



SALUTING HER MENTOR

Actor Kiara Advani shares what she learnt from Kareena Kapoor Khan while shooting for 'Good Newwz' in 2019

LEISURE P2



GRIM SITUATION IN PAK

Around five million people in flood-hit Pakistan may fall sick due to outbreak of water-borne and vector-borne diseases

INTERNATIONAL P10



RADUCANU BOWS OUT

Defending champion Emma Raducanu suffers shocking defeat against Alize Cornet in the US Open first round

SPORTS P12

4 CHILDREN MEET WATERY GRAVE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Nayagarh, August 31: Four youngsters met their watery graves in two separate cases of drowning reported Wednesday from two districts of Odisha.

In the first incident in Cuttack district, two kids drowned while taking a bath in Kuakhai river near Pratap Nagari bridge in the afternoon. Sources said, five minors had gone for a bath. However, due to the strong currents, three of them were swept far away from the shore. Hearing their screams, locals rushed to the spot while police and fire service personnel arrived a few minutes later.

One of the kids was rescued. However, the two others remained missing. Later in the evening fire services personnel recovered the body of one of those who had drowned. He was identified as Asutosh Pal. Efforts are on to trace the body of another minor identified as Ritiranjan Padhi.

In the second incident in Nayagarh district, two minor boys drowned while taking a bath in a pond at Sathiapali village in Khuntubandh panchayat under Sadar police limits. The deceased minors were identified as Chandrasekhar Swain (8) and Rudramadhyam Swain (3).

Sources said that the two siblings had sneaked away to the pond while their family members were busy observing rituals of Ganesh puja. However, after entering the pond, Rudramadhyam slipped into deep waters. Seeing his brother in trouble, Chandrasekhar tried to save him, but he too slipped.

By the time their family members and other villagers rescued them, both brothers were unconscious. They were rushed to the hospital where doctors declared them brought dead on arrival.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It is just a clash between young and old sycophants

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX		35.2°C	35.8°C
MIN		26.2°C	26.0°C
Humidity		79%	77%
Rainfall		1mm	2mm
Forecast		Light rain likely	



PERFECTING THE RIGHT STEPS: Students of a school in Khaprakhol of Bolangir district rehearse their dance moves Wednesday ahead of the Nuakhai festival Thursday

OP PHOTO

Twin murders rock City

In the first case, police have already arrested the two accused, but the cops are still in the dark regarding the second crime

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: A tea vendor was allegedly hacked to death in the early hours of Wednesday by acquaintances in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) at Vani Vihar Square here. Coming on the heels of the death of a woman late night Tuesday, in which the police suspect some foul play is involved, the twin deaths have certainly stunned the state capital amid the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

The deceased tea vendor has been identified as Soumya Ranjan Kundu. He was allegedly murdered by Kabu Dash and Pauni Dash, both auto-rickshaw drivers, DCP Prateek Singh told mediapersons that the murder is due to the result of a dispute over plot of land and a betel shop.

"As per the complaint filed by the brother of the deceased, the two accused and the victim were involved in a bitter dispute for quite some time over a piece of land. They had heated arguments in the past on this issue," the DCP said.

"The two accused were in an inebriated condition when they attacked Soumya with sharp weapons. The victim had come out of the shop to get some water when he was attacked. Soumya was



Tea vendor murder accused Kabu Dash and Pauni Dash

OP PHOTO

rushed to the AIIMS hospital where he succumbed while undergoing treatment," the DCP added.

The police official also said that the two accused belonging to Pathar Bandha Basti and Dhirkut Basti respectively were arrested shortly afterwards by personnel from the Shahid Nagar police station.

The DCP however, was quick to point out that the land for which the dispute had taken place was an encroached government plot. "Efforts are on to demolish all illegal encroachments across the Smart city," Singh said.

In the other unnatural death case, a woman identified as Subhashree Mohapatra, a resident of Shastri Nagar, was found dead Tuesday night under mysterious circumstances. Sources said that she

died when her husband was out for some work and her son had gone for tuition and no one else was present at the residence. Police have pressed a forensic team into service to ascertain the cause of the woman's death. They have seized the deceased's mobile phone and are also interrogating neighbours, an official said.

"We have registered a case of murder and investigating all possibilities," an official said. Subhashree's son on returning home found her mother lying without any signs of life and informed his father. After returning home, husband Ananta Narayan Nath informed the police. Prima facie it appears to be a case of death by strangulation as a single line mark was found on her neck, a police official said.

2 Malkangiri students fall prey to mystery disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 31: Panic gripped guardians after two students of Kalaganda Ashram Vidyalaya in Kaldapali panchayat under Padia block in Malkangiri district died of an unknown disease Monday and Tuesday respectively. Another 11 students who are suffering from this mysterious disease are undergoing treatment at the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital and at the Padia community health centre (CHC). Doctors are yet to ascertain the exact nature of the disease and the reason behind its spread.

The deceased students who died in the last two days were identified as Pradip Muchaki (Class VII) and Shantu Kurami (Class VIII). While Pradip died at the hospital, Shantu died after returning home.

Sources said that students turned feverish and experienced swelling on their limbs and body ache few days back. They were admitted to the hospital and many are still undergoing treatment.

On being informed, district welfare officer Krupasindhu Behera visited the school Wednesday, and gathered information about the deceased students and those infected. As per his instructions, a medical team has rushed to the school from Koraput to supervise the treatment of the students.

When contacted, Malkangiri District Collector Vishal Singh said Wednesday blood samples of the affected students have been collected and sent for examination. The report will come in a short while following which a decision regarding the process of treatment will be taken.



Some of the infected students undergoing treatment at the Malkangiri DHH

SHORT TAKES

Former Orissa HC Acting CJ no more

CUTTACK: Justice Debapriya Mohapatra, former judge of the Supreme Court, passed away following a brief illness here Tuesday. He was 86 and is survived by his wife, three daughters and four grandchildren. Born August 3, 1937, Justice Mohapatra was the Acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court from May 1995 to February 1996. He was elevated as the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court in February 1996 and as a Judge of Supreme Court December 9, 1998. Post retirement from the apex court, he was appointed as the Chairperson of Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in July 2003 till August 2007.

GDP growth at 13.5% below RBI's projection

NEW DELHI: The government is expecting the economy to grow at 7-7.5 per cent in 2022-23, in line with its projections made at the beginning of this financial year. India registered a growth of 8.7 per cent in 2021-22. "We remain on course to meet the 7.4 per cent. We expect to achieve, a little more than the 7.4 per cent which the IMF has predicted," Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said Wednesday. He was briefing reporters after the release of the GDP numbers, which showed the economy grew by 13.5% in the April-June quarter, much below the RBI's projection of 16.2%.

'Perestroika' man Gorbachev breathes his last

■ Even though Mikhail Gorbachev was not liked by many in erstwhile Soviet Union, his peers considered him a path-finder in many ways

AGENCIES

Moscow, August 31: Mikhail Gorbachev, who set out to revitalise the Soviet Union but ended up unleashing forces that led to the collapse of communism, the breakup of the state and the end of the Cold War, died Tuesday. The last leader of the Soviet Union was 91. Gorbachev died after a long illness, according to a statement from the Central Clinical Hospital here. No other details were given.

Though in power for less than seven years Gorbachev unleashed

a breathtaking series of changes. But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.

US President Joe Biden called Gorbachev a 'man of remarkable vision' and a 'rare leader' who had 'the imagination to see

that a different future was possible and the courage to risk his entire career to achieve it.' "The result was a safer world and greater freedom for millions of people," Biden said in a statement.

Even though Gorbachev strongly criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to attack Ukraine, the latter also expressed his condolences. He acknowledged that Gorbachev had 'a deep impact on the course of world history'. 'He led the

country during difficult and dramatic changes, amid large-scale foreign policy, economic and social challenges,' Putin said in a short telegram while sending his condolences to Gorbachev's family.

Gorbachev's decline was humiliating. His power hopelessly sapped by an attempted coup against him in August 1991, Gorbachev spent his last months in office watching republic after republic declare independence until he resigned December 25, 1991. The Soviet Union wrote itself into oblivion a day later.

A quarter-century after the collapse, Gorbachev told this agency that he had not considered using widespread force to try to keep the USSR together because he feared chaos in the nuclear country. In spite of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev may have had a greater impact on the second

half of the 20th century than any other political figure. Gorbachev won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War and spent his later years collecting accolades and awards from all corners of the world. Yet he was widely despised at home. Russians blamed him for the 1991 implosion of the Soviet Union. His former allies deserted him and made him a scapegoat for the country's troubles.

Gorbachev was a pioneer in many ways. He began the 'perestroika' or restructuring to end his country's economic and political stagnation, he freed political prisoners, allowed open debate and multi-candidate elections, gave his countrymen freedom to travel, halted religious oppression, reduced nuclear arsenals, established closer ties with the West and did not resist the fall of Communist regimes in Eastern European satellite states.

Uttar Pradesh tops list in murder, kidnapping cases

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: An average of 82 people was murdered daily across India in 2021, while more than 11 kidnappings were reported every single hour during the year, according to a latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report. The rate of murder per one lakh population was the highest in Jharkhand, while that of kidnapping and abduction in Delhi, NCRB's 'Crime in India 2021' report showed.

However, as far as the total number of murder and kidnapping cases are concerned, the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government topped both the lists. Among the top

five states reporting murders were Uttar Pradesh (3,717 cases, 3,825 people), Bihar (2,799 cases, 2,826 people), Maharashtra (2,330 cases, 2,381 people), Madhya Pradesh (2,034 cases, 2,075 persons) and West Bengal (1,884 cases, 1,919 people), the report said.

Even though the number of murders in Odisha has gone down in 2021 in comparison to 2020, kidnapping cases have increased

Uttar Pradesh (14,554 cases, 14,714 people) also topped the list of kidnappings and abduction. It was followed by Maharashtra (10,502 cases, 10,680 people), the report further said.

Odisha saw a slight decrease in murder cases in 2021 in comparison to the preceding year. In 2021, a total of 1,390 people were murdered in comparison to the 1,470 persons killed in 2020. **Continued on P4**



leisure



KINGSLEY TO REPRISEROLE IN WONDER MAN SERIES

Hollywood star Ben Kingsley is poised to reprise the role of Trevor Slattery in the upcoming *Wonder Man* series from Marvel Studios at Disney+. The show was first revealed to be in the works back in June. It will focus on the Marvel character Simon Williams, also known as Wonder Man.

MADONNA SETS RECORD-BREAKING MILESTONE

Pop icon Madonna has hit a record-breaking milestone after scooping a top 10 album every decade since the release of her self-titled debut release in 1983. The 64-year-old has become the first female to land an album in the Billboard 200 top 10 every decade since the early 1980s.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

A new acquaintance will make you feel happy today. You must remember that things don't have to be expressed explicitly; a word or a song from deep within can make a bigger impact. Ganesh says today is the right time to do something which will be more rewarding in the long-term.

TAURUS

This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesh urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities.

GEMINI

You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesh. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

CANCER

Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that.

LEO

One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesh. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesh foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening.

VIRGO

A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesh advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

LIBRA

There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today.

SCORPIO

The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesh. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesh. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

CAPRICORN

It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesh. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

AQUARIUS

Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenious, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease.

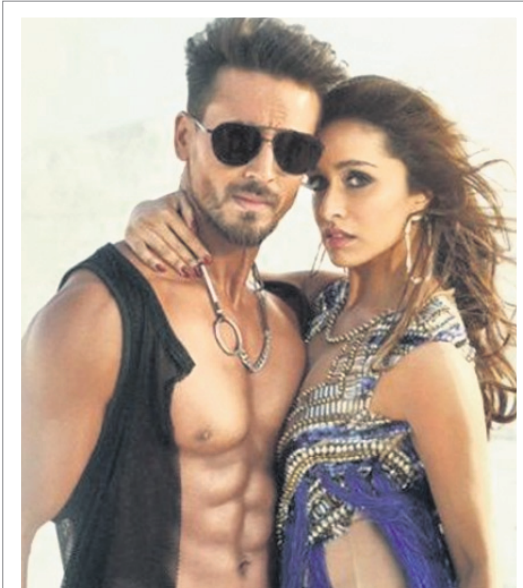
PISCES

A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesh. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.

Sargun justifies her delayed debut

Mumbai: Being a remake of the Tamil film *Ratasasan*, Akshay Kumar starrer *Cutpulli* opted for an OTT release. He will be seen in the role of a cop. Accompanying him would be Sargun Mehta who makes her Hindi film debut with this murder mystery thriller. Sargun revealed why she waited for so long to make her debut in Hindi films. She is not only a popular face on TV but also a renowned Punjabi actress. Talking about *Cutpulli* to Sargun said, "It was a very interesting subject and I always wanted my debut to be a role which makes a difference to the story irrespective of the length. And above that, I was getting an opportunity to work with Akshay sir who is a brilliant actor." Adding about her experience of working with Akshay Kumar, she shared, "Akshay Kumar is very organized as a professional. He's very punctual and gets into the character thoroughly. He also chooses his subjects very carefully."

Sargun also turned producer with her actor-husband Ravi Dubey and the duo is currently producing the popular show *Udaariyan* on Colors.



I've been infatuated by Shraddha: Tiger

Mumbai: Action star Tiger Shroff says he is single and has always been infatuated by actress and his Baaghi co-star Shraddha Kapoor. The ninth episode of *Koffee With Karan* Season 7 will feature Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon. The actor finally reveals his relationship status. "I am single. I think so at least and I am currently looking around," said the star. However, the star did not just stop at the mere acceptance of his singlehood. He also went ahead to manifest a name that very few have linked with him. "I have always been infatuated by Shraddha Kapoor. I think she is great!" the star said. On the acting front, Tiger, who made his acting debut in 2014 with *Heropanti*, will next be seen in *Ganapath*, an action thriller film directed by Vikas Bahl.



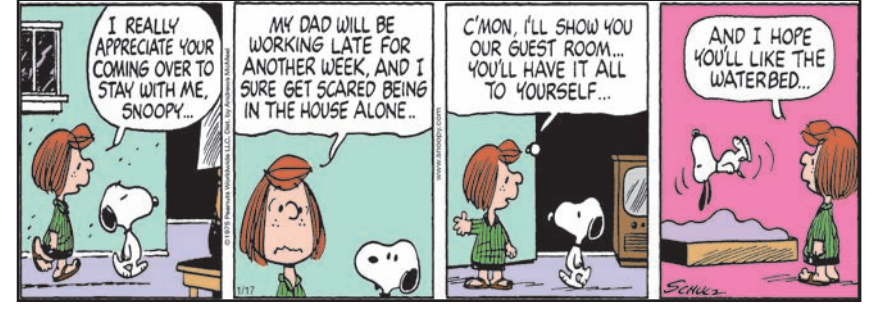
Kiara shares what she learnt from Kareena

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani has shared what she learnt from her senior Kareena Kapoor Khan. Calling it 'amazing', she narrated her working experience with Kareena in 2019 film *Good Newwz*. "There is so much to learn from her. I have learned how to face the camera from her," admitted the Shershah actress. "I have also learned from Kareena Kapoor to be cautious during the shoot while facing the camera so that there is no chance of going out of the frame," added Kiara. "During the shoot, I used to be so much involved in a particular sequence that many times I forgot to concentrate on the angle of the camera and lost focus. But it never happened with her and she would know where the camera is, even if it's behind her," she further said. Moving ahead in the conversation, she explained her technique of doing emotional scenes: "Do it honestly, don't fake it. Because, I have noticed and this is for my own performances, the times when I have actually felt it and done it, honestly in that scene, it has clicked with the audience. And I think the camera catches it, so that's why just be very honest."

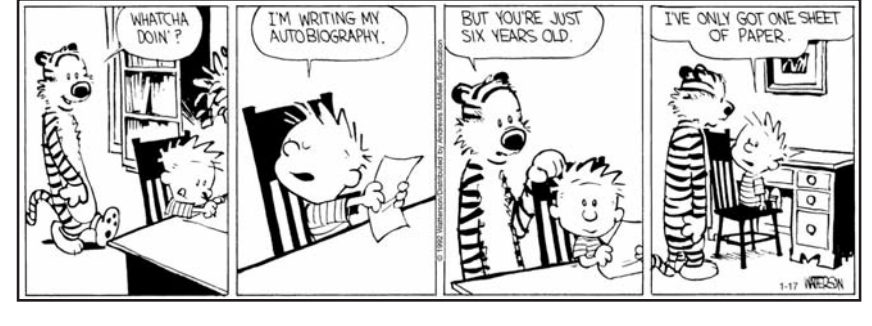
Dia reveals why she took her stepdad's surname

Mumbai: Dia Mirza recently opened up about her relationship with her biological father and her stepfather. The actress also revealed why she took her stepfather's surname before participating in the Miss India beauty pageant in 2000. In an interview with a news portal, Dia revealed that a lot of what she has learnt in life, are all that her stepfather Ahmed Mirza gave her. Then as she grew older, she spent more years of her life with him, and he just became more and more her father. The actress added that this is why she took on his surname when she joined the Miss India pageant. While Dia's biological father died when she was nine, her stepfather died in 2003. Speaking further about her relationship with her stepfather, Dia said that it was amazing how he never tried to take her father's place, but made his own place in her heart. The actress lost him as well when she was 23, and that was a huge loss because the security blanket that a father figure gives you in life, nobody else can. When you lose a father that young, and she had lost two fathers within one lifetime, it's very hard, Dia said.

PEANUTS



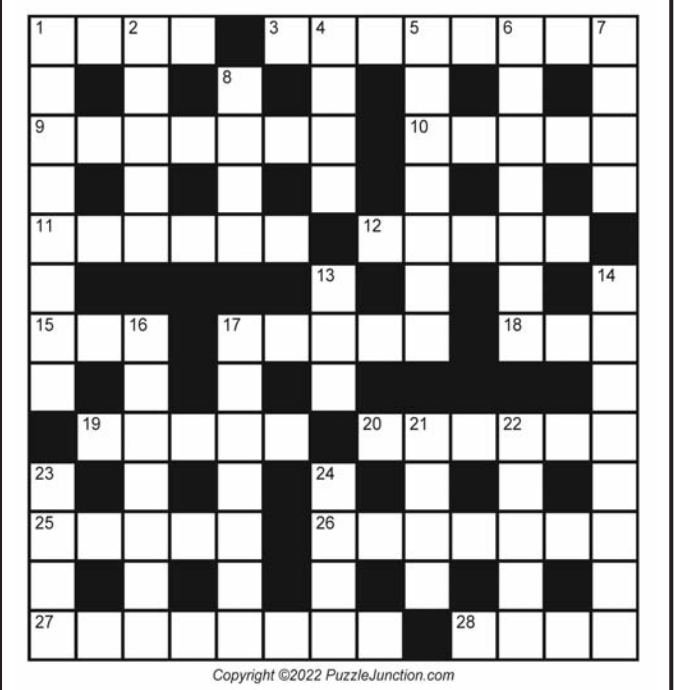
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



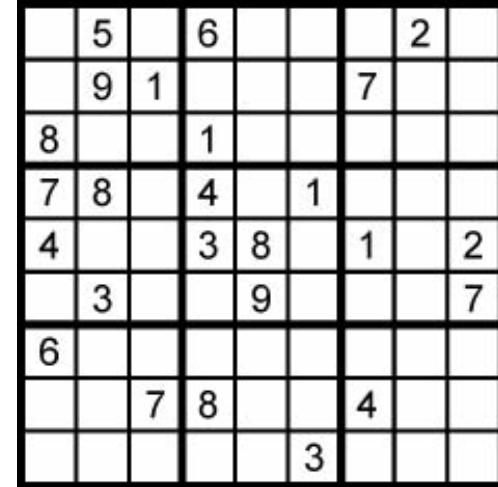
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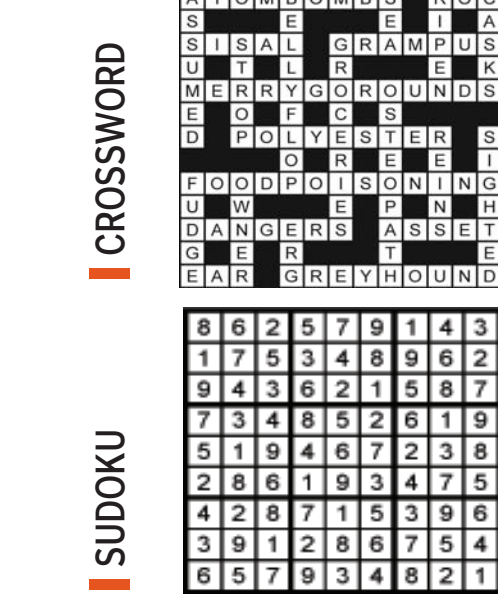
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Buck
 - 3 Complete computer nerd
 - 9 Fatty, as tissue
 - 10 Demolish
 - 11 Clone
 - 12 Biscuit
 - 15 Prune
 - 17 Bridge support
 - 18 In-flight info, for short
 - 19 Mountain nymph
 - 20 Prolonged revelry
 - 25 Razz
 - 26 Role model
 - 27 Like some apes and sloths
 - 28 Red Planet
 - 6 Radical
 - 7 Hardy cabbage
 - 8 After fish or finger
 - 13 Pool tool
 - 14 Vagabonds
 - 16 Cause vexation
 - 17 Bulldozer
 - 21 Nobleman
 - 22 Words to live by
 - 23 Ancient gathering place
 - 24 Samoan capital

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Festive season back with a bang

The pomp and grandeur of Ganesh Puja is back in the Capital city and other parts of the state after two years of low-key celebrations due to Covid-19 pandemic with several puja committees, associations and educational institutions installing mammoth and attractive theme-based idols at the sprawling puja pandals dazzling with colourful lights.



(1) Saheed Nagar Club in Bhubaneswar, (2) Laxmi Club in Station Bazar area of Cuttack, (3) Bakul Foundation in the Capital City, (4) Kids learn Odia alphabets at Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir in Ghoda Bazar area of Puri and (5) Panchayat Club at Stadium Road in the Silver City

Stinking woes end as waste disposal resumes

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Residents of Bhubaneswar heaved a sigh of relief as trucks began disposal of waste at a designated dump yard again from Wednesday after nearly three weeks as villagers lifted a blockade at the site.

Locals of Daruthenga panchayat, a few kilometres from the city, had stopped trucks from dumping waste at nearby Bhuasuni as a 22-year-old man died after he was knocked down by a truck near the site earlier this month.

This led to the temporary transit station in the Capital brimming with garbage, resulting in more time being taken by dump trucks to unload the waste and collect more from the bins.

Barring the posh areas of the city, many streets were stinking with litter scattered around the bins, which were full



Locals of Daruthenga had stopped trucks from dumping waste at nearby Bhuasuni as a man died after he was knocked down by a truck near the site earlier this month

This led to the temporary transit station in the Capital brimming with garbage, resulting in more time being taken by dump trucks to unload the waste and collect more from the bins

to capacity. The problem was compounded by intermittent rain.

The protesters were demanding a complete halt to dumping and clearing of waste at Bhuasuni, which has badly affected them. They have been protesting since 2008 when the BMC started dumping waste on a 62-acre land on the basis of the High Court directives.

After several rounds of failed meetings over the past fortnight, Daruthenga panchayat head Tapan Chakraborty said

Tuesday that the administration assured them during the fresh talks that it would fulfil all the demands.

Dump trucks of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) started taking garbage from the temporary station to Bhuasuni from the morning, with officials hoping that the situation would be back to normal in a few days.

"The dumping of waste at Bhuasuni has started," Mayor Sulochana Das told reporters. The city generates around 550

tonnes of garbage per day and all of it will be processed scientifically within the timeline of nine months given to the protesters, Das said. "After that, we won't have to dump waste at Daruthenga or any other place," she said. Das assured that the civic body would start biomining or scientific management of the old waste in the dump yard once it achieved the capacity of processing all the garbage through composting centres.

Around 300 tonnes of waste are being processed per day currently through 32 micro-composting centres (MCC) and 14 materials recovery facilities.

Nine more MCCs will start by March as the BMC tries to find a permanent solution for Daruthenga, an official said.

Three-four areas have been identified and there is a plan to set up mega MCCs to process around 200 tonnes of garbage, he added.

Experts: Awareness on IP mgmt must

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: With the state showing promising growth in startups, experts have pitched for awareness on Intellectual Property (IP) management and technology-transfer processes to safeguard and promote the startup culture in Odisha.

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in collaboration with United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) here held discussions on methods to provide access to industry and capital from investors to support adoption of new technology for successful reach of the technologies to the market.

"It is high time to understand the significance of protecting IP rights and technology transfer in international symmetry by engineers, technologists, scientists, academicians and governance. Around 60 per cent of the USPTO like to do business in India are from outside. The government organisation creates less than 30-40 per cent jobs while the rest 60 per cent is filled by the private firms. This is only possible if we grow startups," said S Basu, Director, CSIR-IMMT.

Notably, the state currently has more than 1,300 recognised startups generating 10,000 jobs. Out of these, 40 per cent are led by women entrepreneurs.

STARTUPS DISCOURSE

The significance of protecting IP rights and technology transfer in international symmetry by engineers, technologists, scientists, academicians and governance. Around 60 per cent of the USPTO like to do business in India are from outside. The government organisation creates less than 30-40 per cent jobs while the rest 60 per cent is filled by the private firms. This is only possible if we grow startups," said S Basu, Director, CSIR-IMMT.

CM greets people on Ganesh Puja

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday wished the people of Odisha a Happy Ganesh Chaturthi. Taking to Twitter, the Chief Minister said, "Solemn prayers and warm greetings on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. May Lord Bighnaraj bless us with happiness, prosperity and success and guide us in right path. Happy Ganesh Chaturthi!"

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Ustad Taufiq Qureshi (Djembe)
Shri Ishaan Ghosh (Tabla)

6th SEPTEMBER
Odissi Vocal
Sushree Sristi Swarupa Mishra
Guru Dhāneswar Swain (Mardala)
Guru Ramesh Chandra Das (Violin)

7th SEPTEMBER
Bharatanatyam Ensemble
Vidushi Geeta Chandran
Natyasha Dance Collective

8th SEPTEMBER
Musical Mélange
Shivagni Ensemble

9th SEPTEMBER
Carnatic Vocal
Shri Sikkil Gurucharan
Shri V Sanjeev (Violin)
Shri NC Bharadwaj (Mridangam)

9th SEPTEMBER
Kathak Samarany
Vidushi Paramita Maitra
Nityangan Kathak Kendra

GKCM Award Ceremony
Presentation of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2022
Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Prativa Samman 2022

Odissi Dance Ballet—Ravan
Guru Rattikant Mohapatra
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Natural hazards claimed 1,746 in 2021, says NCRB report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 31: Odisha accounted for the highest number of deaths in the country due to natural hazards in 2021, according to a report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

A total 1746 people died due to natural hazards like lightning, heat stroke and landslides, rain and floods among others, which is a quarter of the fatalities in the country due to such causes last year, according to the report.

It marked a rise of 22.3 per cent compared to 1428 deaths the previous year, it said. Bihar reported 830 fatalities due to the same cause during the period, which was the second highest in the country.

In the country, the number of deaths, due to natural hazards reduced by 3.8 per cent to 7126, according to the recently-published 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India, 2021' of the National Crime Records Bureau.

Odisha reported 287 deaths due to lightning, while 15 people lost their lives due to heatstroke and two from landslides, it said.

The state accounted for the



AS MANY AS 1,551 PEOPLE DROWNED AND 97 WERE ELECTROCUTED IN ODISHA DURING THE PERIOD

THE STATE REGISTERED 19,663 ACCIDENTAL DEATHS AND THE RATE PER 1 LAKH POPULATION IS 42.9, WHICH IS MORE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 29.1

highest number of fatalities due to boat capsizes and accidental fires and came second in the number of people killed by animals, snakebites and lightning, according to the NCRB report.

The state, however, reported zero death in cyclone, flood, torrential rain and forest fire.

The number of suicides in the state during 2021 increased by 1.9 per cent as 5,651 people, including 834 students, ended their lives.

A staggering 4,033 people committed suicide due to family problems and 135 cases were due to failure in examination, the report said.

Seventy nine people died due to boat capsizes in the state during the

year, which is nearly one-third of such deaths in the country. As many as 1,551 people drowned and 97 were electrocuted in Odisha during the period.

There were 1,248 deaths due to accidental fires. Of them 386 people died due to electrical short circuits, the highest in the country in this aspect.

At least 1,019 people died due to snakebites and 128 people were killed by animals.

The state also topped in deaths caused due to falls from vehicles. There were 1,434 such deaths.

Odisha registered 19,663 accidental deaths and the rate per 1 lac population is 42.9, which is more than the national average of 29.1. It saw 5,387 deaths in road and rail accidents, the report added.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma and FICCI senior vice president Subhrakant Panda at the curtain raiser of Make In Odisha Conclave 2022 in New Delhi, Wednesday

MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE 2022 AHEAD

Naveen meets envoys, investors

PNN/ AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday met ambassadors from 36 countries and over 50 investors representing various industries to draw investments to his state.

While taking part in the curtain raiser for the Make In Odisha Conclave 2022, the Chief Minister said that Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in India and has consistently grown above the national average in the last decade and a half.

"We are fast emerging as a major industrial destination in eastern India because of our natural resource advantage and strategic location. Predominantly agricultural based economy Odisha has emerged as industrial economy in last two decades," the Chief Minister said. In the last two decades, Patnaik

CM invited the investors and representatives of various industries to the Make In Odisha Conclave

noted that his government has focused on leveraging the state's natural advantages through progressive policy efficient administration and technological interventions.

The Odisha government in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hosted the curtain raiser for Make In Odisha Conclave and Investors' Meet in New Delhi.

Patnaik invited the investors and representatives of various industries to the Make In Odisha Conclave 2022 which will be held in Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4.

At the programme, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said Odisha is the largest producer of steel, stainless steel, and aluminium in India.

"We are emerging as a leader in sectors like chemicals and petrochemicals, textiles and apparel, IT and ITes, and food processing," he said. Industries department principal secretary Hemant Sharma said that the state government has received investments worth ₹6 lakh crore from the first two editions of Make In Odisha conclave held in 2016 and 2018.

"Of the ₹6 lakh crore, land has been allocated and construction has been started in 62 per cent of it. The rest are in various stages of progress, he said.

When asked about the sectors in which the government is expecting foreign investment as the Chief Minister has met ambassadors,

Sharma said, "We are yet to make a mark on FDI front. But we are making a decent attempt. In some of the sectors, we have inherited advantage such as new age sectors like green hydrogen and green ammonia. Other sectors which are dependent on port infrastructure, there we have distinctive advantage in India and these should give us numbers which are better than what we have achieved."

He also highlighted the state's ranking in the ease of doing business, competitive cost of doing business, impact of investment facilitation, best-in-class incentives and highly skilled human resources, which gives the state a distinct competitive advantage over others.

Odisha MSME and Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb and other senior officials also made presentations at the meeting.

1 tonne seized ganja destroyed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 31: The authorities in Odisha have destroyed about one tonne of contraband ganja earlier seized by the special task force (STF) of state police, an officer said.

The ganja which was seized from the exclusive possession of accused persons in a case in 2021, was disposed at a designated incinerator following all due procedure as per Section 52 A of NDPS Act, 1985, the official said.

He said that the action was taken as per the decision of the Drug Disposal Committee led by SP, STF, Bhubaneswar, Deputy Collector, Khurda, Superintendent of Excise,

Khurda, DSP, STF in presence of Scientific Officers of State Forensic Science laboratory and Member of State Pollution Board.

The seized drugs was first authenticated/certificated by concerned court and handed over to drug disposal committee for disposal/destruction. "This is first ever pre-trial disposal case in Odisha, where contraband ganja has been destroyed of as per Section 52 A of NDPS Act, 1985," the official said.

Earlier in June, 2022, STF had destroyed more than 8.5 kg brown sugar. Meanwhile, there are many other cases under process (both at STF and district police level) for disposal/destruction. At least

4,500 quintal (450 tonne) of ganja and 104 kg of brown sugar seized (in last three years alone) are piled up in various court/ police station Malkhana waiting for destruction.

It is expected that most of the seized drugs will be destructed within in 3-6 months, the official said.

The official said in view of the massive campaign against narcotics especially ganja (also known as cannabis/marijuana/weeds) and brown sugar (also known as heroin/smack) by Odisha Police, there has been huge piling up of seized narcotic drugs in different police stations and court Malkhanas.

Nadda to visit state in Sept last week

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 31: BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda is scheduled to visit state in the last week of September, an official in know of the development said Wednesday.

Nadda will participate in a workshop of BJP workers for the upcoming General and Assembly polls, said the official.

During his recent visit to Odisha, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had expressed concern over the party's poor performance in this year's panchayat and ULB polls in the state.

Uttar Pradesh tops list in murder...

Continued from P1

Disputes and family issues accounted for most of the murders in 2021 in the state. A total of 689 people were murdered due to disputes of various kinds while family problems caused 535 deaths by murders.

However kidnapping and abduction cases increased in the state. A total of 1,01,707 kidnapping and abduction cases were registered in Odisha in 2021 in comparison to 84, 805 cases in 2020, the NCRB report said.

A total of 29,272 cases of murder involving 30,132 victims were registered during 2021, showing a marginal increase of 0.3 per cent over 2020 (29,193 cases). Similarly a total of 1,01,707 cases of kidnapping and abduction involving 1,04,149 victims were registered during 2021, an increase of 19.9 per cent over 2020 (84,805 cases), the data said. The NCRB said more than a lakh of victims were recovered also.

LOCAL SELF GOVT DAY



Housing and Urban Development Minister Usha Devi lighting the lamp during the Local Self Government Day at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Millet recipe event at IHM Bhub

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 31: With an aim to promote Millets and Millet-based food into the mainstream, the United Nations announced 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Keeping this in mind, Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) is working to include Millets in regular diets to prepare various delicacies based on it.

For this purpose, OMM recently trained the chefs of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) on millet-based recipes at the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology (IHM) Bhubaneswar; highlighted the various benefits of Millets. She said, "Health is Wealth, and now everyone is becoming health conscious".

Aishant Mohapatra (Marketing Officer) of OMM and Sabnam Afrein (Event Coordinator) began the proceedings with a seminar and informed the chefs of OTDC about different types of millets and



their benefits. OMM is working with over 1 lakh Tribal farmers in 19 districts and 143 Blocks in Odisha.

Sarada Ghosh, Principal of IHM Bhubaneswar; highlighted the various benefits of Millets. She said, "Health is Wealth, and now everyone is becoming health conscious". She suggested the chefs to experiment with millets in various dishes and thanked OMM for the innovative effort.

Lecturer, Kumar Gaurav of IHM Bhubaneswar demonstrated how

to prepare delicious recipes by including millets. He said, "Millets require simple cooking methods just like any other food item."

Mandaradhara Sahoo, a chef at OTDC who participated in the Millet recipe event said, "We got an idea on how to prepare delicious food using different types of millets. Millets are beneficial for the body, so the food items based on them is absolutely necessary for everyone. We are eager to take these delicious preparations and serve them to our customers."

A total of 18 OTDC chefs participated in the event and got the opportunity to learn about different types of food items that can be prepared from millets like, Little Millet Dosa, Foxtail Millet Idli, Little Millet Vada, Multi-Millet Pav, Ragi Soup, Ragi Manda Pitha, Ragi Kakara Pitha and Foxtail Millet Upma.

Excess blue light from devices may accelerate ageing: Study

Excessive blue light emitted by devices such as smartphones, computers and tablets may accelerate the ageing process of the body, according to a study conducted in fruit flies.

Previously, studies have linked too much screen use to disorders such as obesity and psychological problems.

"Excessive exposure to blue light from everyday devices, such as TVs, laptops, and phones, may have detrimental effects on a wide range of cells in our body, from skin and fat cells, to sensory neurons," said Jadwiga Giebltowicz, a professor at Oregon State University, US, and senior author of the study.

"We are the first to show that the levels of specific metabolites - chemicals that are essential for

cells to function correctly - are altered in fruit flies exposed to blue light," Giebltowicz said.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Aging, suggests that avoidance of excessive blue light exposure may be a good anti-ageing strategy.

The researchers have previously shown that fruit flies exposed to light "turn on" stress protective genes, and that those kept in constant darkness lived longer.

"To understand why high-energy blue light is responsible for accelerating ageing in fruit flies, we compared the levels of metabolites in flies exposed to blue light for two weeks to those kept in complete darkness," explained Giebltowicz.

Blue light exposure caused sig-



nificant differences in the levels of metabolites measured by the researchers in the cells of fly heads.

In particular, they found that the levels of the metabolite succinate were increased, but glutamate levels were lowered.

Succinate is essential for producing the fuel for the function and growth of each cell. High levels of succinate after exposure to blue light can be compared to gas being in the pump but not getting into the car. "Another troubling discovery

DEVICE DISSERVICE

THE STUDY, PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL FRONTIERS IN AGING, SUGGESTS THAT AVOIDANCE OF EXCESSIVE BLUE LIGHT EXPOSURE MAY BE A GOOD ANTI-AGEING STRATEGY

BLUE LIGHT EXPOSURE CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE LEVELS OF METABOLITES MEASURED BY THE RESEARCHERS IN THE CELLS OF FLY HEADS

are operating at suboptimal level, and this may cause their premature death, and further, explain their previous findings that blue light accelerates ageing.

"LEDs have become the main illumination in display screens such as phones, desktops and TVs, as well as ambient lighting, so humans in advanced societies are exposed to blue light through LED lighting during most of their waking hours," explained Giebltowicz.

"The signalling chemicals in the cells of flies and humans are the same, so there is potential for negative effects of blue light on humans," Giebltowicz said.

The researchers will carry further work to study the effects of blue light directly on human cells.

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Ib Thermal unit goes through a rough patch



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, August 31: The Ib thermal power plant owned by Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) at Banharpalli in this district is going through a rough patch as it is reportedly incurring a loss of ₹50 lakh per day due to alleged irregularities by its officials and management authorities.

The thermal power plant seems to be functioning at whims of the officials with hardly anyone there to take its responsibility and put it back on the track. The officials were accused of being more concerned about serving their own interests than on meeting the goals set by the power plant.

Senior officials are trying to put up a brave face on plant's performance with the help of some media. But a look at plant's functioning reveals its precarious state. The plant is in urgent need of repair, but the OPGC authorities keep on extending timelines instead of doing the needful.

A senior official on condition of anonymity said that the whimsical way of managing things has landed the OPGC in deep trouble with the plant reportedly incurring a loss of ₹50 lakh per day.

Reports said, the Ib thermal has a total of four units for power generation. Power amounting to 210 X 2 megawatt is produced from the first and the second units while 660 X 2 megawatt of power is produced from the third and the fourth units. These four units

have been built in two phases.

The first and the second units were made operational in 1984 while and the third and the fourth units were in 2019. Funds worth ₹11,000 crore were spent for construction of the third and the fourth units. However, for lack of foresight, there were faults in the construction. As a result, these two units are yet to become fully functional.

The faulty construction of these two units has also hindered proper management of ash produced from the units. To rectify the errors, the OPGC authorities have started reconstruction of the units at an expense of ₹600 crore. But, time will only tell if the corrective measures will yield results or not.

Power production often gets disrupted from the units due to lack of maintenance at regular intervals. This has landed the state-owned unit in heavy financial losses.

Recently, the OPGC authorities shut down the second unit for capital overhauling (repairing) for a period of 30 days from late night of July 14. The time limit has entered into 47th day but the second unit is yet to become operational.

The maintenance work has been assigned to Bharat heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL). The OPGC authorities are required to sign a contract with the latter on the number of days it requires to complete the work. The OPGC can take action on the agency if it fails to complete the work within the designated period and extends the deadline. However, it is not yet clear whether the OPGC has signed any contract with BHEL.

When contacted, OPGC's public relations officer Himanshu Behera said initially 30 days was fixed for capital overhauling of the unit. However, in view of the repairing works the deadline has been extended after obtaining necessary permission from Gridco. Notably, there are instances where capital overhauling works were completed within the fixed deadlines in the past.

NHA to spend ₹224 cr for 3 flyovers, 7 underpasses on NH-16 in Ganjam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, August 31: The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will build three flyovers and seven underpasses on the stretch of NH-16 between Sorala and Puintala in Ganjam

district. An estimated ₹224 crore will be spent for the purpose. This was revealed by Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar Sahoo here. Sources said, the flyovers will be built up at Lanjipalli, Pokadi Bandh Chhak and Chhatrapur Sorala and Puintala in Ganjam

will be built up at Bhairabi Chhak, Randa Chhak, Sorala, Kanisi, Haladiapadar and Mandiapalli. A detailed project report (DPR) in this regard has been prepared and the tender process for these projects will be initiated soon, sources said.

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Branch: A /108, 2nd Floor, C/O Sundaram Finance Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.

SALE NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Sundaram Home Finance Limited, formerly known as Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section 13(2), issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice.

The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below.

Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, by inviting sealed tenders from the public up to 16.00 hrs on 10.10.2022. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 10.10.2022. Tenders received after 16.00 Hrs. on 10.10.2022, and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed tenders received by RPAD up to 16.00 Hrs. on 10.10.2022, will be opened on 10.10.2022 at 16.30 hrs. at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Property	Place for Title Verification
Babita Pradhan (Borrower), Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Po-Kuruda, Orissa, 756056. Also at: Truck Transporting, Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Orissa, 756056. Also at: Plot No-707 2068, Khata No. 291 1051, Swasti Nagar, Orissa, 756056. Susanta Kumar Behera (Co-Borrower), Swasti Nagar, Saraswatipur, Po-Kuruda, Orissa, 756056.	Rs. 60,12,821/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty One Only) as of 01.09.2022 + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only) Earnest Money Deposit 25% of the Tender Amount	Sundaram Home Finance Limited A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007. Place for Opening of Tender M/s. Sundaram Home Finance Limited, 23, Cathedral Garden Road, 2nd Floor, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034 Date and Time of opening the Tender 10.10.2022 @ 16:30

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that the piece and parcel of the property P.S. No-147, Mouza-Saraswatipur, Khata No. 139, Plot No. 707, small measuring Area A0.10.5 decs Situated at Dist-Balasure, Tahasil-Balasure under the Jurisdiction of District Sub-Registration Balasure, Bounded by North by: Plot No. 710, South by: Road and Debendra Mohanty, East by: Manoranjan Behera and others, West by: Plot No. 708. With in the Registration and Sub Registration District of Balasure, which is more fully and particularly described in the Sale Deed No. 2532/2010.

Note: The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Babita Pradhan, Loan Account No.66200107, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200107.pdf

Date: 01-09-2022 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER

Dangapalli villagers promote community celebration

POST NEWS NETWORK

NUAKHAI TODAY

Sambalpur, August 31: Nuakhai, a major agrarian festival in western Odisha, will kick off tomorrow with much pomp and jubilation. A day after the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi, it is celebrated especially in this western part where people staying in distant places come back to their native places, wear new clothes and offer prayers before the Goddess and eat delicious food items prepared from the newly harvested crops.

Usually, family members get together to celebrate it under one roof. However, Dangapalli village under Maoist-affected Jujumara block in Sambalpur district is going to celebrate the festival in a different way. The whole village has decided to come together as a big family to celebrate the festival. The village has over 150 families belonging to different castes and creeds. Regardless of caste and creed, the villagers have resolved for community celebration of

the festival as a symbol of unity and social harmony. The villagers have formed a committee which has made all necessary preparations for celebration of the festival at the community level. People after worshipping their presiding deities at homes will offer puja at a temple and then partake of Nuakhai Prasad at the village street together. In the evening of Nuakhai, people meet one another, exchanging greetings, seeking elder's blessings for long life, happiness and prosperity.

ପୌର ପରିଷଦ, ସୁନ୍ଦରଗଡ଼

ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଶାସନ ବିଧି, ୨୦୨୨ ବର୍ଷରୁ ପୌରପରିଷଦ ପଦବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଅନେକ ଅନେକ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନିମ୍ନଲିଖିତ ଶର୍ତ୍ତାବଳୀ ଉପରେ ଆଧାର ରଖି ଏହି ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଛି।

୧. ପୌର ପରିଷଦର ସଭା ଅଧିବେଶନ, ଏହାର ପ୍ରକାର ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୨. ସଭାକାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିମ୍ନ ଲିଖିତ ପରିଷଦର ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୩. ସଭା ପରିଷଦର ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୪. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୫. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୬. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୭. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
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୧୦. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୧୧. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।
୧୨. ସଭା ନିୟମାବଳୀ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ହେବ।

ବି. ସୁନାମ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ମହୋଦୟ
ଉପାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, କନ୍ୟାପୁର ପୌରପରିଷଦ

Foundation for modern court building laid in Bhanjanagar



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, August 31: Justice delivery system can be expedited if police, administration, lawyers and judges work in right coordination and hence, no one will get discouraged and Odisha could excel in the justice delivery system in the country.

This was stated here by Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, S Muralidhar while laying the foundation stone of a modern court building at Rs 36 crore here in Ganjam district.

He also observed that the judiciary has also to ensure 24-hour service to people as hospital, police and fire brigade services work even in holidays.

People will be able to avail of speedy justice within a short time if all works are done with proper coordination, he added, urging all the judges and lawyers to focus on the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, Judge of Orissa High Court and protocol judge of Ganjam district Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, said that the dream to have a modern court building at Bhanjanagar has been realised eventually. Bhanjanagar Bar Association president Santosh Kumar Nayak presided over the meeting while advocate Aswini Panigrahi coordinated the function. Registrar (Vigilance) of Orissa High Court, Akhil Kumar Paschimakabata, Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, SP Brijesh Kumar Rai, district judge Anand Chandra Behera, district court registrar Susant Kumar Mishra, sub-collector Jyoti Shankar Ray, many government officials and lawyers attended the ceremony.

Government pleaders M Taj Adeni and Rajendra Prasad Pradhan felicitated the judges while secretary of the Bhanjanagar Bar Association, Amaresh Mohapatra gave the vote of thanks.

Lovebirds hang selves, bodies recovered

Bhanjanagar: The bodies of a youth and a girl, suspected to be lovebirds, were found hanging from a tree inside a forest near Maraipatta village under Gangapur police limits in Ganjam district, Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Amar Mallick, 21, and Aganti Naik, 22. A motorcycle, two pairs of footwear and other usable items were found from the spot. The matter came to the fore after some locals spotted the bodies hanging from a tree inside the forest and informed police. Police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. Preliminary inquiries indicated that the two might have committed suicide after their love affair was opposed by the family members. However, the actual reason is yet to be ascertained.

ନବାନ୍ନ ପର୍ବରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଭୂସ୍ୱାଦ

ସାଙ୍କେତ ମି. 22

Incredible culture, spectacular forts & places, great traditions and rituals. This so called "country of uncles charmers and magicians" boasts of a great civilization.

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“Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.”

THE MOTHER



No Licence to Kill

Hadi Matar, the 24-year-old Lebanese-American charged with attempting to murder the British author Salman Rushdie, appears to have been acting on his own. Matar claims to be an admirer of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian supreme leader who issued the murderous fatwa against Rushdie in 1989 following the publication of the author’s novel The Satanic Verses. But there is no evidence that the attacker is linked in any way to the Iranian government. Nonetheless, at least one commentator has called the assassination attempt an “act of state-promoted terrorism.”

That description sounds about right. State-promoted is not the same as state-sponsored, much less state-directed. Even though the Iranian government has not in fact tried to kill Rushdie, Khomeini’s fatwa still stands, and the state must bear some responsibility for inspiring murderous fanatics like Matar.

Killers or would-be killers have been fired up by violent language before, of course. Anders Breivik, the Norwegian who murdered 69 young people at a social-democratic summer camp in 2011, was an avid reader of writers who warned that Muslims, coddled by European liberals, posed a dire threat to Western civilization. Does this mean that individual writers and bloggers whose output convinced Breivik that he should kill to save the West were partly responsible for his horrific deeds?

Much has been said, and rightly so, about Rushdie’s defence of free speech, and the price he has paid for his fortitude. In the United States, the Constitution protects Right-wing activists who claim to be “at war” with Muslims or Leftists, whom they see as an existential menace to America and the Christian way of life, so long as the culture warriors do not create “a clear and present danger.” They may not threaten violence against any individual, because that would pose “a real, imminent threat,” but they can freely spout their hatred of any creed they want.

European laws on free speech are tighter. In France, and many other European countries, it is prohibited to “defame or insult” a person or group on the grounds of ethnicity, nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or disability. You may say that Islam, Christianity, or any other religion is abominable, but you may not insult an individual for his or her belief.

There is a difference between insulting someone and offending them. Whereas an insult is a deliberate attempt to wound, to offend is to hold an opinion that someone might find offensive, even though no offense is intended. A writer can be held responsible for an insult, but not for an offense. There is no evidence that Rushdie intended to insult anyone in The Satanic Verses, but he offended many people, whether they read the book or (usually) not.

But, for many people, religion is much more than a set of rules or beliefs to which they adhere. Like nationality, it can constitute the core of a person’s identity. When someone’s sense of self is challenged, they quickly take it as an insult, even if none is intended.

Neither Rushdie nor any other writer or thinker should be constrained by this. People must be protected from imminent danger, and perhaps, as is the case in Europe, also from personal defamation or insult, but there is no reason why particular ideas and beliefs should be protected from criticism or even ridicule.

There is, however, another distinction to be considered. The impact of speech depends on who says what to whom.

Even though Breivik may have been inspired by extreme anti-Islamic or anti-liberal views promoted by certain individuals, those writers and bloggers are not responsible for the murders he committed. One might criticize them for not considering the possible consequences of spreading fear and loathing. They could be morally culpable. But their views carry no authority.

The danger is far greater when a politician or a religious leader stokes hatred. The consequences of Khomeini’s fatwa are patently clear: The Japanese translator of The Satanic Verses was murdered in 1991, the book’s Italian and Norwegian translators barely survived violent assaults, and Rushdie’s would-be killer nearly succeeded.

But Iranian clerics are not the only culprits. US politics is now being inflamed by verbal violence that is just as lethal.

Open and democratic societies depend on a consensus that conflicting interests and competition for power can be resolved peacefully. Changes of government, after lawful and fair elections, must be accepted. Those who hold opposing political views should not be treated as existential enemies.

But that is not a view widely shared within the US Republican Party, much of which remains in thrall to former President Donald Trump. Extremist GOP members of Congress routinely describe Democrats – and even Republicans who defy Trump – as “traitors.” During his 2016 election campaign, Trump himself called for his opponent to be “locked up.” Various Republican politicians have talked about a “civil war” having begun, and emphasise citizens’ duty to take up arms. The consequences of using this kind of language became evident on January 6, 2021, when a violent mob took Trump and his political boosters at their word and stormed the US Capitol.

There is a difference between cynics or deluded fanatics expressing extreme opinions and people in positions of authority doing so. Individuals who spread lies and invective on the internet or television are repellent and sometimes dangerous, but political and religious leaders who stir hatred authorise people to kill.

The writer is an editor and author.
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Ian Buruma

Individuals who spread lies and invective on the internet or television are repellent and sometimes dangerous, but political and religious leaders who stir hatred authorise people to kill



Sourajeet Pradhani

DEPRECIATING DEMAND FROM CHINA WILL HIT INDIAN EXPORTERS BADLY

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Ripple effects of a slowing China

China’s economic slowdown is creating a cause of concern in the entire global scenario. A depreciating demand, a series of new policies, stringent COVID protocols, geopolitical issues, have all contributed to the slowdown.

A slowing China will have a ripple effect across export oriented European and Asian countries. The trade deficit of countries like Germany and South Korea has widened further due to paucity of demand in China. Higher global commodity prices have led to a Chinese import growth rate of 1% on a YOY (Year on Year) basis. When it comes to tech and mechanical goods, the rate is negative by 8% on a YOY basis.

According to the latest data published by the National Statistical Bureau of China, the GDP growth rate in the first quarter on a YOY basis is a meagre 0.4%. This has a cascading effect on the country’s various sectors and the employment situation.

China’s housing and real estate sector contributes almost 1/3rd of the country’s GDP, while 40% of the bank credit goes to this sector itself. Most of the household savings are invested in the real estate sector. The government’s introduction of the “Three Red Lines” policy has put the real estate developers in a spot. Stringent norms were imposed regarding lending by banks to real estate developers.

The ‘Evergrande crisis’ was purely due to this policy wherein the developers were left wanting for capital.

One of the reasons for the slowdown is the ‘Zero COVID policy’, wherein many cities are under complete or partial lockdown. This is one of the draconian measures taken by the government to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Cities like Shanghai and Beijing have been impacted the most. The residents were barred from leaving their homes.

Another issue which is eclipsed by other events is the power crisis. There has been substantial scarcity of power in major cities of China. The government is actually rationing power and electricity from industries to households. This has also affected the productivity of factories.

From a geopolitical perspective, the visit of the US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan is seen as an open challenge to China’s territorial jurisdiction. China conducted precision missile strikes in the Taiwan Strait as part of the biggest military action in decades. The probability of a possible frontal confrontation between the two largest economies of the world created tremors across the globe.

China is considered to be the ‘global manufacturing hub’. A slowing China will lead to global slow-

down as well as global recession. The crude oil prices have already declined, indicating less production activities. With lesser demand, the cost of metals is expected to go down.

Electronics and automobile sectors will be most impacted by the Taiwan issue. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company manufactures half of all the chips in the world. About 60% of all smartphones use these chips. The global automobile industry is reliant on these chips as well. The recovery of the automobile sector will take a huge jolt if the escalation between the US and China is not resolved quickly.

China is also a dominant player in the pharmaceutical sector. The Zero COVID policy will create supply constraints to the API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) sector. The Indian pharmaceutical industry will be highly impacted by such an outcome.

From a capital market perspective, there will be flight of FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investors) and FPIs (Foreign Portfolio Investors) from emerging markets like India to developed markets like the US. This will further depreciate the local currencies of developing countries and strengthen the USD.

China is India’s second largest trading partner, which contributes to almost 5% of India’s total ex-

ergy indicator for that year.

Political breakthroughs on climate issues can happen overnight, unforeseen. For years, the fossil-fuel industry has been determined to convince us that we can’t live without coal, oil, and natural gas. But the spike in energy prices following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has shown that we simply cannot continue to feed our addiction.

While fossil-fuel companies reap unprecedented windfall profits, soaring energy prices are causing misery for the world’s most vulnerable people and have driven millions more into poverty for the first time. Even in developed countries, lower-income families may have to choose between food and heat this winter.

Just as the IRA seeks to protect the US population from volatile fossil-fuel prices and their knock-on effects, every other government must fulfill its responsibility to safeguard its citizens. If they do, historians will regard this moment as the time when the US unleashed a massive anti-poverty programme and people everywhere forever connected climate policy with their well-being.

We are still far from where we need to be in addressing climate change, but we are a big step further along from where we were at the beginning of 2022. The IRA is not perfect – a glaring flaw is the absence of funding to help poorer countries adapt to climate change – but it demonstrates that enormous domestic obstacles can be overcome. COP27 is around the corner, and leaders must come to the table with a sense of responsibility and tangible evidence of their commitment to act.

Christiana Figueres is a former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. May Boeve is Executive Director of 350.org.

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FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

THE CLIMATE HOPE

We have grown accustomed to grim climate news. Despite scientists’ warnings and communities’ protests, catastrophic floods, record-breaking heatwaves, devastating wildfires, and famine-inducing droughts are becoming increasingly frequent.

But, occasionally, a pleasant political surprise encourages policymakers and activists to press on in the fight against global warming. The recent passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which will accelerate America’s clean-energy transition, is a case in point.

We have experienced similar uplifting moments before. In the months leading up to the adoption of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the United States and China announced a joint plan to slash emissions that helped pave the geopolitical path to that historic deal. In 2014, hundreds of thousands of Americans participated in the People’s Climate March in New York City, confounding all turnout estimates and prompting then-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak out and emphasise how important protests are.

Like the IRA, these victories seemed to come out of the blue. But social movements help to bring about such progress, and can grow stronger when the political winds shift in their favour.

Moreover, the new US law could not be better timed, because the pace picks up for the climate movement at this time of year. A few weeks from now, heads of state will gather in New York for the UN General Assembly, which will be followed by a mayoral summit in Buenos Aires, the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Climate negotiators are used to entering such gatherings determined to declare progress at any cost and use sheer force of



India’s transport sector, which accounts for 14% of the country’s overall emissions, has leapfrogged ahead by joining the First Movers Coalition, which aims to decarbonise heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30% of global emissions

will to keep the focus on climate justice. In recent years, youth activists have called our bluff: One cannot say that efforts to tackle the climate emergency are sufficient when politicians do little more than talk.

But the IRA’s passage means that – at this late hour in the fight against global warming – we can prepare for forthcoming meetings with something new and tangible in hand. The US is the largest historical emitter of planet-warming gases and in recent years has been one of the main laggards in international fora aimed at addressing the problem. But the IRA keeps the Americans in the game in the run-up to this year’s international climate talks.

The new law not only puts the US on course to reduce its own pollution sharply, but also will likely drive down the prices of renewable energy. That will make it easier for many emerging economies and low-income countries to adopt renewables rather than build more coal-fired power

plants.

Notwithstanding political obstacles to progress, there are signs around the world that things are moving in the right direction. The European Union wants the share of renewables in its energy mix to reach at least 40% by 2030. India’s transport sector, which accounts for 14% of the country’s overall emissions, has leapfrogged ahead by joining the First Movers Coalition, which aims to decarbonise heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30% of global emissions. Colombia’s recently elected government has laid out a hugely ambitious climate and environmental justice agenda that promises to end the country’s destructive model of resource extraction.

Significantly, China’s solar industrial boom has enabled the price of renewable energy to fall to new lows. In Brazil, wind and solar energy generation increased in 2021 and now account for over 13% of the country’s energy mix, exceeding the OECD’s clean-en-

WISDOM CORNER

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

“We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.”
CARL SAGAN

“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.”
ISAAC ASIMOV

WORDSWORTH

Bezoar

The bezoar is a hard ball of hair or vegetable fibre that occurs in the stomachs of cud-chewing animals such as goats (though humans get them, too). If you feel like categorising them, a trichobezoar is a hairball, while a phytobezoar is one that contains mostly vegetable fibres. The word is Persian (pad-zahr, counter-poison or antidote) and the bezoar’s fame as a cure for poison spread westwards from there in medieval times. You swallowed it, or occasionally rubbed it on the infected part. In A Voyage to Abyssinia, written by Father Lobo in the eighteenth century, he says: “I had recourse to bezoar, a sovereign remedy against these poisons, which I always carried about me”. Belief in its near-magical properties was then common. Old herbals are full of recipes using it, such as this one from Nicholas Culpeper’s Complete Herbal of 1653: “Take of Pearls prepared, Crab’s eyes, red Coral, white Amber Hart’s-horn, oriental Bezoar, of each half an ounce, powder of the black tops of Crab’s claws, the weight of them all, beat them into powder, which may be made into balls with jelly, and the skins which our vipers have cast off, warily dried and kept for use”.

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

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Expected move

Sir, There were no major tremors when Ghulam Nabi Azad quit the Congress because it was not totally unexpected. Though being denied a Rajya Sabha ticket is attributed by loyal Congressmen as a major reason for Azad’s ‘disloyal’ move, a seasoned politician like Azad is not the one to hanker after an Upper House seat after being in politics for more than fifty years and having enjoyed several wide ranging prestigious positions. A politically disinterested Rahul Gandhi may have had his own coterie of select advisors, and old timers like Azad could have felt left out in the ‘new’ Congress. But a shrewd politician like Azad would only know well that there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies in politics, there are only permanent interests. Differences of opinion are part of politics but when a faithful soldier is sidetracked to the extent of being rebuked it is but natural for the latter to veer off course. But for Azad it was the right course - a direction towards self-respect. How can the Congress sing paeans for a ‘rebel’ who dared to question its supreme leader? The 72-year-old is known for his affable nature and efficient conduct. He has enough admirers, and has earned sufficient goodwill. His political innings is far from over.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

5G rollout

Sir, Reliance Industries’ decision to roll out its 5G services in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai by October is a Diwali gift. India’s most valued company will connect every town, taluka and tehsil with the 5G network by December 2023. Reliance earmarked ₹2 lakh crore for the rollout believed to be the fastest in the world. Besides, Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani unveiled the succession plan at the company, identifying children Akash and Isha for telecom and retail leadership and youngest son Anant for the new energy unit.
NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Irrelevant issue

Sir, The decision of the Supreme Court to close all the proceedings arising out of the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992 is a step in right direction. The SC is right in its view that the contempt proceedings should have been listed earlier. There is no point in taking forward an issue that has lost its relevance after the verdict on the contentious issue came out.
KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

national



If my family gets notice (from central agencies), I will fight it legally, though it has become tough these days. I have faith in the judiciary

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

NEET-PG COUNSELLING LIKELY TO BEGIN IN SEPT

The NEET-PG counselling for admission to postgraduate medical courses, which was scheduled to begin from September 1, is likely to commence from September 19, official sources said Wednesday



of the day quote

All central investigative agencies, including the CBI, are being misused by the Centre to target the BJP's political rivals in the country. This should stop now and all state government should withdraw their consent to the CBI

MBBS students who returned to India due to Covid or Russia-Ukraine war and got degrees by June 30 will be allowed for Foreign Medical Graduate exam

The AAP government made big promises and showed dreams to the people of Punjab. But now, it is running away from fulfilling the same

SHORT TAKES

Terrorist killed in encounter

Srinagar: One terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces at Sopore in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district Wednesday, police said. "One terrorist killed. Operation in progress," police said. The firefight started after a joint team of security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area, and cordoned it off. At this, terrorists hiding there started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces.

Kartik Kumar's portfolio changed

Patna: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar Wednesday changed the portfolio of its law minister Kartik Kumar, whose induction despite alleged involvement in a case of kidnapping had drawn heavy opposition fire. According to a notification issued by cabinet secretariat department, Kartik Kumar will be swapping portfolios with sugarcane minister Shamim Ahmed.

ED summons Bengal Law Minister to Delhi

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has now summoned West Bengal Law Minister, Malay Ghatak in connection with the coal smuggling scam in the state, to its New Delhi office September 14 Trinamool Congress's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee will have to be present at ED's Kolkata office on September 2 for questioning in the scam. His sister-in-law, Maneka Gambhir is supposed to be present at the agency's Kolkata office September 5.

Jacqueline 'cooked up false story': ED



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Hindi film actor Jacqueline Fernandez "cooked up a false story" to wriggle out of the ongoing money laundering probe against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and she "knowingly" involved herself to enjoy the proceeds of crime generated through criminal acts, the ED has alleged in its latest charge sheet. Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh Wednesday took cognizance of the second supplementary charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate(ED) in the Rs 200 crore money laundering case, and asked Fernandez to appear before the court September 26. The charge sheet also claimed Fernandez consciously chose to overlook Chandrashekhar's criminal past and continued to indulge in financial transactions with him and both were working in collusion. The 37-year-old actor, who was summoned by the ED several times in connection with its probe, has been named as an accused for the first time in the supplementary charge sheet. The ED's earlier charge sheet and a supplementary charge sheet did not mention the Sri Lankan actor as an accused. The documents have also mentioned the details of the statements

recorded by actor Nora Fatehi and a few female models. "From the statements recorded, it is evident that she (Fernandez) consciously chose to overlook his (Chandrashekhar) criminal past and continued to indulge in financial transactions with him." "Not only she but her family members and friends have benefited out of the relationship financially," the charge sheet alleged. ED alleged that Fernandez "conveniently overlooked or preferred to sideline the fact that accused Sukesh has strong criminal antecedents and could have been aware of the fact that he was in jail."

The ED said that through her statement recorded in May 2022, she tried to come out clean professing innocence on the issue of her relationship with him but the facts and evidences were contrary to her explanation. The agency alleged the actor and her family received "proceeds of crime" worth more than Rs 7.12 crore between February-August, 2021 and these, apart from another Rs 15 lakh cash given to a writer by Chandrashekhar on behalf of Fernandez, were attached by the ED few months back. The actor made her debut in the Hindi film industry in 2009 and her statement has been recorded five times by the ED over the last one year.

The ED claimed its probe has found that Fernandez was "enjoying valuables, jewellery and costly gifts provided by Chandrashekhar despite knowing about his criminal antecedents"

Delhi private liquor shops to close from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: Private liquor shops will be a thing of the past in the capital as they will be replaced by over 300 Delhi government vends from Thursday owing to the switch over from the Excise Policy 2021-22 to the old regime, officials said Wednesday. Nearly 250 private liquor vends, licensed under now-withdrawn Excise Policy 2021-22, are running currently in the city. Some of the private vends having stocks saw crowd outside as they offered schemes like buy one to get one free. The Excise department had already notified the private licensees that they will not be allowed in retail liquor sale beyond August 31. People thronged a vend near Welcome Metro station to avail the buy one get one free scheme.



According to officials, the rebates and schemes offered earlier under Excise Policy 2021-22 will not be available as liquor stores will be opened by government undertakings from Thursday. The six shops at domestic terminal of IGI airport run by private operators will be shut Thursday, hampering availability. Liquor will be available at duty free shops of the airport, they said. The number of private liquor vends under the Excise Policy 2021-22 had gone up to around 650 but later, the license holders surrendered their licenses due to different reasons, including restriction on opening stores in non-conforming areas in the city. The Excise Policy 2021-22 was withdrawn by the Delhi government last month, after LG VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in its implementation. The Excise officials said the liquor supply will improve from first week of September due to opening of more shops.

PROTEST TURNS UGLY



CPI(M) workers clash with the police during their civil disobedience movement protest, in Burdwan, West Bengal

Maha soaks in festivities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/ Pune, August 31: Devotees welcomed Lord Ganesh Wednesday in their homes and pooja pandals with fervour, marking the commencement of the ten-day festival which is being celebrated without any COVID-19 restrictions after two years. Excitement reigned with calls of "Ganpati Bappa Morya" as people in urban and rural areas and noted personalities, including Bollywood celebrities, welcomed Lord Ganesh and offered 'modaks', a traditional Maharashtrian delicacy as 'prasad'. Devotees thronged prominent Ganesh pandals like the Lalbaugcha Raja in south-central Mumbai in large numbers, standing in queues for several hours. Many big Ganpati mandals had brought the idols much before the festival began. Many pandals designed decorations based on different themes with a social message. Devotees also thronged the famous Siddhivinayak temple in Prabhadevi in central Mumbai. In Pune, known as the cultural capital of Maharashtra, traditional

GANESH CHATURTHI



dhool-tasha (drum) troupes accompanied the processions which began around 10 AM. Following a grand procession, the 'pranprathistha' (consecration) of Shreeamant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati, one of the most prominent Ganesh in the city, was performed in the pandal designed as a replica of the Panch Kedar temple. The processions of the five 'Manache' Ganpati -- the Ganesh

idols which enjoy precedence in the last day's immersion procession -- namely, Kasba, Tambdi Jogeshwari, Guruji Talim, Tulshibaug and Kesariwada -- were also carried out with much fanfare. In the coastal Konkan region also, Lord Ganesh was welcomed with much enthusiasm and gaiety. Tens of thousands of Mumbaikars, who hail from Konkan, travel to their villages for the festival every year. The festivities remained subdued for the last two years due to the coronavirus pandemic curbs which prohibited large gatherings. Among political leaders, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde welcomed Lord Ganesh at 'Varsha', his official residence in south Mumbai.

BJP leader Seema Patra 'tortures' tribal maid



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 31: A tale of inhuman torture has unfolded since Sunita, a 29-year-old tribal help who was allegedly held captive at now-suspended BJP leader Seema Patra's residence in Ranchi, was rescued by the police, an officer here said Wednesday. Patra, the wife of a retired IAS officer, was arrested during the day. Sunita was found in an "indescribable condition" on the night of August 22, Argora Police Station in-charge Vinod Kumar said. "She had severe wounds and burn marks all over her body, as examined by a woman officer. She looked

highly malnourished. She is in a state of trauma. Sunita claimed that she was made to lick her urine... Many of her teeth are missing. She was allegedly hit with iron rods," Kumar told PTI. Sunita, who claimed she was held captive for eight years, is now undergoing treatment at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) here. The victim's statement was recorded before a magistrate Tuesday. Vivek Basky, a friend of the BJP leader's son, had approached the police to inform them about Sunita, following which an FIR was registered under various provisions of the SC/ST Act and IPC. The police then conducted a raid at Patra's Ashok Nagar residence. A video of Sunita narrating her ordeal had gone viral on social media, following which clamour for Patra's arrest had grown louder across the state and elsewhere. She was subsequently suspended by the party. Patra, following her arrest earlier in the day, claimed that she was innocent and "being framed" in the case.

AICC rejects demand for making electoral rolls public

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 31: The AICC Wednesday rejected a section of party leaders' demand that the electoral rolls for the Congress presidential polls be made public, saying it was an "in-house procedure" and any member can get its copy from any of the Pradesh Congress Committee offices. All India Congress Committee general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, who was in Kerala to review the arrangements being made for the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra next week, said any party member can check the copy of the electoral rolls at any of the PCC offices. "This is an in-house procedure and it is not supposed to be published for all the public to see," Venugopal told reporters in Alappuzha, while responding to a query. Talking to PTI, the senior leader said Madhusudan Mistry, who is the chairman of the Congress' central election authority, has already given a statement to the media in this regard. "There is no such practice in the Congress. We will continue to follow the old practice," Venugopal said. His statement comes as voices seeking fairness in the upcoming polls to elect the new Congress president grew louder on Wednesday, with party leaders Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and Karti Chidambaram demanding that electoral rolls be made public to ensure transparency in the process.

CONG PREZ POLL



India's 1st cervical cancer vax to be launched today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer will be launched here Thursday, officials said Wednesday. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had last month granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture an indigenously-developed vaccine against cervical cancer. Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh will launch the vaccine at IIC Delhi. SII CEO Adar Poonawalla will be present at the event,



the officials said. According to the officials, the gHPV vaccine CERVAVAC has demonstrated robust antibody response that is nearly 1,000 times higher than the baseline against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups.

Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age. The DCGI's approval had come following recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) Covid-19 of the CDSCO June 15 after Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at Serum Institute, had applied to the DCGI seeking market authorisation of gHPV after the phase second and third clinical trial was completed with support of the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology to ensure its early availability.

Partha, Arpita Mukherjee sent to another 14 days judicial custody

Kolkata: A special Enforcement Directorate court here on Wednesday rejected the bail applications of former minister Partha Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee in the multi-crore West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) recruitment irregularities scam and sent them to another 14 days of judicial custody. Both Chatterjee and Mukherjee appeared for the hearing in a virtual mode from the respective correctional homes where they are currently housed and judge Jiban Kumar Sandhu ruled that both will appear for the next hearing on September 14 in virtual mode only. Counsel for both Chatterjee and Mukherjee made the argument that their clients are keen to appear for physical hearing and not allowing that means infringement in their personal liberties. However, Justice Sandhu ruled that virtual appearance in hearing does not hamper personal liberty at any cost.

EAST COAST RAILWAY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GOODS SHEDS AND ITS MAINTENANCE NO. SDCM/KUR/PPP/GOODS Shed Dev, Dated : 26.08.2022

ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦାଶାର କୁହାର-୨୦୨୨

ବରଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଚାଷୀଭାଇମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କୃଷି ବିଭାଗର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଯୋଜନା:



HC quashes UP govt orders notifying 18 OBCs as SCs

Both the SP and the BJP governments intended to include these castes in the SC category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, August 31: The Allahabad High Court Wednesday quashed the Uttar Pradesh government orders which included 18 Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the list of Scheduled Castes (SCs).

A bench comprising Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice JJ Munir allowed a public interest litigation that challenged the notifications issued in 2016 and 2019.

The PIL was filed by Dr. BR Ambedkar Granthalaya Evam Jan Kalyan, Gorakhpur and others.

The then Akhilesh Yadav government issued a notification December 22, 2016, which provided for the inclusion of 18 OBC castes in the SC category.

However, the High Court put a ban on the issuance of SC certificates to these 18 OBC castes January 24, 2017.

This was followed by another such notification by the Yogi Adityanath government June 24, 2019 but the High Court intervened again and put a restriction on the process.

The SP government led by Mulayam Singh Yadav had issued a similar order in 2005 but it was stayed by the Allahabad High Court.

Two years later, the Mayawati



government quashed the order but subsequently wrote to the central government extending her support for it.

Attacking the BJP on the HC decision, Samajwadi Party said that the reservation to the 18 most backward communities got cancelled due to ineffective action by the BJP government in court.

“SP president Shri Akhilesh Yadav had fulfilled his promise to include 18 most backward castes in the Scheduled Castes, which was rejected by the BJP’s central government. Now the reservation has got cancelled due to poor handling of the case by the BJP’s Yogi Adityanath government and due to lack of support from the BJP government at the Centre,” the party

said in a tweet in Hindi from its official Twitter handle.

“BJP also gave lollipops to these castes but did not keep its promise. This is a complete betrayal of those of the 18 most backward castes. Where are those BJP leaders who do politics of backward castes and the leaders of their allies? An answer is needed from the BJP government for its anti-backward step,” the party said in another tweet.

The castes which the respective SP and Yogi governments intended to include in the SC category were - Majhwar, Kahar, Kashyap, Kevat, Mallah, Nishad, Kumhar, Prajapati, Dhevar, Bind, Bhar, Rajbhar, Dhiman, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machhlua.

Assam madrasa with terror ‘links’ razed

THE DRIVE WAS CONDUCTED DAYS AFTER A TEACHER OF THE MADRASSA WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS SUSPECTED LINKS WITH TERROR OUTFITS AL-QAEDA IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT AND ANSARUL BANGLA TEAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 31: A madrasa in Assam’s Bongaigaon district, which was allegedly used for carrying out ‘jihadi’ activities, was demolished by authorities Wednesday for “violation of building norms”, a top police officer said.

The district disaster management authorities had recently declared that it was “not fit for human habitation” as the building code was not followed during its construction, he said.

Around a dozen of excavators were deployed to demolish the two-storey building of the Kabaitari Ma Arif Madrasa in Jogighopa area of the district, the officer said, adding that other structures on the premises were also razed to the ground.

“The district disaster management authorities had issued a notice to the madrasa for violation of building norms and declared that it was not fit for human habitation,” he said.

Adequate security arrangements were made there for the demolition drive, he said.

Students of the educational institute, which had a residential facility, left for their homes Tuesday night, the officer claimed.

“There were 224 students, and the authorities asked them to vacate the premises by the night of August 30. The district administration helped them go to their homes. In most cases, guardians came and took away their wards,” he said.

The demolition drive, however,



was conducted days after a teacher of the madrasa was arrested for his suspected links with terror outfits - Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and Ansarul Bangla Team.

This is the second such action taken by the state administration this week as a madrasa in Barpeta district, which had allegedly sheltered two Bangladeshi operatives of Ansarul Bangla Team for four years, was demolished Monday.

One of the alleged Bangladeshi terror operatives, the principal, a

teacher and another person associated with the madrasa were also arrested by the Barpeta police.

The police officer from Bongaigaon said the Kabaitari Ma Arif Madrasa was demolished, following the recovery of incriminating documents related to ‘jihadi’ elements from its canteen during an operation by the Goalpara police Tuesday night.

The Goalpara police arrested the madrasa teacher last week, and the raid was carried out based on inputs provided by him, he said.

The arrested teacher had joined the madrasa in 2014, police said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had recently said that the state was becoming a “hotbed of jihadi activities” with about five modules having links with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent and Ansarul Bangla Team busted in the last few months.

More than 40 people with suspected links with the ‘jihadi’ activities, including Bangladeshis, have been arrested in the state since March this year.

3 yrs of NRC, uncertainty over citizenship continues

The Assam government and all political parties term the present list of NRC as faulty and claim that genuine Indian citizens were excluded and many illegal foreigners were included

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 31: It is an unending wait of uncertainty for Shakilul Islam and his two children, who did not find their names in the highly contentious National Register of Citizens (NRC), published three years ago in Assam.

The final NRC, released August 31, 2019, left out 19,06,657 persons, leading to uncertainty over their citizenship. A total of 3,11,21,004 names were included out of 3,30,27,661 applicants.

Islam, a resident of Dhalpur ‘Char’ (sand bar) of Brahmaputra, claimed that he had provided all required documents to prove his Indian citizenship to the NRC authorities, but his name did not appear in the final list.

“I was born in 1970 in a village in Barpeta district. My father migrated to Dhalpur after our village was eroded by Brahmaputra. My family linkage was also established. Still, my name, one son and daughter’s names did not appear,” he told PTI. However, his wife Nazma’s



name appeared in the final list of the NRC. “Though nobody in the village is questioning my citizenship as they know me very well, but I have faced uncomfortable situations at other places,” Islam said. “You cannot do anything sir by knowing our situation. Many reports have been published in the press and many NGOs visited us. Still, everything remained the same. People just question us on our appearance and clothes outside the village. This is unfortunate,” he lamented.

For 79-year-old Rehena Khatun of Cachar district, it has been a battle of prestige and recognition.

“My husband died two years ago, proving our entire family’s citizenship issue at the Foreigners Tribunal (FT). It is still pending. Because of the legal case, our names did not appear in the NRC,” she said, weeping. After the publication of the final list, the authorities were supposed to issue the Rejection Slip, mentioning the reasons for excluding a person’s name from the final NRC. Before publishing the

final NRC, the Centre had extended the time limit for filing of appeals in Foreigners Tribunals with the Rejection Slips by the excluded persons to 120 days from 60 days and necessary amendments were made. However, the process got inordinately delayed and no tentative schedule for issuing the Rejection Slips was announced. The slips are yet to be issued.

A person whose name is not a part of the NRC, can approach any FT with a certified copy of the Rejection Slip received from the NRC authorities along with the grounds for appeal. As per the law, the NRC cannot decide if someone is a foreigner or not. Only FTs can declare a person a foreigner in Assam.

Ashraf Hussain, an activist fighting for people with citizenship issues, said the inordinate delay in solving the NRC issue is helping a section with vested interests in “creating disturbances” from time to time to “destabilise the society”.

“According to our estimates, at least 81 people have committed suicide in the last 15-20 years for uncertainty of their citizenship. Many people were excluded on technical grounds and nothing has been done to correct that,” he told PTI.

In Braj, development is destroying heritage character

Once known for its green and dense forests, the whole area is being denuded of precious mangroves and holy green shrines from Govardhan to Barsana, Gokul to Vrindavan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Vrindavan/Agra, August 31: Following two deaths and injuries to half a dozen pilgrims at the famous Sri Bankey Bihari temple on Janamastmi, the Yogi Adityanath government in UP seems inclined to replicate the Kashi Vishwanath corridor model in Vrindavan. The locals and the experts committee are in favour of building a corridor with in-built mechanism for crowd control to avoid future mishaps.

Public opinion in Vrindavan is in favour of structural changes in the physical layout of the temple area to facilitate mobility and make the spiritual experience safe and memorable. But several groups of green activists are opposed to changes in the original character of this holy town with over 5000 temples. “The narrow, Kunj galis of Vrindavan are famous. Any widening after demolition of antique structures will be a blow to the

heritage character of Vrindavan, the soul of Sri Krishna-Radha Bhakti movement,” says Jagan Nath Poddar, convener of Friends of Vrindavan.

Braj Foundation chairman, eminent journalist Vineet Narain is also opposed to changing the fundamental character of shrines in the Braj Mandal. “In the name of development and modernisation, hundreds of crores of rupees have been squandered away. The Braj Teerth Vikas board, has no understanding, nor vision but seems hell bent on destroying the essential and original character of Sri Krishna land,” Narain laments. Recently, former UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav lambasted the Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad. He wanted audit of its activities.

Commercial interests of corrupt politicians and builders lobby are playing havoc. “They want to convert Vrindavan, Govardhan and Mathura into picnic spots for tourists, at the cost of the spiritual flavour. A plan has been drawn up to build a highway on the Braj Parikrama Marg, around 150 kms,” Narain said.

It was in the Braj area along the river Yamuna that Lord Krishna is traditionally believed to have spent his childhood, and it was in the stretch between Batashwar and Vrindavan that he performed the ‘Raas Leela’.



But, locals say, if Lord Krishna were to be born again today, he would certainly relocate to some other place due to the pollution, stink and vanishing ghats of the Yamuna, and large-scale deforestation and disappearance of thousands of community ponds in the area.

And, it is this colossal damage to the biodiversity and ecosystem of the region that is causing concern and alarm among devotees of Lord Krishna and Radha.

Vrindavan residents are agitated at the government’s flawed ‘River Front Development Project’ along the Yamuna. They want firm steps aimed at restoring the past glory of Braj Dham by conserving nature’s beauty and resources. In the name of development, a lot of damage had been done to the en-

vironment and, once known for its green and dense forests, the whole area is being denuded of precious mangroves and holy green shrines from Govardhan to Barsana, Gokul to Vrindavan. “They now want to start a cruise for tourists from Mathura to Vrindavan. Without cleaning the river and ensuring regular flow of fresh water, how can this be done,” wondered green activist Padmini Iyer.

Pavan Gautam, a social activist of Mathura, said: “Rapid urbanisation in Vrindavan, Govardhan and other areas of religious importance in the Braj area is a matter of serious concern. The Mathura Vrindavan Development Authority, Braj Heritage Board and the local bodies have no clear-cut plans and are often seen working at cross-

CLEAN-UP ACT



Workers clear debris near the site of the demolished twin towers of Supertech, in Noida, Wednesday. Over 3,700 kg of explosives were used to bring down the two towers by waterfall implosion technique leaving approximately 80,000 tonnes of debris.

UP tops in number of convictions in women-related crimes: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 31: The Uttar Pradesh government has claimed that the state tops the list in number of convictions in women-related crime, cybercrime and seizure of firearms in 2021 as per latest National Crime Records Bureau report.

Uttar Pradesh’s crime rate in different categories including murder, loot, dacoity, crime against women, rape, crime against children was less compared to other states and there was only one riot incident in 2021, an official statement issued Tuesday night said. Uttar Pradesh, the country’s most populous state, is at the 23rd place in terms of the crime rate, which is crime incidence per lakh population. However, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s office termed Uttar Pradesh as the ‘safest state’.

The state got the success due to the zero tolerance policy of Adityanath against crime and criminals, an official spokesperson said.

Uttar Pradesh is placed at 23rd spot among 28 states and eight Union territories as far as the crime rate is concerned, the statement said. As per NCRB-2021 data, the state is on the top among other states in the country in the number of convictions in crimes related to women, cybercrime and seizure of firearms, it said.



“The number of convictions in women-related crime was 7,713 while it was 292 in cyber crimes. A total of 1,12,800 people were convicted in crimes related to IPC. Besides, the number of convictions in seizure of arms was 40,212 in 2021,” the statement said.

The state is at the second place in the country in arresting people accused in various cases under the Indian Penal Code, it said, adding a total of 4,43,304 arrests were made in 2021. Uttar Pradesh stands at the fourth place in recovery of illegal property and the police have recovered such property worth Rs 129.4 crore, while it stands at 16th place in recovery of fake Indian currency notes, the statement said.

Reacting on the latest NCRB data, Mritunjay Kumar, media advisor to UP CM Adityanath, tweeted, “UP tops in conviction in crime against women and seizure of arms and after years UP has become riot free.” He, however, did not elaborate.

of the day quote

The Delhi Sports University belongs not just to Delhi, but the whole country. We will inculcate the expertise and experience of athletes from all over India to develop a world-class sports institute

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Congress is a democratic party and its Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor is qualified to contest for the party's presidential election

K SUDHAKARAN | KPCC CHIEF

There has been a four-fold increase in drug-related cases in Kerala

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man gets death in rape, murder case

Dahod: A local court here Wednesday awarded capital punishment to a man under the POCSO Act for raping and killing his two-and-a-half-year-old niece in this district of Gujarat. While handing down the punishment, Additional District Sessions Judge of Limkheda (Dahod) B. S Parmar also directed the District Legal Aid Service Authority to pay Rs five lakh compensation to the victim's family.

Truck mows down 12 cows

Katni (MP): As many as 12 cows were killed and three injured when a speeding truck ran over them on the Jabalpur-Rewa bypass in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district, police said Wednesday. The incident took place near Transport Nagar area Tuesday when the cows were squatting on the road. The truck got stuck in soil after hitting the cows and running into the adjacent field.

Sonia Gandhi's mother no more

New Delhi: Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi's mother Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy Saturday and her funeral took place Tuesday, party leaders said Wednesday. In a tweet, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said: "Smt. Sonia Gandhi's mother, Mrs. Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy Saturday the 27th August, 2022. The funeral took place yesterday".

Student found dead on campus

Hyderabad: A student of IIT-Hyderabad student was found dead in a suspected case of suicide on the campus of the institute, police said Wednesday. The police said they received information at 11.30 AM today. The incident may have happened Tuesday night, they said. The 25-year-old second year MTEch (smart mobility) student allegedly ended his life by hanging himself in his room where only he was staying, the police said. The reason for the extreme step was not known immediately, they said.

Six Rohingya girls rescued

Patna: Six Rohingya girls, allegedly being taken to Delhi for the flesh trade racket, were rescued from a train in Bihar's Katihar by Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and two men "escorting" them held, an official said Wednesday. One of the men, Mohammad Ehsanul Haq, said that they had picked up the girls from the Guwahati railway station and were tasked to transport them to a handler in New Delhi.

'₹1400CR SCAM' ROW

Delhi L-G to sue AAP MLAs for defamation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: Delhi L-G V K Saxena will take legal action against AAP MLAs Atishi, Saurabh Bhardwaj and Durgesh Pathak and DDC vice-chairman Jasmine Shah among others for their "false and defamatory" graft charges against him, officials said Wednesday.

No reaction was immediately available from the AAP or its leaders over the development.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party are up in arms against the LG after AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak alleged in the Delhi Assembly Monday that Saxena, as chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), had pressured his employees to exchange demonetised notes worth ₹ 1,400 crore in 2016.

Officials at the LG secretariat said the matter was probed by the CBI and the agency has already filed a charge sheet against two accused KVIC employees. The matter is pending in the Rouse Avenue Court, New Delhi, they said.

"It is reiterated that the matter being falsely touted by the AAP is with regards to just ₹ 17.07 lakh as against the claims of ₹ 1,400 crore which is nothing but a figment of imagination of the accusers who will face the consequences," the officials said.

"The Lt Governor has decided to take legal action against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders - Saurabh Bhardwaj, Atishi, Durgesh Pathak and Jasmine Shah among others -



India is showing intent as a problem solver despite not being a traditional contributor to global emissions

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER



VK Saxena

MLAs hold dharna outside CBI office

New Delhi: A delegation of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sat on a dharna outside the CBI headquarters here Wednesday after it went to meet agency director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal to demand a probe into alleged attempts to topple non-BJP government but was not allowed entry. The AAP had earlier in the day said it would meet Jaiswal to demand a probe into the alleged attempts to unseat non-BJP governments in various states by the saffron party by poaching legislators under 'Operation Lotus'.

for highly defamatory and false allegations of corruption by them, attributed to his tenure as chairman of KVIC," said a note from L-G office. AAP MLAs had forced adjournment of the special session

sitting of the Assembly Monday demanding the L-G's resignation. Later, the allegation was repeated inside and outside the Assembly by several AAP leaders including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The relations between the AAP and Delhi LG have taken a turn for the worse, after Saxena, in July, recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Arvind Kejriwal government's Excise Policy 2021-22.

The CBI has already inquired into the case at the behest of KVIC itself and filed the charge sheet as well.

The people, based on whose statements these allegations are being manufactured against the LG, are the two people who have prima facie been found to be engaged in corruption at KVIC after demonetisation by CBI," said the note.

CHURCH VANDALISM TENSION IN PUNJAB VILLAGE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, August 31: Tension erupted in a village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district located close to the India-Pakistan border Wednesday after a group of miscreants vandalised a three-story church and broke the statues of Mother Mary and Jesus Christ.

Condemning the incident, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered a probe into the desecration and fire incident. "This is a highly condemnable incident, and severest of severe action must be taken against the perpetrators of this heinous crime," said the Chief Minister in a statement.

He said he has directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to minutely probe into this unpardonable incident. He said this incident is a handiwork of the forces inimical to the peace, prosperity and progress of the state.

After keeping the security guard captive at gunpoint, the miscreants also set on fire the pastor's car. Visuals of the car engulfing in flames and vandalism of the statues were caught on CCTVs.

A person was caught on the camera repeatedly hitting the idol with a hammer.

A large number of people belonging to the community staged a sit-in protest at Thakarapura village, the crime spot, demanding the arrest of the accused and security for the minority community.



India lodged avg 86 rape cases daily in '21

The number of rape cases in 2020 was 28,046, while it was 32,033 in 2019, the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Crime in India 2021' report showed



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 31: India registered 31,677 cases of rape in 2021 - an average 86 daily - while nearly 49 cases of crime against women were lodged every single hour, according to the latest government report on crimes in the country.

The number of rape cases in 2020 was 28,046, while it was 32,033 in 2019, the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Crime in India 2021' report showed. The NCRB functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Among states, Rajasthan (6,337) was on top of the list followed by Madhya Pradesh (2,947), Maharashtra (2,496) and Uttar Pradesh (2,845), while Delhi recorded 1,250 rape cases in 2021, it showed.

The rate of crime (per lakh population) for rape was highest in Rajasthan (16.4) followed by Chandigarh (13.3), Delhi (12.9), Haryana (12.3) and Arunachal Pradesh (11.1). The all-India average rate stood at 4.8, according to the NCRB.

Overall 4,28,278 cases of 'crimes against women' were lodged across the country in 2021, with a rate of crime (per one lakh population) 64.5. The charge-sheeting rate in such offences was 77.1, the official data showed.

The number of cases of crimes against women in 2020 stood at 3,71,503 and in 2019 at 4,05,326.

The crimes against women category included offences like rape, rape with murder, dowry, acid attacks, suicide abetment, kidnapping, forced marriage, human trafficking, online harassment, among others.

In 2021, the maximum cases of crimes against women were lodged in Uttar Pradesh (56,083) followed by Rajasthan (40,738), Maharashtra (39,526), West Bengal (35,884) and Odisha 31,352, the NCRB showed.

However, in terms of rate of crime against women, Assam (168.3) was on the top of the list for 2021, followed by Delhi (147), Odisha (137), Haryana (119.7) and Telangana (111.2).

Nitish shares stage with KCR, lashes out at Modi govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 31: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Wednesday lashed out at the Narendra Modi government in the Centre and criticised its "excessive prachar-prasaar" (publicity) besides its alleged lack of sensitivity towards the needs of the states.

Addressing a function here alongside K Chandrababhan Naidu, his Telangana counterpart, Kumar took a veiled dig at BJP which has undertaken an aggressive campaign to expand its base in the southern state.

"Your adversaries speak a lot against you. Little do they realize what stuff you are made of. You were the one whose single-minded struggle led to the creation of Telangana. The people will never desert you", Kumar, the de facto leader of the JD(U), said.

His teaming with 'KCR', as Rao is popularly called, is being seen as an important step in the direction of achieving opposition unity.

Kumar's speech was preceded by KCR giving cheques of ₹ 10 lakh each to five soldiers from the state who were killed in the stand-off with Chinese troops in Galwan valley of Ladakh in 2020.

The Telangana CM, who heads Telangana Rastra Samiti, also gave away cheques of ₹ five lakh each to family members of 12 migrant labourers from Bihar who died in a fire in Hyderabad in March.

Kumar, who made the concluding remarks, expressed anguish over the Narendra Modi government's stout refusal to accept his plea for giving special category status to Bihar.

"The special status could have helped us develop faster. I have now left them (BJP-led government). The old times were different as Atal ji (Atal Bihari Vajpayee) used to treat others with respect. Now there is no work only prachar and prasaar", said Kumar, who severed his ties with the saffron party accusing it of trying to break his party.



Devotees worship Lord Ganesha on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Patna, Bihar

PTI PHOTO

Kolkata safest city in India: NCRB report

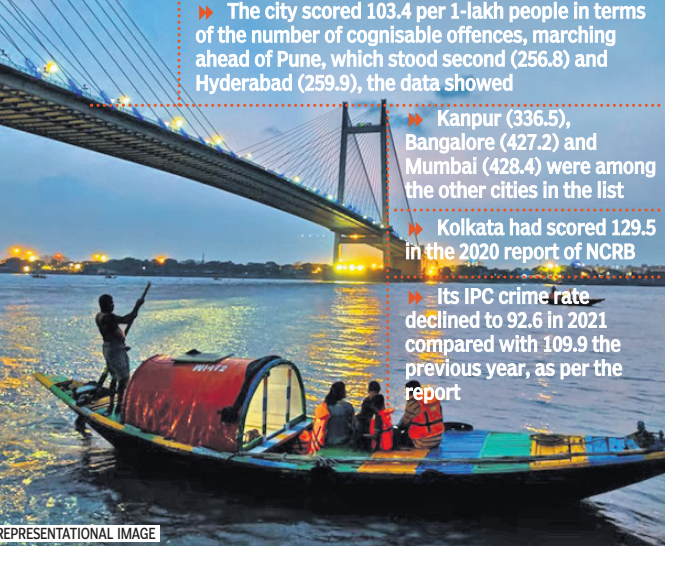
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 31: Kolkata has topped the list of cities with the least number of cognisable offences per lakh of its population, making the metropolis the safest city of India in 2021, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report.

Experts, however, expressed apprehension over Kolkata's dwindling crime numbers in the report.

"This data seems to be quite absurd. There is clearly suppression of facts on the part of the state government," claimed Ruby Sain, former head of the department of sociology and coordinator of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society at Jadavpur University.

"Most criminal activities in Kolkata are going unreported, and I am quite confident the data provided by the authorities is not the actual picture," she told PTI. Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Presidency College, Prasanta Ray,



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

also echoed Sain's views, and said there has been "suppression of facts by the state government, leading to a glorified picture for West Bengal".

"Criminal activities in the city go unreported for several reasons and that is a fact. If you ask me to believe in this data, I would say the migration of youths in search

Kejriwal launches virtual school

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 31: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday launched 'country's first virtual school' in Delhi for students unable to take physical classes.

"We started Happiness Classes, Patriotic Curriculum and many special schools, along with we are building residential schools for children begging at traffic lights, Sports University, Skill University has been set up, Army Preparatory School has been started. Today we are going to start the country's first virtual school," said Kejriwal while launching.

He said that many parents do not want to send girls out, many children start working early such children can study in this virtual school. "Children should come to school physically

but those who are unable to make this, this school will provide education," he said in a digital press briefing.

Applications are being invited from Wednesday for Class 9 for 2022-23. Any child from across the country between the ages of 13 and 18 can apply for this.

Meanwhile, the first virtual school in the country was launched last year by the Centre and not by the Delhi government, the

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) said.

"With reference to certain media reports regarding the claims of India's first virtual school being launched today. It is informed that the first virtual school of the country was already launched by Union Education Minister in August last year," the NIOS said.

international

of the day quote

Britain is the best country in the world to grow up in, start a family and build a business, and our future looks bright. But we can only get there if we tackle the challenges we face in the short term head-on with honesty and a credible plan

RISHI SUNAK | FORMER CHANCELLOR, UK

rishi sunak | former chancellor, uk Climate change is a profound challenge in Africa and a great challenge of our time, amplifying existing social, political and economic inequalities

PATRICIA SCOTLAND | SECRETARY-GENERAL, COMMONWEALTH GROUP OF FORMER BRITISH COLONIES

The United States has concerns about any country exercising with Russia while Russia wages an unprovoked, brutal war against Ukraine. But, of course, every participating country will make its own decisions. And I'll leave it at that

KAREN JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

SHORT TAKES

Queen to appoint UK PM in Scotland

London: Queen Elizabeth II will appoint Britain's new Prime Minister, either Rishi Sunak or Liz Truss, in Scotland where she is currently based and won't travel down to London, Buckingham Palace confirmed Wednesday. In a break from royal tradition, the 96-year-old monarch will receive the newly elected Conservative Party leader at her Balmoral Castle residence next Tuesday - a day after the Tory leadership election result is announced Monday. The outgoing Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, will formally hand in his resignation to the monarch earlier in the day, after which she will receive his successor.

SL strikes loan pact with IMF

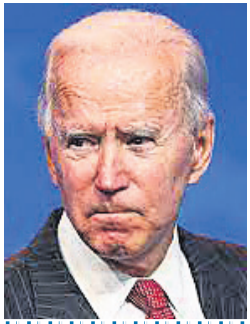
Colombo: Sri Lanka and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a preliminary agreement on an emergency loan to the crisis-hit country and a formal announcement will be made Thursday, four sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. The debt-laden island nation had sought up to \$3 billion from the global lender as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in more than seven decades. Lankans have faced acute shortages of basic goods.

Woman gets 45 years in prison

Dubai: A Saudi court has sentenced a woman to 45 years in prison for allegedly damaging the country through her social media activity, according to a court document obtained Wednesday. It was the second such sentence that has drawn scrutiny of the kingdom this month. Little is known about Nourah bint Saeed al-Qahtani, who hails from one of the biggest tribes in Saudi Arabia and has no apparent history of activism.

Japan PM apologises

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Wednesday said his ruling party will cut ties with the Unification Church following a widening scandal triggered by former leader Shinzo Abe's assassination last month. Widespread cozy ties between members of Kishida's governing Liberal Democratic Party, many of them belonging to Abe's faction, and the South Korean-born church have surfaced since Abe was shot to death while giving a campaign speech in July.



I'm determined to ban assault weapons in this country. Determined. I did it once before and I'll do it again

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

US GROUNDS CHINOOK CHOPPERS

The US Army has grounded its entire fleet of Chinook helicopters, a battlefield workhorse since the 1960s, over the risk of engine fires, a media report said Tuesday. The report said such an extreme step was taken out of abundance of caution. India has about 15 CH-47 Chinook helicopters



Russia deepens energy squeeze

REUTERS

Frankfurt, August 31: Russia halted gas supplies via Europe's key supply route Wednesday, intensifying an economic battle between Moscow and Brussels and raising the prospects of recession and energy rationing in some of the region's richest countries. European governments fear Moscow could extend the outage in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed after it invaded Ukraine and have accused Russia of using energy supplies as a "weapon of war". Moscow denies doing this and has cited technical reasons for supply cuts. Russian state energy giant Gazprom (GAZPMM) said Nord Stream 1, the biggest pipeline carrying gas to its top customer Germany, will be out for maintenance from 0100 GMT August 31 to 0100 GMT September 3.

EU TO TIGHTEN TRAVEL NORMS FOR RUSSIANS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prague, August 31: European Union countries agreed Wednesday to make it harder for Russian citizens to enter the 27-nation bloc, but they failed to find a consensus on imposing an outright tourist ban in response to Russia's war on Ukraine. EU foreign ministers were desperate to put on a show of unity and punish President Vladimir Putin for launching the war. Still, they couldn't bridge differences over whether Russian citizens, some of them possibly opposed to the invasion, should also pay a price. The plan now is to make it more time-consuming and costly for Russian citizens to obtain short-term visas to enter Europe's passport-free travel zone - a 26-country area made up of most of the EU members plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland known as the Schengen area.

CATAclysmic DELUGE

Pak floods trigger health crisis; 5mn in danger

FLOODS TRIGGERED BY UNPRECEDENTED MONSOON RAINS HAVE CAUSED WIDESPREAD HAVOC ACROSS PAKISTAN, KILLING OVER 1,100 PEOPLE SO FAR AND DESTROYING FARMLANDS. THOSE WHO SURVIVED NATURE'S FURY ARE NOW FACING SEVERE HEALTH ISSUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 31: Around five million people in flood-hit Pakistan, including children, may fall sick due to the outbreak of water-borne and vector-borne diseases such as typhoid and diarrhoea in the next four to 12 weeks, health experts have warned.

As the condition stays grim, health officials said that people in the flooded areas of Sindh, Balochistan, southern Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are likely to get diarrhoea, cholera, gastroenteritis, typhoid and vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

It is estimated that a disease outbreak would initially require medicines and medical supplies worth Rs 1 billion, they said, and urged donors, philanthropists and common people to donate these after consulting health experts and officials of rescue and welfare organisations.

"Of the 33 million people affected due to monsoon rains and floods across Pakistan, it is estimated that around five million people, including children, would get sick due to the outbreak of water-borne and vector-borne diseases in the next four to 12 weeks," renowned public health expert and Vice-Chancellor of the Health Services Academy (HSA) Islamabad Shahzad Ali was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "As there is no clean drinking water available in the flood-ravaged areas, there is a risk of outbreak of diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, gastroenteritis, dengue and malaria," he added.

EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT A DISEASE OUTBREAK WOULD INITIALLY REQUIRE MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES WORTH RS 1 BILLION

IN ADDITION TO DIARRHOEA AND OTHER WATER-BORNE DISEASES, CHILDREN ARE AT THE RISK OF GETTING MEASLES WHICH CAN SPREAD LIKE FIRE AMONG THE DISPLACED POPULATIONS

My point was that international community, particularly the developed world, should not leave developing countries like Pakistan at the mercy of climate change. If it is us today, it can be somebody else tomorrow. Threat of climate change is real, potent & staring us in the face

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

He said children would be more vulnerable due to weak immunity and warned that an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea, and other water-borne diseases could kill hundreds of children and adults if immediate preventive measures were not adopted.

"There is an urgent need to vaccinate all the people in the flood affected areas against typhoid-cholera. This vaccine is available in the country and it can be deployed to prevent deaths from typhoid and cholera in Sindh and Balochistan. Similarly, prophylactic treatment of malaria should also be started to prevent deaths from the vector-borne disease," Khan said.



HERITAGE SITES RAVAGED

Islamabad: Iconic vestiges such as the 'Mound of the Dead' in Mohenjo-Daro and Kot Diji, the last surviving bastions of the centuries-old Indus Valley Civilisation, situated in Pakistan's Sindh province, were damaged by the unprecedented floods that have wreaked havoc across the country, a media report said Wednesday. The Mound of the Dead, one of Mohenjo-Daro's most iconic historical sites, and one of the few surviving bastions of the Indus Valley Civilisation, was covered in blue tarpaulin, as workers scrambled to prevent water from seeping down into the unexcavated part of the site, the Dawn newspaper said. Mohenjo-Daro is an archaeological site situated in Pakistan's Sindh province, built around 2,500 BCE, and is one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation. It was designated 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' in 1980.

Urging the authorities to make anti-snake venom and anti-rabies vaccines available in abundance, he said hundreds of incidents of snake-bite and dog-bite had been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

Former health director-general and an expert on infectious diseases Rana Muhammad Safdar was of the opinion that children in the flood affected areas were the most vulnerable and needed immediate medical attention, saying immunisation programmes of the provinces should reach out to unvaccinated children.

On the other hand, officials of the welfare organisations working in

the flood-hit areas said a large number of people, including women and children, had already started suffering from water-borne infections, including diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, cholera, fever, flu, allergy, scabies and other fungal skin ailments.

The health authorities, he said, were also coordinating with the local pharmaceuticals and charity and welfare organisations to help them reach out to the affected areas in dire need of medical supplies.

"It's a gigantic task and the government alone cannot handle the situation. So we are engaging all individuals and organisations and channelising the oper-

Taiwan vows counter-attack if China breaches territory



Taiwan fired warning shots at a Chinese drone for the first time Tuesday shortly after President Tsai Ing-wen ordered Taiwan's military to take "strong countermeasures" against what she termed Chinese provocations

REUTERS

Taipei, August 31: Taiwan said Wednesday it would exercise its right to self defence and counter-attack if Chinese armed forces en-

tered its territory, as Beijing increased military activities near the democratic island.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own against the strong objections of the government in Taipei, has held military exercises around the island this month in reaction to a visit to Taipei by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwanese defence officials said China's "high intensity" military patrols near Taiwan continued and Beijing's intention of making the Taiwan Strait separating the two sides its "inner sea" would become the main source of instability in the region. "For aircraft and ships that

entered our sea and air territory of 12 nautical miles, the national army will exercise right to self-defence and counter-attack without exception," Lin Wen-Huang, deputy chief of the general staff for operations and planning, told reporters at a news briefing.

Taiwan has complained of Chinese drones repeatedly flying close to its small groups of islands near China's coast.

The military will exercise the same right to counter-attack Chinese drones that did not heed warnings to leave its territory after posing threats, Lin added.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, in a regular press briefing, reiterated China's position that Taiwan belonged to it.

"Firstly I need to tell you, Taiwan is a province of China, it has no so-called defence ministry. The Taiwan authorities are playing up their nervousness, this is meaningless," he said. Earlier in the week, the ministry had dismissed complaints from Taiwan about drone harassment as 'not worth fussing about'.



Revelers play in tomato pulp during the annual "La Tomatina" food fight festival in Bunol, Spain

REUTERS

Fist-sized hailstone claims toddler

REUTERS

Madrid, August 31: A 20-month-old girl died after being struck on the head during a violent hailstorm that caused havoc in Catalonia, northeastern Spain, authorities said Wednesday.

Fist-sized hailstones up to 10 centimetres (4 inches) in diameter rained down on Tuesday on an area around the village of La Bisbal d'Emporda. They caused injuries



mostly broken bones and bruising - to around 50 other people, broadcaster TV3 said. "People started screaming and hiding", said musician Sicus Carbonell, who filmed the storm's destructive aftermath in Castell

d'Emporda, a nearby hotel where his band was playing a canvas-covered terrace when everyone was forced to run for cover.

The toddler who was struck in the head in La Bisbal d'Emporda and died at Girona's Trueta hospital, authorities there said. The hailstones were the biggest recorded in two decades in Catalonia, according to meteorological agency Meteocat. Parts of the region remained on storm alert Wednesday.

ISIS bride Shamima Begum was smuggled by Canada spy, book claims

Begum, referred to as an ISIS bride after marrying a Dutch fighter of the terror network in Syria, gave birth to three children - all of whom later died. She was a 15-year-old schoolgirl when she and two fellow pupils at Bethnal Green academy travelled from east London to Syria in 2015

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 31: Shamima Begum, the London-born Bangladeshi-origin woman who fled the UK and joined the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist network as a teenager, was smuggled into Syria by a spy for Canada, a new book has claimed.

"The Secret History of the Five Eyes" by Richard Kerbjaj, to be pub-

lished Thursday, claims that Canada privately admitted its involvement and then asked British authorities to cover up its role. The term "Five Eyes" refers to the network of intelligence-sharing between Canada, Britain, the US, Australia and New Zealand.

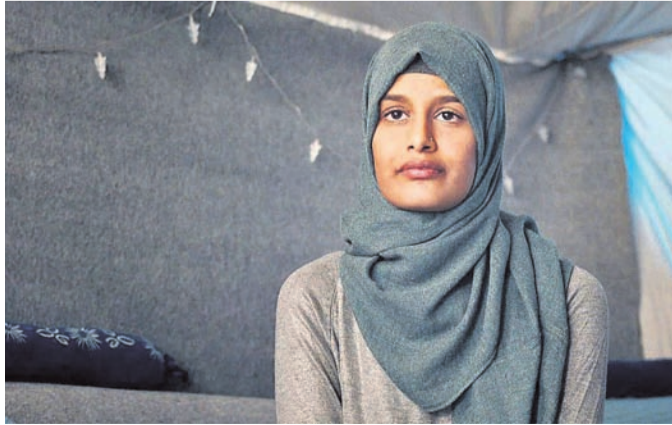
"For seven years now this has been covered up by the Canadians," Kerbjaj told the 'Guardian' and claimed that he interviewed mul-

tiple Canadian intelligence officials for the book to confirm the timeline of events.

"I think the cover-up is worse than the offence in many ways here because you would expect human intelligence agencies to recruit members of criminal groups and terrorist groups," he said.

Begum, referred to as an ISIS bride after marrying a Dutch fighter of the terror network in Syria, gave birth to three children - all of whom later died. She was a 15-year-old schoolgirl when she and two fellow pupils at Bethnal Green academy travelled from east London to Syria in 2015.

She, along with her school friends Kadiza Sultana, 16, and Amira Abase, 15, were met at Istanbul bus station for their on-



ward journey to a life with ISIS in Syria by a man called Mohammed Al Rashid.

Rashed is said to have been a double agent who shared Begum's

passport details with Canada and smuggled dozens of others from Britain to fight for ISIS.

Begum family's lawyer, Tasnime Akunjee, has argued that the

teenager was trafficked out of the UK. The suggestion that a western intelligence asset may have been involved, including organising bus tickets for the schoolgirl, will reignite the debate over the removal of her British citizenship in 2019 by then Home Secretary Sajid Javid.

Last year, the UK Supreme Court upheld the decision to bar the now 23-year-old from returning to the UK. There was no suggestion in the Supreme Court judgment that the British authorities knew the circumstances of her smuggling into Syria.

Begum currently lives in a detention camp in northern Syria and is due to make a fresh case at a Special Immigration Appeals commission in November.

