



## GANGUBAI IN OSCARS RACE

Alia Bhatt starrer SLB's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in Oscars race among 'The Kashmir Files', 'RRR'

LEISURE P2



## DEADLY FLOODS

Flash floods triggered by destructive monsoon rains across Pakistan have killed nearly 1,000

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA FACE PAKISTAN

India kick off their Asia Cup 2022 campaign in a high voltage clash against their arch-rivals Pakistan today

SPORTS P12



**SET FOR WATERFALL IMPLOSION:** People look on at the Noida Supertech twin towers that would be imploded, Sunday, in compliance with a Supreme Court order. Over 3,700 kg explosives will be used to raze down the nearly 100-metre-tall structures

## State to have 36 new police stations soon

The decision to open more police stations was taken considering the rising population and security requirements for effective administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday approved a proposal to establish 36 new police stations across the state including one in the Capital city. The new police stations, to be opened with an aim to ensure better policing, will help in quick and improved service delivery in handling law and order situations.

The number of police stations in the state will rise to 648 after operation of new 36 such facilities. The new police station in the state capital will come up at Maitri Vihar here.

Patnaik also sanctioned 563 new posts including inspectors and other positions for the requirement of the new police stations.

The Chief Minister directed the Home department that new police stations should be functional at the earliest. He said the decision to open more police stations was taken considering the rising population and security requirements for effective administration.

The new police stations will come up at Bagedia and Gopalprasad in Angul district, Gopalpur and Anantpur in Balasore district, Bargarah (Rural) in Bargarah district, Nimakhandi (Berhampur) in Ganjam, Laxmijor and Agalpur

**The Chief Minister sanctioned 563 new posts including inspectors and other positions for the new police stations**

in Balangir; Ghantapada (Boudh), Maniabandha, Jodum and Bhadreswar under Cuttack (Rural).

Laimura in Deogarh, Mahavir Road in Dhenkanal; Beguniapada and Kotinada in Ganjam; Krunanandapur in Jagatsinghpur; Alakunda, Brahmabara and Dasarathpur in Jajpur; Airport police station in Jharsuguda; Karlapat and Kalampur in Kalahandi; Pattamundai (Rural) and Kudanagari in Kendrapada; Manoharpur in Keonjhar; Nachuni in Khurda; Sunki in Koraput; Korukonda in Malkangiri Sadar and Bhanjapur in Mayurbhanj.

The other police stations are: Maidapur in Nabarangpur; Charichhak in Puri; Ramnaguda in Rayagada; Bareipali in Sambalpur and Lachchipur in Subarnapur district.

The Chief Minister's Office said that the new stations are being created by dividing the existing ones and upgrading the outposts.

## J'KHAND POLITICAL CRISIS

### UPA MLAs make U-turn for Ranchi

AGENCIES

**Ranchi, August 27:** Amidst a political crisis triggered by an EC ruling on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's continuance as an MLA, UPA legislators left Ranchi for Latratu, near the border with Chhattisgarh, only to return to the state capital by evening.

MLAs of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Congress and the RJD left the state capital in three buses in the afternoon and returned to Ranchi after spending a few hours at Latratu in Khunti district, some 40 km from here.

"We had a fun-filled boat ride and picnic," a senior Congress leader claimed.

Raj Bhavan sources said the governor may take a call on the matter Monday.

Congress General Secretary and Jharkhand in-charge Avinash Pandey has arrived here to hold a meeting with party legislators to discuss the situation and plan a strategy.

## Lady cop found dead; kin allege pressure

Swagatika's elder brother and mother hold the IIC of G Udayagiri police station responsible for her death, demand a Crime Branch probe

PNN & AGENCIES

**Phulbani, August 27:** A woman police sub-inspector posted at G Udayagiri police station was found hanging from the ceiling fan at her quarters in Kandhamal district, Saturday, while her family members have alleged that harassment and mental torture by the IIC prompted the lady cop to take the extreme step.

Swagatika Behera, aged around 30, was posted at G Udayagiri police station, around 50 km from district headquarters Phulbani. She hails from Khurda district and was staying alone at the quarters, the officer said.

Swagatika was found hanging from the ceiling fan at her home in the morning. She was immediately taken to a local hospital, where



File photo of Swagatika Behera

doctors declared her dead, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Tirupati Rao Patnaik said.

The exact reason for Swagatika taking such a step was not known yet. The body was sent for autopsy and the incident is under investi-

gation, the SDPO added.

G Udayagiri inspector Rehati Sabar said Swagatika seemed somewhat depressed during duty.

Swagatika's elder brother Manoranjan Behera held the inspector in-charge (IIC) of the police station responsible for his sister's death. He demanded a probe by the state Crime Branch and action against the police officials responsible for his sister's death. "She was subjected to mental torture and harassment by the IIC," said Manoranjan.

Swagatika had informed Manoranjan about the IIC's torture over phone, Friday night. She had also informed about the mental torture inflicted on her by the IIC to other family members, said her elder brother.

Continued on P4

## 49TH CHIEF JUSTICE SWORN IN

### Justice Lalit to work on three key areas



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27:** Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, was Saturday sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI). On the roadmap for the future, Justice Lalit has made his intentions known to work on three key areas during his short tenure including listing of cases and mentioning of urgent matters in the Supreme Court.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Justice Lalit,

who is the second CJI to be directly elevated to the apex court from the Bar, during a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

As the CJI, Justice Lalit will have a short tenure of 74 days and demit office November 8 on attaining the age of 65 years. Justice DY Chandrachud, the senior-most judge after Justice Lalit, is next in line to be the country's top judge. Justice SM Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court in March 1964. Continued on P4

## Third tusker dies of electrocution in three days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** A tusker died due to electrocution in Angul district Saturday barely two days after a pair of female elephants met the same fate in Keonjhar district, officials said.

The middle-aged tusker came in contact with a live wire allegedly laid by a poacher in the forest area, about 500 metre away from Jagannathpur beat house of Pampasar range of Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Angul district.

The regional chief conservator of forest, Joga Nanda said Satkosia divisional forest officer Saroj Panda and assistant conservator of forest Subhendu Behera have reached the site and have initiated a probe into the incident. On August 25, two female elephants were electrocuted on the premises of Krishi Vigyan Kendra under Sadar Forest Range in Keonjhar district.

Forest department officials have launched a manhunt to apprehend poachers who laid the live wire.



Officials said though several persons have been detained for questioning, the actual poacher is yet to be identified.

They said that at least three elephants were killed in Satkosia sanctuary in June. The forest division personnel had exhumed the skeleton of an elephant from Gopapura forest range and later the news of the death of another ailing elephant came to the fore. Another elephant was found dead at Satkosia Kusakhali forest in Angul district June 28.

Recently, Forest and Environment Minister PK Amat had informed the Assembly that as many as 63 elephants were electrocuted and died between 2017 and July 2022. He said as many as 784 elephants have died in 10 years - between December 2, 2013 and 2021-22 - due to different reasons.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We must step up our attack against Congress. You just have to learn from Congress veterans

## Cybercrimes double in 2 yrs as cops not well-trained

It is important for the police to stay updated on new modus operandi and technology trends adopted by criminals, observes the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, August 27:** At a time when cybercrimes have emerged as a major challenge for the country, with technological advancements, lack of adequate training and infrastructure in many states have led to a two-fold rise in such cases, a report by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs observed.

These crimes transcend geographical boundaries, making it tough to track criminals. While the fraudsters keep innovating newer ways to dupe gullible people, it has also become a big challenge for the police. Government data points towards the rising trend of cybercrimes and as per the NCRB

data, cases have increased from 21,796 in 2018 to 50,035 in 2020.

In its recent report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs observed that it is important for the police to stay updated on new modus operandi and technology trends adopted by criminals. The Committee expressed its deep concern over the rising trend and opined that both the Union and state governments need to get together to tackle the growing menace.

The report also disclosed the lack of adequate infrastructure in many states to fight the menace of cybercrime. It said that Punjab, Rajasthan, Goa and Assam do not have even a single cybercrime cell, while in Andhra Pradesh,



Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, only one or two have been set up.

Taking note of this, the Committee recommended that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) may advise states to set up cyber cells in all the districts.

The states should map the cyber-crime hotspots which will help in quick detection of the crimes and

take proactive measures to prevent them. The panel observed that these crimes are mainly related to financial transactions and criminals not only target the innocent and vulnerable, especially elderly people, and dupe them of their savings, but also well-known persons and celebrities.

"The Committee is of the view that specialised training is required

to deal with the increasing cyber-crimes in the country. The Committee recommends that the SVPNPA, NEPA should coordinate with state training academies to train police personnel with requisite knowledge of cyber laws, cybercrime investigation, digital forensics and upgrade them from time to time on new technological tools to deal with cyber-crimes," the report said.

The Committee observed the states are facing constraints of manpower and resources in managing cybercrime investigations. It recommended that the MHA should consider creating volunteer groups of IT experts from civil society who can contribute in devising methods to track cyber thieves and bringing them to justice.

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	35.1°C 35.6°C
TEMP MIN	26.0°C 26.0°C
Humidity	96% 79%
Rainfall	32mm 34mm
	Partly cloudy sky

## KIM KARDASHIAN BATTLING WITH PSORIASIS

Kim Kardashian is battling against the painful skin condition psoriasis with the help of a plant-based diet. The reality star, 41, has struggled with the autoimmune disease for 15 years and often gets painful flare-ups that cause flaky red patches to appear on her skin



## 'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON' RENEWED FOR SECOND SEASON

HBO has given a second season order for "House of the Dragon", the prequel series to the popular fantasy drama "Game of Thrones". The show's early renewal follows its smash hit debut with the first episode, which dropped on August 21



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
Your ability to let go things will reflect in your personal as well as your professional life. Today could be a significant day for you, and Ganesh advises you not to forget your special abilities. Make good use of them so that others too can benefit.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will be prone to be stubborn and uncompromising in your business and professional dealings and thereby inviting unnecessary problems. Ganesh urges you to guard against this tendency and conduct yourself cordially and amiably with your colleagues and clients. The day will turn out well for executives and administrators.

**GEMINI**  
You need to break free from the shackles of your daily routine. Trying to finish all your tasks as per your schedule will give rise to unnecessary worry. To manage your time creatively is the best way to beat the stress. Talking to your elders is a good way to calm your shot nerves, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Your social prestige will go up. People will praise your personality traits and try to emulate you. You will be a role model, too. Ganesh feels that this will be highly profitable day for you.

**LEO**  
You will try to take up new projects to the best of your abilities today. You will be able to successfully tackle all your tasks today. You will face a little instability in your personal relationships, but will be able to solve all issues successfully, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Today you will feel monetarily much stronger than you have ever felt, says Ganesh. You will realise the need to make monetary arrangements for some unforeseen financial instability that may occur in the future. Your leadership qualities will be appreciated by people around you.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasure purposes. It may be a busy day for you work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues. Try your luck in the stock market today, as it may prove beneficial to you.

**SCORPIO**  
Be vigilant; keep your eyes and ears open for all the events happening around you, says Ganesh. Your intuition is trying to tell you something, trust it. Think and act positively, the rest would fall in place.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Keeping all the work aside, you may be painting the town red today. Falling in love is exciting, isn't it? However, for all those who are already in a relationship, Ganesh shows a red signal. Avoid arguments with your loved one, He suggests. Impress 'the special one' with a bouquet of red roses and make up for all the petty fights during the day.

**CAPRICORN**  
Opportunities don't knock on the door twice. Today, you'll answer the door and utilise the opportunity to the most, predicts Ganesh. Positive results will be visible and you'll stand a chance to overtake your competitors. Even if the competition is fierce and opponents try everything to pull you down, you'll not let them win the battle.

**AQUARIUS**  
It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one.

**PISCES**  
You have been neglecting your health of late, a fact which is hammered home by your ill-fitting trousers today! So, while you ignored the adage of prevention being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesh.

# SLB's Gangubai in Oscars race!



Mumbai: Sanjay Leela Bhansali films have often made the noise in the international festive circuit as also the cine-going audience in the overseas market. The latest buzz is, Gangubai fronted by Alia Bhatt is one of the few films that are in contention to be India's official entry for the Oscars this year. The film has seen multiple premieres in the international belts earlier this year and was received with a standing ovation from the audience at the Berlin Film Festival too. On the business front, it is one of the highest grossing Indian films in the International belt, with an overseas collection of \$7.50 million. Gangubai aside, there is a strong talk about SS Rajamouli's period drama, RRR, to be in the contention for the official entry to the Oscars. The announcement about Oscars is expected to be made in a couple of months. Other films that might be in contention include the Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri directed The Kashmir Files, though we await the announcement from



the officials. Talking of Gangubai, it is SLB's 10th directorial after Khamoshi, Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Devdas, Black, Sawaariya, Guzaarish, Ram Leela, Bajirao Mastani, Ram Leela and Padmavat.

The closest that India came to find a nomination at the prestigious Oscar ceremony in the last 2 decades was in 2002 with the SLB directorial, Devdas, featuring Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Madhuri Dixit. AGENCIES

## Raima shares her fitness secrets

Mumbai: Raima Sen has always been impressive, be it with her commanding presence onscreen or her evergreen beauty. The seasoned actor wears many hats, and fitness enthusiast is definitely one of them. The seasoned actor doesn't believe in the usual gymming routine, "I need a change of activity every now and then. I've taken to hot yoga and dancercise. Hot yoga is amazing when it comes to weight loss and toning the body and it also helps build your flexibility. The postures and breathing exercises in hot yoga guarantee a phenomenal calorie burn." Dancercise has been a funny and enjoyable way of keeping fit for years and the bong beauty is a big fan of Italian food and doesn't strict to diet regimen. "I eat what I like but in small proportions. I begin my day with a glass of mixed vegetable juice and flavoured oats. Egg white sandwiches and salads are spread throughout the day. I eat light at night. I sometimes give in to my uncontrollable dessert cravings but I don't binge. Raima feels that her thighs and hips are the two areas that have been a problem for her in the past,

"Interestingly hot yoga makes sure that they remain toned. I've also added the hula hoop to my daily workout and have noticed a distinct curve in my hip. Certain dancercise moves have made my thighs very agile, I am blessed with good genes and a speedy metabolism. Eating a good breakfast and then spacing out the rest of the meals so that the lightest has helped me keep my metabolism rate intact." AGENCIES



Huma wants to create a credible body of work

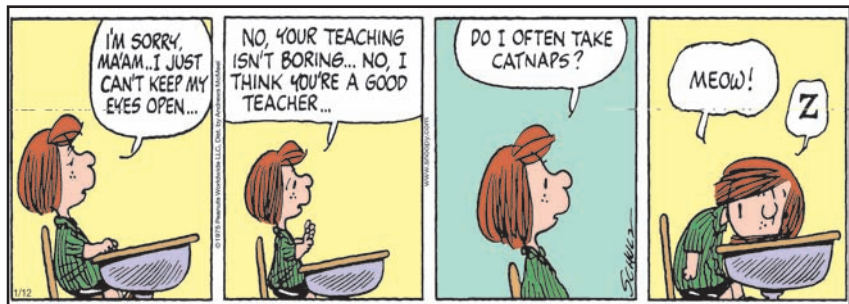
Mumbai: Huma Qureshi profoundly known for the wings she spread as an artiste, has been basking in the praise for her performance in Maharani Season Two, says, "When I came to this city, and experienced an initial burst of success and recognition, I felt really great. My initial thought was to be able to do one film, which I did and it had worked well. I got more films as a result and I signed up for a few almost immediately. I didn't have a plan, ki uske baad kya? Neither anyone groomed me nor did I have those experiences or a mentor." Talking about what she has earned in Hindi cinema, Huma, who will be seen with Sonakshi Sinha in Double XL, says, "The decade's run here taught me to be authentic. By authentic, I mean being myself, picking my work and backing my own choices, walking my path and not measuring my success on other people's benchmarks. Last few years have put things into perspective for me that have fuelled my thinking and I stopped myself from over thinking everything in life. It's surreal and good not to plan. I want to work till my last breath and continue being an actor: I want to leave behind a body of work that people revere for years to come. It's more fulfilling to create a credible body of work that speaks for itself, long after you're gone." AGENCIES

## Gauahar defends her cryptic tweet

Mumbai: Actor Gauahar Khan seemingly came out in support of actor Ranbir Kapoor; her Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (2009) co-star, on Friday. In a cryptic tweet, Khan reacted to the hate Kapoor is receiving for his "phailoed" comment towards his wife, actor Alia Bhatt. "These days there is no space left for taking things lightly in life. Everything is under scrutiny," Khan tells us, when asked about her tweet, which read: "Aaj kal log kuch zyada hi sensitive ho gaye hain. Ab apni biwi se kuch halka phulka mazaak karne pe bhi paabandi hai, kya pata kaun kahaan pe offend ho jaaye. It will resolve a lot of issues in the world."

"I'm generally talking about life and how people's tolerance level has hit rock bottom. Anything that is said is sensitive to anyone and everyone. Where is the [sense of] humour? If he was saying that to a stranger, of course, people can take offence to that. But that's his wife, for God's sake! I feel people should take humour for the way it is [meant]. AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

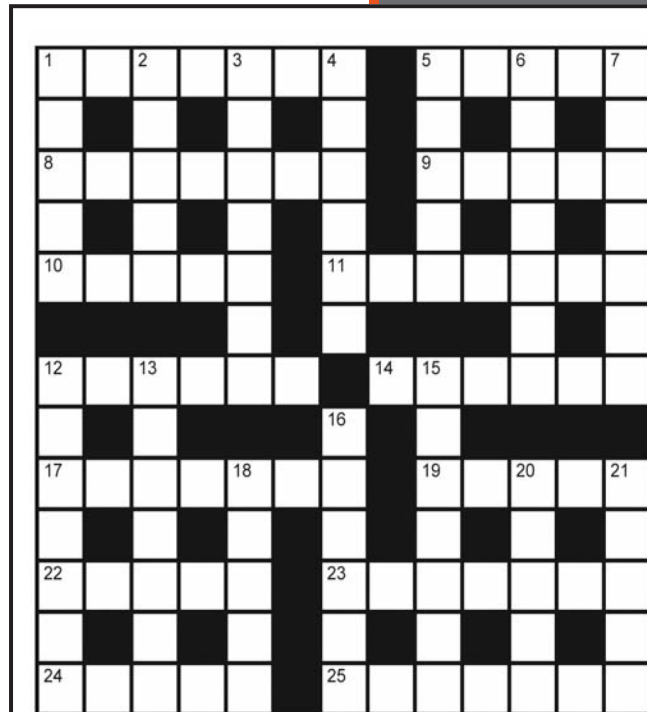


### BREVITY



### FUN post

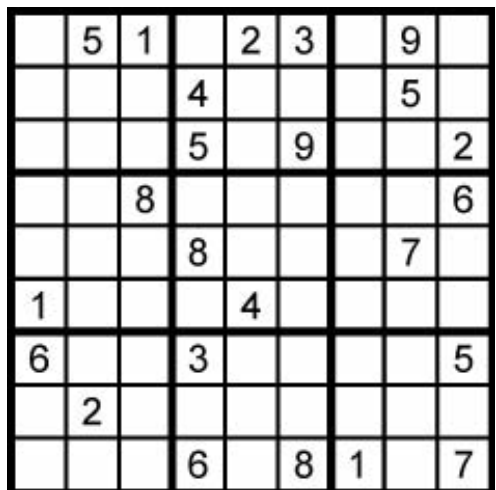
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Go-between
  - 5 Misbehave (3,2)
  - 8 Free time
  - 9 Recluse
  - 10 Religious law
  - 11 Auto adjustment? (3,4)
  - 12 Firm
  - 14 Fancy
  - 17 Hot spot worker
  - 19 Bell sound
  - 22 Spacious
  - 23 Cervantes hero
  - 24 Family member
  - 25 Radical
  - 4 Razz
  - 5 Permit
  - 6 Cargo vessels
  - 7 Depict
  - 12 Old World crocus
  - 13 Piercing spot
  - 15 Bill of lading
  - 16 Unparalleled
  - 18 Perhaps
  - 20 Dwelling
  - 21 Skein formers

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



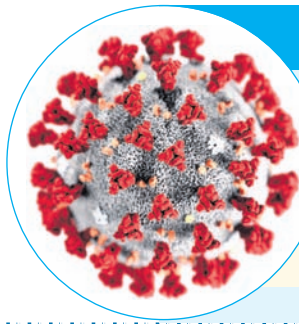
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## RAIN PAIN

Commuters negotiate a waterlogged Bomikhal-Rasulgarh Road in Bhubaneswar after heavy rain, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,52,42,359	58,01,95,237	64,86,432
India	4,43,98,696	4,37,83,788	5,27,597
Odisha	13,26,672	13,15,459	9,171

# City faces garbage crisis amid stir over dumpyard



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Many areas of Bhubaneswar are stinking with garbage as a deadlock over the dumping of waste into a designated yard led to pile up of litter in localities.

Residents of Daruthenga panchayat, a few kilometres away from the City, have not been allowing trucks of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to dump waste at the Bhuasuni dumpyard for the past two weeks over various demands.

This resulted in a domino effect as the temporary transit station in the state capital brimmed with garbage, leading to dump trucks being unable to collect waste from the bins.

Many streets in residential areas were stinking with litter scattered around the bins, which were full to capacity. The problem was compounded by intermittent rain and workers of some private agencies stopping waste collection over pay-

months as it cannot do biomining right now until the waste is cleared from the dumpyard," he said.

Biomining is the excavation, segregation and treatment of old solid waste in dumpsites through scientific means. Valuable resources like plastics, clothes and bricks are recovered, followed by the waste's sustainable management via recycling and processing.

Congress MLA Suresh Rourtray, under whose constituency Daruthenga falls, said villagers wanted to resolve the issue.

"Bhubaneswar is a beautiful city and machines will be installed to manage the waste. Daruthenga will also be neat and clean," he said after attending the meeting.

Residents of Daruthenga have been protesting since 2008 when the BMC started dumping waste at Bhuasuni, which is nearby.

The Mayor had said earlier that the BMC wanted to dispose of each ward's waste in the ward itself and convert it into compost, but that would take some time.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange had said the civic body was very serious about the installation of micro-composting centres to increase the capacity of processing garbage.

The BJP had protested in front of the BMC office Friday, throwing garbage in front of the premises and raising slogans against the Mayor.

"There is litter everywhere. Do we feel like living in a smart city?" a BJP leader asked, pointing out that Das had promised after becoming the Mayor that she would make Bhubaneswar the No. 1 smart city.

**The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and we held good discussions with a positive mind. The problem will be resolved very soon**

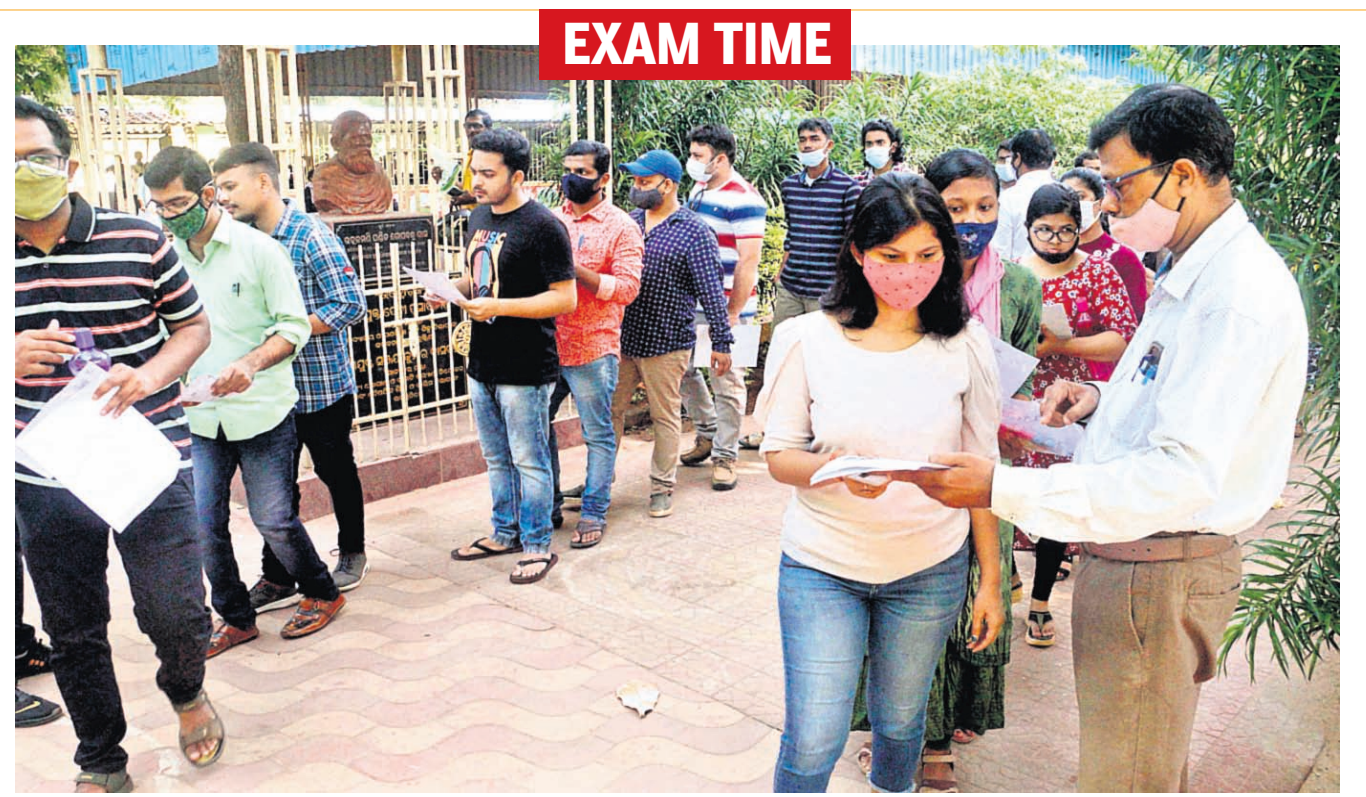
SULOCHANA DAS | MAYOR

ment issues.

Although the workers have resumed work, the stalemate continued Saturday as talks with the Daruthenga sarpanch and the BMC did not lead to any major breakthrough.

"The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and we held good discussions with a positive mind. The problem will be resolved very soon," Mayor Sulochana Das told reporters.

Daruthenga sarpanch Tapan Chakravarty said a gram sabha would be called and details of the meeting would be discussed with the villagers, adding that he would inform their decision after two days. "The BMC sought a time of nine



## EXAM TIME

OPSC ASO aspirants queue up at an examination centre at Unit-VI Boys' High School in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Nigerian among 2 held for honey-trapping

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Balalore, August 27:** Two more members of a gang—a Nigerian national and his Nagaland-born wife—were arrested from Delhi by the cyber wing of Balasore police for allegedly duping a man in the district by honey-trapping him with a fake social media profile, an official said Saturday.

The fresh arrests were made after taking another Nigerian—Samson Emeke Alika, 39—into custody in connection with the case August 6, 2022, the official said.



Alika was arrested from New Delhi for allegedly extorting Rs 30 lakh from the man in Balasore district through honey trap. Based on the information provided by him, the couple—Emmanuel Namani, 35, and Suchim Tikhir, 32, — were apprehended.

The cyber police station of Balasore had started investigation following the complaint by the victim in January this year that he was duped by a foreigner through a honey trap.

Speaking on the couple's modus operandi, a senior police officer said Namani used the name and photo of a woman reportedly from the UK and befriended the unsuspecting man through a fake Facebook profile. He would chat over Facebook and even offered the victim valuable gifts. After such conversations, Tikhir would call up the person, identify herself as a customs officer and demand

charges to dispatch the gifts. She also warned the victim that if he did not pay the charges, he would be penalised.

The police suspect that the couple had defrauded more persons. Rs 6 lakh in cash, two laptops, passports, nine mobile phones and gold chains have been seized from the couple, the police officer said.

The couple were arrested under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act by Balasore police and brought to the district on transit remand Saturday.

Alika too had been brought to Balasore on transit remand from Delhi.

# LoP urges Naveen to declare 2-day holiday for Nuakhai festival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Prominent politician from the western region of the state and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly Jayanarayan Mishra of BJP has urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to declare two days local holiday for the celebration of the Nuakhai festival.

Nuakhai is an agrarian festival where the first crop of the season is offered to the goddess as 'Prasad' and the elders bless younger members of the family. All, including the poor and rich, wear new dresses and dance and music sessions are major parts of the celebration besides pujas and prayers in temples.

Mishra in a letter to the Chief Minister has stated that the state government has declared September 1 as a holiday for Nuakhai this year. However, the people require at least two days for the festival as it is the biggest mass festival of the Western districts comprising Sambalpur, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir and others.

Mishra said that the district administrations are not allowing government employees and the general public to celebrate the festival for two days, which should be done keeping in view the significance of the festival.

# Five quartz, quartzite blocks up for auction



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** The state government has invited bids for e-auction of three quartz and two quartzite mineral blocks located in Keonjhar, Boudh, Mayurbhanj and Kalahandi districts, an official said Saturday.

The Director of Mines has recently issued the Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) for the quartz and quartzite mineral blocks as per power conferred under the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2016 and Odisha Specified Minor Mineral Auction Rule, 2019, said the official.

The mineral blocks put up for auction are—Bhatuabeda quartz block in Mayurbhanj, Lumurajhala (SE) quartz block in Boudh, Mudrajodi-Pokharia quartz block in Mayurbhanj, Batigruha quartzite block in Kalahandi and Raruanguda quartzite block in Keonjhar, the official pointed out.

Excluding the Raruanguda quartzite block, the price of the tender document is Rs 10,000 while one has to deposit Rs 50,000 for the Raruanguda mine.

Last date for purchase of a tender document after payment of a fee on the website of an e-auction platform provider is October 11, 2022 and the last date for submission of the bid is October 17 this year. The reserve price of the five mineral blocks is five per cent.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.

Notably, the state government has also planned to auction 15 mineral blocks during the current year 2022-23. The government has lined up seven iron ore mines, four bauxite, two manganese, a limestone and dolomite and another copper & nickel blocks for auction during the current year.

# State asks Collectors to strictly enforce single-use plastic ban

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** The state government has ordered the district collectors to strictly implement the ban on single-use plastic.

At a virtual meeting Friday, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said action should be taken against the manufacturing units and sellers of single-use plastics.

The ban on single-use plastics was announced by the Centre last year and came into effect across the country from July 1.

The banned items include thermo-cup, plastic flags, plates and cups, cutlery, plastic sticks for balloons and earbuds, plastic wrapping or packaging of items, plastic banners of less than 100 microns.

The ban on single-use plastics was announced by the Centre last year and came into effect across the country from July 1 this year

The banned items include thermo-cup, plastic flags, plates and cups, cutlery, plastic sticks for balloons and earbuds, plastic wrapping or packaging of items, plastic banners of less than 100 microns

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed the district collectors, divisional forest officers and field officers of various departments to report every month about the compliance of the ban and form special teams to intensify raids on the manufacturers and sellers

lectors, divisional forest officers and field officers of various departments to enforce the law strictly at markets, tourist



spots and other public places, according to a statement.


They were asked to report every month about the compliance of the ban and form special teams to intensify raids on the manufacturers and sellers.


The administration has decided to conduct extensive awareness programmes against using polythene bags, plastic glasses and other such items. Eco clubs formed in schools, organisations and the civil society will be asked to actively participate in the campaign.

The top officials discussed the collection and management of plastic waste. Mahapatra emphasised the importance of its reuse and stressed on the need to increase its use in road construction and cement factories.

It was also decided to increase the capacity of waste segregation and recycling centres.



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# Odisha targets 33% women-led startups



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** With an objective to increase female participation in business sector, the Odisha government has targeted that at least 33 per cent start-ups should be formed with women entrepreneurs as founders or co-founders, said Start-up Odisha evangelist Sanjukta Badhei.

Stating that the state has already overachieved the target, Badhei mentioned that about 40 per cent of start-ups registered are led by women entrepreneurs. She high-

lighted that while Odisha has more than 1300 start-ups nearly 500 are run by women.

"Special funding and capacity building programmes have been in place to help women entrepreneurs nurture their ideas. We have monthly allowance grant of ₹22,000 for promoting women entrepreneurship. Up to ₹16 lakhs of product development and marketing support grant is also available to help in the process of building the product and take that to market," Badhei said.

Discussing about Startup Odisha

Yatra 2.0, which was unveiled Friday by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, she said that the initiative will cover more than 100 educational institutions of state and reach out to 10,000 students within 60 days. A special van was also flagged off to create awareness about this initiative.

To provide large scale investment to deserving start-ups, Odisha government has set up ₹100 crores worth of funds. "We are inviting alternative investment funds and semi registered investors to invest in Odisha based start-ups. To provide robust ecosystem, O-Hub-a special facility for start-ups also set up at Bhubaneswar," Badhei added.

Meanwhile, ORMAS CEO Poonam Tapas Guha talked about various possibilities available in different parts of the state for women entrepreneurs and various kinds of handholding supports initiated by government for this purpose. She urged entrepreneurs to visit peer producer groups to learn new techniques and exchange tools and ideas.

## ART EXHIBITION



Visitors browsing through paintings at an art exhibition organised by BK College of Art & Crafts at Budha Art Gallery in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

## Lady cop found...

**Continued from P1**

"Swagatika was crying while talking to me over phone Friday. She told me that the IIC would kill her through mental torture. I tried to contact her today, but in vain," Manoranjan said.

Swagatika's mother Usharani Behera, who was in tears, also levelled similar allegations against the police. Sources said Swagatika, a native of Pandav Patna village near Nirakarapur in Khurda district, had talked to a few of her colleagues over phone Saturday morning.

Her family members and friends have claimed that she was a soft-spoken girl and she used to wear a smile on her face.

## Activist questions huge spending on guest house

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Noted activist Prafulla Samantara wrote letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik questioning the extravagant expenditure on special guest house for the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.

As per report, a special circuit house will be constructed for President Droupadi Murmu at her hometown Rairangpur in the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

In the letter to Chief Minister,

Prafulla Samantara said that "In your 22 years of rule, the primary education system has been reduced to a sorry state where there are no required teachers appointed for which the government schools including high schools failed to fulfill the right to education of students with equal opportunity and quality education. Your government pleads always there is no sufficient fund for appointment of teachers."

"Meanwhile, your government abolished thousands of primary

and high schools in the name of shortage of students' presence. Why and how children of remote villages specially tribal areas would be attracted or have faith in failed system to send their children to schools where one teacher is for five classes?

Again, your government has not been able to feed all deprived people of the state. More than 14 lakh people have no ration cards to get monthly rice quota for which hearing on my PIL in the High Court has been continuing.

Samantara said that it is a matter of concern that some report states that your government will spend ₹50 crore to build a special luxury circuit house for the present President of India at her home town.

This is shocking news to the concerned citizens like me. When you continue to demand to get special status to our state as the most backward state for more financial aid, how is it wise and justified to spend huge money for stay of the President for a few days during her occasional short visit?

## IMS, SUM Hosp ranked 12th in country

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) and SUM Hospital, the faculty of medical sciences of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), has been ranked 12th in the country in the ranking conducted by Career 360 for 2022-23.

In the ranking, IMS and SUM Hospital was the highest positioned medical college in Odisha.

Similarly, Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), SOA's faculty of dental sciences, was ranked 7th in the list while the university's fac-



ulty of engineering, Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) received AAAA+ rating in the ranking.

The parameters chosen for the ranking included student quality, learning and engagement, infrastructure, research output and impact.

## Justice Lalit to work...

**Continued from P1**

"Congratulations," President Murmu said after Justice Lalit signed the register of oath.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former president Ram Nath Kovind, former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu and Union ministers including Kiren Rijiju, who holds the Law and Justice portfolio, were present at the ceremony. Justice Lalit's predecessor, Justice N V Ramana, was also present.

After he was sworn in, Justice Lalit sought the blessings of his 90-year-old father Umesh Ranganath Lalit, a former judge of the Bombay High Court in 1975, and other family elders by touching their feet.

Justice Lalit, who was a senior advocate before being appointed a judge of the apex court August 13, 2014, has been part of several landmark verdicts including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant 'triple talaq' among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional.

While the then Chief Justice JS Khehar and Justice S Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting on hold the judgement for six months and asking the government to come out with a law to that effect, justices Kurian Joseph, RF Nariman, and Lalit held the practice as violative of the Constitution. Justices Khehar, Joseph, and Nariman have since retired.

Recently, a bench headed by Justice Lalit had assembled at 9:30 am, an hour earlier than the usual start of working hours of the apex court, to hear matters.

"In my view, ideally we should sit at 9 in the morning. I have always said that if our children can go to school at 7 in the morning, then why can't we come at 9 am?" Justice Lalit had observed.

On August 22, a bench headed by Justice Lalit fixed the Amrapali homebuyers matter for hearing from 10.30 am to 1 pm September 3 (Saturday), which is not a working day in the top court.



Dignitaries at a State Level Road Safety and First Aid Training programme held at AG traffic conference hall in Bhubaneswar, Saturday OP PHOTO

## Dr BS Das Neurosciences Centre at Kalinga Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, August 27:** Kalinga Hospital Limited recently opened Dr BS Das Neurosciences Centre at the hospital premises. The Centre was inaugurated August 25 by Sita Kantha Dash, the Chairman, Kalinga Hospital Limited in the presence of Sarala Das, wife of late Bhabani Shankar Das and other family members.

In the memory of BS Das a memento was also given to his wife. Das passed away on August 5 this year. He was a leading neuro and spinal surgeon of Odisha and had, over the years, acquired a stature at national and international level. He had been intimately associated with Kalinga Hospital from its



formative days and developed the Neurosurgery Centre, which has become the preferred destination for patients in the region. Kalinga Hospital continues to strive to maintain the lofty standards set by him.

## Minor student goes missing in City

**Bhubaneswar:** A 16-year old student of a private Plus II science college in the city has gone missing reportedly after authorities of the educational institution scolded him over non-payment of college dues. The missing student was identified as Hrudayesh Panda of Balasore district. Based on the complaint of his father Ramakrushna Panda, the Chandrasekharpur police have registered a case and initiated search to trace Hrudayesh. The minor student, who is a Plus II second year student, was staying in the hostel of the private college since 2021. Ramakrushna alleged in his complaint that his son contacted him over phone Friday evening. Hrudayesh said to his father that he wanted to go home as he was not feeling well in the college. Sources claimed that Hrudayesh had also told his father that the college authorities had severely scolded him asking to leave the hostel.

# Our brains count faster from bottom to top, say experts

**W**hen asked to write the numbers from one to ten in a sequence, how do you order them? Horizontally? Vertically? Left to right? Top to bottom? Would you place them randomly?

It has been often been assumed, and taught in schools in Western countries, that the "correct" ordering of numbers is from left to right (1, 2, 3, 4...) rather than right to left (10, 9, 8, 7...). The ordering of numbers along a horizontal dimension is known as a "mental number line" and describes an important way we represent number and quantity in space.

Studies show humans prefer to position larger numbers to the right and smaller numbers to the left. People are usually faster and more accurate at comparing numbers when larger ones are to the right and smaller ones are to the left, and people with brain damage that disrupts their spatial processing also show similar disruptions in number processing.

But so far, there has been little research testing whether the horizontal dimension is the most important one we associate with

numbers. In new research published in PLOS ONE, we found that humans actually process numbers faster when they are displayed vertically - with smaller numbers at the bottom and larger numbers at the top.

Our associations between number and space are influenced by language and culture, but these links are not unique to humans.

Tests on three-day-old chicks show they seek smaller numbers with a leftwards bias and larger numbers with a rightwards one. Pigeons and blue jays seem to have a left-to-right or right-to-left mental number line, depending on the individual.

These findings suggest associations between space and numbers may be wired into the brains of humans and other animals.

However, while many studies have examined left-to-right and right-to-left horizontal mental number lines, few have explored whether our dominant mental number line is even horizontal at all.

How we test for these spatial-numerical associations?

To test how quickly people can



process numbers in different arrangements, Luke Greenacre, Adrian Dyer, Jair Garcia from Monash University set up an experiment where people were shown pairs of numbers from 1 to 9 on a monitor and used a joystick to indicate where the larger number was located.

If the 6 and 8 were shown on the screen, for example, the correct answer would be 8. A participant would indicate this by moving the joystick towards the 8 as fast as

possible. To measure participant response times as accurately as possible, we used fast-refresh 120 Hertz monitors and high-performance zero-lag arcade joysticks.

When the numbers were separated both vertically and horizontally, we found only the vertical arrangement affected response time. This suggests that, given the opportunity to use either a horizontal or vertical mental representation of numbers in space, participants only used the vertical

Our associations between number and space are influenced by language and culture, but these links are not unique to humans

The way we learn to use numbers, and how designers choose to display numerical information to us, can have important implications for how we make fast and accurate decisions

to press on an elevator.

The way we learn to use numbers, and how designers choose to display numerical information to us, can have important implications for how we make fast and accurate decisions. In fact, in some time-critical decision-making environments, such as aeroplane cockpits and stock market floors, numbers are often displayed vertically.

Our findings, and another recent study, may have implications for designers seeking to help users quickly understand and use numerical information. Modern devices enable very innovative number display options, which could help people use technology more efficiently and safely.

There are also implications for education, suggesting we should teach children using vertical bottom-to-top mental number lines as well as the familiar left-to-right ones. Bottom-to-top appears to be how our brains are wired to be most efficient at using numbers - and that might help getting our heads around how numbers work a little easier.

PTI

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₹12CR SAND MINING SCAM

# Police fail to arrest lessee



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, August 27:** Police are allegedly unable to muster courage to take action against the lessee of a sand mine in Badasahi area in Mayurbhanj over his complicity in illegal and excessive mining. The lessee of Mahupura ghat is a lawyer by profession. Notably, as per a joint committee assessment, he resorted to excessive and illegal sand mining leading to environmental damage worth over ₹12.35 crore. He has been asked for compensation for the environmental damage at ₹21 lakh. On the other hand, the eastern bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) Kolkata, finished hearing of a case related to the illegal sand mining at Mahupura ghat in Badasahi. Its verdict will be declared in seven days. A complainant, Radhamohan Singh, had moved a petition at the NGT. He accused police of favouring

**A joint committee in its report had pointed out that due to excess sand mining, the river had changed its course while huge quantity of sand was lifted from outside the leased area**

the lessee instead of arresting him. Reports said, Krupasindhu Singh of Madhuban area in Baripada had taken lease of the ghat in 2016 for five years. The lease term ended March 31, 2021. Surprisingly, the then tehsildar had permitted Krupasindhu to lift 2,200 cubic metre (CUM) sand from the quarry, even though the lessee lacked environmental clearance. As per mining plan, the sand quarrying was to be carried out up to

1 metre depth, but 2,040 CUM sand was lifted per annum from 10-meter depth of the river bed.

While manual labourers were supposed to be engaged in sand mining, all work was done with machines. According to the complainant, the lessee had lifted 20 times more sand than the permissible limit from the quarry.

Acting on the complaint, a joint committee comprising the district Collector, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), the district mining officials, officials of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Badasahi tehsildar had investigated the excessive sand mining and submitted a report in this regard.

In the report, the joint committee had pointed out that due to excessive sand mining, the river course had changed while huge quantity of sand was lifted even from outside the lease area.

The joint committee assessed the extent of environmental damage at over ₹12.35 crore and fixed the compensation amount for the environmental damage at ₹21 lakh. Going by the report, the NGT had directed for recovery of the amount from the errant lessee.

Moreover, following a directive from the Baripada sub-collector's office August 17, 2022, assistant collector Somesh Ranbijuli had filed an FIR against the lessee at the police station. Police registered a case (232/22).

However, even nine days after the case registration, police have failed to arrest him, locals lamented.



NCC cadets and school students shouted slogans while welcoming 'Ahimsa Rath' which is carrying Gandhian philosophy of non-violence on wheels in Sasan of Sambalpur, Saturday

## Gangrape of ASHA worker: Probe begins

PNN & AGENCIES

**Paradip, August 27:** A day after an ASHA worker was gangraped in Paradip under Model police station limits in Jagatsinghpur district, police recorded the statement of the survivor before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kujang, Saturday. Police also conducted a medical examination of the survivor and pressed sniffer dogs and a scien-

**Four people involved in the crime were identified and they will be arrested soon, said Model PS IIC Subhalaxmi Pujari**

tific team into service. However, police failed to arrest the four accused involved in the incident. IIC Subhalaxmi Pujari said that police received information about

the accused and they will be arrested soon. The incident occurred when the survivor was returning on her bicycle after meeting an ANM at Nua Bazaar area in the afternoon, Friday when four youths waylaid her at Hotel Square in Nua Bazaar and forcibly picked her up in a red-coloured car. Then, they stuffed her mouth and gangraped at a desolate place near Nehru Bungalow. They threw away her bicycle inside a bush.

## Job card holders yet to get their wages

**Loisingha:** Many persons in Jharmunda panchayat under this block of Bolangir district are yet to get their wages under MGNREGS. The members of 10 job card holding families from Luchkibahal village had worked in an MGNREGS project in June this year. Three months have passed by, yet they have not got their wages and are being forced to lead a difficult life. "Only a few days are left for the Nuakhai festival. We do not have the money to meet various expenses. Pending wages should be cleared as soon as possible," locals appealed.

## FOSTERING BOND



Women employees and corporators of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) participated in a lemon and spoon race competition at Biju Patnaik Kalyan Mandap in the town Saturday as part of an initiative to observe Local Self Governance Day to be held August 31

## Sec-144 clamped in Bandhabahal

*Tension was palpable after a decapitated goat head was found covered with a Tricolour at a meat shop in Bandhabahal area*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, August 27:** Prohibitory order under Section-144 was clamped at Bandhabahal Industrial area in this district Friday over dishonouring of Tricolour in the region, police said Saturday.

The incident has sparked tension in the area. Apprehending further flare ups, armed police personnel have been deployed at the spot. Police personnel also conducted a flag march in the area to keep away trouble makers from fomenting tension and to maintain law and order in the area.

To keep the situation under control, the district administration, Friday clamped prohibitory order under



Section-144 at Bandhabahal, following an order by Sub-Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dayamaya Padhi. The prohibitory order will remain in force till, September 5.

The order prohibits the assembly of four or more people in the concerned area. Organisation of any programme within one kilometer radius of Bandhabahal market complex area will attract police action. Any violation would result in action as per the order stated. The Banharipali police and Bandhabahal outpost police have also jointly launched efforts to make people

aware of the prohibitory order. The incident occurred after a decapitated goat head was found covered with a Tricolour at a meat shop in Bandhabahal area, Wednesday. The incident sparked anger and outrage among the people as locals demanding stringent action against the shop owner ransacked the meat shop. They also staged a road blockade by burning tyres. Police arrested the meat shop owner Md Sahazad and produced him in court. A case was also registered in this connection and further investigations were on.

# Tribals sore as ITDA tag eludes three blocks

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, August 27:** For the last six years, tribals of Laikera, Kirmira blocks of Jharsuguda and Jujumara block of Sambalpur have been demanding to declare these blocks as Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) blocks, but their demand has remained unfulfilled thanks to alleged apathy of the state and Central governments. Sammilita Adivasi Samaj, an outfit for tribal rights and development, had sent a proposal to the state and Central governments seeking ITDA block status to these blocks in November, 2017.



The tribal outfit said that denying these blocks as ITDA status is injustice to them. On the other hand, Union Tribal Affairs ministry vide a letter dated October 11, 2021, has asked the state government for fresh proposals of ITDA blocks in the state. The outfit has observed that given this stand, the

Union Tribal Affairs ministry apparently lacks concern for the demand of the tribals. August 9, Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste and the then Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram had visited Jharsuguda. The functionaries of two tribal outfits like Sammilita Adivasi Samaj and Akhil Bharatiya Gondwana Mahasabha (Jharsuguda) raised the ITDA status issue before the two leaders. However, the tribals are skeptical about the fulfilment of their demand and said that they would move the court over the issue.

# Govt for GI tagging of Baripada's puffed rice

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, August 27:** The state government has launched efforts to obtain geographical indication (GI) tag for Baripada's puffed rice (mudhi) which is a staple food of the residents in Mayurbhanj district.

The matter came to the fore after the state Science and Technology department wrote to the Mayurbhanj district administration asking it to provide details regarding Baripada's puffed rice required for its registration.

This has spread cheer among the puffed rice traders and producers. The residents as well as the traders and producers have been demanding since long to accord GI tag to Baripada puffed rice.

Commissioner-cum-secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth of state Science and Technology department in a letter-3292, dated August 24, 2022 to the Collector Vineet Bhardwaj asked him to provide necessary details on Baripada puffed rice to help take steps on registration of the delicacy and directed for action.



The modus operandi of production of the puffed rice, production details, name of the applicant, name of the society, the geographical area and its map where it is produced, historical proof, content details, details regarding the supervising team and mode of application

are to be included in the details. Notably, Baripada is famous for its puffed rice and mutton curry, which are served together in every function including marriages and feasts. The puffed rice is prepared in almost every household and over 500 fac-

**Baripada is famous for its puffed rice and mutton curry, which are served together in every function including marriages**

tories are engaged in the production of puffed rice in the district. These factories do not only produce the snack, a people's favourite all over Odisha, but also employ several workers providing livelihood.

It tastes best with mutton curry garnished with green chilli and coriander leaves. However, the food is not limited to be taken only with mutton curry but also with other fried snacks, curries and tea. It forms an integral part of Mayurbhanj's food culture with people having an emotional connection with it. Its unique taste is not limited to Mayurbhanj district and is well-known in and outside the country too. However, it is a part of people's lifestyle here in this specific area.

## Irregularities galore in Bari block

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bari, August 27:** Large-scale irregularities have allegedly been committed in various projects and schemes in Bari block of Jajpur district. Former block chairpersons Nilamani Samal and Bharati Behera have taken up the issue with the district Collector and demanded an investigation into the irregularities. The two leaders also stated that various schemes of the government have failed to achieve their objectives in the block. They pointed out that despite the government's order

to issue health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) to the poor, many have been deprived of this facility. Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), the block is provided 7,500 quintal of subsidised rice every month, they added, alleging that some middlemen have been engaged to collect ₹10 from each retailer per quintal every month. On the other hand, the retailers have to cheat the beneficiaries in weight, by reducing 3 to 4 kg from the latter's monthly quota of grains, they alleged.

## Drunk teacher hits 20 kids, removed

**R Udayagiri:** The district education department suspended a teacher on charge of assaulting over 20 students with a bamboo cane in an inebriated condition at Dengasakhil Upper Primary School under Mohana block in Gajapati district, Saturday. The block education officer informed about his suspension. The accused was identified as Jagdish Behera, a teacher of Ludhiguda UP School under Mohana block. He was accused of assaulting over 20 students in an inebriated condition.

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To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism.



THE MOTHER

## The UNSC Hope

Permanent, veto-wielding seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is India's right, according to India. The anger, irritation and frustration at not being accorded this entitlement shows up on occasion as it did this week in New York. On 22 August, our representative said "How can we aspire for common security when the common good of the global south is continued to be denied representation in its decision making" and that "a truly representative Security Council is the most pressing need of the hour."

Previously, our frustration has been reported under headlines like 'Impaired organ: India slams UNSC on slow pace of reforms.' Apparently we feel "deep frustration with the change process that has been on for many years without progress." Such reports also often tell us why there has been no progress on reforming the Security Council. The fact is that we are not the only contenders for a position on the high table. There are others, and they also feel they are being denied. The report said: "While there is a broad consensus for reforming the Security Council, some countries - loosely called the Coffee Club - have opposed it to block the claims of countries that they believe are their regional rivals. Pakistan is a member of this club. Other members are Argentina, which opposes Brazil's claim; Italy and Spain, who oppose Germany; and Australia, which opposes Japan." China will also oppose Japan of course, as it does India. The reform cannot be done without total consensus, especially of our rivals. China has a veto on our entry and the idea that it will want us to share its power on the global stage formally is delusional. Holders of power do not want to dilute it unless compelled to. France is a second rate power today, as is the United Kingdom. They have lost a lot of power since their colonial period era. Why would their governments want to voluntarily let go of whatever they have remaining or in some way let other nations share it? Of course they will not.



Aakar Patel

Germany and Japan wield far more influence in the world than France though neither has a place on the Security Council or even a proper army

What can India do? Not much, other than express frustration. And this is amplified by the fact that Pakistan constantly and publicly insists that India should be denied the place. As someone who has seen this being replayed over the decades, it is hard not to find India's behaviour inconsistent. We demand to be given our due and be allowed to play with the big boys on the global stage but our focus is on Pakistan and 'cross border terror' and little else. Our field of vision is narrow. Going through the annual appearances of India at the UN General Assembly, if we were to remove the carping about Pakistan from the speeches of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, little of substance would remain. It appears as if we cannot help but be Pavlovian. India cannot get even SAARC to function, but think we have something of value to offer the rest of the world. The question to consider is why India wants a position on the Security Council. The Jana Sangh's first manifestos said the party would seek a place on the Security Council but offered no path to getting there or explaining why it was important that the place be secured. It appears that we want the honour for two reasons, of which one is defensive.

After India rescinded from its promise to conduct a plebiscite in Kashmir (this was conditional on Pakistan military vacating western Kashmir, which it did not do) we tried for decades to ensure that the UN resolutions on a plebiscite in Kashmir died or became dormant. Many Indians might not know of the existence of the United Nations Military Observer Group, and its presence in India to oversee our dispute with Pakistan. In 2014, the Modi government ordered it to vacate its office on Purana Qila Road in Delhi, without knowing that this was not possible. The office still exists of course. India has always felt the pressure of its oppression in Kashmir internationally and has tried to head it off through securing a veto. There appears to be no other reason that we want the position. What will we do on the Security Council that we cannot do today outside it?

Germany and Japan wield far more influence in the world than France though neither has a place on the Security Council or even a proper army. China's rise in the world has not come because of its place on the P5. It has come because of its economic growth and its ability to project through trade and giant global infrastructure projects and that power more than its ability to wield a veto. India's problem is that it has a fifth of China's economic power; not so much that it doesn't get to sit at the high table. If we had China's economic power, it would not matter as much that we were not on the Security Council.

The other reason we want to be on the P5 is our entitlement based on the size of our population and the notion that we are a civilisational entity of higher quality than others. This is supposed to make the rest of the world go weak at the knee and hand us our inheritance. The first is a non-starter because the United Nations is a gathering of nation-states not ranked by population. On the second there is not much to say other than, even if it is in some small measure to be true, India's behaviour over the last few years has done much to undo it. We don't have to go there today. The fact is that we don't really even know why we want to be on the Security Council or what we would do with veto power if we were suddenly handed that bauble. We cannot bind our region economically, we have hostile or borderline hostile relations with all of our neighbours, and if we had any chance of being the great power in South Asia, we have ceded much of that space to China. We are one of the poorest nations on earth, and contribute \$23 billion to the UN annually <https://www.un.org/en/ga/contributions/honourroll.shtml>, which is less than Australia, Canada, Korea, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden and Turkey. The UK and France pay five times more than us, Germany seven times, Japan 10 times more, China 15 times. In 2018, the United States gave \$10 billion, which was 400 times what we give. That is why they have power.

India has had no proper discussion internally on why we want to be on the Security Council, what we will do with the position once we get it and what the cost and obligations and responsibilities of the position will be if we were to get it. We know only that we want it and we demand to be given it.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
- If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. - MAYA ANGELOU
- Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. - MUHAMMAD ALI

### LOL

#### Amazing argument

Lawyer: "Now that you have been acquitted, will you tell me truly? Did you steal the car?" Client: "After hearing your amazing



argument in court this morning, I'm beginning to think I didn't."

### FOCUS ARTEMIS-I

# TO MOON & BACK



A successful completion of this test drive would set the stage for Artemis-II with crew on board and Artemis-III that plans to land the first woman on the Moon. As a new era of space exploration is about to begin, new science is just around the corner and a new mission to Mars is not far



Prativa Pritimita

ARTEMIS-I, THE FIRST ONE OF A SERIES OF LUNAR MISSIONS PLANNED BY NASA, IS ABOUT TO START WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROCKET AUGUST 29

As the Moon awaits man's return since the Apollo era, NASA is ready with a new mission Artemis, the namesake of Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology aiming to establish a sustainable and long-term presence on its territory. Artemis-I, the first one of a series of lunar missions planned by NASA is about to start with the launch of the world's most powerful rocket on August 29 from the Kennedy Space Centre at Florida, United States. It will be an uncrewed test flight to the Moon and back with the goal of providing the groundwork for the planned crewed lunar missions. A successful launch, no small feat for a new rocket, will be a significant milestone for the maiden mission. As the reverse countdown begins, here is all about the rocket and the mission in a nut-shell.

The Space Launch System (SLS) is a 212 feet long rocket with a cargo capacity of over 27 tonnes designed to withstand a temperature of 3315 degrees Celsius. It embodies two solid rocket boosters on either sides, one Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) atop the main module and a launch abort system at the top. The two boosters nearly 17 stories high on either side of the core stage are packed with solid rocket fuel, expected to be completely used up within two minutes into the flight. The core stage is packed with more than five lakh gallons of liquid hydrogen and nearly two lakh gallons of liquid oxygen for the propulsion after the jettison of the first stage. The rocket is also equipped with a launch abort system that can pull away the MPCV, Orion to safety in case of an eventuality during the launch or ascent for keeping the astronauts safe. After eight minutes of the flight

at nearly 27000 kms per hour, Orion will detach from the core stage and begin its journey towards the Moon's orbit. However, Orion is solar powered and in order to deploy its solar panels it will have to orbit the Earth before moving towards the Moon. Its dependence on the Sun for energy also puts constraints on the rocket's launch time, since it should not remain in a Sun-shadowed region for more than 90 minutes at any point of its flight length. The Earth and the Moon must be geometrically positioned in a certain way for this purpose and the earliest possibility of such a geometry unfolds at 08:33 EST on August 29.

Though there won't be any humans on board, Orion will be taking along three mannequins,

Moonikin, Helga and Zohar for specific purposes besides other items like two plush toys Shaun and Snoopy for serving as zero gravity indicators, Amazon's Alexa and a variety of trees and plant seeds. Moonikin will be suited up for testing the durability of the space suits to be used by the astronauts on future missions, while Helga and Zohar would record the amount and effect of radiation exposure during such a trip; Zohar by wearing a protection vest against radiation, Helga without wearing one. The spacecraft will be on 42-day mission before returning to the Earth, during the course of which it will hover 97 kms above the lunar surface, deploy 10 small satellites on the Moon's orbit for a finer study of the lunar surface and explore

a distance of 60,000 kms beyond the Moon to see if it can head towards Mars someday. On its way back home, Orion will slow down from a dizzying speed of 40,000 kms per hour to nearly 150 kms per hour while entering the Earth's atmosphere by deploying parachutes and then splash into the sea.

A successful completion of this test drive would set the stage for Artemis-II with crew on board and Artemis-III that plans to land the first woman on the Moon. As a new era of space exploration is about to begin, new science is just around the corner and a new mission to Mars is not far.

The writer is a research scientist in astro-particle physics.

### SPECTRUM CRISIS RESPONSE

# Prescription for a healthier economic policy



Kemi Adeosun & José Antonio González Anaya

CURRENT GLOBAL CRISES DEMAND THAT HEALTH AND ECONOMIC POLICYMAKERS REINVENT AND STRENGTHEN THEIR COLLABORATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

A healthy population is both a cause and a result of economic growth and development. But achieving both today requires policymakers to leave their comfort zones. Specifically, a new generation of global crises - including pandemics, climate change, and increasing hunger - call for a fundamental rethink of finance ministers' role.

We should know. As former finance ministers, we believe that macroeconomic policies now require far greater engagement with line ministries. In particular, finance ministers need to be better able to assess the potential economic effects of public-health risks, introduce taxes that improve health outcomes, and adopt budgetary and regulatory decisions that look beyond short-term public-finance considerations. Failure to do so will mean being unprepared for the next health and economic crisis.

The devastating economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown why finance ministers must anticipate their responses to global health risks. The pandemic is forecast to kill more than 15 million people and cost the global economy more than \$12 trillion in forgone GDP by 2024. Lockdowns that would have been unimaginable only a few years ago have resulted in more than 1.5 billion students being affected by school and university closures, implying severe long-term consequences for a generation of children and young adults, especially those with no access to effective home

schooling. Simply put, the economic impact of today's systemic health crises may be so large that finance ministers can no longer assume that national and global health policy, especially risk and preparedness assessments for different shocks, is the exclusive domain of health-sector professionals. Instead, finance ministers need to engage more with health leaders to strengthen their countries' resilience in any future crisis.

In many countries, the finance minister has until now set only the overall budgets of line ministries with responsibility for health, leaving implementation to the relevant departments. Similarly, the day-to-day demands on health ministers have often pushed them to focus more on running public-sector hospitals and health-care facilities than on the health of the population, crisis prevention, and response preparedness. These narrow conceptions of their respective roles have led to suboptimal health and economic outcomes.

Finance ministers therefore need to become more directly involved in decision-making in key areas affecting public health and economic performance. A multisectoral approach is essential to identify the policies and budget chapters that have health implications in areas such as water and sanitation, nutrition and sports, clean energy, girls' education, and school-meal programmes.

Moreover, value for money should be at the center of public fi-

ancing of health care. Increased efficiency needs to go hand in hand with greater equity. The discussion must move beyond short-term budgets to joint oversight of the health system's overall efficacy through better procurement, improved financial management, and accountability mechanisms to help ensure that health-care funds achieve specific outcomes sustainably and equitably.

For example, Colombia adopted price controls in its health sector based on data from global markets. Mexico consolidated public-sector medicine purchases and automatically authorised medicines already approved by US, European, and Japanese regulators. Argentina introduced an auction system at the national organization to provide care for the elderly cost-effectively. South Africa and India are jointly seeking a waiver from the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement regarding the prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID-19 to address market failures, particularly the exorbitant cost of essential public goods like mass vaccination.

Financial concerns aside, formulating the right public policies and regulations is vital to promoting better public health. Here, finance ministers can introduce taxes on unhealthy products; increase research and development spending in health; strengthen competition regulations to hold down pharmaceutical and medical equipment prices; ensure robust rules for pub-

lic and private health insurers; and contain households' direct out-of-pocket expenditures.

To this end, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, and Gabon introduced taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages; Argentina and Colombia hiked tobacco taxes; and Gabon imposed an excise tax on cigarettes. Nigeria instituted a phone tax to fund health-care provision, and South Africa intends to introduce levies on vaping and electronic cigarettes to discourage their use, especially by young people.

Lastly, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that global health problems cannot be resolved at the national level alone. Reimagining the health-economy dialogue must include rethinking the governance and performance of international financial and health institutions, and bolstering their cooperation. Moreover, these organisations should include health-crisis prevention and response capacity in their macroeconomic risk assessments.

Current global crises demand that health and economic policymakers reinvent and strengthen their collaboration at the national and international levels. By playing a central role in this process, finance ministers can contribute to making a world that is better able to withstand future health-related economic threats.

Kemi Adeosun is a former minister of finance of Nigeria. José Antonio González Anaya is a former minister of finance of Mexico. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### Renaming AIIMS

Sir, Renaming AIIMS Bhubaneswar is an uphill task before the authorities as many suitable names are being discussed in the public. But, it would be prudent and logical to name it after freedom fighters who have been a part of the freedom struggle movement in Odisha. The choices are plenty. It could be Bhoomiputra Biju Patnaik, Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Saheed Baji Raut, Utkala Keshari Harekrushna Mahatab, Jayee Rajguru and Buxi Jagabandhu to name a few. Highest likes and the popular public opinion should get acknowledged. This will be a true tribute to our immortal freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our emancipation from the yoke of the British Raj. Rename AIIMS Bhubaneswar after a patriot and a nationalist. Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

### Unbridled populism

Sir, This refers to "Freebies can push states to bankruptcy, says SC," Orissa POST, August 27. In fact, the country has already suffered a great deal of damage because of freebies. Unfortunately, all parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), indulge in irresponsible populism and mad welfarism. While there can be justification for free education and healthcare, there can't be none for the distribution of mixer grinders, washing machines, television sets, laptops, subsidised pilgrimage, free electricity, farm loan waivers, and so on. States in particular are guilty of ignoring a basic principle: you can't spend more than you earn. This is an eternal truth which, when lost sight of, has consequences for everyone and every nation. The collapse of Sri Lanka's economy is a recent example that is in front of our eyes to see. Experts have warned that freebies are "race to the bottom" and "a quick passport to fiscal disaster." Also, freebies are not just fiscally ruinous; they have other baneful consequences as well. For example, free power in Punjab has not just emptied the state exchequer but also harmed soil because excessive groundwater is drawn using electric tube-wells. Similarly, farm loan waivers are not just morally inexcusable and fiscally dangerous but also bad for the farmers in the middle to long run. Unbridled populism is clearly damaging the nation; and, sadly, political parties, including the Prime Minister's own, have no compunctions about playing the game of competitive populism. It is time political parties clean up the freebie mess they themselves have created. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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# national

## of the day quote

We have focused on promoting self-employment. We will help 2.5 lakh people earn livelihood every month under different government self-employment schemes. From January to March, the state helped 13 lakh people become self-employed, while the figure was 9.52 lakh between April and July. They have started businesses through loans under various schemes

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MP CM

The Narendra Modi government took all efforts to strengthen probe agencies such as the NIA and anti-terror laws in line with its policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Ghulam Nabi Azad has finally freed himself

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Three arrested

**New Delhi:** Three criminals were arrested after an encounter with the Delhi Police in Rohini area, a top police official said Saturday. Pravnay Tayal, the DCP of Rohini, said that three were identified as Aman Ur Rehman, Usman and Aeti Alam Shah. "A tip-off was received by Inspector Bhupesh and ACP Vipin Bhatia that few persons will come to Bhagya Vihar in Prem Nagar, and by giving sedatives to cows they will later slaughter them," said the official. The police deployed a team at Bhagya Vihar and at around 2.30 a.m., where they saw three persons were indulged in slaughtering.

### Intruder nabbed

**Jammu:** Border Security Force (BSF) troops nabbed an intruder at the international border (IB) on Saturday in J&K's Jammu district. BSF sources said that alert troops noticed suspicious movement in Arnia sector of the IB in Jammu district today.

### Four held

**Palghar:** Four persons were arrested for allegedly cheating people in Maharashtra's Palghar district by giving them "gold coins" that they claimed were part of dug up treasure, a police official said Saturday. They had taken Rs 12 lakh from one victim and given him 5 kilograms of this fake gold that turned out to be metal coated with yellow paint, Senior Inspector Pramod Badakh of Crime Branch Unit III (Virar) said.

### Labourer beaten to death, 2 held

**New Delhi:** A 44-year-old labourer was beaten to death allegedly by four persons after he asked them not to drink on a footpath in south Delhi's Saket area, police said Saturday. Two men have been arrested in connection with the case. Thursday around 7.26 am, information was received from Max Hospital, Saket that a man, identified as Arvind Sah, a resident of Pushp Vihar Sector-4, was brought to the hospital by his brother, Arun, and he was declared brought dead, a senior police officer said.

### Man jumps off bus, dies

**Jaipur:** A man who was being taken to a court in a bus died after he jumped from the vehicle in a bid to escape, police said Saturday. Pramod Kumar (38) was arrested by police Friday. He was being taken from Bhaleri police station to the court in Tara Nagar in Churu in a bus.



**Ghulam Nabi Azad raised valid points while exiting the Congress which is a sinking ship**  
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

## NEW MOVE

People living in areas under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi can now request for sterilisation of stray dogs through a mobile app and the civic body will respond to it, officials said Saturday



## BILKIS BANO CASE

# Ex-bureaucrats urge CJI to rectify 'wrong decision'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 27:** More than 130 former civil servants on Saturday wrote an open letter to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) against the premature release of 11 men who were jailed in the gangrape case of Bilkis Bano and requested him to rectify this "horrendously wrong decision". They asked the CJI to rescind the order of remission passed by the Gujarat government and send the 11 persons convicted of gangrape and murder back to jail to serve out their life sentence. "Like the overwhelming majority of people in our country, we are aghast at what happened in Gujarat a few days ago, on the 75th anniversary of India's Independence," it said. Former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung, former Cabinet Secretary K M Chandrasekhar, former foreign secretaries Shivshankar Menon and Sujatha Singh and former Home Secretary G K Pillai were among the 134 signatories to the letter, written under the aegis of the Constitutional Conduct Group. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was



People hold placards during a protest against remission of the sentence given to the convicts of Bilkis Bano's case by Gujarat government at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India on Saturday. On August 25, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre and the Gujarat government on a plea challenging the release of the 11 convicts and posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. The former civil servants said the release of the convicts has "outraged the nation". "We write to you because we are deeply distressed by this decision of the government

of Gujarat and because we believe that it is only the Supreme Court which has the prime jurisdiction, and hence the responsibility, to rectify this horrendously wrong decision," the letter read. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was gangraped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning in 2002. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven killed.

## Delhi LG office returns 47 files not signed by CM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 27:** The Delhi Lieutenant Governor's office has returned 47 files signed by CMO staff instead of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a move that is likely to intensify the tussle between the two constitutional authorities in the capital, sources said Saturday. The move came nearly a week after LG VK Saxena wrote to Kejriwal, pointing out that the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) was forwarding files seeking opinion and approvals to the LG Secretariat without his signatures. The files returned by the LG Secretariat included those related to the education department and the Waqf Board among others, sources at the LG office said. They claimed that the CMO had continued to send files not signed by the chief minister despite the LG raising the issue. "Some of the files that have been returned back to the CMO were sent without the chief minister's signature even after LG's letter while others were received earlier by LG office," they said. Saxena had flagged the issue in his letter to Delhi CM on August 22, stressing on the chief minister's signature on files sent by CMO for seeking his approvals and opinion, in the interest of smooth and effective governance, sources said. The LG had noted in his letter that files from CMO were being sent for his approval and opinion with notings like 'CM has seen and approved' and 'CM has seen 'it', but not having his signatures. "In the recent months, a significant number of proposals, as a matter of routine, has been submitted by the CMO for the LG's approval or opinion through joint secretary or additional secretary, with the remarks 'Honble CM has seen and approved the proposal' without specifying any grounds of urgency warranting such a communication," the LG had said. The LG had also asked the chief minister to introduce the e-office system, implemented in most government offices, so as to enable seamless movements of files. The latest development comes amid the tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the office of the LG over various issues. The CBI probe recommended by Saxena into the Kejriwal government's Excise Policy has already become a flashpoint between the AAP and BJP. The LG in his letter had cited a provision of the Manual of Office Procedure, 2022, that provided that in rare and urgent cases when a minister is sick or travelling, his/her approval can be taken telephonically and communicated by his private secretary in writing. However, the minister was to confirm his decision after joining back. The LG had flagged the issue saying the "practice" of submission of files on a routine basis under the signatures of CMO officials needed to be avoided.

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A flooded residential area as the water level of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers continues to stay high in the ongoing monsoon season in Prayagraj

## Girls to re-appear for exam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 27:** Following a backlash over girls being forced to remove their innerwear at a NEET examination centre in Kerala's Kollam, the National Testing Agency has decided to allow the affected medical aspirants to re-appear for the examination if they desire on September 4. The last month's incident had led to a huge furore with the Kerala Police arresting seven persons in connection with it. They were released on bail soon after.

The girls' parents had raised their voice against the "inhuman act" by the invigilators saying their wards were totally "devastated" which impacted their performance. Consequent to this, a three-member team of officials attached to NEET conducted a probe into the incident and submitted a report on the mental agony the girls had to undergo. Based on the report, the testing authorities decided to conduct a re-examination only for the affected girls if they wish at a new centre in Kollam district.

### Kerala NEET innerwear row

## INVITE TO SHAH FOR NEHRU TROPHY EVENT SPARKS ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, August 27:** An invitation extended to Union Home Minister Amit Shah by Kerala's Left government to attend a most colourful water sport race in the southern state named after India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was criticised by the opposition Congress Saturday. While the Congress alleged that the invitation extended to the Union Home Minister revealed Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's "loyalty towards the communal forces and his love for the BJP", the government defended the decision, saying Shah, along with chief ministers of southern state, have been invited for watching the spectacular event at Punnamada lake in Alappuzha on September 4 as they will be in the state for attending the 30th Southern Zonal Council meeting a day ahead. KPCC chief K Sudhakaran urged CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury to clarify whether the excessive importance given by the CPI(M) Kerala unit to Sangh Parivar leaders is with the blessings of the party's politburo. The Chief Minister's decision to invite those who "insulted and neglected Jawaharlal Nehru the most" as chief guests in the boat race named after him is "objectionable", Sudhakaran said in a statement here. Rejecting the al-



legations, a government source said there was nothing wrong in the invitation extended to Shah who will be in the state to attend the Southern Zonal Council meeting scheduled for September 3 in Thiruvananthapuram. The source said the government has invited not only Shah, but also the Chief Ministers of the South Indian states including that of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and Lieutenant Governors of the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands who will be in the southern state to attend the zonal council meeting to watch the Nehru Trophy Boat Race. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan said the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should clarify the reason for calling Amit Shah.

## NOIDA TWIN TOWER DEMOLITION

# Have seen such scenes only on TV, say children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Noida, August 27:** Sitting on the boundary wall of a park opposite the Supertech's twin towers that will be demolished on Sunday afternoon, 14-year-old Mohammad Zulfiqar is animatedly explaining to his friends how the buildings will collapse like a pack of cards. "We will come early on Sunday to avoid the crowd and get this best spot. It's a great view from here," Irfan (10) chimes in as they look at the 100-metre-high grey structures from a distance. Unmindful of the complexities of the world of the grown-ups, Ali, Irfan and many other children living in shanties in a nearby village Gejha flanking the twin towers are anticipating a visual spectacle on Sunday. Others like 16-year-old Sabina Khanam, whose mother works in a flat in Supertech Emerald Court, located adjacent to the twin towers, feel it is ironic that the buildings are being demolished when many do not have a roof on their heads. Taller than Delhi's iconic Qutub Minar, Apex and Ceyane towers in Noida's Sector 93A are set to be demolished at 2.30 pm on August 28. The Supreme Court, on August 31 last year, ordered the demolition of the towers for violation of building norms, holding that illegal construction has to be dealt with strictly to ensure compliance with the rule of law. "Tumko pata hai ek dum girega

ye dhaad dhad dhad (do you know it will collapse like a house of cards)," Zulfiqar tells his friends. Nahid (11) talks about the large number of police and media personnel staking out and how he has only seen such things happening on TV. "We have heard that an enormous quantity of explosives has been set up in the buildings to blow them up.



I have only seen such scenes on the TV in movies but never in real life so I can't miss the chance to watch it," Nahid said. More than 3,700 kg of explosives is being used to implode the twin towers. The major task is to ensure the safety of people living in the vicinity and that no nearby buildings suffer damage. Another kid, Gulshan Sahu (10), says people are talking about the possible impact of the demolition on the building. "Many people do not have homes and have to spend nights on the footpath but here authorities are demolishing flats and buildings. How can I feel happy or excited about this exercise," Sabina Khanam said.

# BJP's challenge from within: Hindutva fringe

Karnataka's ruling BJP is facing a hate campaign and social media trials after the murders of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga and BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Kumar Nettare

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, August 27:** Karnataka is witnessing a new development - Hindutva activists and organisations posing an open challenge to the ruling BJP.

The trend has gathered steam after the murders of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga and BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Kumar Nettare in Dakshina Kannada.

The state's ruling BJP is facing a hate campaign and social media trials after videos and screenshots surfaced of the accused in Harsha's murder case found chatting with their family and friends from prison.

The matter worsened with state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra allegedly turning a blind eye to Harsha's sister, who had approached him with a complaint against luxury treatment being given to her brother's alleged killers.

The saffron party which rejoiced the developments following the hijab crisis and boycott calls on Muslim traders leading to the young generation being lured towards Hindutva ideology, is now on a damage control mode after the young cadres started a movement

to quit across the state. Amrith Shenoy, a former AICC Member from Udupi, told IANS: "BJP leaders have politicised every murder that took place during the tenure of the Siddaramaiah government. If the accused were Hindus they did not bother and if they were Muslims they made it a big issue. The same trend has continued in the Harsha murder case as well."

"The BJP cadres and young party workers are thinking why Hindu leaders were being killed during the rule of the BJP? The violent mob had almost attacked BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel who had gone to Nettare's funeral. Ministers V. Sunil Kumar and Araga Jnanendra had to take protection from people."

Gradually, BJP supporters are realising that the party's Hindutva is bogus, Shenoy said and claimed that the party does not even worship Lord Ram.

"Karnataka, especially the coastal region, was a Congress bastion till 2000. In the beginning, Hindu leaders such as Praveen Togadia and Pramod Muthalik started organising Hindu samajotsava and invited everyone. They claimed that the



programmes were apolitical," he stated.

The claims however, turned out to be fake, as they spoke against the Congress and Hindus being threatened and projected the BJP as the champion of Hindus, Shenoy says.

Gradually, the young generation from oppressed classes were drawn to their fold and were encouraged to carry out moral policing, wield swords and pelt stones, he added.

Pramod Muthalik, founder of the Sri Rama Sena, explained that his organisation won't support the BJP in next year's Assembly elections.

"We have asked the BJP to change. The dissatisfaction towards BJP is very much there. The party is corrupt and it is not sensitive towards the needs of Hindu community. It has digressed from its objectives," he said.

Dharmendra, state General Secretary of the Akhila Bharata Hindu Mahasabha, said that his organisation is much more powerful now than earlier.

He maintained that Mahasabha will change the political scenario in the state following the 2023 polls and claimed that the "BJP's prospectus would be harmed to a great extent across Karnataka."

Dharmendra further says that the people have seen how the ruling BJP leaders have amassed wealth and also caused tremendous pain and suffering to Hindu activists.

BJP insiders explain that the party leaders are hoping to recover from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the coastal town of Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district September 2, where he will address a public rally.

# Gujarat polls: Sops galore in Cong's healthcare manifesto

In its 'Jan Arogya Sankalp Patra' the party promises free treatment of up to ₹10 lakh in government and approved private hospitals as well as free organ transplant

AGENCIES



**Ahmedabad, August 27:** Ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections, the state Congress Saturday announced its healthcare manifesto titled 'Jan Arogya Sankalp Patra' that promised free treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh in government and approved private hospitals as well as free organ transplant if voted to power.

All government-owned primary health centres, community health centres, referral and civil hospitals will be made "five star" like National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), as per the party's sankalp patra. The party said it would also frame a special policy to "reduce unequal birth rate of sons and daughters". Communities will be identified with gender imbalance and a sum of Rs 3,000 per month will be transferred into the bank accounts of daughters,

while assistance of Rs 30 lakh will be given to families having only daughters in old age, the Congress manifesto said. It also promised to increase the healthcare budget of the state in order to achieve global standards in the sector.

State Congress President Jagdish Thakor said the Congress-led UPA-I and II governments at the Centre (between 2004 and 2014) gave top priority to Gujarat when it came to implementing welfare schemes.

"Gujarat was the first preference for 108 ambulance service when it was launched by the Congress-led Central government," he said.

"Promises made by the Congress in the healthcare sector have been implemented in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In Gujarat, too, when Congress forms government, we will fulfil these promises, which are

very much possible to implement. We have set a target of winning more than 125 seats," Thakor said.

Incidentally, a few days ago, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had told reporters here that the schemes implemented by his government will be replicated in Gujarat if his party is voted to power in polls likely to be held later this year.

As per the party healthcare manifesto, apart from free treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh for all citizens in government hospitals and approved private hospitals, there would also be free kidney liver and heart transplant procedures.

The party would open 'janata dispensary' in every village and civic wards, while remote villages will get "mobile government hospital."

# Newspaper editor, owner booked for piece on Gujarat CM's 'ouster'

AGENCIES

**Rajkot, August 27:** A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against the editor and owner of a newspaper here for publishing a write-up which hinted at the possible removal of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel due to the BJP leadership's 'unhappiness'.

The FIR was registered two days ago under Indian Penal Code sections 505(1)(b) (offending act likely to induce a person to commit offence against State or public tranquillity) and 505(2) (circulating or publishing report containing rumour or alarming news with intent to create feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will), police said.

The article with the headline 'Goodbye Bhupendrajai, Welcome Rupalai' was published in the August 22 edition of the 'Saurashtra Headline', a Rajkot-based evening paper. The FIR was registered against editor Aniruddh Nakum who wrote the piece and his wife who is the owner of the newspaper, said inspector CG Joshi of Rajkot City

The article claimed BJP's central leadership was unhappy with CM's performance and was considering replacing him

A-division police station.

A notice has been issued to the accused for joining the probe but they have not been arrested, he added. As per the FIR, filed on the complaint of Babubhai Vaghara, "the report is written with the intention of spreading rumours without any supporting information and creating panic among the BJP supporters and creating hatred between different political supporters thereby endangering public peace."

The article claimed that the central leadership of the BJP was unhappy with Bhupendra Patel's performance and was considering replacing him. It also said that Union ministers Parshottam Rupala and Mansukh Mandaviya were the front runners as his replacement, as per the FIR.



Commuters at a waterlogged area following monsoon rains in Bangalore, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

# Row over exaggeration of Savarkar in school books



WITH THIS, THE TEXTBOOK REVISION ROW HAS YET AGAIN RESURFACED IN THE SOUTH STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, August 27:** After violence over removal of Veer Savarkar's flexes in Shivamogga and opposition to placing his picture next to Lord Ganesh's idols during Vinayak Chaturthi, the social media is discussing exaggeration of Veer Savarkar in school textbooks.

With this, the textbook revision row has yet again resurfaced in the state. The education de-

partment has replaced a lesson from the Kannada textbook for Class 8.

The previous lesson "Blood Group" authored by Vijayamala has been replaced with "Kalavanu Geddavaru" (Those who won against time) lesson by KK Gatti. The lesson is the first person account of the author's visit to Andaman cellular jail where Veer Savarkar was kept.

The writer has also depicted the cell of Veer Savarkar and

stated that though Savarkar's cell did not have any ventilation, bulbul birds managed to fly in and Savarkar sat on their wings and touched the earth of motherland every day. The social media campaign says the facts have been exaggerated.

Meanwhile, Tumakuru University in Karnataka is all set to establish the Research centre on Veer Savarkar, which is likely to create fresh controversy. The syndicate meeting has approved the decision and preparations are on to submit a proposal in this regard to the government, sources explained.

# Communal tension eases at Kutch village



AGENCIES

**Bhuj, August 27:** Police have nabbed a man wanted in connection with a murder that led to a communal clash in Madhapur village in Gujarat's Kutch district even as heavy police deployment remained in the area to avoid any untoward incident, officials said Saturday.

A group of members from a community attacked and vandalised shops and a place of worship of another social group Friday evening in Madhapur, located just four km away from the 'Smriti Van' memorial for earthquake victims, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday.

Police had said people from the Rabari community from Madhapur on the outskirts of Bhuj were angry at the murder of a youth identified as Paresh Rabari who was allegedly stabbed to death by one Suleman Sana Friday

morning amid a quarrel. "We rounded up Suleman Sana Friday evening and will arrest him in the due course after questioning. The situation has eased after the accused was taken into police custody," said Madhapur police station inspector Karansinh Vihol.

He said teams of the State Reserve Police (SRP), Quick Response Team (QRT) and local police remain stationed in the affected area.

Members of the Rabari community had staged a protest outside the hospital and refused to accept Paresh's body until the accused was arrested. They, however, accepted the body after Sana was picked up. While returning from the last rites of Paresh Friday evening, an angry mob vandalised shops and a place of worship.

The brother of the deceased lodged a First Information Report (FIR) Friday afternoon at Madhapur police station.

# Ex-CM Siddaramaiah declines invite for seminar on China

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, August 27:** Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah Saturday clarified that he had declined to participate in the India-China Friendship Association-Karnataka's (ICFA-K) seminar, and expressed surprise over his name still appearing on the event's invitation, after it drew flak from the BJP.

The invitation for "Seminar on Taiwan", with the topic, "Interference of US imperialist in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China" and Chinese photographic exhibition, bore the former Chief Minister's name as chief guest, along with other Congress leaders.

The likes of BJP National General Secretary CT Ravi,

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha National Secretary Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga and Hindutva ideologue Chakravarty Sulibele, among others had earlier Saturday criticised the Congress, for Siddaramaiah and its other leaders participating in the event.

However, following the controversy, the seminar that was scheduled for Sunday at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, stands cancelled, but the photo exhibition will continue as scheduled, ICFA-K General Secretary V Bhaskaran said.

"I had declined the invitation of India-China Friendship Association to participate in their event which will be held tomorrow. It is surprising to see my name despite declining it," Siddaramaiah tweeted with a cropped invitation.



"I declined to participate as my party's and my position are against the agenda of the pro-

gramme," he added. Names of other Congress leaders like former Minister HC

Mahadevappa were mentioned as guest of honour in the invite and Rajya Sabha Member L Hanumanthaiah and former Minister P GR Sindhia, who are marked as speakers, have also tweeted that they too had declined to participate in the event, stating that its agenda was against their position.

The invite mentions Sindhia as ICFA national President, and Kolar MLA K Srinivas Gowda, who was recently expelled from JD(S) and has openly expressed his willingness to join the Congress, as ICFA-K President.

According to the invite, Sun Weidong, Chinese Ambassador to India, and Kong Xianhua Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Mumbai, were to participate in the event.



## of the day quote

The day is not far away when TMC leaders will be publicly beaten up. The people of the state are fed up with this corrupt TMC regime. They will soon face public ire for their involvement in various scams

DILIP GHOSH | BJP LEADER

Some traitors are roaming in the name of farmer leaders who speak the language of the government. The government is cheating the farmers but the farmers' fight will not end. Farmers will not bow down to the arbitrariness of the government

RAKESH TIKAIT | BKU LEADER

I invite you to not only invest in the best but to become active partners for creating mutually beneficial atmosphere for industrial development

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Man killed

**Mumbai:** A 41-year-old man from neighbouring Thane was stabbed to death by an acquaintance over a dispute in suburban Santacruz here, police said Saturday. The police have arrested Sayyed Akeel (40) for allegedly killing Parvez Bashir Sheikh, a resident of Raboli in neighbouring Thane, late on Friday night, an official from Vakola police station said. Investigations have revealed that Akeel was acquainted with the victim's wife from his college days and was harassing her over the phone, he said.

### Six arrested

**Palghar:** Six suspected cattle smugglers were arrested for allegedly trying to run over forest department personnel chasing them in a vehicle in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said. The incident occurred in the early hours of Thursday when forest guards were checking vehicles at Khandeshwari Naka at Wada in the Palghar district, a senior police officer said Friday. While the checking was underway, they spotted a pick-up van speeding away and started chasing it, he said.

### Three killed

**Anuppur (MP):** Three men were killed when a truck hit the motorcycle they were riding in Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, police said Saturday. The incident occurred Friday late at night near the Godaru Nala area on national highway no. 43, police said. Bhalumada police station in-charge Jodhan Singh said the deceased men were aged between 20 to 22 years. They were returning on a motorcycle after meeting a friend when a truck rammed into them, he said, adding that the truck driver fled with the vehicle after the incident. A case was registered and further investigation is underway.

### 12 quakes jolt J&K in five days

**Jammu:** A minor earthquake measuring 2.9 on the Richter scale jolted Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, increasing the number of tremors to 12 in the last five days, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The NCS said the quake occurred at 4.32 a.m. on Saturday with latitude 32.87 degrees north and longitude 75.46 degrees east. The epicentre was 26 km southwest of Bhaderwah town in Jammu division and its depth was 10 km inside the earth's crust.



The middle class people struggling with inflation are somehow living by cutting down their expenses, but the poor people will now crave even two-time meal. Big posters of 'Free ration' and 'Thank you Modi ji' once again proved to be only election 'jumlas'. The government of 'friends' does not care about the people of the country

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

### TREKKER RESCUED

The Indian Army rescued a Hungarian trekker, who had lost his way while trekking in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district



## CWC meet today on Congress chief election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 27:** The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet Sunday to approve the schedule of dates for the election of the next party president.

This comes in the backdrop of party veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad's shock resignation Friday. Sources said besides giving approval to the polls schedule, the members of the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body, could also express confidence in the leadership provided by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

This would be significant in the context of Azad's resignation and criticism of the leadership. Azad ended his five-decade association with the party and lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing its entire consultative mechanism".

The Congress, dealing with the fallout of a series of high profile exits, including that of Kapil Sibal and Ashwani Kumar, attempted to deflect the latest blow by alleging that Azad's DNA had been "Modi-fied" and linking his resignation to the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure. Ahead of the CWC meeting, to be held virtually at 3:30 pm with Sonia Gandhi presiding over it, party sources had said the process of the election of the president will be delayed by a few weeks, not



This comes in the backdrop of party veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad's resignation Friday

The Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new party president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year

With Sonia Gandhi abroad for medical checkups and Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanying her, they will join the CWC meeting virtually

abroad for medical checkups and Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanying her, they will join the CWC meeting virtually. The meeting comes amid several leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, having publicly exhorted Rahul Gandhi to return as the party chief. However, uncertainty and suspense continue on the issue.

Several party insiders say Rahul Gandhi is persisting with his stance that he will not be the AICC president. Gehlot on Wednesday had sought to play down reports about him being the frontrunner for the Congress president's post and said efforts will be made till the last minute to persuade Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the party again.

Gehlot's remarks had come a day after he met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, triggering the buzz that the two may have discussed the possibility of him being the next party president. Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in parliamentary elections in 2019. Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue.

more than that, and the party should have a full-time president in October.

The Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new party president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year. The CWC had decided that elections for block committees and one member each of state Congress units will be held from April 16 to May 31, district committee chiefs will be elected be-

tween June 1 and July 20, state chiefs and AICC members between July 21 and August 20, and AICC president between August 21 and September 20.

Sources had also said the election of the Congress president is likely to be delayed by a few weeks with the party focused on the Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' starting September 7 and some state units not completing formalities. With Sonia Gandhi

## Panel probing Jaya's death submits report

Justice A Arumughaswamy, who led the probe while hearing over 150 witnesses, submitted the report to Chief Minister MK Stalin and said it was now up to the government to decide on making it public

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Chennai, August 27:** The much-awaited report of a panel that probed the circumstances surrounding late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's death, was Saturday submitted to the Tamil Nadu government and it will be placed before the state cabinet in its August 29 meet.

Justice A Arumughaswamy, who led the probe while hearing over 150 witnesses, submitted the report to chief minister MK Stalin and said it was now up to the government to decide on making it public. An official release from the state government said the CM has directed that the report be placed before the Cabinet meet on Monday and take "due action".

The ruling DMK had, ahead of the

April 2021 Assembly polls in the state, promised a proper inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of Jayalalithaa and initiation of legal action against anyone found guilty.

The Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry, constituted by the previous AIADMK government, commenced its hearing on November 22, 2017.

The panel head is a retired judge of the Madras High Court. Justice Arumughaswamy, who later spoke to reporters, said the 500 page report in English was prepared after hearing about 150 witnesses. The Tamil version ran up to 608 pages.

"Only the government can decide on publishing the report," he said.

## Timely action saves 12 jumbos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Medininagar (Jharkhand), August 27:** Timely action by two loco pilots saved the lives of a dozen elephants including calves in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand, officials said Saturday.

The Howrah-Jabalpur Shaktipunj Express was bound for West Bengal through a dense forest in PTR at a speed of around 70 kmph around 6 PM on Friday when suddenly the locomotive pilots noticed a herd of elephants crossing the tracks between Chipadohar and Hehegara railway stations, they said.

"Loco pilot A K Vidyarthi and I swiftly pulled the emergency brake and the train stopped around 60 metres from the herd," Rajnikant Choubey, assistant loco pilot, said. "We felt a sense of satisfaction after saving the lives of at least 12 elephants," he added.

Choubey said there was no speed limit on the stretch where the incident happened but the speed limit after the 'caution line', which was 500 metres away, was 25 kmph. The existing double-line passes through an 11-km stretch between Chhipadohar and Hehegara in the core area of the reserve, a PTR official said.

Spread over 1,129.93 sq km area, the reserve houses 47 species of mammals and 174 species of birds.

There are around 250 elephants in the reserve. PTR field director Kumar Ashutosh said, "We thank the loco pilots for saving the lives of 12 elephants."

He said frequent movement of trains through the dense forest causes threat to wildlife in the reserve.

"Several elephants were killed in this section in the past. I would urge other loco pilots to remain cautious like Choubey and Vidyarthi," he added.



Indian army personnel train civilians as part of a Village Defence Committee training session in using firearms near Line of Control in Poonch district

PTI PHOTO

## Sonali given methamphetamine drugs: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Panaji, August 27:** Goa Police Saturday said BJP leader Sonali Phogat was given methamphetamine, a recreational drug, by her aides hours before her death, as two more persons were arrested in the case related to her alleged murder. It took the number of arrests in the case to four.

Of those arrested on Saturday, Dattaprasad Gaonkar had allegedly provided drugs to Phogat's aides Sudhir Sagwan and Sukhwinder Singh who fed them to her, police



said. Edwin Nunes, the other arrested man, is the owner of the

Curries restaurant in North Goa district where Phogat and her aides had partied on the intervening night of August 22 and 23.

Phogat was administered methamphetamine, a kind of recreational drug, and some left-over drug was recovered from the restaurant's washroom, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Jivba Dalvi.

Sagwan and Sukhwinder Singh, arrested earlier, allegedly told police that they had procured drugs from Gaonkar who worked as a room boy at Hotel Grand Leoney Resort in Anjuna where they were

staying. Gaonkar and Nunes were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, police said. Videos of CCTV footage from the restaurant also emerged on social media during the day. In one video, Phogat can be seen dancing with Sagwan.

Sagwan is seen forcing her to drink water which she instantly spits out.

Another video shows Phogat being escorted out of the restaurant by the accused. She is seen staggering and almost falling near the staircase on her way out.

## BURGLARS SET HOUSE AFIRE AFTER THEFT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, August 27:** Burglars went berserk on the outskirts of Hyderabad early Saturday, setting afire a house after committing burglary.

The burglars broke into the house and after looting Rs 80,000, sprinkled chilli powder and set afire the interiors in the two-storied house. It was not clear if the burglars set the house on fire to wipe out the evidence or they were disappointed over not finding valuables.

The crime was committed in the early hours of the day in the limits of Petbasheerabad police station of Cyberabad police commissionerate. All the household items were gutted in the fire. Visuals of burglars setting fire to the house were captured on CCTV cameras.

The burglary was committed in the house of one Bangaru Reddy in Presidency Colony in Old Alwal. At the time of the incident, Reddy had gone to Dilsukhnagar for his father's anniversary. When he returned home on Saturday morning, he was shocked to find the house burnt.

He alerted the police, who rushed the spot and gathered clues. He said Rs 80,000 was stolen by the offenders. A case has been registered and police were probing the case from all angles. In a similar incident a few years ago, burglars had set ablaze furniture and other items in a house as they were disappointed over not finding the valuables. The incident had occurred at Puppulaguda.



## Lifetime domestic help, chauffeur for former CJIs, SC judges

THE BENEFITS OF THE AMENDED RULES WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL LIVING FORMER CJIs AND RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUDGES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, August 27:** A chief justice of India will now get a domestic help, a chauffeur and a secretarial assistant for lifetime from the day he or she demits office, according to the latest post-retirement benefits notified by the government.

In a fresh notification issued Friday, the Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry said the Supreme Court Judges Rules have been amended again to extend more post-retirement facilities to retired CJIs and judges of the top court. The rules were earlier amended on August 23.

The benefits of the amended rules will be extended to all living former CJIs and retired Supreme Court judges. As per the latest changes in the rules, a retired chief justice of India will also be entitled to a security cover round-the-clock at their residence in addition to a 24X7 personal security guard for a period of five years from the date of retirement.

A retired Supreme Court judge will be entitled to 24X7 security cover at his or her residence in ad-



dition to a round-the-clock personal security guard for a period of three years from the date of retirement. If a retired CJ or a retired judge of the top court is already provided a "higher grade" security on the basis of threat perception, "the higher grade security already provided shall continue".

A retired CJ will be entitled to

a rent-free Type-VII accommodation in Delhi (other than the designated official residence) for a period of six months from the date of retirement. Type VII accommodation is usually provided to sitting MPs who have been former Union ministers. The accommodation facility was extended to retired CJIs earlier this month.

A retired judge of the Supreme Court will get a domestic help and a chauffeur for lifetime from the day of retirement. The ceremonial lounge facility at airports extended to retired CJ and retired Supreme Court judges announced earlier this month would also continue.

Retired chief justices of the high courts were also extended the VIP lounge facility by amending the High Court Judges Rules. A retired CJ or a retired Supreme Court judge will be entitled to a residential telephone "free of cost" and reimbursement of telephone call charges of residential telephone or mobile phone or broadband or mobile data or data card not exceeding Rs 4,200 per month, plus taxes.

"The post-retirement benefits under this rule shall be admissible to the retired Chief Justice (of

India) or the retired Judge (of SC) if no such facilities are availed from any High Court or from any other government body where the retired Chief Justice or a retired Judge has taken up any assignment after retirement," the notification explained.

The expenditure on domestic help, chauffeur, secretarial assistant and telephone reimbursement will be borne largely by the Supreme Court or a high court establishment. Till recently, retired CJ and top court judges were given monthly monetary benefits to hire guards, domestic helps and chauffeurs. The amount given would be discontinued, a functionary said. While a retired CJ was entitled for Rs 70,000 per month for the purpose, retired Supreme Court judges were provided Rs 39,000 per month.

# international

## of the day quote

On 26 August, we Azerbaijan returned to the town of Lachin  
**ILHAM ALIYEV**  
AZERBAIJAN'S PRESIDENT

Belarus is now able to respond to threats in a variety of ways in the face of growing tensions with the West  
**ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO**  
BELARUSIAN PRESIDENT

As Sri Lanka continues to suffer its worst financial slump, staple foods have become unaffordable, severe malnutrition is among the highest in the region and it is the poorest, most vulnerable girls and boys who are paying the steepest price  
**GEORGE LARYEA-ADJEI**  
UNICEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH ASIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Shootouts and blasts shake Libyan capital

**Tripoli:** Intense fighting erupted in the Libyan capital overnight and lasted into Saturday, with rival factions exchanging heavy gunfire and the sounds of several loud blasts ricocheting around the city. The clashes took place in Tripoli's city centre after one of the capital's strongest groups assaulted the base of a rival force, witnesses said, leading to hours of shooting that terrified locals and raised fears of a wider escalation.

### UN General Assembly Prez to visit India

**United Nations:** UN General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid is to arrive in India Sunday for a two-day visit. He is scheduled to meet Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and discuss the "ongoing issues at the General Assembly, and India's engagement with the United Nations", according to his spokesperson Paulina Kubiak. Shahid will be coming to India from Tajikistan, which he is visiting after a trip to Kuwait, as he prepares to wrap up his term in office next month.

### Philippines: All from burned ferry rescued

**Manila:** All 85 passengers and crew of an inter-island ferry that caught fire near its port destination south of Manila have been safely rescued and a search effort has been terminated, Philippine officials said Saturday. The last two passengers unaccounted for on the M/V Asia Philippines, which was carrying 47 passengers and 38 crewmembers, turned out to have taken a different ferry. They were earlier believed to be onboard the cargo and passenger vessel that was hit by fire Friday as it approached the port in Batangas province, coast guard officials said.

### India, Argentina to deepen ties

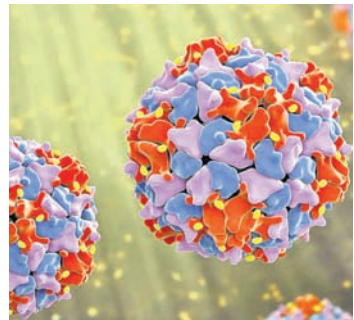
**Buenos Aires:** India and Argentina have reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening and diversifying their bilateral cooperation, expanding it in new domains by broadening their strategic partnership to address global challenges like terrorism and climate change. In a joint statement following the Joint Commission Meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs International Trade and Worship Santiago Cafiero here Friday, the two countries reviewed their ongoing cooperation in the strategic sectors of defence, nuclear energy and space and reiterated their commitment to work together for mutual benefit.



Now, the solution is for all political parties to make concessions for the interests of Iraq and Iraqis  
**MUSTAFA AL-KADHIMI**  
IRAQ'S CARETAKER PM

## MORE POLIO VIRUS DETECTED

State health officials in New York are warning of expanding "community spread" of the polio virus after it was found in wastewater samples from another upstate county



## THREATS TO NUCLEAR PLANT

# Ukraine, Russia trade more blame

Russia blocked agreement on the final document of a four-week review of the UN Treaty considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament which criticised its military takeover of Europe's largest nuclear plant soon after Russian troops invaded Ukraine



Smoke rising from fires at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, August 27:** Concern about the potential for a radiation leak at Europe's largest nuclear power plant persisted as Ukrainian authorities said Saturday that Russian forces fired on areas just across the river and Russia claimed Ukrainian shelling hit a building where nuclear fuel is stored.

Authorities were distributing iodine tablets to residents who live near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in case of radiation exposure, which can cause health problems depending on the amount a person absorbs.

Much of the concern centers on the cooling systems for the plant's nuclear reactors. The systems require power to run, and the plant was temporarily knocked offline

Thursday because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. A cooling system failure could cause a nuclear meltdown.

Russian forces occupied the nuclear plant complex early in the 6-month-old war in Ukraine, and Ukrainian workers have kept it running. The Ukrainian and Russian governments have repeatedly accused the other of shelling the complex and nearby areas, raising fears of a possible catastrophe. Periodic shelling has damaged the power station's infrastructure, Ukraine's nuclear power operator, Energoatom, said Saturday. "There are risks of hydrogen leakage and sputtering of radioactive substances, and the fire hazard is high," it said.

In the latest conflicting attack reports, the governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region, Valentyn Reznichenko, said Saturday that Thursday because of what officials said was fire damage to a transmission line. A cooling system failure could cause a nuclear meltdown.

Grad missiles and artillery shells hit the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each located about 10 kilometers (6 miles) and across the Dnieper River from the plant.

But Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Ukrainian forces had fired on the plant from Marhanets. Over the past day, 17 Ukrainian shells hit the plant, with four striking the roof of a building that stores nuclear fuel, he said.

It was not immediately possible to verify either account given restrictions on journalists' movements and the ongoing fighting.

The UN's atomic energy agency has tried to work out an agreement to send a team in to inspect and help secure the plant. Officials said preparations for the visit were underway, but it remained unclear when it might take place. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

said it was essential for International Atomic Energy Agency representatives to get to the plant as soon as possible and to help keep it "under permanent Ukrainian control."

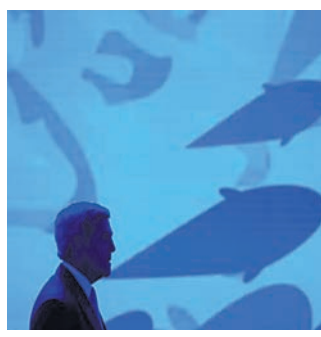
"The situation remains precarious and dangerous," Zelenskyy said in latest nightly address. "Any repetition of (Thursday's) events, i.e., any disconnection of the station from the grid or any actions by Russia that could trigger the shut down of the reactors, will once again put the station one step away from disaster."

Ukraine has claimed Russia is using the power plant as a shield by storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it. Moscow, for its part, accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the nuclear complex.

The dispute over the plant led Russia late Friday to block agreement on the final document of the four-week-long review of the UN treaty that is considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament. The draft document of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference criticized Russia's takeover of the Zaporizhzhia plant.

The deputy head of Russia's delegation said the conference became "a political hostage" to countries that were trying "to settle scores with Russia by raising issues that are not directly related to the treaty."

# Nations fail to reach deal on UN treaty to protect sea life



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**United Nations, August 27:** Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas, after a fifth round of talks ended in impasse.

Negotiations at UN Headquarters in New York were suspended early Saturday following two weeks of talks that environmentalists had hoped would close a gap in international marine protection measures.

A proposed treaty would set rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions.

Less than 1% of the high seas are protected without a new treaty, and "pockets of marine protection are not enough" for threatened species, said Maxine Burkett, the United States deputy assistant secretary of state who was involved in negotiations. The global goal is to set aside 30% of ocean

## THE GLOBAL GOAL IS TO SET ASIDE 30% OF OCEAN AREA AS SOME KIND OF MARINE SANCTUARY

area as some kind of marine sanctuary. Ocean health also us key to combatting climate change because more than 90% of the excess heat from climate change is absorbed by the seas. Marine heat waves are getting longer and more frequent.

"The ocean cannot afford further delay," Burkett said earlier in the week, when the negotiations looked promising.

In the Caribbean, "our livelihoods are directly dependent on the health of the ocean," said Janine Felson, Belize's ambassador to the United Nations.

Talks centered on how to share benefits from marine life, establish protected areas, prevent harm from human activity on the high seas and to help poor countries gain the skills and means for ocean exploration.

Campaigners expressed disappointment at the failure to reach a deal but said the talks produced some progress.

Laura Meller, who leads Greenpeace's ocean protection campaign, accused rich countries such as the United States of being too slow to compromise.



Boats are shown in dry dock at the Great Salt Lake Marina due to record low water, near Salt Lake City PTI PHOTO

# 'Trump papers included material on intelligence'

REUTERS

**Washington, August 27:** The US Justice Department Friday disclosed that it was investigating former President Donald Trump for removing White House records because it believed he illegally held documents including some involving intelligence-gathering and clandestine human sources - among America's most closely held secrets.

The department released a heavily redacted affidavit that underpinned the FBI's extraordinary Aug. 8 search of Trump's Florida residence in which agents seized



11 sets of classified records including some labeled "top secret" as documents that could gravely threaten national security if exposed. In the affidavit, an unidentified FBI agent said the agency reviewed and identified 184 documents

# Deadly floods uproot millions in Pakistan



AGENCIES

**Peshawar/Quetta, August 27:** Heavy downpour continued to pummel parts of Pakistan already battered by calamitous floods of epic proportions, unleashing a fresh wave of death and destruction in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

Flash floods triggered by destructive monsoon rains across much of Pakistan have killed nearly 1,000 people and injured and displaced thousands more since June, officials said.

Scores of people died in KP, where heavy rains for the second consecutive day triggered devastating floods in rivers and streams that also swept away several homes near their banks, hotels in hilly resorts, while Balochistan remained cut off from the rest of the country due to fresh rains, *The Express Tribune* reported.

The KP government declared rain emergency in several districts as flash floods triggered by torrential rains wreaked havoc in most parts of the province, raising the province-wide death toll to at least 238 people, officials said.

They added that rain emergency, which came into effect immediately, would remain in place till August 30 as the Pakistan Meteorological Department forecast another spell of monsoon downpour which might continue in the next week, *The Express Tribune* reported. Fresh torrential rains pummelled different parts of the province on the second consecutive day.

Heavy downpour in Kaghan Valley triggered flash flood in the Munnawar Nullah that swept away 10 people, according to official data. More than 10 shops, two hotels and eight vehicles were swept away in Mahandri due to severe flooding in the stream.

A mosque, two schools and a police post were also damaged.

The Kaghan highway was closed for traffic at many places, while people on the Kunhar river banks had moved away to safer places.

The flash floods are estimated to cost cash-strapped Pakistan's economy over \$4 billion in the current fiscal year as the calamity has badly hurt agricultural activities in Sindh and Balochistan, according to a research report.

While it is early to assess the actual impact, Pakistan, where agriculture has a 25 per cent share in gross domestic product (GDP), can remain highly vulnerable in the aftermath of the floods that have killed nearly 1,000 people and injured and displaced thousands more since mid-June.

# With new cardinals, Pope puts stamp on Church future

REUTERS

**Vatican City, August 27:** Pope Francis Saturday inducted 20 cardinals from around the world, choosing men who mostly agree with his vision of a more progressive and inclusive Church and influencing their choice of his eventual successor.

Francis, 85, presided at a ceremony known as a consistory, telling the new cardinals to show concern for ordinary people despite the high rank that will bring them into contact with the powerful of the earth. The ceremony marked the eighth time Francis has put his stamp on the Church's future with a new intake of cardinals who will serve as his top advisors and administrators at the Vatican and around the globe.

Those under 80 - 16 among the 20 newcomers - can enter a conclave to elect a new pope from among themselves after he dies or resigns.

They come from Britain, South Korea, Spain, France, Nigeria, Brazil, India, the United States, East Timor, Italy, Ghana, Singapore, Paraguay, and Colombia.



# Energy crisis pushes nuclear comeback worldwide

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Paris, August 27:** As the costs of importing energy soars worldwide and climate crises wreak havoc, interest in nuclear power is on the rise with nations scrambling to find alternative sources.

Investment in nuclear power declined after Japan's 2011 Fukushima disaster, the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986, as fears over its safety increased and governments ran scared. But following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February, the subsequent squeeze on energy supplies and Europe's push to wean itself off of Russian oil and gas, the tide is now turning back in favour of nuclear.

Governments face difficult decisions with rising gas and electricity bills and scarce resources threatening to cause widespread suffering this winter.

Some experts argue that nuclear power should not be considered an option. But others argue that, in the face of so many crises, it must remain part of the world's energy mix. One of the countries reconsidering nuclear energy is Japan, where the 2011 accident led to the suspension of many nuclear reactors over safety fears. This week Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called for a push to revive the country's nuclear power industry, and build new atomic plants.

Other countries that were looking to move away from nuclear have discarded those plans - at least in the short term. Less than a month after Russia's attack on Ukraine, Belgium delayed by a decade its plan to scrap nuclear energy in 2025.

Berlin said last month it would await the outcome of a "stress test" of the national electric grid before deciding whether to stick with the



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

phaseout. Greenpeace Germany's climate and energy expert, Gerald Neubauer, said turning to nuclear was "not a solution to the energy crisis". He said nuclear energy would have "limited" efficacy in replacing Russian gas since it is mainly "used for heating" in Germany not for electricity production. "The reactors would only

save the gas used for electricity, it would save less than one percent of the gas consumption," he added.

But according to Nicolas Berghmans, energy and climate expert at the IDDRI think tank, extending the use of nuclear "can help". "Europe is in a very different energy situation, with several overlapping crises: the problem of

While nuclear power, currently used in 32 countries, supplies 10 percent of the world's electricity production, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) raised its projections in September for the first time since the 2011 disaster

The IAEA now expects installed capacity to double by 2050 under the most favourable scenario

Climate reasoning Even in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, sticking with nuclear is no longer a taboo subject as the energy crisis rekindles debate on shutting down the country's last three nuclear power plants by the end of 2022

Russian gas supply, the drought that has reduced the capacity of dams, the French nuclear plants' weak output... so all the levers matter," he said.

The pro-nuclear lobby says it is one of the world's best options to avoid climate change since it does not directly emit carbon dioxide. In fact, nuclear energy accounts for a bigger share of the world power mix in most of the scenarios put forward by the IPCC, the UN's climate experts, to alleviate the global climate crisis. Divided opinions As the need for electricity booms, several countries have expressed a desire to develop nuclear infrastructure including China - which already has the largest number of reactors - as well as the Czech Republic, India and Poland since nuclear offers an alternative to coal.

Likewise, Britain, France and the Netherlands have similar ambitions, and even the United States where President Joe Biden's investment plan encourages the sector's development.



# CLASH OF TITANS



## I was faking intensity: 'mentally down' Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 27: The prolonged lean patch did take a toll on Virat Kohli's "mental health" as the former India captain admitted to not having touched the bat during the month-long break prior to Asia Cup.

Kohli has been out without an international hundred for nearly three years but his poor run of form did affect him as he revealed that at times he was "faking intensity" in trying to show that he is an epitome of mental strength.

"I am not shy to admit that I was feeling mentally down," the former India skipper told "Star Sports" in an episode of "Virat: Heart to Heart". Following the tour, Kohli took a break, skipping two white-ball series in the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

"For the first time in 10 years, I didn't touch my bat for a month. I came to realisation that I was trying to fake my intensity a bit recently," Kohli said. "I was convincing myself that no, you had the intensity. But your body was telling you to take a break and step back."

Mental health issues are a reality and just like Ben Stokes said in his docu-series, Kohli also spoke about need to not

keep the feelings bottled up. "This is a very normal thing to feel, but we don't speak because we are hesitant. We don't want to be looked at as mentally weak. Trust me, faking to be strong is far worse than admitting to be weak."

Kohli's last international century came during the pink ball Test against Bangladesh at the Eden Gardens in 2019. His highest score in his last five matches, including two ODIs, two T20Is and a Test, has been 20 in India's loss to England in the rescheduled fifth Test.

Kohli, who has relinquished his captaincy at Royal Challengers Bangalore, also had a quiet IPL-15, scoring 341 runs from 16 matches at an average of 22.73.

"I'm looked at as a guy who is mentally very strong and I am. But everyone has a limit and you need to recognize that limit, otherwise things can get unhealthy for you," he said. "This period taught me a lot of things that I wasn't allowing to come to surface. When they eventually came up, I embraced it."

**This is a very normal thing to feel, but we don't speak because we are hesitant. We don't want to be looked at as mentally weak. Trust me, faking to be strong is far worse than admitting to be weak**

VIRAT KOHLI



Virat Kohli has something to laugh about during India's practice session ahead of their Asia Cup game against Pakistan

## India begin Asia Cup 2022 campaign against Pakistan today as Men in Blue's old guard ready with new approach against 'unfamiliar' foes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 27: A captain with a new batting philosophy and a master batter standing at the crossroads, trying to reinvent himself, will aim to create a new narrative when India get ready to settle scores with Pakistan in the marquee Asia Cup match here Sunday.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been the two pillars of India's white-ball team for the past decade but having received a rude jolt at this very venue 10 months back during the T20 World Cup, the duo exactly know where it stands and what it needs to do to turn the tables.

While Rohit will be eager to test his ultra aggressive batting template against the Asian giants, for Kohli it will be the perfect platform to return to form after enduring a tough phase in the last few years.

There would be a bigger picture also and that is to set the core combination for the T20 World Cup in Australia in order by the end of this tournament.

With no bilateral contests be-

tween the cross-border neighbours for 10 years now and nothing on the anvil in near future, the geo-political tension does always make for a heady build-up.

But the lack of regular games mean that Indo-Pak rivalries are rather held between unfamiliar foes rather than familiar ones. One can't plan a lot against an opposition whom a team plays once or twice a year, while one has to expect the unexpected.

The last meeting India played Pakistan, they didn't have any idea how much Shaheen Shah Afridi had improved. The result was a 10-wicket defeat.

A lot was said after Afridi's two-over opening spell send jitters in the Indian camp during the last T20 World Cup opener and India's erstwhile team management did cop a lot of flak for its archaic batting approach in shortest format of the game.

Questions were raised whether the sameness in the top-order with three right-handers make it easy for a good left-arm paceman to set the

alarm bells ringing.

However Sunday, there will be no Afridi (due to knee injury) to bend it back into the top three India right-handers but the fact remains that despite all the experimentations done by coach Rahul Dravid, the top order remains exactly the same after that debacle in Dubai.

Rishabh Pant-Rohit pair showed a lot of promise with its gung-ho approach and Suryakumar Yadav at the top looked menacing with his all-round strokes.

Deepak Hooda, although against Ireland, was audacious as an opener but with Kohli and KL Rahul available, it will be experience that will get first preference going into a high-profile game.

In the new set-up, KL Rahul is coming back up after a surgery and COVID-19 related lay-off. He hasn't played a single international T20 game in 2022. In case of Kohli, the number stands at four with a half-century against a sub-par West Indies attack.

Rohit, in the interim, has played some attractive little knocks but

more importantly has tweaked his batting philosophy as per the needs of the team. Will Kohli and Rahul be able to do the same? That remains a big question moving forward.

A lot, however, will depend on how the trio of Suryakumar, Pant and Hardik Pandya perform between overs 10 and 20. The trio with its explosive strength can perhaps take the Afridi-less Pakistan attack to cleaners with designated finisher Dinesh Karthik likely to sit out.

Babar Azam is very different from some of the Pakistani greats who have led the national team over the years. A player, who is as much about method as he is about talent, Babar has brought calmness that has worked more often than not in past couple of years since he took charge.

Along with Mohammed Rizwan, he forms a formidable combination at the top but both have respective strike-rates of less than 130. While Fakhar Zaman at No.3 also lends solidity, the rest of the batters

haven't shown enough consistency. If missing Afridi is a big setback for Pakistan, not having Jasprit Bumrah is no less a blow for India. In his absence (back injury) and with dependable T20 bowler Harshal Patel (rib-cage injury) also missing out, Bhuvneshwar Kumar will have a young death overs specialist Arshdeep Singh for company. The match will test Arshdeep's skills but more so his temperament in trying circumstances.

Teams: India: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shahnawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir, Mohammed Hasnain, Hasan Ali.

## Neeraj scripts another history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lausanne, August 26: Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra Friday scripted history as he became the first Indian to clinch a Diamond League Meeting title by winning the Lausanne leg here.

The 24-year-old Chopra, who had pulled out of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games due to a "minor" groin injury he had suffered while winning a silver during the World Championships last month, hurled the spear to 89.08m in his first attempt to seal the win in style.

Chopra rested and rehabilitated for a month but it looked like the injury had not happened at all as he continued his vintage form. The 89.08m throw was his third career-best effort. His second throw measured 85.18m before passing on his third attempt.

His fourth throw was a foul while he again passed his fifth attempt before coming up with 80.04m in the sixth and last round. Only the top three after the fifth round get the sixth throw.

The youngster from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana became the first Indian to win a Diamond League crown.

Before Chopra, discus thrower Vikas Gowda is the only Indian to have finished in top-three in a Diamond League Meet. Gowda had finished second twice - in New York in 2012 and in Doha in 2014 - and third on two occasions -



Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.

"I am delighted with my result tonight. 89m is a great performance. I am specially pleased as I am coming back from an injury and tonight (Friday) was a good indicator that I have recovered well," Chopra said after the event.

"I had to skip Commonwealth Games due to injury and I was a bit nervous. Tonight has given me a lot of confidence to finish the season on a high, with a strong performance in Zurich DL Final."

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Jakub Vadlech finished second with a best throw of 85.88m while Curtis Thompson of USA was third with a best effort of 83.72m.

Chopra qualified for the Diamond League Finals in Zurich September

7 and 8, and also became the first Indian to do so. Despite the win, he remained on fourth spot with 15 points - with the addition of eight points Friday. The top six after the Lausanne leg qualify for Zurich Finals.

Vadlech remained on top spot with 27 points, followed by Julian Weber (19 points) of Germany and world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada (16 points). Weber and Joachim Peters did not take part in Lausanne. Peters is recovering from an injury after he was assaulted inside a boat in his country earlier this month.

Chopra also qualified for the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary by breaching the 85.20m qualifying mark.

## Splendid night for EPL powerhouses

AGENCIES

London, August 27: Liverpool registered their first victory of the Premier League season in style, while title holders Manchester City had to come from two goal down to win at home. Chelsea had to toil hard for their second win of the season after being reduced to 10 men, while Manchester United rode on a Bruno Fernandes strike to eke out a 1-0 win over Southampton.

Liverpool's first win of the season was nothing but spectacular. They equalled the EPL's record win by thrashing Bournemouth 9-0 at Anfield. The scoreline equalled Man United's win over Ipswich in 1994, their rout of Southampton in 2021 and Leicester's win away to the Saints the previous year.

Roberto Firmino scored twice after setting up three goals. Luis Diaz also scored a brace, while Harvey Elliott, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Virgil van Dijk and Fabio Carvalho struck apiece. Chris Mepham scored an own goal.

Erling Haaland struck his first Premier League hat-trick in City's 4-2 win over Crystal Palace. A John Stones own goal and Joachim Anderson strike put Palace 2-0 up. Bernardo Silva reduced the deficit to one goal before Haaland show.

Raheem Sterling scored a brace to help Chelsea, who were down to 10 men after Connor Gallagher's send off in the 28th minute. Harvey Barnes' goal wasn't enough to deny Chelsea a 2-1 win.

## AIFF apologises to Gokulam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Gokulam Kerala owner VC Praveen Saturday said that the AIFF's "inefficiency" cost the club lakhs of rupees after the national federation apologised to the team for its removal from the AFC Women's Club Championship owing to the 11-day ban by FIFA.

"It is like pinching the baby and rocking the cradle. Because of their inefficiency we lost lakhs," said Praveen, hours after the ban on AIFF was lifted. The 23-member team was left stranded in Tashkent after arriving August 16 ahead of its opening match against home side Sogdiana-W in Qarshi August 23 and against Bam Khaton FC of Iran in its next match August 26.

Gokulam have written to the AFC to reimburse the money spent on the travel of the team and on their accommodation but yet to hear from the continental body.

The AIFF, on its part, apologised

## REACTING TO LIFTING OF AIFF BAN

**BHAICHUNG BHUTIA:** Wonderful news. FIFA lifts ban on Indian Football. I am extremely happy for our young players as they will now be able to play against the best in the business in their age group in the Women's U-17 World Cup. It's also the time to learn lessons and bring in changes and reforms in the Indian football administration

**RENEEY SINGH:** It's a good news. Happy to hear the news as soon as I get up in the morning. Whatever happens the beautiful game of football should continue. Looking forward to watch the under 17 World Cup in few weeks time

**KIREN RIJUJ:** Good news as FIFA lifts ban of All India Football Federation, after SC removed the mandate of the Committee of Administrators from the affairs of AIFF

to Gokulam Kerala. "Indian Football is back on track again after FIFA lifted its suspension on AIFF August 26," the AIFF said Saturday.

"While we are happy with the turn of events, we are also extremely sorry for Gokulam Kerala FC's exit from the AFC Women's Club Championship due to the suspension. It remains Indian Football's greatest loss in the last 11 days, and Indian Football owes an apology to the talented girls who had trained so hard for this event," it added.

**AIFF should have thought about holding the elections in time. It's good that ban has been revoked. But in all this mess, it's not ATK Mohun Bagan nor U-17 Women's World Cup in India, it's the Gokulam Kerala who have ended up being losers. Why would they suffer AIFF should think about compensating them**

SHABIR ALI / FORMER INDIA FOOTBALLER

