



WORTH THE WAIT

Actress Priyanka Chopra says it has taken her a decade to get the roles she wanted to play in Hollywood

LEISURE P2



CATASTROPHIC FLOODS

Pakistan teams up with the UN to issue a flash appeal for \$160 mn to deal with floods

INTERNATIONAL P10



SERENA ADVANCES

Serena Williams beats Danka Kovinic to reach second round at US Open

SPORTS P12

Crops on 1.2 lakh ha damaged in floods



Jagatsinghpur, western Odisha districts like Subarnapur and Boudh saw extensive crop damage. Besides, Balasore, Bhadrak and Jajpur also suffered damages due to floods in Subarnarekha, Baitarani and Budhabalanga rivers.

In Nimapara of Puri district, over 7,000 hectare of paddy and non-paddy farmlands in 18 panchayats have been affected due to floods in Dhanua and Kusabhadra rivers, sources said. Crops and vegetables were affected in Athagarh and Tigiria blocks in Cuttack.

Many farmers who have grown seasonal vegetables and paddy after taking loans have incurred huge losses. They had availed loans for cultivation from cooperative societies and banks.

While transplanting paddy is in progress in areas unaffected by the floods, the Agriculture department has advised the farmers to go for re-sowing or planting early maturing varieties of paddy in medium and low land where the crop damage is about 50 per cent or more, sources said.

The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), in an advisory to the government and farmers, has suggested that Rabi crops be taken up where paddy crop damage is extensive and there is less possibility of growth for short-duration paddy crops, said the official.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Crops standing on a whopping 1.2 lakh hectare of agricultural land in at least 10 districts have been damaged by the floods this month, an official said quoting the preliminary damage assessment report based on data received from different districts, Tuesday.

As many as 24 districts of the state have been affected, 10 of them severely, by the rain and subsequent floods in August, said the official.

Worst hit was Jagatsinghpur district where standing crops on around 2,420 hectare of farmland were washed away by floodwaters, sources said, adding that Puri and Kendrapada districts were also severely affected as vast areas remained marooned for days, causing severe loss to the farmers.

Apart from the coastal districts of Puri, Cuttack, Kendrapara and



LORD OF ALL BEGINNINGS

A devotee carries an idol of Lord Ganesha on the eve of the Ganesh Chaturthi in Jaipur, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

41L to get KALIA aid on Nuakhai

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will distribute ₹2,000 as assistance to around 41 lakh beneficiaries each of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme on the occasion of Nuakhai Wednesday, an official said Tuesday.

According to sources, the government will transfer around ₹869 crore to the bank accounts of 41 lakh small and marginal farmers covered under the KALIA scheme through DBT mode.

Around 40 lakh small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers received the last instalment under the scheme on Akshaya Tritiya in May this year.

Ahead of the 2019 general election, the state government had launched the KALIA scheme as 60 per cent of the state's labour force is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

After the launch of the PM Kisan scheme, the eligible farmers are now entitled to get ₹4,000 financial assistance per year in two instalments under the state scheme KALIA. While ₹2,000 is provided for Rabi crop, an equal amount is given for Kharif season crop. Earlier, the state was providing ₹10,000 per year to the farmers.

Later, the state cabinet extended the scheme for another three years (2021-22 to 2023-24 financial years). The government has approved an estimated budget of ₹5,931.31 crore for the extended period.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thousand apologies, ma'am! But your voice sounded so soft over phone that I couldn't recognise it was you

State logs highest trafficking victims

■ According to the latest NCRB report, of the 6,533 human trafficking victims reported across the country last year, 1,475 people, including 444 women and 497 children, were from Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The highest number of human trafficking victims in the country in 2021 was from Odisha, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) said.

Of the 6,533 human trafficking victims reported across the country last year, 1,475 people, including 444 women and 497 children, were from Odisha.

A total of 6,213 people were rescued last year across the country, of whom, 1,290 were from Odisha. Of the 1,290 people, 1,018 were trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, the 'Crime in India 2021' report said. The state had recorded 741 victims of trafficking in 2020.

Odisha recorded 136 cases of human trafficking in 2021, up from 103 in 2020. Many cases reported more than one victim.



NCRB REPORT 2021

- The rate of cybercrimes was 4.4 per lakh population in the state, higher than the national rate of 3.9
- The number of child marriages was the fifth highest in India
- Odisha topped the rate of dacoity with 355 incidents, while it was first and second in incidents of industrial and political riots respectively

The recently published report mentioned that crimes under the Indian Penal Code, special and local laws increased by 15.19 per cent in the state. Crimes against Dalits rose by 13.73 per cent, while of

fences increased by 8.33 per cent against tribals. The number of child marriages was the fifth highest in the country with 64 cases.

There were 5,062 attempts to murder and 2,814 cases of robbery. The crime rates per lakh population in both sections were the second highest in the country.

Odisha topped the rate of dacoity with 355 incidents, while it was first and second in incidents of industrial and political riots respectively. The rate of cybercrimes was 4.4 per lakh population in the state, higher than the national rate of 3.9. As many as 1,411 people were murdered and 5,630 cases were lodged for kidnapping and abduction. The report added that 5,081 people died due to negligence, including road accidents such as hit and run.

25% rise in crimes against children

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha recorded 7,899 instances of crimes against children in 2021—a rise of around 25 per cent than the previous year, according to the latest NCRB report. In 2020, Odisha had witnessed 6,330 instances of crimes against children, it said.

Odisha was among the top five states with maximum number of such cases in 2021. The rate of crime against children was also much higher as compared to other states in 2021.

SC closes 11 pleas on Guj riots

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: Terming as 'infructuous', the Supreme Court Tuesday closed as many as 11 petitions, including the one filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), almost 20 years ago seeking an independent probe into the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

Besides NHRC, organisations like 'Citizens for Justice and Peace' (CJP) of activist Teesta Setalvad, had then moved the top court seeking various reliefs, including a court-monitored probe of the riots.

A bench comprising Chief Justice UU Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and JB Pardiwala considered the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, the



counsel for the court-appointed SIT, and the lawyers of various petitioners including Aparna Bhat, appearing for the CJP, and said there was nothing left to be decided in these pleas now.

"Since all the matters have now become infructuous, this court is of the view that this court need

not entertain these petitions any longer. The matters are therefore disposed of as having become infructuous," the bench ruled.

The bench took note of the submission of the SIT that the trial in 'Naroda gaon' riots case, one of the nine cases which were probed and prosecuted by the SIT, was in the final stages in the trial court, while other matters have been decided by the lower courts and are pending in appellate stages either in the Gujarat High Court or in the apex court.

"It is however directed that the trial with respect to Naroda gaon be taken to conclusion in accordance with law and to that extent, the SIT appointed by this court, is certainly entitled to take appropriate steps in accordance with law," it said.

Graft cuffs on Dhenkanal DSP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) rank officer on graft charge in Dhenkanal, official sources said.

Abhinav Dalua, DSP in-charge, Sadar police station in Dhenkanal district, was caught while accepting bribe of Rs 30,000 from a coal transporter to facilitate his transportation business, an official said.

The bribe amount of Rs 30,000 has been seized from Dalua, the Vigilance said. Simultaneous searches

were on at eight locations of Dalua to investigate into possible DA case against him.

A case (6/2022) has been registered under Section 7 of PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 against Dalua.

The Vigilance said Dalua had earlier threatened the coal transporter to not allow his vehicles if bribe was not paid. The transporter paid Rs 15,000 August 24, but the DSP demanded more. So, the transporter approached Vigilance, following which a trap was laid wherein he was nabbed while taking further Rs 30,000, the agency said.

Court asks Varsha to vacate MP's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, August 30: A court here Tuesday upheld an order directing actor Varsha Priyadarshini to vacate her estranged husband's parental house.

On a plea preferred by Member of Parliament (MP) Anubhav Mohanty, the sub divisional judicial magistrate had asked Priyadarshini in June to vacate his house in Cuttack city within two months. Priyadarshini challenged the lower court order and moved to the court of the additional district judge (ADJ), who ordered an interim stay.

In its final order, the ADJ court lifted the stay and directed Priyadarshini to vacate Anubhav's parental house, advocate Alok Mohapatra said.

The SDJM court had also directed the BJD MP to pay Rs 30,000 every month to Priyadarshini for her accommodation elsewhere in the city. Anubhav has been depositing the amount in her bank account.

The SDJM had observed that the elderly parents and some other relatives of Anubhav were staying away from their house due to the prevailing animosity between the husband and the wife.

Married in 2014, the star couple is now fighting a fierce legal battle in court for their separation.

Gautam Adani now world's third richest person

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME AN ASIAN PERSON HAS BROKEN INTO THE TOP THREE OF THE BLOOMBERG BILLIONAIRES INDEX

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: Indian tycoon Gautam Adani has been named the world's third richest person with an estimated \$137bn (£117bn) fortune and becomes the first Asian person to break into the top three of world's wealthy.

Adani, 60, who founded the mining-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group after dropping out of university, was Tuesday ranked third on the daily-updated Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

With a \$137.4bn fortune, Adani

has overtaken France's Bernard Arnault and now trails just Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos of the US in the ranking.

Adani has spent the past few years expanding his coal-to-ports conglomerate, venturing into everything from data centers to cement, media and alumina. The group now owns India's largest private-sector port and airport operator, city-gas distributor and coal miner. While its Carmichael mine in Australia has been criticized by environmentalists, it pledged in November to invest \$70 billion in

green energy to become the world's largest renewable-energy producer.

While his empire has expanded to one of the world's largest conglomerates fueling the remarkable gains in wealth, concerns have grown over the rapid growth. Adani's deals spree has been predominantly funded with debt and his empire is "deeply over-leveraged," CreditSights said in a report this month.

Some lawmakers and market watchers have also raised concerns over opaque shareholder structures and a lack of analyst cover-



age at Adani Group companies. Yet the shares have soared -- some of them more than 1,000% since

2020, with valuations hitting 750 times earnings -- as the tycoon focused on areas that Prime Minister Narendra Modi deems crucial to meeting India's long-term goals.

The pivot to green energy and infrastructure has won investments from firms including Warburg Pincus and TotalEnergies SE, helping Adani enter the echelons previously dominated by US tech moguls. The surge in coal in recent months has further turbocharged his ascent.

All told, Adani has added \$60.9 billion to his fortune in 2022 alone,

five times more than anyone else. He first overtook Ambani as the richest Asian in February, became a centibillionaire in April and surpassed Microsoft Corp.'s Bill Gates as the world's fourth-richest person last month.

Adani was able to move past some of the world's richest US billionaires partly because they've recently boosted their philanthropy. Gates said in July he was transferring \$20 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, while Warren Buffett has already donated more than \$35 billion to the charity

leisure



JENNIFER CONNELLY JOINS SCI-FI SERIES *DARK MATTER*

Actress Jennifer Connelly is set to star opposite Joel Edgerton in the series adaptation of the Blake Crouch novel *Dark Matter*. The nine-episode series was ordered at Apple in March.

YEOH TO RECEIVE TIFF'S GROUNDBREAKER AWARD

Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh will receive the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)'s inaugural Share Her Journey Groundbreaker Award. The award recognises a woman who is a leader in the film industry and has made a positive impact for women throughout their career, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
So what if plans that you had earlier made have not materialised. You will make a reassessment today, and by mid-day you will sort out a lot of things which will boost your confidence. Ganesha says such is life and you have to keep on trying till you succeed.

TAURUS
Ganesha sees your cultural and literary tastes coming to the fore. Today you will venture into the realm of history, religion, philosophy, art and cultures. You will be drawn to the profound thoughts of psychology and spirituality. In the evening you will probably be visiting some place of worship and spending time in prayer and meditation.

GEMINI
A hectic and challenging day awaits you. You will be busy with your family members and children, tending to their needs. New deadlines at work may put pressure on you. Love and romance will give you the fuel needed to keep going, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will remain watchful for most part of the day. There may be times when your colleagues may think that you are being overcautious and paranoid. So be it. Ganesha advises you to stick to this approach; soon, the same people will appreciate it at the end of the day.

LEO
You may want to carry some aspirin with you today, suggests Ganesha. For, there are strong indications that you may encounter a plenty of stress and roadblocks at work. This headache-inducing factor aside, you'll be blessed with the uncanny knack of beating your opponents at their own game. This will superimpose your position of awe and respect at the workplace, as people realise the stuff you are made of. Go get 'em Lion!

VIRGO
You are Alexander this day - undefeated and unassailable. But Ganesha sees you on a wild goose chase for most of the day today. Unwittingly, you may invite unwarranted stress related to an ongoing assignment.

LIBRA
Work is always unrelenting and today, it manages to catch up with you in a big way. Expect to be under some pressure to meet deadlines, says Ganesha. But all it takes is to remain level-headed and shrewd in your ways, and you can turn things around to make it a prosperous and flourishing day.

SCORPIO
Being gregarious may just catch your fancy today, says Ganesha. At work, you will remain fussy about assignments and deadlines. Socially, whom you choose to be with will decide who you are, suggests Ganesha. Evening will be spent in the pleasant company of loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
A mixed bag of fortunes in store today, says Ganesha. At work, expect the unexpected and overlook the expected. Don't you worry if you stumble there, says Ganesha, for the evening promises to be ecstatic and a fitting finale to a rather muddled day.

CAPRICORN
Many a time, we emulate others or get inspired by certain thought-provoking actions which explains most of the initiatives we undertake. Your actions today will be inspired too, says Ganesha. However, later in the day, you are likely to get into arguments that may drag you into legal disputes.

AQUARIUS
If you're thinking of doing some soul-searching today, the stars completely back you. And yes, remember to take a break - no one deserves it more. Go on a long drive with a buddy if you must. And if you get a chance to travel, grab it! Getting away from the humdrum will clear your mind, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Remaining dispassionate and being cold and clinical is the way to achieve success for you today, says Ganesha. Do not let your sentiments interfere in matters of business, lest you regret it later.

'I've always been a high-achiever'

It has taken her a decade to get the roles she wanted to play in Hollywood, says actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas

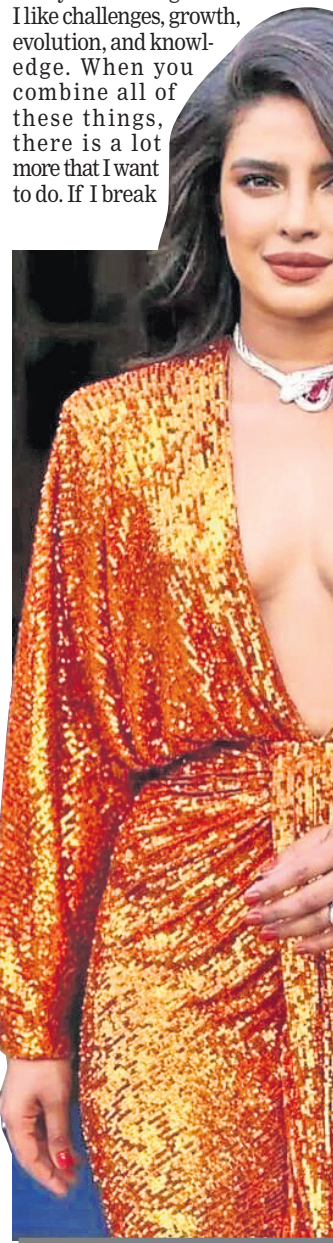
Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra, who gained international acclaim and fame due to her leading role in *Quantico*, recently said that it has taken her a decade to get the roles she wanted to play in Hollywood. She said that after being active in the industry in the United States for 10 years, she is finally able to pick up roles and now has some credibility and found amazing partners to work with.

The *Aitraaz* actress said, "I have always been a high-achiever. I like challenges, growth, evolution, and knowledge. When you combine all of these things, there is a lot more that I want to do. If I break

it down, I have had an incredibly successful career as an actor in India. I have worked with the best filmmakers, and I have done films that I am really really proud of. And now I want to be able to, as an actor, create that body of work in my English language work which is in America."

She added, "As an actor, I am still new (in the US). After 10 years of working here, I have just about reached the point where I am doing the kind of roles I want to."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka will be seen in *It's All Coming Back To Me*, and the series *Citadel*. She will be starring with Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in Farhan Akhtar's *Jee Le Zaraa*.



28th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival from September 5

Guru Niranjan Rout and Guru Ramhari Das will be honoured with the prestigious award for their lifetime achievement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The 28th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival, a five-day event of dance and music, will be held at Rabindra Mandap from September 5.

The festival organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa in collaboration with Sri University of Cuttack, will be held at 7 pm each day.

The award carrying an allocation of Rs 1, 00, 000 and a citation is conferred on individuals for their outstanding contribution to the fields of dance, music, cinema and theatre.

For the year 2022, Guru Niranjan Rout and Guru Ramhari



Das will be honoured with the prestigious award for their lifetime achievement in the fields of Odissi dance and music respectively and will get Rs one lakh each.

Similarly, the GKCM Yuva Pratiba Samman, with a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- and a citation is presented to exceptionally talented performing artistes under the age of 40 years in the field of

classical dance and Odissi music. For this year the award will be presented to Geetanjali Acharya for Odissi dance and Matruprasad Das for Odissi music. Srjan has dedicated this year's festival in the memory of late Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj.

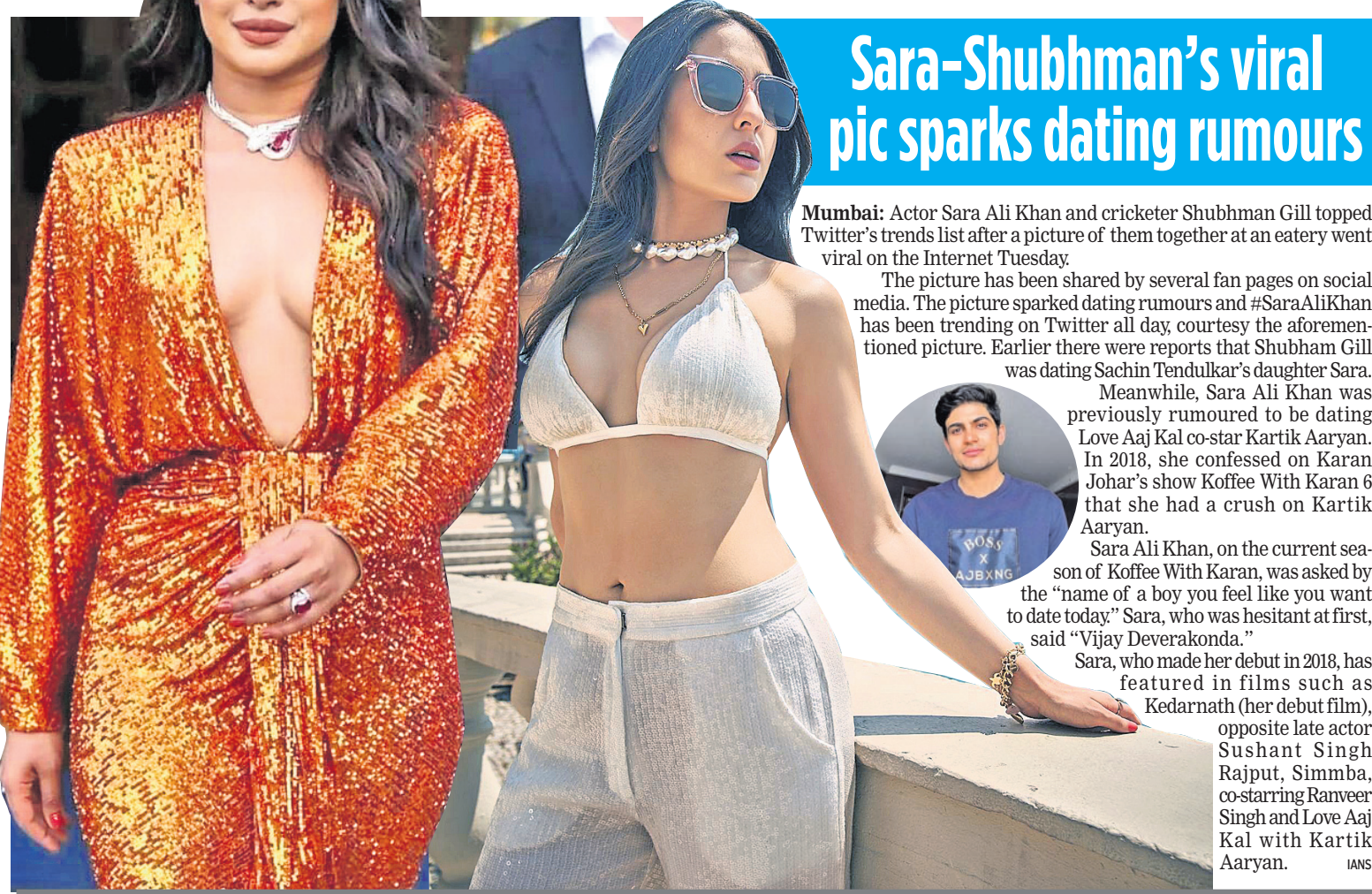
The inaugural evening will feature a Hindustani Jugalbandi by Pandit Ronu Majumdar (Flute)

and Ustad Taufiq Qureshi (Djembe), and following evenings will witness an Odissi vocal recital by Sushree Sristi Swarupa Mishra, a night of musical fusion by Bhubaneswar's Shivagni Ensemble, and a Carnatic vocal recital by Sikkil Gurucharan.

Among the dance presentations are those by Bharatanatyam exponent Vidushi Geeta Chandran and her ensemble the Natya Vriksha Dance Collective, and Kathak by Vidushi Paramita Maitra and Nriyangan Kathak Kendra.

The concluding evening will feature the award ceremony, followed by the much-awaited finale by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra and the Srjan ensemble. They will present the Odissi dance ballet, *Ravan*.

The festival is supported by the Union Ministry of Culture and Dept. of Odia Literature Language and Culture, Govt of Odisha. Dharitri and **Orissa POST** are the print media partners for the event.



Sara-Shubhman's viral pic sparks dating rumours

Mumbai: Actor Sara Ali Khan and cricketer Shubman Gill topped Twitter's trends list after a picture of them together at an eatery went viral on the Internet Tuesday.

The picture has been shared by several fan pages on social media. The picture sparked dating rumours and #SaraAliKhan has been trending on Twitter all day, courtesy the aforementioned picture. Earlier there were reports that Shubham Gill was dating Sachin Tendulkar's daughter Sara.

Meanwhile, Sara Ali Khan was previously rumoured to be dating Love Aaj Kal co-star Kartik Aaryan. In 2018, she confessed on Karan Johar's show *Koffee With Karan 6* that she had a crush on Kartik Aaryan.

Sara Ali Khan, on the current season of *Koffee With Karan*, was asked by the "name of a boy you feel like you want to date today." Sara, who was hesitant at first, said "Vijay Deverakonda."

Sara, who made her debut in 2018, has featured in films such as *Kedarnath* (her debut film), opposite late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, *Simmba*, co-starring Ranveer Singh and *Love Aaj Kal* with Kartik Aaryan.

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has opened up on what's going on between her and Aditya Roy Kapur. The actress recently appeared on popular chat show *Koffee With Karan* and spoke about her equation with the actor and mentioned that they would "look good together".

During a point in the episode, show host Karan Johar mentioned that Kriti and Aditya were seen canoodling in a corner at his party. Responding to this, Kriti, who was seated on the couch along with her *Heropanti* co-star - Tiger Shroff, said: "I don't canoodle in a corner, and you know that! But yes, we were talking and he is a fun guy to be around."

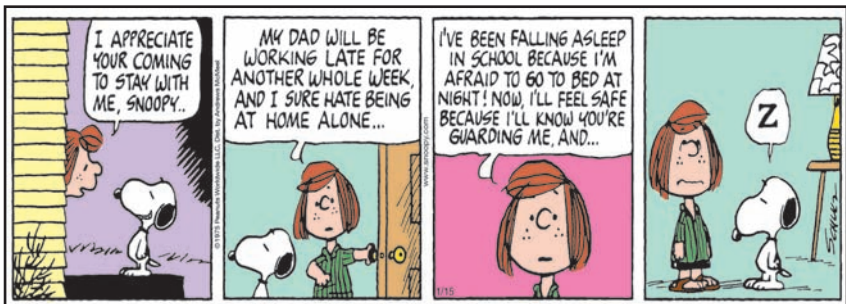
Calling Aditya "a very nice guy", Kriti further mentioned: "I think we would look good together."

New episodes of *Koffee With Karan Season 7* are available to stream on Disney+ Hotstar.

Kriti: I'd look good with Aditya



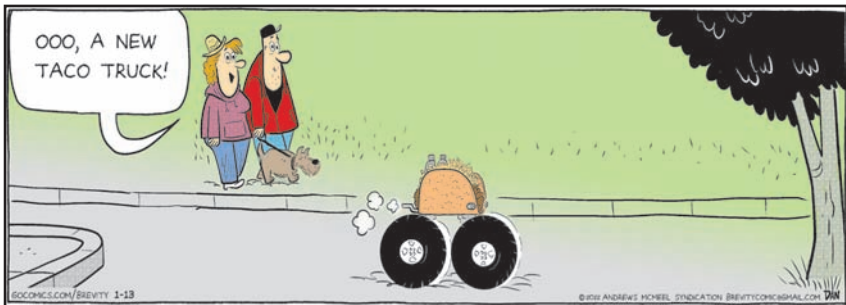
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

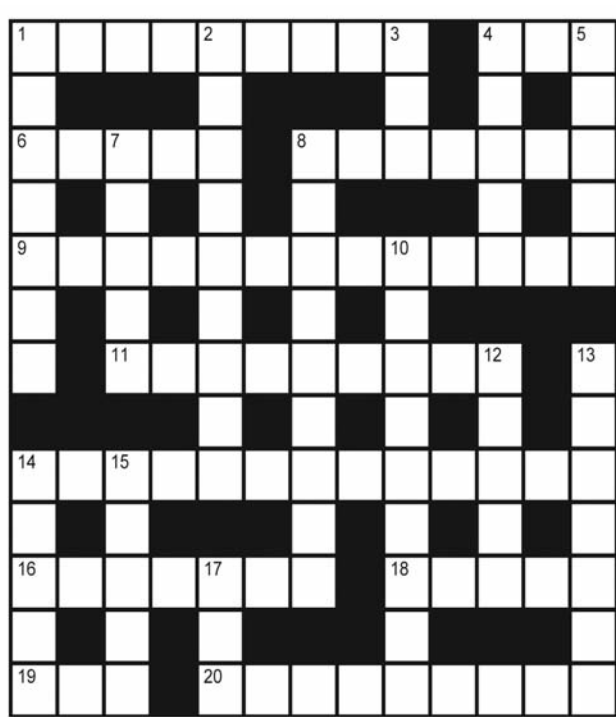


BREVITY



FUN post

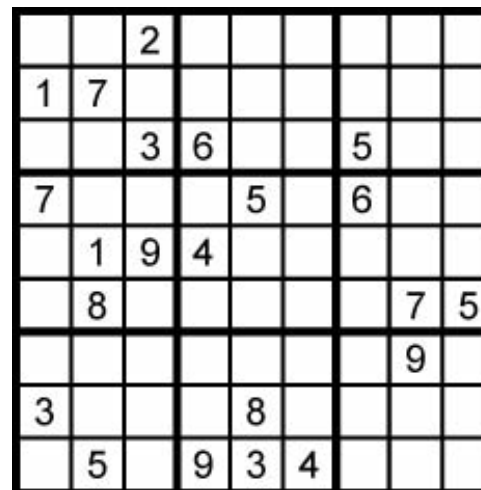
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Nuclear weapons (4,5)
 - 4 "Arabian Nights" menace
 - 6 Rope fiber
 - 8 Killer whale
 - 9 Carnival rides (5-2-6)
 - 11 Synthetic fabric
 - 14 Ptomaine, for one (4,9)
 - 16 Perils
 - 18 Strong point
 - 19 Wax collector
 - 20 Fast dog
 - 4 Mature
 - 5 Wine holders
 - 7 Razor sharpener
 - 8 Market gains?
 - 10 Bone
 - 12 Bridle parts
 - 13 Observed
 - 14 Sundae topping
 - 15 Title holder
 - 17 Work unit
- Down**
- 1 Took for granted (5-4)
 - 2 Painful dive (5-4)
 - 3 Mermaid's home

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



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NEW ASSIGNMENT
OPSC chairman Satyajit Mohanty administers oath of office to commission's new member Sarita Supakar in Cuttack, Tuesday

COVID-19 TRACKER table with columns: World, India, Odisha, and sub-columns: INFECTED, RECOVERED, DEAD.

Road safety: High performer tag for state

The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety observes that even though the state is in the higher performer category, still a lot of improvement is required to be made



ODISHA HAS SCORED 66% AND IS CATEGORISED UNDER THE 'HIGH PERFORMERS' IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Similarly, the state has obtained 15.7 per cent out of 25 per cent for enforcement and 14.4 per cent out of 25 per cent for engineering.

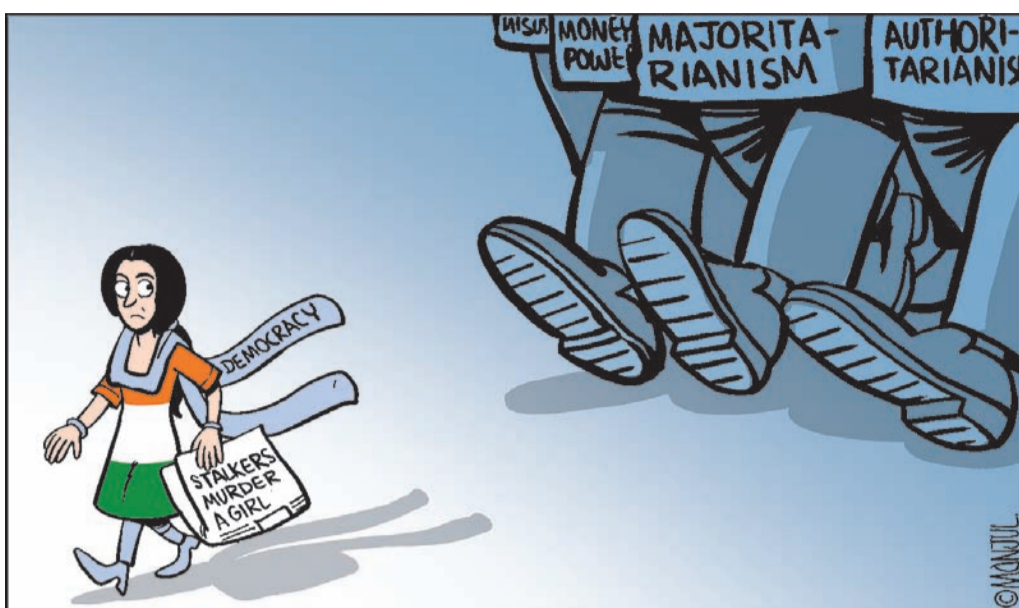
POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, August 30: Odisha has been categorised as a 'high performer' state in implementation of road safety measures suggested by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCRS), officials said Tuesday.

the state Transport department, Odisha has scored 66 per cent and is categorised under the 'high performers' in the implementation of various road safety measures.

smart queue system is working perfectly with the help of complementing infrastructure. The panel observed that even though the state is in the higher performer category, there is still a lot of improvement required to be made.

As per the guidelines issued by the SCCRS, the Transport department is working towards construction of truck terminals and comprehensive trauma care system plan.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



We're in midst of climate change: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Stating that now we are in the midst of dealing with the impacts of climate change, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday said it's time to act now and course-correct ourselves.

flood situation never seen in several decades. In India, different states are witnessing droughts or floods because of uneven rains in the monsoon, pointed out the Chief Minister.

ITI AT POLASARA ON THE ANVIL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The state government is going to set up a government ITI at Polasara in Ganjam district.

OAV students felicitated



Bhubaneswar, August 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday felicitated students of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) for their excellent performance in Class X, XII and JEE-Main examinations.

The students of the three categories attended a function here at the Convention Centre of the Lok Seva Bhavan, the state Secretariat.

The state has set up one iconic (OAV) each in all the 314 blocks of the state and one at Bhubaneswar, where the students are taught courses under CBSE with hostel facilities.

'Tea lovers enjoy health benefits'

Tea contains helpful substances known to reduce inflammation. Past studies in China and Japan, where green tea is popular, suggested health benefits



Scientists from the US National Cancer Institute asked about the tea habits of nearly half a million adults in the United Kingdom, then followed them for up to 14 years

Higher tea intake — two or more cups daily — was linked to a modest benefit: a 9% to 13% lower risk of death from any cause vs. non-tea drinkers.

prove cause and effect. "Observational studies like this always raise the question: Is there something else about tea drinkers that makes them healthier?"

A cup of tea makes everything better. Tea can be part of a healthy diet and people who drink tea may even be a little more likely to live longer than those who don't, according to a large study.

Tea temperature, or adding milk or sugar, didn't change the results. The study, published Monday in Annals of Internal Medicine, found the association held up for heart disease deaths, but there was no clear trend for cancer deaths.

Researchers weren't sure why, but it's possible there weren't enough cancer deaths for any effect to show up, said Maki Inoue-Choi, who led the study.

A study like this, based on observing people's habits and health, can't

SC to hear Puri Vedanta University case Sept 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 30: The Supreme Court Tuesday adjourned the hearing on a batch of petitions filed by Anil Agarwal Foundation and Odisha government against the order of Orissa High Court relating to the proposed Vedanta University project in Puri.

to list the matter September 13. Earlier, the Supreme Court had in 2011 ordered the Odisha government to maintain the status quo on acquisition of 6,000 hectare land for setting up of a university by the Vedanta Group in Puri.

Notably, the Orissa high court had November 16, 2010 delivered its judgment on a batch of petitions alleging that land acquisition for the proposed university in Puri violated several rules of the Land Acquisition Act.

Similarly, the state has obtained 15.7 per cent out of 25 per cent for enforcement and 14.4 per cent out of 25 per cent for engineering.

Advertisement for 'Bijayapatra' newspaper, mentioning its history and subscription details.

Advertisement for 'Pragati' newspaper, mentioning its commitment to quality journalism and subscription details.

Advertisement for 'Gaur' newspaper, mentioning its long history and subscription details.

Advertisement for 'Bijayapatra' newspaper, featuring a large headline and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Office of the Municipal Council, Malkangiri', providing contact details and services.

Advertisement for 'Bijayapatra' newspaper, highlighting its commitment to quality journalism.

Advertisement for 'Gaur' newspaper, mentioning its long history and subscription details.

City to celebrate Ganesh Puja with fanfare today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The City capital is all set to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in a grand way Wednesday. Organisers at some puja venues have prepared giant Ganesh idols as tall as 50 feet.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the puja celebrations and pandals have been decked up with dazzling lights. People are eager to celebrate the puja amid fanfare without any Covid curbs and restrictions.

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

People were seen rushing to shops to purchase Lord Ganesh idols to celebrate the festival. The Ganesh idols sellers were happy this time as the demand for idols was very high.

Bright Star Youth Association, Badagada, is going to celebrate the festival with a 51-foot tall idol of Ganesh, and 50kg of laddu will be offered to the Lord. Like every year, no chemical colours will be used in the making of the idol. The Ganesh Idol will be made as huge as the idol of Lalbaug in



Mumbai. The association has made a plan with various activities to welcome Sri Gajanan. Arrangements have been made to bring famous Bollywood actors and singers to the puja pandal. At Nayapalli, the special attraction this time will be a 50-ft idol that is being prepared for the day of worship. The organisers are also planning a 50-kg laddu to be offered to Lord Ganesh, sources said.

"Artists from Kolkata and Mumbai have been working for the past three months in building the huge Ganesh idol for this year's celebrations," said a puja organizer. This apart, devotees and visitors to the pandal will be treated to

various cultural events for eleven days during the celebrations, he said, adding that the pandal will be tastefully decorated.

Similarly Winners club of Saheed Nagar is also preparing a 40-foot tall Ganesh idol, in the Surya Avatar with five horses as chariots below the figure of the Lord. Bhabani Shankar Jena, Winners Association Saheed Nagar, said that for the last two years we were celebrating Ganesh Puja with restrictions and without public participation. But, this year the annual Rath Yatra was celebrated in a grand way which gives us encouragement to prepare for the Puja in a grand way.

Meanwhile, Thunderstorm may play spoilsport in Ganesh Puja celebrations Wednesday as the Regional Meteorological Centre here has forecasted such weather conditions for several districts of Odisha.

"Thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Kandhamal and Kalahandi tomorrow," it predicted. The Meteorological Centre has issued Yellow Warning for these districts.

IMD blames weak monsoon for hot and humid weather

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 30: After spells of depression induced rains leading to floods in the state during the middle of August, Odisha is now witnessing hot and humid weather due to a weak monsoon, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

As many as six towns have recorded maximum day temperature at 35 degree Celsius or above, the IMD said adding that Odisha is likely to experience scattered rain for the next 4 to 5 days due to the weak monsoon conditions.

Chandbali in Bhadrak district recorded the highest temperature of 35.8 degree Celsius Monday followed by Boudh (35.5), Sambalpur (35.4), Bhawanipatna (35.2), Angul (35.1) and Cuttack (35). "The coastal region of the state will experience hot weather due to high temperature and humidity level," the IMD said.

As the monsoon trough is likely to move north of its normal location, the influence is consequently likely to remain weak across the state for the next five days, it said. However, the weather office forecast light to moderate rainfall at some places across Odisha Tuesday.

Class VII student found dead

AGENCIES

Berhampur, August 30: Mystery shrouds the death of a Class VII student whose body was found from a pond in Ganjam district Tuesday.

Rajananda Sahu, a student of Chikili Primary School in Khallikote police station area, apparently drowned in the pond while going to the school. Locals rushed him to the local hospital where doctors declared him dead. His uniform and shoes were

found near the pond, while his bag containing the books was found from the school, sources said.

Police said they have registered an unnatural death case and the body was sent for autopsy.

"We're very much surprised how he went to the pond, outside the school premises during the school hour," Sahu's uncle said, demanding a high-level inquiry into it.

Khallikote block education officer Hare Krushna Panda directed an investigation into the incident.

DRAWING COMPETITION



Participants during a drawing competition organised by Prena in front of Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Impasse over dumpyard to end soon: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: Housing and Urban Development Minister Usha Devi Tuesday said the impasse over Bhuasuni dumpyard is almost over.

Chairing a high-level meeting with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials and Daruthenga village representatives at Lok Seva Bhawan here, she said, "We heard all the demands of villagers and they will be fulfilled soon. However, we have sought nine months' time to address their grievances."

During the meeting, it was decided that BMC shall ensure construction and operation of required number of wealth centres in a time bound manner so as to process the entire waste generated in the BMC area within its wealth centres.



BMC shall adhere to the nine-month action plan presented in the meeting and stop further transportation and dumping of waste in Bhuasuni after May 2023.

The civic body shall resume the dumping of waste from August 31, 2022. The Principal Secretary to H&UD department shall review the progress of establishment of wealth centres and reduction in

transportation of waste at Bhuasuni every month.

Based on the progress of establishment of wealth centres to cater the waste generation and reduction of trips and dumping at Bhuasuni, the Commissioner, BMC and the sarpanch of Daruthenga Panchayat shall mutually decide on commencement of bio-mining project at the earliest.

TPCODL-Anyline for accurate spot billing

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, Tuesday announced partnership with Anyline, a global leader in mobile data capture and artificial intelligence, to reduce non-technical losses and support spot billing processes for field workers and customers. This industry-first innovation marks the first use of optical character recognition (OCR) for meter reading by TPCODL and is the result of collaboration between the companies. Commenting on the partnership, M. Shenbagam, CEO, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited said, "We firmly believe in adoption and integration of cutting-edge technologies to provide reliable power supply and the best customer experience."

New durable coating may kill Covid virus in minutes

Scientists in the US have developed a durable and safe-to-use coating that may kill the COVID-19 causing SARS-CoV-2 virus, E Coli and MRSA bacteria, and a variety of other pathogens within minutes.

The coating developed by researchers at the University of Michigan killed 99.9 per cent of microbes even after months of repeated cleaning and abrasion on real-world surfaces like keyboards, cell phone screens and chicken-slated cutting boards.

The coating could be a game changer in traditionally germ-laden public spaces like airports and hospitals, said Anish Tuteja, a professor at the University of Michigan. "Disinfectant

cleaners can kill germs in only a minute or two but they dissipate quickly and leave surfaces vulnerable to reinfection" said Tuteja, a co-corresponding author of the research published in the journal Matter.

"We do have long-lasting antibacterial surfaces based on metals like copper and zinc, but they take hours to kill bacteria. This coating offers the best of both worlds," he explained.

The coating, which is clear and can be brushed or sprayed on, uses antimicrobial molecules derived from tea tree oil and cinnamon oil, both used for centuries as safe and effective germ killers that work in under two minutes, the researchers said.

The coating's durability comes from polyurethane, a tough, varnish-like sealer that is commonly used on surfaces like floors and furniture, they said.

"The antimicrobials we tested are classified as generally regarded as safe" by the FDA, and some have even been approved as food additives," Tuteja said.

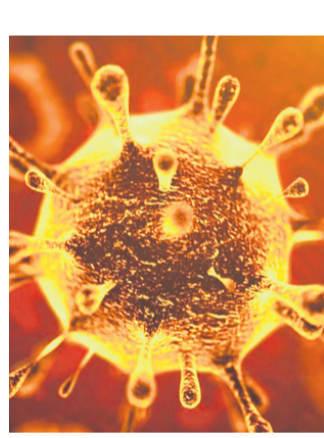
"Polyurethane is a safe and very commonly used coating. But we did do toxicity testing just to be sure, and we found that our particular combination of ingredients is even safer than many of today's antimicrobials," he added.

The results of the study's durability tests suggest that the coating could keep killing germs for six months or longer before its oil be-

gins to evaporate and reduce its disinfectant power.

However, even then, Tuteja said it can be recharged by wiping it

with fresh oil which is reabsorbed by the surface, starting the cycle again. Tuteja estimates that the technology could be commercially



THE COATING DEVELOPED BY RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN KILLED 99.9 PER CENT OF MICROBES EVEN AFTER MONTHS OF REPEATED CLEANING AND ABRASION ON REAL-WORLD SURFACES LIKE KEYBOARDS, CELL PHONE SCREENS AND CHICKEN-SLATED CUTTING BOARDS

THE COATING, WHICH IS CLEAR AND CAN BE BRUSHED OR SPRAYED ON, USES ANTIMICROBIAL MOLECULES DERIVED FROM TEA TREE OIL AND CINNAMON OIL, BOTH USED FOR CENTURIES AS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE GERM KILLERS

available within a year.

It has been licensed to Hygratek, a spinoff company that Tuteja founded with assistance from the University of Michigan Innovation Partnerships. The key challenge in making the coating was to combine the oil and polyurethane in a way that let the oil molecules do their germ-killing work while preventing them from evaporating quickly.

The team, including associate professor Geeta Mehta, and materials science and engineering PhD students Abhishek Dhyani and Taylor Repetto, found a possible solution in cross-linking, a well-known process that uses heating to link materials together at the molecular level.

UPROAR OVER BILKIS CASE



Members of AIMSS protesting against the BJP government's decision in Gujarat's Bilkis Bano gangrape case at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

2-day Nuakhai holiday for Sambalpur, Bargarh

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 30: The state government Tuesday declared September 2 a special local holiday, in addition to September 1, for Nuakhai festival for Sambalpur and Bargarh districts.

The state government empowered the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), northern division, to declare special local holiday for the day following Nuakhai on September 2 for Sambalpur and Bargarh districts.

The government action came following a demand from different quarters to declare two day government holiday for Nuakhai festival which is celebrated on September 1 this year. The government has earlier declared only one day (September 1) as the holiday. Meanwhile, the state govern-



ment has also announced that all banks will remain closed on September 1 on the occasion of Nuakhai. Nuakhai is an agrarian festival where the first crop of the field is offered to the Goddess in western districts of the state and people seek blessings of elders in each household.

The festival is observed mostly in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Deogarh and Sundergarh. Even the people in

Boudh and Angul also observe the festival, officials said

Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Jaya Narayan Mishra of BJP had earlier written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting him to announce two-day holiday for Nuakhai festival, which is celebrated in a big way across the western region of the state. BJD leader and former MP Kalikesh Singhdeo had also urged the government to declare three-day holiday for Nuakhai.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra, who hails from Bolangir district, had also demanded two days government holiday for the Nuakhai.

Mishra said that people working in different parts of the state and country come to their native places for the festival and it require time for travelling.

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OTET QUESTION PAPER LEAK

BEO ARRESTED FOR TAKING BRIBE

WEAPONS EXPO

Action advised against 9 candidates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 30: A day after answer keys of the special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET), went viral on social media platforms, the district administration recommended Tuesday disciplinary action against nine candidates on charges of malpractice during the examination. Among them, five candidates were caught adopting unfair means at the Malkangiri Science College while four were found cheating at the Government Girls' School in this town. The question papers and answer sheets of all the nine have been seized and sent to the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) office in Bhubaneswar. Strong action has been recommended against them. The Special OTET examinations for both the categories (Paper I and II) of candidates were conducted by the BSE across the state Monday. However, the answer keys went viral on social media before the commencement of the tests in Malkangiri district.



Aspirants have demanded a high level probe and strong action against the persons involved in the leak and suggested that exams be held again with a new question paper

magistrate (ADM) Maheswar Chandra Nayak jointly conducted a probe. When contacted, Jena said that the answer keys and question paper that had gone viral did not happen in Malkangiri. However, a probe is underway to unravel the truth, he added.

The development has sparked resentment among the candidates. It was alleged that some of the aspirants had spent around ₹5,000 to get a copy of the question paper following which the answers went viral on social media platforms.

Many have demanded a high level probe and stringent action against the persons involved in the leak of the question paper. They have also demanded that the examination be scrapped and held afresh with a new question paper.

of the examinations. The answers doing the rounds online were said to be of Set A questions. It turned out to be true as after the examinations, the viral answers to the questions were verified and they matched.

After reports appeared in various sections of the media, district education officer Manas Kumar Jena and the additional district

Keonjhar, August 30: Vigilance officials Tuesday arrested the Block Education Officer (BEO) of Ghatagaon in Keonjhar district while demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹15,000. The accused identified as Abhay Kumar Behera had demanded ₹60,000 for the release of arrears payments of a group of assistant teachers. Behera was caught red-handed when he was accepting ₹15,000, the first installment of the total amount.

Acting on a complaint, Vigilance officials had laid a trap and caught Behera with the bribe money. The entire amount of ₹15,000 was recovered from him and seized. Searches are being conducted at three locations in Keonjhar and Jajpur, allegedly belonging to Behera.



Girls listen with rapt attention regarding the functioning of a firearm at a weapons exhibition organised by the BSF in Balimela of Malkangiri district, Tuesday

Vedanta pledges to help budding sports talents



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 30: On National Sports Day Monday, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has pledged to strengthen grassroots sporting culture with the participation of young talents from local communities in and around its areas of operations. In pursuit of this aim, Vedanta Aluminium has been actively supporting several sports disciplines, events and training programmes in Jharsuguda and Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district. Sports being integral to the holistic development of the youth, the company is providing youngsters from local communities with the required infrastructure and training to pursue their passion.

NLCL coal mining project faces land hurdle

LOCALS DEMAND ₹1 CRORE AS COMPENSATION FOR AN ACRE OF LAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, August 30: Operations at the coal block acquired by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLCL) at Malda panchayat in Jharsuguda district are facing a huge land hurdle. The company has initiated steps to acquire land for mining of coal. However, local people are opposing the plans of the company. They have demanded ₹1 crore as compensation for an acre of land.



Development) Act, 1957 and so they will have to cooperate with the company. However, the local delegation rejected the proposal and said that they will not allow operations to start unless their 18-point charter of demands is fulfilled. It should be stated here that most of the people in the said panchayat belong to scheduled tribes and Dalit communities. They said that coal mining will rob them of their age-old livelihood of farming for ever. "All affected people should be given right amount of compensation, scope of employment, rehabilitation, free electricity and drinking water and ₹1 crore per acre of land," the delegation said.

Dengue cases rising in Ganjam

Berhampur: The spread of dengue cases has not decreased in Ganjam district and it is continuing to hit people hard, sources said Tuesday. Three more persons tested positive for dengue Tuesday taking the tally of infected people to 30 in the district. According to reports available from the district Health department, a 22-year old youth in Old Berhampur area was suffering from fever for the last few days. He underwent a blood examination and tested positive for dengue. The two others who tested positive for the disease are a 27-year old girl of G Balarampur locality and a 37-year old youth of Kachera village under Ganjam block. All the affected persons are undergoing treatment at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here. A team comprising members of the district Health department and local health workers are visiting the dengue affected areas on a regular basis and sensitising the people on how to control the spread of dengue, officials said.

FISHERMAN DROWNS

Chandbali: A fisherman got drowned while another was injured due to high tides while fishing in the deep sea near Dhamra port under this block in Bhadrak district, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Lakshmidhar Das, 52, of Dhankuta village under Karanjajama panchayat of this block. A search is on for the body of the deceased. The injured Prasant Das, 38, was discharged after treatment at the Dhamra hospital.

NGT stays tenders of 4 sand quarries on Budhabalanga river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 30: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has termed the district survey report (DSR) on sand mining in Mayurbhanj district as 'illegal' and stayed the tender process of four sand quarries on Budhabalanga river, sources said Tuesday.



environmentalist-cum-honorary wildlife warden Bibekananda Pattanik filed a complaint before the National Green Tribunal. The NGT admitted the petition (Case no-46/22) for hearing and heard it April 22, 2022. During the hearing, it directed the Mayurbhanj district collector to file its reply by April 26. The petitioner alleged that the report prepared on minor mineral management is an interim one and the officials concerned have not visited the areas required to for the survey.

The petitioner in his plea said the area of the four sand quarries under Badasahi tehsil for which the tender was floated has been reduced by five hectares. However, in the report the area of the same quarries has been increased by five hectares. The presence of a bridge within the sand ghat has been overlooked. The report has been prepared whimsically taking the facts into consideration, the plea further stated. It also pointed out that the report has not been prepared by observing the guidelines framed on sand mining in 2016 and 2020.

A bench comprising Justice B Amit Shalekar and expert panelist Saibal Dasgupta of NGT passed the order Monday. The bench had completed hearing on the matter, August 26. The NGT also directed the state environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA) to review the authenticity of the report by taking into consideration the Supreme Court notification and its order on the survey report of Balasore district. It also put on stay the tender of four sand quarries on the basis of an affidavit filed by the district collector till the final disposal of this case.

The SEIAA in an affidavit filed before the NGT stated that the district administration has submitted a second survey report before it in the month of July during final hearing of the case, August 26. The committee will review the report and take action on it, the NGT bench said. The NGT passed the order on the basis of the first statement of the SEIAA.

According to the case diary, a report on minor mineral management was prepared in 2019. Terming the report as illegal, noted

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FOCUS NATION

THE PHARMA FREEBIES



That the Supreme Court had to be moved on a burning health issue so soon after a pandemic that wrought havoc across India is an indicator of just how much government policy can align with corporate power and work to the detriment of ordinary citizens

It is not a secret that the pharmaceutical sector, for all that it has achieved in India, has created rather than solved a sales and marketing problem by normalising the practice of offering “incentives” to doctors in return for prescriptions that help increase sales. Ask around in the industry and it is not difficult to discover that at the root of most marketing efforts is a rather well-perfected system of gratification to doctors and surgeons and associated entities in return for prescribing the drug brands, medical devices or treatment regimens that are pushed by health care companies. This is an ugly game in which almost no one in the chain that produces, delivers and prescribes drugs or devices comes out clean. A small set of players from the medical fraternity has stood up but it has proven difficult to stop a system that is now well-entrenched. Multinationals are known to play the game as much as Indian companies though the level of sophistication and design of reward systems for doctors in return for helping to grow a particular brand may vary. The system is no longer seen as inappropriate at a minimum though it actually is far worse – a vile and corrupt practice for which the ordinary Indian patient inevitably pays a steep price.

ernment appears to have backtracked from its earlier view that the code must be made enforceable. In a reply in Parliament in 2020, the government offered a rather revealing view – it said there was no provision in the department to deal with complaints on unethical practices, and that these would be handled by an ethical committee in the pharma associations! Recommended voluntary steps have so far done little to curb malpractice. That the Supreme Court had to be moved on a burning health issue so soon after a pandemic that wrought havoc across India is an indicator of just how much government policy can align with corporate power and work to the detriment of ordinary citizens. The pharma sector is noted for the high growth it has delivered. The market size of the sector in India is in the region of USD 50 billion. Its power and reach stem from not just how much it has grown in India but also globally. Exports grew by almost USD 10 billion in the eight years ending 2021-22, according to official statistics. As a result, the sector is well received by the government, which announced an incentive scheme in March to strengthen pharma with an outlay of ₹500 crore over the next three years. It is also true that the government has been able to keep prices of key medicines and devices under control. The way medical

stents were recently brought under the price control regime in the face of intense resistance by global manufacturers and Indian distributors was a remarkable example of the government standing up to powerful lobbies and special interest groups. Yet, malpractices in marketing continue to work against the interests of patients, unfairly, even criminally, enriching pharma sector players and medical practitioners. This cannot help make the sector more professional or competitive globally. These ways of growing, accepted as they are as regular and routine, can only pull down the standing of India and open more questions on whether Indian companies can truly work to global standards in a sector that has inevitably been far more regulated than any other. A corrupt practice normalised and condoned by an entire nation is a signal to do more of the same. It is not an invitation to raise standards or to innovate or to build new strategies to grow the market. The sector and the nation already face the more complex problem of fixed dose combinations (single dosages that are a cocktail of two or more approved active pharmaceutical ingredients) and a plethora of brand names – many of which sell combinations not required or not recommended or those banned in global markets. The situation may be already out of control here, at least in terms of branded generics. In 2021, the Competition Commission of India reported that “there were 47,478 brands associated with 2,871 formulations in the pharmaceuticals market in India during August 2019-July 2020, implying the presence of 17 brands on an average for every formulation.” Pushing for a strong law that stops companies from giving and doctors from taking incentives for prescriptions and sending the guilty to prison will turn out to be the best medicine for a sector that holds the promise of a bright future but is mired in some dark practices that it cannot be proud of.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.
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Jagdish Rattanani

MALPRACTICES IN MARKETING CONTINUE TO WORK AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF PATIENTS, UNFAIRLY, EVEN CRIMINALLY, ENRICHING PHARMA SECTOR PLAYERS AND MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

position on the petition’s prayer that a voluntary code regulating conduct of pharma companies on promotions and freebies be given statutory teeth. The hearing earlier this month brought up the remarkable growth of Dolo, a paracetamol brand with a 650 mg dosage rather than the more commonly used 500 mg tablets. Sales of Dolo 650 rocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The manufacturer’s website is full of laudatory media reports on the brand, one of which is headlined: “Dolo turned into a hit with the right dose of perception and prescription.” Another one says: “How Micro Labs struck gold with Dolo-650 during COVID-19.” The company has denied that it pushed its prescriptions or changed dosage to evade price control. At the core of the petition and the larger debate that is now emerging is whether businesses have done enough to self-regulate under the “Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCMPM), which dates to January 2015, and seeks to curb unethical practices by the pharma players. The code governs the conduct of medical representatives, ad promotions, samples, gifts, hospitality, travel vouchers or cash offered by pharma companies to health care professionals or their families. None of this is enforceable by law though. It is interesting that the gov-

The way it works has been described in a writ petition filed in the Supreme Court by the Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India (FMRAI) and others. The petition says upfront in its first para: “There are abundant examples that show how corruption in the pharmaceutical sector endangers positive health outcomes. Whether it is a pharma company directly bribing a doctor for prescribing its medicines irrationally and/or irrespective of a health need or providing an indirect advantage to a health care professional for the same reasons, it is the patient’s health that is put at risk...violations of this kind...are progressively becoming more pervasive.” The issue has hit the headlines as a division bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna took up the petition and granted time to the government to file its

Now Payback

The recent floods that Pakistan is facing have taken a huge toll on that country. One third of the country is submerged in water; over 1,000 people have so far been killed, 33 million or one-seventh of the country’s population have been rendered homeless and more than 300,000 dwellings have been flattened. Crops on vast swathes of land are destroyed and a food crisis is looming large. Hunger, waterborne diseases and displacement of millions of people are the immediate consequences. In short, it is a humanitarian crisis of unimaginable proportions prompting international agencies to rush aid – monetary and material – to Pakistan. The spectacle of famished men, women and children trying to save their lives and find safe shelters is heart-rending. All these are tell-tale signs of what catastrophe climate change can cause to the human race irrespective of the geographical frontiers within which people live. International experts, working on the impact of global warming and alerting the world with their findings for the past few years, have said that apart from monsoon rains, the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas is a major cause of the floods wreaking havoc on Pakistan. The country’s climate change minister, Sherry Rehman, says the floods – “caused by melting glaciers and torrential monsoon” – are the worst in living memory. Vitaly important agricultural land will take months to drain.

Closer home, deadly floods hit northeastern India and Bangladesh recently due to which over 9 million people have been affected and over 300 people have been killed. The states of Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura have been badly affected. Orissa too has had its share of torrential rains and devastating floods this monsoon. The government of Orissa has disclosed statistics of flood damage in the state. According to the statistics, crops standing on a whopping 120,000 hectares of agricultural land have been damaged in 10 districts of Orissa. Assessment in other districts is in process. On the other side of the border, the Pakistan government is pleading that developed nations responsible for global warming through greater emissions of greenhouse gases should bear the responsibility of the affected people of the country as Pakistan accounts for less than one per cent of global carbon emission. Pakistan has more glaciers – 7,532 – than anywhere on Earth outside the polar region. As such, it is one of the countries that is most endangered by use of fossil fuel, rise in temperatures and other extreme weather events that is caused by global warming and climate change. Only a few months ago, a large body of climate change scientists mapping the extent of global warming through noxious fumes generated by fossil fuel reported that man-made climate change is responsible for the deadly heatwaves afflicting Pakistan and India, apart from the Western countries. Studies are also being conducted to quantify the precise contribution of greenhouse gases to this season’s catastrophic monsoon. The reports are awaited. There is, however, no gainsaying that a man-made climate emergency is round the corner: The floods in Pakistan, like recent heatwave conditions, droughts and fires in many parts of the world, are to be seen in this light. That is why the tragedy in Pakistan is a concern for the entire global population. Though the IMF and other global financial bodies are planning how best they can bail Pakistan out, the country’s history of corruption and aid to terrorist outfits makes many donors hesitant about loosening their purse strings. Reports suggest efforts are on to provide the logistics for allowing movement of food from India to Pakistan at this hour of crisis. The COP26 summit last year coined a new term – climate finance – for providing monetary help to countries suffering from climate change. This form of aid is conceived not merely to handle usual natural disasters. Instead, it is a transfer of wealth built up over centuries of fossil fuel extraction for enabling a global transition away from carbon and towards a sustainable way of life. Developed countries which have benefitted from the natural resources and human labour of developing countries have to now face payback.

WISDOM CORNER

- To the mind that is still, the whole universe surrenders. LAO TZU
- Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree. MARTIN LUTHER
- Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. WARREN BUFFETT

WORDSWORTH

Bejuggle
Since we moderns know juggle only to mean expertly tossing a number of things in the air and catching them, this antique word will puzzle us. That’s because down the centuries jugglers have become more specialised. When the word came into English, getting on for nine centuries ago, it had the same sense as its French, Italian and Latin forebears: a jester, one who amuses through stories, songs, tricks and clowning. The Latin source was jocular, from joculari, to jest or joke. The first of these has bequeathed us jocular, a jester or minstrel, now obsolete; from the same source came the better-known jocular and jocular and their relatives. Over time jugglers became less and less general entertainers. They set aside their music and stories and became exclusively conjurers, in particular that sort who deceives his audience by legerdemain or sleight of hand. It was only at the beginning of the nineteenth century that they came exclusively to practice the specific type of manual dexterity that we now associate them with (as an historical note, later in the same century the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary didn’t include this sense of the verb juggle because the word hadn’t yet acquired it). By the sixteenth century, the verb had developed the negative ideas of a man who deceived in earnest, not just for entertainment, who tricked or cheated another. The be- prefix was added to it in the seventeenth century to suggest that the process was happening thoroughly or excessively.

Bellwether

It’s not uncommon these days, even though the word is still widely used, to find it spelled bellweather or even bellwether. For example the Washington Times for 29 October 2006: “That’s why we should have used some bellweather event like the signing of the Iraqi constitution, or the parliamentary elections as our moment to declare victory and exit stage left.” There’s some excuse for this, assuming a lack of prior knowledge and the absence of a dictionary, since the second part of the word is now rare in our urbanised existence. Wether is an old English word for a castrated ram. The experts think it comes from a prehistoric root meaning a year, perhaps because the ram concerned was a yearling; it’s a relative of veal, via the Latin vitulus, a calf. The shepherd used a wether as the leader of the flock, whom the rest would follow. To be sure to know exactly where he was, a bell was hung around his neck. So: bellwether. By the fifteenth century, it was being applied to people, as a contemptuous term for a leader whom only sheep would follow, especially one who possessed a loud mouth but little judgement. That was still in use centuries later, as you may tell from Francis Grose’s Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue of 1811, in which the word is defined as “[t]he chief or leader of a mob”. In more modern times – within the past century or so – it has moved sense to refer to things, rather than people, that lead or indicate a trend, such as the way we are likely to vote in an election. A bellwether security is one that predicts the way the stock market is moving. To blindly follow trends as though we were sheep, of course, merely returns us to the old meaning.

IN JEST THIS

A dictionary for self-motivated self-starters

At any given time, more than a billion people around the world are unemployed. About a third of them are actively looking for jobs, another third are searching halfheartedly and the remaining third have resigned themselves to living with a rich relative. Or at least a relative who has a decent job and a fairly comfortable couch.



Melvin Durai

FINDING WORK ISN'T EASY, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING THE JOB ADS AND FIGURING OUT EXACTLY WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT

Finding work isn’t easy, especially when you have trouble understanding the job ads and figuring out exactly what employers want. Some want you to be a “self-starter,” as though you’re a generator or something. Others expect you to list three references on your application, as though “dictionary” and “encyclopedia” aren’t enough. A few want to pay you a salary that’s “commensurate with your experience,” as though you’ve had any experience at all with the word “commensurate.” To make things easier for job seekers, I’ve decided to create an “employment dictionary” that explains, from an employer’s point of

view, the various terms and phrases found in job ads. Some of the entries would look like this: “Salary negotiable”: We don’t want to mention any salary here, just in case you’re willing to work for less. Don’t worry: We will pay you what we paid the previous person or what you expect to be paid, whichever is lower. “Previous experience necessary”: We will not consider future experience. Please tell us only what you did in the past, not what you plan to do in the future. Nobody can predict the future, but we can certainly look into your past. “Excellent PC skills required”: We expect everyone in our office to be politically correct. You must not make fun of the Zambian man who says, “Sank God it’s Fly-day,” nor the Indian guy who warns everyone about “compooter wires.” “Must be self-motivated”: We prefer employees who can inspire themselves, including those who are inspired to take naps under the desk. The important thing is not to rely on the boss for motivation,

but to possess self-esteem, self-confidence and a collection of self-help books. “Exceptional communication skills needed”: When we ask you if you’ve done any “bookkeeping,” we don’t want to hear about all those books you didn’t return to the library. And when we ask you to “cc the human resources director,” we don’t want you to go and see the director twice. “Come and join our winning team”: We haven’t won anything in our lives. By calling ourselves a “winning team,” we’re hoping to forget all our sports disappointments, including the last-place finish in the kindergarten egg-and-spoon race. “We offer a competitive benefits package”: Our benefits package includes a free membership to a local gym, where you can be as competitive as you wish. Exercising regularly is a great form of health insurance. “Energetic and enthusiastic individual needed”: Your energy will be highly valued in our office, especially when we ask you to fetch

the coffee. Your enthusiasm will come in handy too. We expect you to jump and scream when we give you the annual bonus: free fries at McDonald’s. “You must have good organisational skills”: We may ask you to organise the company picnic. But if our budget is skimpy, please do not organise any type of strike. Otherwise, you may have to organise a trip to the unemployment office. “Must have a can-do attitude”: If we ask you to complete a task, please do not say, “No-can-do.” You must approach the task as something that can be done, even if you have to say something like “can-do-tomorrow” or “can-do-next-year.” “No phone calls please”: We hired the president’s niece as our receptionist. She’s still trying to figure out how to answer the phone. We’re trying to teach her the proper greeting: “Hold please.” If you have any questions about our job openings, please consult Melvin’s employment dictionary. Especially the section about nepotism.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Soren on sticky wicket

Sir, This refers to the editorial “Jharkhand Mess,” Orissa POST, August 30. For acts of omission and commission the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren is on a sticky wicket. Some happenings reflect that his reign has not been able to depart from the trajectory undergone by his father Shibu Soren much earlier. The arrest of the three Congress MLAs while transporting huge illicit cash in West Bengal, the recent case of mining activities in his own name, some Public Interest Litigations (PILs) against him will strain the existing state government. It will be a sad state if the regional party’s government in Jharkhand is out of power. The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will attempt everything to discredit the ruling party. What people-friendly measures have been taken by the Soren dispensation will be lost in the mud, the minus points will come to the surface and create political instability in the state, which has seen in 22 years 11 governments. Hemant must skillfully manage events and things with political aptitude. Today our political leaders of all colours should take lessons from leaders of the past who made service to people their mission. Baring a few, most present-day leaders are immersed in money-making and hence fail to earn the trust and confidence of the people.

Fabulous Hardik

Sir, From being stretched off the field at Dubai in the 2018 Asia Cup to returning with a match-winning all-round performance at the same venue in the same tournament now, life has turned a full circle for Hardik Pandya. When he scalped three key wickets of Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) finals this year and set up a maiden title win for Gujarat Titans, there was little doubt that Hardik had returned to bowling at his best and at full tilt. In a similar fashion in the high-octane game against Pakistan the other day, he produced a feisty spell of fast bowling, picking three vital wickets, besides scoring an invaluable 33 not out off 17 balls to set up India’s victory in a thriller to begin the team’s Asia Cup 2022 campaign on a thumping note. Needless to say Hardik Pandya will be a vital cog in Team India’s wheel of fortunes in the upcoming T20 world cup.

Parthasarathy Sen, NEW DELHI

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

32 MLAs of ruling UPA in J'khand flown to Raipur



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren with UPA MLAs leaves for Raipur airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, August 30: As many 32 MLAs of the ruling UPA coalition in Jharkhand Tuesday arrived in Raipur by a chartered flight in a bid to thwart the BJP's possible attempt to poach them, and moved into a nearby resort. The United Progressive Alliance of the JMM, Congress and RJD in Jharkhand has 49 MLAs in the 81-member Assembly. The flight carrying the MLAs took off from the Ranchi airport shortly after 4.30 pm and arrived at Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur, the capital of the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, around 5.30 pm. A total of 41 persons, including 32 MLAs, landed here and three buses took them from the airport to the Mayfair resort in Nava Raipur, 10 km away, said a local Congress leader. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren did not accompany them, he added. Chhattisgarh Congress leaders Ramgopal Agrawal and Girish Dewangan also travelled to the resort with the Jharkhand MLAs. The buses were escorted by pilot vehicles. Security was tightened around the resort and mediapersons were not allowed inside. News channels showed a convoy of vehicles of VIPs and police entering the resort ahead of the arrival of the Jharkhand MLAs. This is for the third time in the last one-and-a-half years that MLAs of Congress and its allies have been shifted to Raipur amid fears of poaching by the BJP. In June, fearing cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha election, the main opposition Congress in Haryana had shifted its MLAs to Raipur to protect them from alleged poaching bid. Candidates of the Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF), a member of the Congress-led grand alliance during the last year's Assam Assembly polls, were brought to Raipur in April 2021 ahead of counting of votes. Jharkhand Chief Minister Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) believes that the BJP may make a serious attempt to poach MLAs from the party and also from the ally Congress in a bid to topple the government in a manner similar to Maharashtra and there is a need to ringfence the legislators in a safe haven. Following a petition by the BJP seeking Soren's disqualification from the Assembly in an office of profit case, the Election Commission sent its decision to state Governor Ramesh Bais August 25. Though the EC's decision has not yet been made official, there is a buzz that the poll panel has recommended the chief minister's disqualification as an MLA. In a joint statement August 28, UPA constituents had accused the governor of encouraging political horse-trading by "deliberately delaying" announcing the decision. A meeting of the Jharkhand cabinet is scheduled on September 1 at 4 pm. The JMM, the largest party, has 30 MLAs, the Congress 18 legislators, and the RJD one. The main opposition BJP has 26 MLAs in the House.

8 killed as car falls into gorge in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kishtwar/Jammu, August 30: Eight people, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed and three others sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were travelling skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-feet gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said. The vehicle was on its way from Chingam to Chatroo and the accident occurred around 3.15 pm near Bonda village. All the passengers who died belonged to Bonda village, officials said. They said, rescue teams, comprising police, and Rashtriya Rifles personnel and local villagers, carried out the rescue operation. Five people were found dead on the spot and three others succumbed to injuries while being taken to a hospital, officials said, adding three more injured were hospitalised in a critical condition. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafiqat Bhat reached the scene of the accident immediately after hearing the news and was seen supervising the rescue operation, officials said.

No Ganesh festival at Idgah Maidan



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: After hearing intense arguments, the Supreme Court Tuesday told the Karnataka government to maintain the status quo at the Idgah Maidan in Bengaluru's Chamrajpet, adding that Ganesh Chaturthi puja can be held somewhere else, instead. A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee, Abhay S. Oka, and M.M. Sundresh said: "The writ petition is pending before the

bench headed by Justice Banerjee. The bench orally told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka government, "You have the puja somewhere else. And go back to the high court." The Karnataka Waqf Board argued before the top court that such religious festivals have not been held at the place "for 200 years". The petitions were filed by The Central Muslim Association of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf against the Karnataka government and others. At the root of the matter was a major question: who owns the ground, the state government or the Waqf Board? Mehta said the revenue officer said that this land continued to be of the ownership of the state government. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Dushyant Dave, representing the petitioners, opposed this submission.

Rising inequality risks regional collapse, climate catastrophe, say scientists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 30: Left unchecked, rising inequality in the next 50 years will lead to increasingly dysfunctional societies, making cooperation to deal with existential threats like climate change more difficult, a ground-breaking analysis launched on Tuesday said. In a new book, 'Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity', however, says the world can still stabilise global temperatures below two degrees Celsius and approach an end to poverty by 2050 by enacting five 'extraordinary turnarounds' that break with current trends. "We are standing on a cliff edge," said Jorgen Randers, one of the six authors of 'Earth for All' and co-author of 'The Limits to Growth' published 50 years ago. "In the next 50 years, the current economic system will drive up social tensions and drive down wellbeing. We can already see how inequality is destabilising people and the planet." "Unless there is truly extraordinary action to redistribute wealth, things will get significantly worse. We are already sowing the seeds for regional collapse. Societies are creating vicious cycles where rising social tensions, that are exacerbated by climate breakdown, will continue to lead to a decline in trust. "This risks an explosive combination of extreme political destabilisation and economic stagnation at a time when we must do everything we can to avoid climate catastrophes." Ahead of significant political events such as UNGA and COP 27, Earth4All is launching 'Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity', which presents the results of a two-year research project, that brought together leading scientists, economic thinkers and a team of 'systems dynamics' computer modelers. The book builds on the common mantra from social movements calling for "Systems Change Not Climate Change" and "People Not Profit".



SDM, DSP among 34 hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudrapur/Dehradun, August 30: More than 30 people, including an SDM and a DSP, were hospitalised Tuesday after they took ill following a chlorine gas leak from a cylinder at a scrap godown in a busy residential area in Uttarakhand's Udhm Singh Nagar district.

CHLORINE GAS LEAK IN U'KHAND

The SDM and DSP had gone to the spot to launch rescue operations, police said, adding that so far 34 people have been hospitalised after they complained of burning sensation in eyes, nausea and difficulty in breathing. Some of the victims had even begun to faint, they said.

The mishap took place early in the morning in the busy Azad Nagar Transit Camp area of Rudrapur. People began to faint and scamper about in panic as the toxic gas began to leak, officials said. Senior administrative and police officials with fire tenders, ambulances and an SDRF team rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations.

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION SC closes contempt proceedings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 30: The Supreme Court Tuesday closed the contempt proceedings, arising out of the demolition of Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in 1992, against the state of Uttar Pradesh and others. A bench headed by Justice S K Kaul said the issue does not survive now and referred to the November 2019 verdict of a constitution bench. A five-judge constitution bench of the apex court had on November 9, 2019, cleared the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque.



While closing the contempt proceedings, the bench observed that the matter ought to have come up for hearing earlier.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Oka and Vikram Nath, that the contempt plea was pending for a long and the petitioner had died in 2010. "I appreciate the fact that the matter ought to have come up earlier," Justice Kaul said. The counsel appearing for the petitioner said the order passed by the apex court in 1992 was violated and referred to the November 2019 verdict of a constitution bench in November 2019. "Be that as it may, the lis really does not survive for consideration," the bench said, adding, "The contempt proceedings are closed." The 16th-century Babri mosque, built by the Mughal empire's founder Babur, was destroyed December 6, 1992.

The bench said it was unfortunate that the matter was not taken up. "We are making an endeavour to take up old matters. Some may survive, and some may not survive.... Now, you have a full verdict delivered by a larger bench," it said. The bench noted in its order that the petitioner has been away and the issue has been settled by a constitution bench in November 2019. "Be that as it may, the lis really does not survive for consideration," the bench said, adding, "The contempt proceedings are closed." The 16th-century Babri mosque, built by the Mughal empire's founder Babur, was destroyed December 6, 1992.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM. Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Friday, 2nd September, 2022; 6:00 p.m. onwards at Hotel Apsara, Park Line / VIP Lane, Jeypore - 764 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Vivek Khandelwal, Mobile: 85418 65798.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KORAPUT (R&B) DIVISION, KORAPUT. Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B) KPT - 08/2022-23.

केंद्रीय होम्योपैथिक अनुसन्धान परिषद् CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMOEOPATHY. Recruitment of Medical Laboratory Technologist. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of 22 posts of Medical Laboratory Technologist as per following details:-

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL. DIGAPAHANDI, GANJAM, ODISHA, PIN-761012. Ph:06814-247330, E-mail: dgp_nac@yahoo.com.

ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଶାସନ ବିଭାଗ-୨୦୨୨ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ବିନପହଣ୍ଡି (ଗଞ୍ଜାମ)

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. (An autonomous Research Institute of Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India) P.O: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar-751005, India, http://www.iopb.res.in

ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର ପୌରସମ୍ମିଳନୀ, ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର. ନିମ୍ନ ଲିଷ୍ଟ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଅଛୁ। ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ନିଜ ନିଜ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସୁସ୍ଥ, ନିର୍ମଳ କରି ରଖିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ପରସ୍ପର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ରଖି ଏହି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରାଯାଉଅଛି।

କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ ପୌରପାଳିକା, କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ ପୌରପାଳିକା. ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଆମର ସଫଳତା ଓ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ଆମର ସମସ୍ତେ ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦେବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ କରାଯାଉଅଛି।

RAJASTHAN REPORTED HIGHEST NUMBER OF RAPE CASES IN 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Rajasthan reported the highest number of rape cases in the country in 2021 with an increase of more than 19 per cent in comparison to 2020, the National Crime Records Bureau report stated.

Of the total 31,677 rape cases registered across the country last year, 6,337 were reported in Rajasthan, followed by 2,845 in Uttar Pradesh. Though the state followed Uttar Pradesh in overall crime against women, it continues to record the highest number of rape cases in India.

As per the NCRB report, in comparison to 2020, an increase of 19.34 per cent has been recorded in the number of rape cases this year. The number of rape cases in the state rose from 3,305 in 2017 to 4,335 in 2018, 5,997 in 2019 and 5,310 in 2020, the data showed.

As many as 4,28,278 cases of crime against women were registered across the country in 2021. Uttar Pradesh tops the list with a maximum of 56,083 cases, followed by Rajasthan where as many as 40,738 cases were registered.

Maharashtra and West Bengal stand in third and fourth position



NCRB REPORT

with 39,526 and 35,884 cases, respectively, of crime against women last year. Of the total 6,337 rape cases recorded in the state, victims in 4,885 cases were adults and minors in 1,452 cases.

The maximum number of rape victims stood in the age group of 18-30 years. According to the report, in 6,074 cases, offenders were known to the victim. In 582 cases, the accused were family members and in 1,701 cases, the offenders were friends or online friends or live-in partners while unknown offenders stood at 263 cases.

While the opposition BJP tar-

getted the state government over the report saying it reflects the failure of the Congress government to tackle crime, the chairperson of the women commission sought to defend the situation saying several cases were found to be fake.

"Deteriorating law and order situation, increase in crime is the biggest failure of the Congress government. The image of Rajasthan has spoilt because of the crimes. Women safety is a critical issue in the state because the government has failed to ensure safety of women," BJP state president Satish Poonia said.

BENGAL COAL SMUGGLING CASE

ED summons Abhishek September 2

ABHISHEK BANERJEE, THE NEPHEW OF THE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE, HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE PRESENT AT THE ED'S OFFICE AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE AT KOLKATA'S SALT LAKE AREA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, August 30: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Trinamool Congress's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee September 2 for questioning on the coal smuggling scam in West Bengal.

Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has been asked to be present at the ED's office at the Central Government Office (CGO) at Kolkata's Salt Lake area.

ED sources said that during the interrogation of some Indian Police



Service (IPS) officers in the state, the sleuths came across certain new links in the scam, following which it has become imperative to question Abhishek Banerjee. The sources said that a special team of ED officers from the agency's headquarters in New Delhi will be arriving to Kolkata for Abhishek Banerjee's interrogation.

The team will consist of sleuths

who had questioned the IPS officers. An email communicate has already been sent to the offices of the state police director general Manoj Malviya and the commissioner of Bidhannagar City Police, Supratim Sarkar for arrangement of adequate security.

Abhishek Banerjee is yet to respond to the summoning. On Tuesday only, while addressing a

rally on the occasion of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad's foundation day, the Chief Minister expressed apprehension that her nephew might be summoned any time.

"He has given a fiery speech here. Who can say that he and his wife will not receive a central agency notice tomorrow. This time if they summon him and his wife, I will ask them to take their two-year-old kid along with them to the agency office," she added.

Reacting to the development, Trinamool Congress member Santanu Sen said that the Chief Minister's apprehension on this count was correct.

"It is the height of political vendetta, where the Union government and BJP are shamelessly using Central agencies," Sen said. CPI(M) central committee member, Sujan Chakraborty said that Mamata Banerjee knows about the inevitable fate of her as well as her nephew and hence she expressed her apprehension.

Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said that the Central agency probe in the matter is taking place following the directive of the court and hence it is a futile exercise to give this summon a political colour.

Jaipur student builds shipping container home for homeless

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 30: Aarav Gandhi (17), a 12th standard student in a Jaipur school, has conceptualised 'Project Gharana' and built a fully-functional shipping container home as a prototype for affordable housing for the homeless people.

He envisages to build 100 shipping container homes to help rehabilitate over 500 homeless citizens in an affordable and sustainable community. These homes can help eliminate the societal problem of homelessness and adopt environment-friendly practices, such as responsible disposal of waste and use of recycled materials in construction.

Presently, Aarav is looking for partnerships to build more shipping container homes and realise his dream of 'Project Gharana'.

"From a young age, I have had a strong affinity for architecture and construction, which allowed me to discover the widespread problem of homelessness across India. I founded 'Project Gharana', which is a social initiative that aims to provide vulnerable citizens in India sustainable and affordable homes.

"The process began in September 2021 after I visited my father's factory and saw an old container converted into a fully functioning office space. I was struck with the idea of utilising



Aarav ran a crowdfunding campaign and raised over Rs 5 lakh in three weeks for 'Project Gharana'

Aarav's project has received recognition both in India and abroad

the same principle to build homes." After months of discussions and tireless work, the first container home was readied for a family of four. I hope to replicate this successful model and build a community of container homes in the village of Mahapura near my school."

Aarav ran a crowdfunding campaign and raised over ₹5 lakh in three weeks for 'Project Gharana'. He has built his first shipping container home, which runs on 100 per cent renewable energy and utilises several sustainable materials in its construction.

Aarav's project has received recognition both in India and abroad. He was invited to speak at the United Nations Global Goals Week.

Kolkata grapples with short supply of fresh fish

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, August 29: Exports to Bangladesh and online sales have led to a drop in supply and spiralling of prices of quality freshwater fish in Kolkata markets.

Katla (a large carp), weighing over 5 kg that the Bengali desires for his fish kalia, has all but disappeared from markets. All that are available are 3-4 kg fish from local ponds or 'bheris'. Fish from 'bheris' are cultivated and have no taste, says Suvendu Mukherjee, a fish-lover who has been following this trend.

"Till a couple of years ago, we would get Katla weighing 12-14 kg. These used to be the wild variety found in canals and near dams in states like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. These fish would be caught there and transported to West Bengal and sold. They had lesser fat and fewer bones. They were a treat when cooked in a 'kalia'. We would pay ₹450-500 per kg for that variety of fish. They have disappeared from the markets now," Mukherjee says. Fish trader Ramesh Shaw agrees.

"While the local Katla used to be sold for ₹300 a kg, we would sell the 10-14 kg variety for ₹ 450 on week-



ends. Nowadays, anything weighing above 5 kg is picked up, packed in ice and transported to Bangladesh. Even the Aar or Singhara (a catfish loved by Bengalis and Punjabis alike) is in short supply. Anything above 1.5 kg is being exported. We are left with the smaller fish that we have to sell for ₹1,000-1,200 a kg. The customers aren't happy," he says.

India is the largest exporter of fresh water fish (chilled) to Bangladesh. As it is, there is a shortage of quality fish in West Bengal. Though the state tops the country in fish production, it consumes much more and has to be supplied by fish farms in Andhra Pradesh and other southern states. However, the connoisseurs aren't

ready to have the Andhra variety. "Why worry about the large Katla? Even quality Tilapia is not available. All are getting picked up at the wholesale hubs for export or online trading. Large 'Koi' (the natural variety) are being picked up in bulk for ₹700-800 a kg. We are left with the cultured variety that nobody wants to buy." Online shopping is killing us silently. They purchase in bulk at ₹700-800 per kg, clean and gut the fish sell it at ₹1,200-1,300 per kg. We don't stand a chance. The pandemic has finished us off in more ways than one. Customers have got used to receiving everything at home and a ready to pay extra," fish trader Shyamal Roy says.

Durga idol makers getting good orders from abroad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 30: A robust order flow from foreign countries after two back-to-back slack seasons due to the Covid-19 pandemic is making creators of Durga idols in Kolkata happy, though the bookings are yet to reach the pre-coronavirus levels.

The overseas orders increased three times compared to last year and 12 times the 2020 figure, a spokesperson of a key organisation of artisans in Kumartuli, the clay modellers' colony in north Kolkata, said.

"Around 60 idols are going abroad this year. The number was not more than 20 in 2021 and five in the previous year," Kumartuli Mritshilpi Samity spokesperson Kartik Pal said. While some idols have already been sent, others will be dispatched soon as the festival begins at the end of September.

However, around 100 idols were shipped to overseas nations in 2018 and 19 from Kumartuli, senior artisan Mintu Pal said.

The idols sent to European, North and South American countries and other nations are generally made of fibreglass.

People who worship the goddess on foreign soil use a single idol for a few years in a row, unlike those who do it in India. Another feel-good factor for the artisans is that new destinations were added to their list of offshore countries.



The idols sent to European, North and South American countries and other nations are generally made of fibreglass

Mintu Paul said he could send only 5-6 idols from his studio in Kumartuli last year; while this year the number is 14. "Already 12 idols - including five to the US, three to the UK and one each to Uganda and Italy - have been shipped. Two others are destined to be dispatched to Japan and Switzerland by September 4-5," he said.

To a question, he said the price of an idol sent abroad starts from ₹one lakh in Indian currency and it rises depending on the height and materials used. Mintu Pal said the "good news" is he is sending idols to two new destinations - Uganda and Switzerland - and he hopes that the momentum will increase from next year's Durga Puja.

Cattle fairs take a hit as lumpy skin disease rears its ugly head

The infected animal stops eating, and the milk production comes down. In severe cases, they die after suffering from pneumonia and difficulty in breathing. Separating the infected animals from the healthy ones is the only way to check the spread



A local trader offered me just Rs 25,000 for a cow, which I could have easily sold for ₹40,000 at the Tilwara fair. Similarly, for a Sindh racer horse, I was offered ₹50,000. I sold it for ₹one lakh at Tilwara, though I had to wait for two years," says Rathod, who hails from Khara village.

Hanumangarh's famous Gogomedi cattle fair, scheduled for August 11, is postponed indefinitely, as is the case of Parbatsar's Shri Veer Tejaji fair. Even the Nagar Palika, Nagar Parishad and panchayat level fairs are not happening.

Backbone of rural economy
More than 250 fairs are organised across the state in a year. The high volume of people participating in them ensures that the cattle rearers get a fair price for their livestock and traders get supreme quality animals. Cattle rearers from nearby

states also visit, thus promoting cultural relations and state economy. These fairs also stand as a testimony to the rich history and culture of Rajasthan. Queues of colourfully-decorated animals, the smell of firewood, sounds of folk songs and the tinkling of ghungroo bells are common features of these large-scale events, which are organised by the Animal Husbandry Department to foster business between cattle traders and rearers. Some say the first cattle fair was organised in the region nearly 700 years ago!

Not simply an event of cultural importance, the cattle fairs also spur the local economy, in addition to bringing national and international tourists. Transporters, ornament makers, food vendors, craftspeople and other small businesses rely on these fairs.

Double trouble
"Local traders will never quote good prices for our animals. We have been suffering huge losses in the last two years," says Chetram, a cattle rearer from Hanumangarh's Rampura village. Cut from their main source of income, the rearers are forced to stretch their already tight budgets to spend on fodder. Added to this is the risk of losing their animals to LSD.

"During the Covid-19 days, at least our animals were healthy and the only loss was of business. Now, we are losing our livestock, and also our source of income," laments Shankar Singh, a cattle rearer from Sangriya. LSD is a contagious infection that affects cattle with lower immunity. The infected animal develops fever, hypersalivation and nasal discharge, followed by the formation of nodes

that look like lumps on the skin. The head, neck and udder are among the spots where these eruptions are most visible.

The infected animal stops eating, and the milk production comes down. In severe cases, they die after suffering from pneumonia and difficulty in breathing. Separating the infected animals from the healthy ones is the only way to check the spread.

"As of now, the disease has affected about six lakh animals in the state, killing nearly 25,000 of them. The situation is serious," informs Arvind Jaitly, Deputy Director (Disease Control), Animal Husbandry Department.

"We organise fairs in different locations all through the year, as it serves the interests of both rearers and traders. The department also earns during these fairs. But with the present level of spread of the LSD, stopping of fairs for a while is an imperative," he adds.

According to a news report, the figures in other states have been soaring too - 74,325 cattle in Punjab, 58,546 in Gujarat, 6,385 in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,300 in Uttarakhand, 532 in Himachal Pradesh and 260 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been affected by the LSD.

Milk supply, subsidiary activities hit
The cattle population in Rajasthan is already on the way down. According to the Animal Husbandry Department, the cattle population in the state came down

from ₹5.77 crore in 2012 to ₹5.68 crore in 2019 - a drop of 1.61 per cent in seven years.

Rajasthan is also the second highest milk-producing state in the country - at 187.7 million metric tonne. In India, the per capita availability of milk is 394 gm, while it is 870 gm in Rajasthan. With the spread of LSD, the production of both milk and dairy items has come down. If the situation persists, milk production is expected to drop further. Even the subsidiary activities have been affected. Mangalik Gusai, who sells trinkets for decorating animals, says, "Cattle fairs are our only source of income. As they stand postponed, we don't know what to do."

Gusai's family of seven works out of their home, readying the ornaments during the monsoon season - June to September. "We took a loan to buy raw materials. We have products worth ₹four lakh lying at home, with no place to sell them."

Even the Tourism Department is taking the hit, as it works in conjunction with the Animal Husbandry Department to organise events like the Pushkar Fair, a highly-desired travel experience for a tourist. "The cattle fairs offer a glimpse into the local culture and rural lifestyle of Rajasthan. The trade, competitions and cultural events happening at the fairs draw huge crowds," says Bikaner Krishan Kumar, Assistant Director, Tourism Department.

'Palace on Wheels' to operate on O&M model



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Aug 30: The luxury train, Palace on Wheels, which came to a halt owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, will start its operations again.

The ownership of the train will remain with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and its operation is proposed from October, confirmed officials. Now the train will run on an operation and maintenance model (O&M) under the Bharat Gaurav Train Policy of Indian Railways from the year 2022-23.

With this, the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation will get a fixed revenue every year, while the tourists will get more facilities with private participation, the officials added.

The train was non-operational for more than two years due to Covid-19. Earlier, the Railways and RTDC used to get revenue in the ratio of 56:44 in the operation of this train.

But the distribution pattern has now been changed and the haulage charges will have to be paid by RTDC as per the 'Bharat Gaurav Train Policy', officials added.

national

Mumbai Metro line-3 trial begins

Mumbai: The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) Tuesday began the trial run of the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro line-3 at Sariput Nagar in Aarey Colony, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis inspected the Metro train from inside and flagged off the trial run around 11 am.

Moosewala killing: One of key conspirators held in Azerbaijan

Chandigarh: One of the key conspirators of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala's sensational killing, Sachin Thapan Bishnoi, who fled India before the crime on a fake passport, has been arrested in Azerbaijan, Punjab Police officials said Tuesday.

50 Dalit families driven out of village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Medininagar, August 30: About 50 Dalit families were allegedly driven out of a village, where they were living in for the last four decades, by members of a particular community in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said Tuesday.

On receiving the information, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Medininagar, Rajesh Kumar Sah, and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Bishrampur, Surjit Kumar rushed to Tongri Pahadi area, 1 km from Murumatu village, and were camping there to maintain law and order, the police said.

A criminal case was lodged against 12 named people and 150 others in this regard, they said.

Meanwhile, taking cognisance of the incident, Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais has expressed concern over the incident.

The governor has sought a detailed report from the Deputy Commissioner, Palamu, A Dodde, within two days, a statement from the Raj Bhavan said. Dodde told PTI that the police have been asked to apprehend the culprits immediately. The DC assured all 50 families of rehabilitation in the same village on a priority basis.

The relief agencies have been activated for the purpose, Dode added. The victims all belonged to the "Mushar" caste and were living in the village for the last four decades.

One of the victims, Jitendra Mushar, said "We were living in the village for years together but several people, all residents of Marumatu village, forcibly drove us out of the village on Monday. They loaded our belongings in vehicles and dropped us in a nearby jungle." He alleged that they were also assaulted and prevented from approaching the police in this regard.

Azad loyalists continue to resign from Congress

AZAD, 73, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, ENDED HIS FIVE-DECADE ASSOCIATION WITH THE CONGRESS FRIDAY, TERMING THE PARTY "COMPREHENSIVELY DESTROYED" AND LASHING OUT AT RAHUL GANDHI FOR "DEMOLISHING" ITS ENTIRE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 30: As many as 64 senior Congress leaders, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, resigned from the party in support of Ghulam Nabi Azad here Tuesday, asserting that Azad's vision will shape a new and bright future for Jammu and Kashmir.

They submitted a joint resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Chand along with others, including former ministers Abdul Majid Wani, Manohar Lal Sharma, Gharu Ram and former MLA Balwan Singh, announced their resignations from the Congress, at a press conference.

"Owing to the circumstances and the leadership crisis in Congress party, where a coterie surrounding party high command is calling shots in the most irresponsible manner and ruining the party," "All of us had a very long association with the party spanning over decades and devoted all our energy and resources towards expanding the party in Jammu and Kashmir but unfortunately we found that the treatment meted out to us was humiliating," Balwan Singh said, reading out from the joint resignation letter signed by 64 leaders and senior functionaries from across Jammu province.

The letter further said "with our leader and mentor Ghulam Nabi Azad having resigned from the party on the issue listed by him in a letter to you (Sonia), we believe that we should also come out of Congress to make some worthwhile contribution in building a positive political society where people are heard and respected too. Azad will soon launch a national-level party from Jammu and Kashmir. "We are sure that his (Azad's) vision will help J&K and its depressed masses to come out of the dark shadows of pessimism and shape a new and bright future for J&K," he said. Over a dozen prominent Congress leaders, including former ministers and legislators, besides hundreds of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, municipal corporators and district and block level leaders have already left the Congress to join Azad over the past four days.



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CBI given me 'clean chit', says Sisodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ghaziabad, August 30: The CBI has given a "clean chit", Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Tuesday after a team of the probe agency searched his bank locker for about two hours. Sisodia and his wife were present as the four-member team, including a woman officer, conducted the search at a Punjab National Bank branch in Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, on the outskirts of the national capital.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader is among the 15 people and entities named in an FIR registered by the agency in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Delhi government's Excise Policy 2021-22.

The CBI was acting under pressure, Sisodia told reporters after the search was over. The Delhi deputy Chief Minister said he was happy "the Prime Minister got my house searched but could not find anything".

"Today, he sent the CBI to get my locker searched but could not find anything. This is the



proof that I and my family have come out clean in all the inquiries done by the Prime Minister. I have got a clean chit in all the probes done by the prime minister and not a single penny of questionable nature has been detected. I have full faith in my truth," Sisodia said. He said all the CBI officers were cordial with him and his family.

"We also cooperated. Unofficially they (CBI) admit that there is nothing questionable but they are also under some sort of pressure to find something so that I can be put in jail for two to three months.

"There is pressure from the prime minister to put me behind bars for two to three months... Truth shall triumph," a smiling Sisodia said.

In the morning, camera crews jostled with each other and curious crowds gathered as the Sisodias as well as CBI the team arrived at the bank.

On August 19, the federal probe agency raided 31 locations, including Sisodia's residence, over alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Delhi government's Excise Policy 2021-22.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR. e-Procurement NOTICE. Includes details of road repair work and a table with Procurement Officer, Bid Identification No., and Availability of Tender on-line.

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ମହାନଗର ନିଗମ. ଶା.୩୧.୦୮.୨୦୨୨. ସ୍ୱାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ଦିବସ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଅଛୁ. "ଆସନ୍ତୁ ପରସ୍ପର ସହଯୋଗରେ ଆମ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ପ୍ରଗତିକୁ ଆଗେଇ ନେବା". ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ମହାନଗର ନିଗମର ମୂଳମନ୍ତ୍ର :- ସହଭାଗତା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରଗତି.

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international

of the day quote

Skyrocketing energy prices expose the limits of the European Union's electricity market design



URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Companies in France need to prepare an energy plan by September



ELISABETH BORNE | FRENCH PM

Iran did not seek to develop nuclear weapons but would employ nuclear technology for civilian purposes



EBRAHIM RAISI | IRANIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

6 mn Afghans at risk of famine: UN

Kabul: A top UN official has warned that 6 million Afghans are at risk of famine as the war-torn country continues to face extreme hardship and uncertainty under the Taliban regime. UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths made the remarks at a UN Security Council meeting on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, reports dpa news agency. More than half of the country's population needs humanitarian assistance, Griffiths said. With the Taliban's return to power on August 2021, the country's situation has further deteriorated. Unemployment and extreme poverty have forced tens of thousands of Afghans to flee their country.

Lanka introduces new scheme

Colombo: In an effort to boost the tourism industry amid the economic crisis, the Sri Lankan government Tuesday said the island nation has extended its multiple-entry tourist visa to five years. Tourism Minister Harin Fernando said that Sri Lanka now offers one-year multiple entry visas, reports Xinhua news agency. The country also issues single entry visas with a six-month stay period. Fernando said that the cabinet of ministers approved his proposal on Monday.

Two Air France pilots suspended

Paris: Air France has suspended two pilots after an altercation in the cockpit during a flight from Geneva to Paris in June 2022, the local media reported. The flag carrier confirmed that, following a disagreement between the two pilots at the controls of an Airbus A320 in June, inappropriate gestures were exchanged, Xinhua news agency quoted French newspaper Le Figaro as saying on Monday. "The pilots concerned are currently stopped from flying and are awaiting a managerial decision which will rule on the outcome," Air France said. The incident occurred shortly after takeoff during the climb phase.

Ship beached after collision

Madrid: Gibraltar authorities said Tuesday that a cargo ship has been beached to prevent it from sinking after it collided with a liquefied natural gas carrier in the Bay of Gibraltar. A government spokesman said that the situation was under control and the ship was not in danger. He said there had been no environmental impact so far. The government said booms had been placed in the area to contain any possible fuel seepage. No one was injured in the collision. The crew of the cargo ship — the 178-meter (584-foot), Tuvalu-registered OS 35 — remains on board.

SURGE IN FIGHTING

Eyes on Kherson as Ukraine claims bold move on Russians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, August 30: A surge in fighting on the southern front line and a Ukrainian claim of new attacks on Russian positions fed speculation Tuesday that a long-expected counteroffensive to try to turn the tide of war has started.

Officials in Kyiv, though, warned against excessive optimism in a war that has seen similar expectations of changing fortunes before. Even though independent verification of battlefield moves has been extremely tough, the British defence ministry said in intelligence report that, as of early Monday, "several brigades of the Ukrainian Armed Forces increased the weight of artillery fires in front line sectors across southern Ukraine".

Attention centred on potential damage Ukraine might have inflicted on Russian positions around the port city of Kherson, a major economic hub close to the Black Sea and one of Moscow's prized possessions since it started the invasion just over half a year ago.

Ukraine's presidential office reported Tuesday that "powerful explosions continued during the day and night in the Kherson region. Tough battles are ongoing practically across all" of the strategic area. Ukrainian forces, the report said, have destroyed a number of ammunition depots in the region and all large bridges across the Dnieper that is vital to bring supplies to the Russian troops.

Russian state news agency Tass reported five explosions rocking Kherson



AP

Ukraine's presidential office reported Tuesday that "powerful explosions continued during the day and night in the Kherson region

on Tuesday morning — blasts likely caused by air defence systems at work. The Ukrainian military's Operation Command South also reported destroying a pontoon crossing the Dnieper that the Russian forces were setting up and hitting a dozen command posts in several areas of the Kherson region with artillery fire.

"The most important thing is Ukrainian artillery's work on the bridges, which the Russian military can no longer use," Ukrainian independent military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said. "Even the barges have been destroyed. The Russians can't sustain forces near Kherson — this is the most important."

Monday, the southern command centre's Nataliya Gumenyuk told Ukrainian news outlet Liga.Net that Kyiv's forces have launched offensive operations "in many di-

rections in our area of responsibility and have breached the enemy's first line of defense." The statement quickly made headlines after weeks of reports that Ukraine forces were preparing an offensive there and as Ukrainian attacks on the Kherson region intensified.

Zhdanov said that Russia has three lines of defence in the Kherson region, and breaching the first one signals only "isolated offensive actions by the Ukrainian army".

The war has ground to a stalemate over the past months with casualties rising and the local population bearing the brunt of suffering during relentless shelling in the east and also in the wider area around the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant which has also been at the heart of fighting in Ukraine.

SL Prez asks parties to join unity govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, August 30: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe Tuesday appealed to all political parties to join an all-party government to tackle the island nation's worst-ever economic crisis and prevent "strong economies" from using it as a "tool of interference," days after India and China clashed verbally over the docking of a high-tech Chinese ship at a strategic port in this country.

Wickremesinghe's remarks came as he presented the interim budget for 2022 in Parliament in his capacity as the minister of finance. "We can no longer be a nation dependent on loan assistance. We can also no longer be used as a tool of interference by other countries with strong economies," Wickremesinghe said without naming any country.

However, his remarks came days after the Chinese embassy and the Indian High Commission here clashed verbally over the docking of "Yuan Wang 5" at Sri Lanka's southern Hambantota port. "All this can be achieved, only if we work together in unity with common consent. I reiterate the invitation to all the parties represented in this Parliament to join an all-party government. Since this unprecedented situation is the responsibility of us all, and therefore need to prioritise the necessities of the country," he said.

Iraqi cleric Sadr calls off protests

REUTERS

Baghdad, August 30: Iraq's powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr ordered his followers to end their protests in central Baghdad Tuesday, easing a confrontation which led to the deadliest violence in the Iraqi capital in years.

Apologising to Iraqis after 22 people were killed in clashes between an armed group loyal to him and rival Shi'ite Muslim factions backed by Iran, Sadr condemned the fighting and gave his own followers one hour to disperse.

"This is not a revolution because it has lost its peaceful character," Sadr, a former anti-U.S. insurgent leader, said in a televised address. "The spilling of Iraqi blood is forbidden." As the deadline passed at around 2 p.m. (1100 GMT), Sadr's followers could be seen beginning to leave the area in the fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad where government offices are located and where they had occupied parliament for weeks.

Monday's clashes between rival factions of Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority follow 10 months of political deadlock since Iraq's October parliamentary election, which have raised fears of escalating unrest.

Sadr emerged as the main winner in the election but failed in his efforts to form a government with Sunni Muslim Arab and Kurdish parties, excluding the Iran-backed Shi'ite groups.

This week's violence erupted after Sadr said he was withdrawing from all political activity - a decision he said was in response to the failure of other Shi'ite leaders and parties to reform a corrupt and decaying governing system.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi military declared an open-ended nationwide curfew Monday and urged the protesters to leave the Green Zone. But an Iraqi government official, speaking on condition of anonymity shortly before Sadr's call to end the protests, said authorities could not impose control on the rival armed groups.



REUTERS

Violence erupted after Sadr announced withdrawal from politics

Iran closes border ahead of Shi'ite pilgrimage next month

22 people killed in Baghdad clashes; worst in years

Rishi Sunak camp accuses Truss of avoiding scrutiny

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 30: With just days to go before the polls close on Friday in the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and British Prime Minister, former Chancellor Rishi Sunak's camp accused rival Liz Truss of avoiding scrutiny on Tuesday.

Foreign Secretary Truss, who is the current frontrunner according to pre-poll surveys and bookie's odds, was due to face tough questions from veteran BBC political journalist Nick Robinson in a one-on-one interview — already done by Sunak earlier this month. But the Cabinet minister pulled out of the interview hours before it was to air on Tuesday evening, with her team saying she could no longer spare the time.

"Liz Truss has cancelled her BBC One interview with Nick Robinson which was due to air this Tuesday evening (30th August) at 7pm. Ms Truss' team say she can no longer spare the time to appear on 'Our Next Prime Minister,'" the BBC said in a statement.

"The other candidate for the Conservative leadership, Rishi Sunak, was interviewed by Nick on 10th August. We regret that it has not been possible to do an in depth interview with both candidates



■ **Meanwhile, both candidates** will face their final hustings event in London Wednesday evening in an attempt to convince any remaining undecided Conservative Party members who are yet to cast their votes in the election

■ **The winner between Sunak and Truss** will be declared Monday, to be followed by an audience with Queen Elizabeth II for a formal swearing in

despite having reached agreement to do so," it notes. Robinson himself took to Twitter to say he was "disappointed & frustrated" at the cancellation.

"It's important that candidates face proper scrutiny so that [party] members and the public know what they are offering," an unnamed ally of Rishi Sunak was quoted by 'The Times' as saying. "Avoiding that scrutiny suggests either Truss doesn't have a plan at all or the plan she has falls far short of the challenges we face this winter," the ally said.

Pakistan, UN appeal for \$160 mn

During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday, it was decided to form a National Flood Response and Coordination Centre to provide proper institutional response to the calamity, which will comprise federal ministers, representatives of armed forces, chief ministers and experts

Islamabad, August 30: Grappling with unprecedented floods, the cash-strapped Pakistan government on Tuesday teamed up with the United Nations to issue a flash appeal for USD 160 million to deal with the disaster that has displaced over 33 million people in the country that has become the "ground zero" of global warming.

The country-wide death toll has touched 1,136 as of Monday, with over 1,634 injured and 33 million displaced, according to the latest data issued by the National Disaster Management Authority; the chief national body tasked to deal with calamities.



REUTERS

Pakistan's Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said Tuesday that the country would need more than USD 10 billion to rebuild the infrastructure devastated by the raging floods, which roughly translates to 3 per cent of the country's GDP.

During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, it was decided to form a National Flood Response and Coordination Centre to provide proper institutional response to the calamity which will comprise federal ministers, representatives of armed forces, chief ministers and experts.

"The Centre will serve as a bridge between disaster management authorities, donors and government institutions. It will collect and analyse latest information and pass it on to the relevant government agencies. It will also over-

see rescue and relief work including restoration of infrastructure," the PM Office tweeted after the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government and the United Nations jointly issued a flash appeal for USD 160 million to help the country deal with the catastrophic floods. "Pakistan is awash in suffering," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a video message. "The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and flooding."

He said the funds will provide 5.2 million people with food, water, sanitation, emergency education, protection and health support. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari urged the global community to extend support to Pakistan.

Gaza aid worker gets 12 yrs in jail

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beersheba, August 30: An Israeli court Tuesday sentenced the Gaza director of a major international charity to 12 years in prison after the court earlier convicted him of terrorism charges in a high-profile case in which independent investigations found no proof of wrongdoing.

Mohammed el-Halabi, the Gaza director for the international Christian charity World Vision, was arrested in 2016 and accused of diverting tens of millions of dollars to the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules the territory.

The trial, and his prolonged detention, has further strained relations between Israel and humanitarian organizations that provide aid to Palestinians.

The sentence is likely to continue to affect those ties.

The trial sheds light on the way Israel's legal system handles sensitive security cases, with the defense team given only limited access to evidence, which was also not made public. Critics say the courts too often side with the evidence brought forward by Israel's security establishment. "It's inconceivable," el-Halabi's lawyer, Maher Hanna, said of the length of the sentence. "They insist that injustice will persist throughout the whole process."

GRIM SITUATION

CHINA HAS EMPLOYED SOME OF THE WORLD'S HARSHTEST AND MOST FREQUENT LOCKDOWN MEASURES IN ITS DETERMINATION TO STAMP OUT EVERY COVID OUTBREAK, ARGUING IT SAVES LIVES

REUTERS

Hong Kong, August 30: Zhang Meng had a breakdown last December. The 20-year-old found herself sobbing on the stairs of her dorm, driven to despair by repeated COVID lockdowns of her uni-

China Covid curbs hit mental health of youth

versity campus in Beijing.

The lockdowns had meant she was mostly confined to her room and unable to meet up with friends. There were also strict curbs on when she could visit the canteen or take a shower. Describing herself as someone who craves in-person social interaction, Zhang said the restrictions had "removed the safety net that was holding me up and I felt like my whole being was falling down".

That month, she was diagnosed with major depression and anxiety. Yao, also 20 and who asked that his first name not be used, had his first breakdown in high school where he was a boarder, unable to understand why lockdown policies were so tough. He said that one day he had to take refuge in a school toilet, crying so hard "it felt like my insides were crying." In early 2021 while at university in



AFP

Beijing, unable to shake that depression and also unhappy he had not taken the courses he wanted to for fear of upsetting his father, Yao attempted suicide.

China has employed some of the world's harshest and most frequent

lockdown measures in its determination to stamp out every COVID outbreak, arguing it saves lives and pointing to its low pandemic toll of around 5,200 to date.

It's an effort it has shown little sign of abandoning, but the policy's

impact on mental health alarms medical experts and as Zhang's and Yao's experiences have shown, it is already taking its toll.

"China's lockdowns have had a huge human cost with the shadow of mental-ill health adversely affecting China's culture and economy for years to come," argues a June editorial in the British medical journal the Lancet.

In particular, experts fear for the mental health of teenagers and young adults, more vulnerable because of their age and lack of control over their lives, and who have to contend with far greater education stresses and economic pressures than earlier generations.

The number of young people affected is potentially huge. Some 220 million Chinese children and young people have been confined for prolonged periods due to COVID

restrictions, the Education Ministry estimated in 2020. It did not respond to a Reuters request for an updated figure and comment on the topic.

Kids under pressure

The COVID curbs have sometimes forced young people into extreme situations. During Shanghai's two-month draconian lockdown this year, for instance, some 15 to 18-year-olds had to isolate by themselves at hotels as they were not allowed to return home. "They had to cook for themselves and didn't have people to talk to so it was actually very hard for them," said Frank Feng, deputy principal at Lucton, an international school in Shanghai, said. Around 20% of Chinese junior and senior high school students learning remotely during lockdowns have experienced suicidal ideation, according to a survey.

business

of the day quote

At a time when international coal prices are much higher, Coal India continues to supply its coal to Indian consumers at highly competitive prices, with no price increase over the last four years

PRAMOD AGRAWAL | COAL INDIA LTD CHAIRMAN

We have to look at ways of reducing the expenses in order to make insurance affordable

DEBASISH PANDA | IRDIAI CHAIRMAN

No doubt, the first half was good. We are looking at high double-digit growth, but how much it will be I cannot say right now because the global challenges are still not over

BALBIR SINGH DHILLON | AUDI INDIA HEAD

SHORT TAKES

Shriram Transport to raise ₹50 billion

MUMBAI: Shriram Transport Finance Company Ltd plans to raise an additional Rs 50 billion in the second half of the financial year to fund growth opportunities.

Axis Bank eyes 10% stake in Go Digit Life

MUMBAI: Axis Bank is in talks to acquire a stake in Go Digit Life Insurance, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Bleeding bitcoin holding out for a hero

REUTERS

London, August 30: Who can save bitcoin? The world's biggest cryptocurrency can't seem to catch a break.

A deflating end to August has forced the market to confront the Big Bitcoin Question: where will a real rally come from?

The amount of "illiquid bitcoin" across the market - held by wallets that rarely spend or sell - has risen by 73,840 bitcoin over the past week.

Furthermore, the amount of bitcoin held for over a year has increased by 54,300 on average in the last four weeks.

Markets rebound over 2.5%

SENSEX, NIFTY LOG THEIR BEST SINGLE-DAY GAIN IN MORE THAN THREE MONTHS DRIVEN BY VALUE BUYING IN BANKING, IT AND OIL STOCKS AMID MIXED GLOBAL CUES

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 30: Benchmark BSE Sensex and Nifty soared over 2.5 per cent to log their best single-day gain in more than three months Tuesday driven by value buying in banking, IT and oil stocks amid mixed global cues.

The 30-share Sensex jumped 1,564.45 points or 2.70 per cent to settle at more than one-week high of 59,537.07. During the day, it zoomed 1,627.16 points or 2.80 per cent to a day's high of 59,599.78.

The broader NSE Nifty spurred 446.40 points or 2.58 per cent to close at 17,759.30 as all 50 components advanced.

The key indices logged their best single-day gain since May 20. The indices had tumbled more than 1.4 per cent Monday after US Federal Bank chair Jerome Powell indicated last week that the central bank will stick to a strategy of rate hikes to cool inflation.

Making a sharp recovery, all the 30 Sensex shares ended in the green.



Bajaj Finserv rallied the most by 5.47 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance which jumped 4.86 per cent.

IndusInd Bank jumped 4.38 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 3.96 per cent, ICICI Bank by 3.72 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank by 3.46 per cent, Tata Steel by 3.29 per cent and HDFC by 3.28 per cent.

Gains in Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Infosys, TCS, HUL, SBI, Axis Bank and ITC fuelled the rally.

All the sectoral indices participated in the move wherein banking and financials contributed the maximum. In line with the trend,

the market breadth was also inclined strongly on the advancing side, he said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.97 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.40 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with realty rallying 3.51 per cent, bankex advanced 3.33 per cent, finance jumped 3.18 per cent, utilities (2.82 per cent), power (2.82 per cent) and oil & gas (2.65 per cent).

A total of 2,397 stocks advanced, while 1,028 declined and 127 remained unchanged.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2.60 per cent to USD 102.52 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought shares worth Rs 4,165.86 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Even if you have relatively conservative real rates of growth of 7-7.5 per cent, we will get to a per capita income of about USD 10,000

BIBEK DEBROY | EAC-PM CHAIRMAN

HOUSE PRICE INDEX RISES 3.5%: RBI DATA

The all India house price index (HPI) rose by 3.5 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022-23, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.



Rupee marks biggest gain in a year on strong foreign inflows

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 30: The Indian rupee notched its biggest one-day gain in a year Tuesday against a wobbly dollar as local equities saw a rush of foreign investor inflows.

The partially convertible rupee surged 0.6% to 79.45 in its best session since Aug. 27, 2021. The currency had hit a record low of 80.12 Monday, but closed at 79.9625.

India's Nifty 50 stock index soared 2.7% as investors returned to buy the dips after a recent selloff. Overall, local equities have seen foreign investor inflows of about \$6 billion in August, the highest since December 2020.

August also marked the first month this year when overseas investors turned net buyers of India's government debt. On the day, yield on the 10-year paper dropped 6 basis points to 7.1893%.

HSBC analysts became more optimistic about the rupee, citing a pullback in commodity prices and return of inflows supporting the currency, in addition to support from the country's central bank.



"While we think the USD/INR pair can still rise further, we see scope for the rupee to outperform some other 'deficit' peers temporarily," they wrote in a note.

The rupee's strength Tuesday comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stepped in to prevent the currency from trading under 80 per dollar in the previous session, traders had told Reuters.

The dollar index losing steam ahead of U.S. jobs data also lifted market sentiment.

However, with the Federal Reserve determined to keep interest rates higher for longer, even as recession looms in the world's biggest economy, it could boost near-term volatility, analysts warned.

EVs on Indian roads to touch 5 crore by 2030, says KPMG



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 30: The total number of electric vehicles on Indian roads is likely to touch 5 crore by 2030, presenting an enormous opportunity for players in the charging ecosystem.

A large increase in electric vehicles (EV) sales is anticipated in India due to favourable factors on demand, supply and regulatory front despite a low penetration level of about 1 per cent currently.

According to the report, India's electric mobility story is rapidly evolving, with EVs gradually entering the mainstream, resulting in a three-fold rise in EV sales over the last fiscal year.

"As of March 2022, the number of EVs on Indian roads has surpassed one million. This number is likely to grow to 45-50 million EVs on road by 2030," it

said. This presents an enormous opportunity for players in the EV charging ecosystem.

"Currently, only about 1,700 public charging stations are operational across the country which is inadequate to support the EV growth," the report added.

There has been a strong government push to improve penetration of charging networks and increasing interest from public and private players, which is likely to bring in the much-required investments in this space, it said.

The charging infrastructure market is slated for an exponential growth with a mix of factors expected to determine the volumes and type of charging solutions required.

In terms of growth potential in the charging business, the KPMG report said in the two-wheeler segment a 15-20 per cent growth is expected by 2025, which is slated to rise even further to 50-60 per cent by 2030.

As for personal passenger vehicles, by 2025 the charging business is expected to grow by 8-10 per cent and 35-40 per cent by 2030, while in four-wheeler commercial vehicles, the growth is to be likely at 15-20 per cent by 2025 and 60-65 per cent by 2030.

For electric bus charging, the report said the expected growth is 10-12 per cent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030. The same for three-wheelers is 45-50 per cent by 2025 and 90-95 per cent by 2030, the report added.

It, however, pointed out that India's charging infrastructure demands are unique, considering that the vehicle mix is dominated by two-wheelers and three-wheelers, as opposed to advanced countries where four-wheelers is the dominant segment.

In the short-term, the report said home/workplace and fleet charging solutions show maximum potential with a shift to take place to public charging as the market matures in future.

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spelling "hold" on an online forum. "Their lack of selling helps to create more scarcity so that, eventually, a supply shock for bitcoin will again play out."

So what about those deep-pocketed institutional players that jumped on the crypto bandwagon when prices were high?

They have been selling hard, according to some market participants who say these big investors have been the primary driver of the crypto slump over recent months.

In the week to Aug. 19 - the week that saw bitcoin slide anew - the digital asset investment products favored by traditional institutional finance players saw outflows of around \$9 million according to Coinshares data.

cryptocurrency exchanges have seen net outflows for three straight months as investors pulled their tokens into "cold storage" rather than selling, according to Arcane Research.

"It's clear that longer-term holders at the retail level are also accumulating, the number of wallets holding relatively small amounts of bitcoin is indeed growing," said Jay Fraser, head of strategy at BSTX securities exchange.

"Don't underestimate the impact of the retail HODLers," Fraser added, referring to a cohort whose name emerged years ago from a trader mis-

Serena not done yet Medvedev through, Halep stunned

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 30: They came from far and wide for Serena — no last name required, befitting someone as much an icon as superstar athlete — to see her practice and play and, it turned out, win a match at the US Open, turning out in record numbers to fill Arthur Ashe Stadium and shout and applaud and pump their fists right along with her.

Serena Williams is not ready to say goodbye just yet. Nor, clearly, are her fans. And she heard them, loud and clear.

In her first match at what is expected to be the last US Open — and last tournament — of her remarkable playing career, even if she insists that she won't quite say so, Williams overcame a shaky start to overpower Danka Kovinic 6-3, 6-3 amid an atmosphere more akin to a festival than a farewell.

What memory will stick with her the most from the evening? "When I walked out, the reception was really overwhelming. It was loud and I could feel it in my chest. It was a really good feeling," said the owner of six U.S. Open championships and 23 Grand Slam titles overall, numbers unsurpassed by any other player in the sport's professional era. "It's a feeling I'll never forget," she added. "Yeah, that meant a lot to me."

This opening outing against Kovinic, a 27-year-old from Montenegro ranked 80th, became an event with a capital "E." Spike Lee participated in the pre-match coin toss. Former President Bill Clinton was in the stands. So were Mike Tyson and Martina Navratilova, sitting next to each other. And sitting with Dad and Grandma was Williams' daughter, Olympia, who turns 5 Thursday, wearing white beads in her hair just like Mom did while winning the US Open for the first time at age 17 back in 1999.

Williams is now 40, and told the world three weeks ago via an essay for Vogue that she was ready to concentrate on having a second child and her venture capital firm.

Asked after her victory Monday whether this will definitively be her final tournament, Williams replied with a knowing smile:



"Yeah, I've been pretty vague about it, right?" Then she added: "I'm going to stay vague, because you never know."

The night session drew 29,000 folks, a high for the tournament — more than 23,000 were in Ashe; thousands more watched on a video screen outside the arena — and the place was as loud as ever. Certainly louder than any other first-round match in memory.

Both players called the decibel level "crazy." Kovinic said she couldn't hear the ball come off Williams' racket strings — or even her own.

Early, Williams was not at her best. Maybe it was the significance of the moment. There were double-faults. Other missed strokes, missed opportunities. She went up 2-0, but then quickly trailed 3-2. Then, suddenly, Williams, looked a lot like the

champion she's been for decades and less like the player who came into this match with a 1-3 record since returning to action in late June after nearly a year off the tour.

She rolled through the end of that opening set, capping it with a service winner she reacted to with clenched fists and her trademark cry of "Come on!" That was met with thunderous cheers and applause — as was the ending of the 1-hour, 40-minute contest, as if another trophy had been earned.

Instead, there is plenty more work to be done. Williams will play in the second round of singles on Wednesday against No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit of Estonia. And there's also doubles, too: Williams and her sister, Venus, are entered together in that competition, with their initial match slated for Wednesday

or Thursday.

After watching the victory over Kovinic, spectators held up blue, white or red placards that were distributed at their seats to spell out "We (love) Serena."

After Kovinic was introduced simply by name, making clear to even her what an afterthought she was on this muggy evening, Williams' entrance was preceded by a tribute video narrated by Queen Latifah, who called the American the "Queen of Queens." The arena announcer called Williams "the greatest of all time," and intoned: "This U.S. Open marks the final chapter of her storied tennis history."

She means a lot to a lot of people. As a tennis player. As a woman. As an African American. As a mother. As a businesswoman.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 30: Daniil Medvedev had an easy start to his US Open title defense, beating Stefan Kozlov 6-2, 6-4, 6-0. Simona Halep had another early exit, this one coming in a memorable first four-level win for Ukrainian Daria Snigur.

Snigur upset the No.7 seed 6-2, 0-6, 6-4, then struggled through tears to explain what the victory meant to her family and her country, which is at war with Russia.

Medvedev advanced to face Arthur Rinderknech of France. The Russian is trying to become the first repeat champion at the US Open since Roger Federer won five straight from 2004-08.

Andy Murray was another early winner, 10 years after winning the first of his three Grand Slam titles in Flushing Meadows. He had one of the first upsets of the tournament by beating No.24 seed Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

Fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas won't be staying in it after dropping the first 11 games to qualifier Daniel Elahi Galan before falling 6-0, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

Many fans arriving for the day session at the final Grand Slam

event of the season were focused on the match that would lead off the action at night. Williams, the 23-time major champion, has said she is preparing to end her tennis career.

Leading 3-0 in the third set, Medvedev told the chair umpire he wanted a bag of ice so he could put it on his head. "It was pretty hot today and humid," Medvedev said.

Snigur was playing her first match in the main draw of a Grand Slam. The 20-year-old wore a ribbon in the blue and yellow colors of Ukraine's flag on her chest, and she put her hands around it after finishing off the victory.

She played last week in the "Tennis Plays for Peace Exhibition" to raise money to aid Ukraine. That was on Louis Armstrong Stadium, which may have calmed her nerves a bit when she was sent back out onto the same court Monday.

Halep had won 19 of her last 22 matches and recently returned to the top 10, but the US Open has been the most challenging major for the two-time Grand Slam champion. She is 21-11 in New York and has lost in the first round of three of her last five appearances.

Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 US Open champion, needed three sets

to get past Harmony Tan, the French player who beat Williams in the first round at Wimbledon.

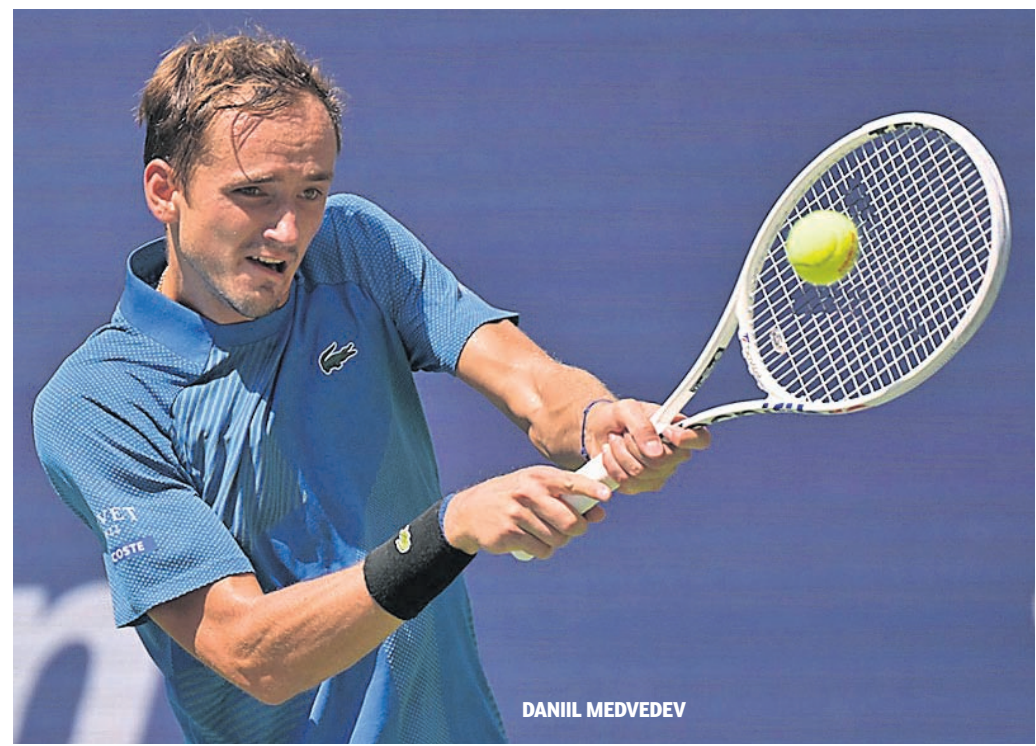
Two other past champions had short stays. Dominic Thiem, the 2020 champion who missed last year because of injury, fell to Pablo Carreno Busta in four sets. The 2016 winner, Stan Wawrinka, retired from his match against Corentin Moutet after losing a second-set tie-breaker. He has been plagued by injuries in recent years.

No.29 seed Tommy Paul overcame the heat to outlast Bernabe Zapata Miralles 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, 7-5 in 3 hours, 10 minutes. Fellow American Sebastian Korda also got his first win at his home Slam, beating Facundo Bagnis in four sets.

Another American advanced in an upset, with JJ Wolf ousting No.16 seed Roberto Bautista Agut in straight sets.

Also, Wu Yibing became the first Chinese man to win a US Open match in the professional era, upsetting No.31 seed Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

Third-seeded Maria Sakkari and No.17 Caroline Garcia were among the early winners on the women's side, with Sakkari overcoming Wimbledon semifinalist Tatjana Maria in three sets.



Focus is on winning Nations Cup: Deep



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 30: Indian women's hockey vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka Tuesday said the Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medal is a thing of the past now and the team is focussing on winning this year's FIH Nations Cup, a qualifier for next season's Pro League.

India, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and hosts Spain are the eight participating teams in the Nations Cup to be held in Valencia from December 10 to 17. The winner of the tournament will directly qualify for next season's FIH Pro League. "We did well in Birmingham, but now that is a closed chapter. We have had a good break and now we have to get back to work. I am sure chief coach Janneke Schopman will assess our previous performance and plan the upcoming days in camp accordingly," Ekka said in a Hockey India release.

"We have to do well in Spain in the FIH Women's Hockey Nations Cup, and for that the preparation begins from today. It won't be easy

but training hard and doing the right things repeatedly during our sessions is the only thing we can do," she explained.

"Our aim in Spain will be to progress to the FIH Hockey Women's Pro League and for that we have to win the Nations Cup. Our target is in front of us, now it's up to us to make sure we build in the correct direction."

The Indian women had finished a creditable third in their debut FIH Pro League outing in 2021-22 season. The defender, a veteran of 240 caps, however, said the podium finish in Birmingham will do wonders in lifting the confidence of the team.

"We would have liked to play the final in Birmingham for sure, but winning bronze was a big achievement for us. Standing on the podium is a moment we will never forget. It's a big morale booster for the entire team."

The Indian women's team on Tuesday assembled for a long preparatory camp at the SAI centre here after enjoying a good break following a successful outing in Birmingham.

India ready to steamroll HK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, August 30: KL Rahul couldn't have wished for an easier opposition to get his rhythm back as a buoyant India get ready to steamroll minnows Hong Kong in their second and final group league game of the Asia Cup here Wednesday.

The Group A match won't be more than a glorified net session for Rohit Sharma's men against a team, mostly comprising Pakistani and Indian expats, who otherwise are not good enough to play first-class cricket in either of the two nations.

After a hard earned victory over Pakistan in a last over thriller, scripted by Hardik Pandya, the focus against Hong Kong will be on batters and their adequate game time.

Rahul, whose first T20I in 2022 was against Pakistan the other night, would want to come out all guns blazing and may take this opportunity to try an alternate batting approach at the onset, compared to what has been his style at the IPL.

In T20Is, teams are going for impact performance and often a 20 ball 45 is of greater value than a 90 not out of 65 balls. Quality of an innings and its significance in the larger con-



Team India might go for some changes to playing XI against Hong Kong, Wednesday

text of the game is more important at this stage as India get ready for the T20 World Cup to be hosted by Australia from October 16 to November 13.

Obviously, the quality of Hong Kong bowling, to put it politely, won't match up to Pakistan, but there is always a fear as one doesn't exactly know what to expect from an unknown entity.

Hence, it is important that Rahul uses this opportunity to the fullest to gain his confidence before the start of the Super Fours and business end of the tournament.

Skipper Rohit has made it clear that experimentation will continue

and hence one shouldn't be surprised if there is another batting order that could be tried out Wednesday.

For Virat Kohli, the Hong Kong match will be all about another quality hitting time in the middle against an attack that is sure to feel intimidated by his sheer presence in the middle. Even Rohit, after a subdued game against Pakistan, would like to deposit a few into the stands. It would be interesting to see if Ravindra Jadeja is sent at No.4 position against Hong Kong or whether Rishabh Pant is tried in place of Dinesh Karthik, just to give him some game time.

WC kits: From Mexican roots to Japanese traditions

It's becoming easier to picture the look of the World Cup in three months' time after Adidas and Puma released more national team kits for the tournament in Qatar. Here's a closer look at some of the kits revealed Monday...

MEXICAN ROOTS



Mexico's away kit has designs representing the "history, roots and culture of our country," the Mexican Football Association said. The designs come in red on the white jersey, which will be used along with green shorts and burgundy socks. "It won't be only a kit," the federation said. "It will be an armor filled with magic, power and poetry." The first kit, in Mexico's tradi-

tional green, highlights the image of the Quetzalcoatl God, featuring feathers and a serpent body that symbolizes the duality of human nature that was characteristic of pre-Hispanic cultures.

GERMANY'S PAST



Germany's home kit will feature a vertical black stripe in the middle of the white jersey in a design inspired by the first national team jersey used in 1908. "The new home jersey looks to encapsulate

team spirit," the German Football Association said.

It will also feature details with the colors of the German flag on the crewneck and sleeves. Black shorts and white socks will complete the look. "I really like the new home shirt," forward Serge Gnabry said. "There is real harmony in the color combinations, and it will be an honor to play in this shirt for Germany at the World Cup." The away kit has a mix of black and red colors in a modern design.

JAPANESE ORIGAMI

Japan will bring a blue jersey with an origami-inspired design for the first kit, along with white shorts and blue socks. The marketing campaign for the new uniform was linked to the Blue Lock



and Giant Killing manga series, with images of the jersey being released through the comics in Japan. The away kit will feature a white jersey along with black shorts and white socks.

SPAIN'S WORLD CUP



Spain will recall the World Cup it hosted four decades ago on its

away kit, which will mix light blue and white along with graphics inspired by the logo of the 1982 tournament. The uniform will feature dark blue shorts and light blue socks. The first kit will be the traditional dark red jersey along with details in the colors of the national flag.

ARGENTINA GOES VIOLET



Argentina will keep its traditional white-and-blue first kit, but will wear an all-violet away uniform to symbolize the fight for gender equality. Lionel Messi was the model for the new kit, which has details based on the traditional Argentine Sol de Mayo emblem.