Belgian opponent Thursday. It was always going to be a tricky affair for Bhambri (552) against the higher-ranked Bergs (155), but the Indian managed keep the the scores levelled at 3-3 in the first set. Things. however, changed quickly in favour of the Belgian as he made it 5-3 before sealing the set 6-3. In the second set too, Bergs was better than the Indian and dominated from

the word go and it did not take the former

long to pocket the second and final set 6-2.

#### **Nomination withdrawn**

**NEW DELHI:** Andhra Pradesh Football Association president Gopalkrishna Kosaraju Friday withdrew his nomination for the treasurer's post in the All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections slated for September 2. Kosaraju was in a two-way contest with Arunachal Pradesh's Kipa Ajay but after his withdrawal it's now an open

field for the latter. The last date of filing nominations is Saturday, while the prospective candidates can withdraw their candidature by 1pm Monday. Indian football

legend Bhaichung Bhutia has filed his fresh nomination for the AIFF president's post Thursday to queer Kalyan Chaubey's pitch for an unanimous victory.

#### Another blow for Pakistan

**DUBAI:** Pakistan suffered another setback on the eve of the start of the Asia Cup T20 cricket tournament when fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr was ruled out of the event due to a left side strain. Wasim had picked up the injury while bowling in Pakistan's practice session, Wednesday. He is the second Pakistan speedster to be ruled out of the Asia Cup. Left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was earlier ruled out due to an injury and Mohammad Hasnain was called in as a replacement. The bowler was assessed by the team medical staff, and an MRI scan in Dubai confirmed the diagnosis, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) informed in a release Friday.

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