



ENVIABLE FEAT

Actor Priyanka Chopra's restaurant 'Sona' at New York features in *Michelin*, the most revered food guide in the world

LEISURE P2



DISENGAGEMENT STARTS

Indian and Chinese armies announce the disengagement of troops from Gogra-Hotsprings locality in Ladakh

NATIONAL P9



SWIATEK IN SEMIS

World No.1 Iga Swiatek easily beats Jessica Pegula to enter the women's singles semifinals at US Open in New York

SPORTS P12

UK's longest-serving monarch Queen Elizabeth II dies

KISS gets UNESCO Int'l Literacy Prize



AGENCIES

Balmoral (Scotland), Sept 8: Queen Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and the nation's figurehead for seven decades, has died aged 96, Buckingham Palace said Thursday. "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. "The King and the Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow," it added. Queen Elizabeth's eldest son Charles, 73, automatically becomes king of the United Kingdom (and the head of state of 14 other realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand).

The Queen's family had rushed to be by her side at her Scottish home, Balmoral Castle, after doctors expressed concern about her health. She had been suffering from what Buckingham Palace has

called 'episodic mobility problems' since the end of last year, forcing her to withdraw from nearly all her public engagements.

The Queen's grandson, Prince William, was also present at the castle when she breathed her last. His brother, Prince Harry is on his way officials informed.

The 96-year-old monarch has been suffering from age-related mobility issues and had cut down her travels, including appointing new Prime Minister Liz Truss in Scotland earlier this week.

Queen Elizabeth II, who was also the world's oldest and longest-serving head of state, came to the throne following the death of her father King George VI February 6, 1952, when she was just 25. She was crowned in June the following year.

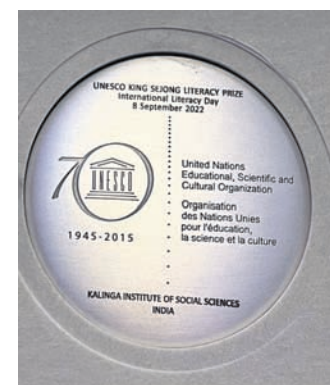
In 2015, Queen Elizabeth became the longest-serving British monarch, surpassing her great-

great grandmother Queen Victoria. This year, she became the world's second longest reigning monarch.

The UK celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark 70 years of service to the nation with grand events in June.

As UK celebrated her platinum jubilee milestone with royal parades, street parties and pageantry, the Queen thanked the nation in a letter, saying that she had been 'humbled and deeply touched'. "When it comes to how to mark 70 years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first," the Queen had written.

"She was the very spirit of Great Britain, and that spirit will endure," said new UK Prime Minister Liz Truss while commenting on the Queen's demise. "It is a great loss to the nation, but she has left behind a great legacy. No one will be able to forget her contribution," Truss added.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has been conferred with the highest global recognition on Literacy-UNESCO International Literacy Prize 2022. The prize carries an endowment of US\$ 20,000, a medal and a citation. The prize was given away Thursday at a global award ceremony organised by UNESCO in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

As a grassroots organisation aimed at nation-building, KISS is the fifth recipient from India and the first and only institute from Odisha to receive this international honour. It is also the third among the Indian non-profit NGOs and the first Indian tribal-based organisation to be conferred with this award. The prize for KISS was announced by KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta during the celebration of International Literacy Day at the KISS campus.

SHORT TAKES

Govt to set up portal for hassle-free darshan

BHUBANESWAR: In an aim to ensure hassle-free darshan of deities of various temples for devotees, the Odisha government has initiated the process to implement an Integrated Temple Management System (ITMS) and develop a multi-lingual web portal. The online system will help devotees from other states and foreigners to have smooth darshan of deities in temples, informed Law Minister Jagannath Saraka here Thursday. ITMS will be multi-lingual (Odia, Hindi & English) and can be accessed from all parts of the world. Devotees can book all services online.

Sand removal in Sun Temple starts

BHUBANESWAR: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) started Thursday removing sand from 'Jagamohana' (audience hall) of 13th century Sun temple at Konark in Puri district for better conservation. Jagamohana, which is around 128 feet tall, is the principal surviving structure in the ruins. Nata Mandira (dance hall), and Bhoga Mandapa (dining hall) are among the other surviving structures. Senior ASI officials performed 'Bhoomi Puja' before commencing work.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



80% Indian employees face mental health issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Poor mental health amongst employees costs Indian companies around USD 14 billion annually in absenteeism, lower productivity and attrition, according to Deloitte's mental health survey. According to WHO, India accounts for nearly 15 per cent of the global mental health burden. To analyse the current state of mental well-being amongst Indian employees, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTILLP) undertook a survey titled 'Mental health and well-being in the workplace', it said in a statement.



Around 47 per cent of professionals surveyed consider workplace-related stress as the biggest factor affecting their mental health, followed by financial and Covid-19. The report estimates that

'poor mental health amongst employees costs Indian employers around USD 14 billion per year due to absenteeism, presenteeism, and attrition'. 'Presenteeism' is the phenomenon of attending to work while under mental stress and hence, performing at low productivity. "These costs build up over time and are incurred when poor mental health impacts individuals who are unable to thrive in their work environment," the statement said. According to the survey, 80% of the Indian workforce has reported mental health issues during the past one year. Despite these alarming numbers, so-

cial stigma prevents around 39 per cent of the affected respondents from taking steps to manage their symptoms. Additionally the survey found 33 per cent of all respondents continued to work, despite poor mental health, while 29 per cent took time off and 20 per cent resigned to better manage their mental health. "It is essential that senior leaders play a major role in destigmatising mental health challenges within their organisations. We need to take the necessary steps to create an environment where employees' well-being is prioritised, and they have support," said Punit Renjen, Deloitte Global CEO.

'Make in India' crippling nation's Armed Forces

Country still not manufacturing enough weapon systems domestically making it vulnerable to hostile neighbours

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 8: On a day, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed the flight test of yet another air to surface missile, a number of officials in the knowledge of defence matters said Thursday that the 'Make in India' policy is leaving India vulnerable to persistent threats from China and Pakistan.

Due to the 'Make in India' policy, the Army, Air Force and the Navy can no longer import important weapon systems needed to protect the country. This factor will leave India critically short of helicopters by 2026 officials were quoted as saying by *Bloomberg* in a report. They added that if the present situation persists, India will have a shortfall more than 100 fighter jets by 2030.

After coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi



had embarked upon the 'Make in India' mission. However, eight years down the line India still doesn't manufacture enough weapons on its own to meet its needs, officials said. This has severely affected the morale of the Armed Forces, they pointed out. Threats from both China and Pakistan will grow in future and so India needs to have the most modern equipment along with manpower at the border they added. India's military has increased local purchases of some defence items. However, it still doesn't produce complex platforms like diesel-electric submarines and twin-engine fighters. Other than the Rafale jets, plans to buy aircraft from foreign companies have been shelved because the Centre wants the Air Force to opt for indigenously made single-engine fighters. If allowances are not made, then the IAF may be left with less than 30 fighter squadrons by 2030, well below the 42 squadrons required to protect the borders with China and Pakistan, officials pointed out.

► **Continued on P4**

SPURT IN SUICIDE CASES IN STATE

In 2020, 5,546 persons died by suicide in Odisha while the figure went up to 5,651 the following year.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: There has been a sharp spike in the number of suicide cases in the state with five persons ending their lives since last Sunday. Two deaths by suicides were reported Thursday from the districts of Balasore and Bolangir. Earlier late Wednesday night an engineering student ended her life at Railway Colony in Chandrasekharpur locality in the state capital. Prior to that on the same day, a student in Balasore district ended his life.

Overall in the last seven days his seven persons have died by suicide including a POCSO court judge in Cuttack and a housewife in the state capital.

Among those dead in the last 24 hours are two students and a teacher. In the first incident re-

ported Thursday, a physical education teacher (PET) of Includi Labana Satyagraha Smriti Pitha was found hanging inside a rented house at Includi village under Khantapada police limits in Balasore district. He has been identified as Parsuram Sethi. Police said that Parsuram took the drastic step after being rejected by the girl he was in love with.

In another death by suicide, a student identified as Ramnikant Khetri of Ulunda village in Sonepur district was found hanging by his friends inside a rented house at Shantipada in Bolangir town late Wednesday night. He was a Plus-III second year student at the Rajendra University in Bolangir. His friends found his body inside the kitchen and informed the police Thursday morning.

Police informed the deceased's family members and brought down the body in their presence. His family alleged that Ramnikant had been murdered by miscreants who hanged his body to make it look like a suicide. Police have registered a case and launched a probe to ascertain the cause of Ramnikant's death. ► **Continued on P4**

Tough group for India in hockey WC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: India have been drawn with England, Spain and Wales in Pool D of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup (WC) to be held in the state capital and Rourkela, January 13-29 next year. The draw of the 16-team tournament was conducted here Thursday, with four teams making up four pools in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, FIH acting president Seif Ahmed, sports minister Tusharkanti Behera, Hockey India (HI) committee of Administrators (CoA) members SY Quraishi and Zafar Iqbal. Among other dignitaries present at the draw ceremony were ST Secretary VK Pandian, and R Vineel Krishna



Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and Olympian Dillip Tirkey. Hosts India who are ranked World No. 5 and are in Group D are certainly in a tough company. They have been paired with World No. 6 England, World No 8

Spain and Wales (No.16). It should be stated here that India and England played out a 4-4 draw in the recently-concluded CWG in Birmingham

Pool A is headed by World No.1 Australia. The other teams in the group are Argentina, France and South Africa. Reigning World Champions Belgium are in Pool B along with Germany, Korea and Japan. Pool C will feature the Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia and debutants Chile.

Wishing the teams all the best, Patnaik said, "We are always very proud to welcoming the best hockey teams and players of the world for such an outstanding event. This time players will also have the feel of the new Birsra Munda Stadium in Rourkela."

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leisure



CATHERINE KEENER JOINS JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX CAST

Oscar nominee actor Catherine Keener is all set to join the academy award winner Joaquin Phoenix and American singer Lady Gaga in *Joker: Folie a Deux*. The official confirmation of Keener joining the star cast of the upcoming sequel from Warner Bros. is still awaited.

PORTRAYING BOND NOT A GOAL OF MY CAREER: IDRIS ELBA

Hollywood star Idris Elba talked about the speculations of him playing the iconic agent 007 James Bond. Elba said, "It is not the only goal for my career. But playing Bond will satisfy some of my personal goals. It will definitely satisfy the will of a nation." Elba said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you need to access every bit of your mental agility. Quick and spontaneous decisions are the need of the hour. But a word of caution from Ganesh: take advice, as these decisions could have long-term implications, especially if they involve money.

TAURUS
You are likely to be become too ambitious today and strive to outdo others. So says Ganesh. You will be over eager to do something big, lay your hands on something precious and valuable. Though you are quite likely to succeed to some extent your over enthusiasm may land you in serious problems that may affect your persona; and private life.

GEMINI
You are likely to take a break from daily routine. A pleasure trip to recharge your batteries is on the charts, predicts Ganesh. Winning favours from members of the opposite sex comes naturally to you. If you love someone, you will make your move today. Evening will be about doing medication, and getting attuned to yourself or maybe your sweetheart.

CANCER
Ganesh portends that you will remain invincible and unbeatable throughout the day. However, today will be as boring and uneventful as it gets. It will be just another day at office, and an equally simple day at home. There will not be any low points, but no high points either.

LEO
Sometimes, it takes courage to be honest and admit to your failures. Doing so only goes a long way in establishing your credentials as a real person, feels Ganesh. So understand that, while it is only human to make mistakes, it takes more than that to accept them.

VIRGO
A renewed zest for life will bring in a transformation in you. It is a good time to let people know how important and intelligent - yes, you can be both - are. Your eminence will be obvious as you show how things are meant to be done.

LIBRA
Good news! You will be a people's person today. Close friends, relatives and family - you seem to want to spend your time with all of them today, says Ganesh. Better news? Your romantic brilliance will be at its peak today as your fancy takes wings and creativity flows freely in manners that seem irresistible.

SCORPIO
A cascade of let-downs will dent your confidence and shake your determination, says Ganesh. But don't let these failures affect you as they are temporary. At work, your subordinates may force you to take drastic measures.

SAGITTARIUS
You nearly become a superhero in the eyes of your near and dear ones, says Ganesh. And what more? You loving your new avatar. Good news is on its way as promotion or increment is on the cards.

CAPRICORN
You may not get as popular as Romeo did, but your exceedingly romantic nature will earn you quite a reputation, not to forget the hypnotic effect it will have on your sweetheart, says Ganesh. On the flip side, troubles will chase you everywhere; you are likely to face problems with your business rivals and health condition, but your mind will be on guard always, giving you an edge over your opponents.

AQUARIUS
Today is an important day in the larger scheme of things. You may finally decide to buy a home, change your job, or marry! Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards too. Reputation and rewards are all yours today. This acknowledgement helps you remain committed, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You are human enough to make mistakes, and humble enough to admit them, and it is this honesty that people admire in you. Your affectionate nature will see you excel at tending to the needs of your family members today, says Ganesh.

Priyanka's 'Sona' in Michelin Guide

Los Angeles: The most revered food guide in the world, the Michelin, just added Priyanka Chopra Jonas' restaurant, 'Sona', to its New York Guide list. The Michelin guide is one of the most prestigious food guides that denotes high-quality food. Every year Michelin also gives out the Michelin Star, one of the highest accolades given to a restaurant.

This year, entrepreneurial genius Priyanka Chopra's restaurant Sona's entry speaks volumes about the experience of dining as well as the food itself. The restaurant opened operations only last year and has managed to make it into the list of 30 new restaurants to enter the guide.

For the unversed, the *Baywatch* actress opened her Indian restaurant in March 2021. In one of her posts dedicated to the outlet, she had written, "SONA is the very embodiment of timeless India and the flavours I grew up with". Later, she added another feather to her entrepreneurial hat by launching a new homeware line in the US. Her homeware line reflects the Indian roots of the star.

Accompanied by V Sanjeev on the violin and NC Bharadwaj on the mridangam, Gurucharan's first presentation was set to *Raag Mala Swaras* followed by *Raag Ganga Bhusan* that allowed him to delve deep into the complexities of his

AGENCIES



28TH OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL

Captivating Carnatic vocal, Kathak recitals mark fourth evening



Bhubaneswar: The penultimate evening of 28th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2022 organised by Srijan Thursday commenced with nuanced, intricate, and soulful Carnatic vocal recital by Sikkil C Gurucharan.

Accompanied by V Sanjeev on the violin and NC Bharadwaj on the mridangam, Gurucharan's first presentation was set to *Raag Mala Swaras* followed by *Raag Ganga Bhusan* that allowed him to delve deep into the complexities of his

Carnatic vocal range with great skill. Srijan then hosted

Vidushi Paramita Maitra and her Kathak ensemble, Nrityangan Kathak Kendra (NKK), Berhampore, West Bengal. Their performance, Kathak Samanvay, began with *Mrityunjaya*, taken from the Mahamrityunjay mantra in the Rig Veda and addressed to Tryambaka or The Three-Eyed One, Lord Shiva or Rudra.

Mrutyunjayawas sung by the late Debasish Sarkar: Biswajit Pal and Chandrachur Bhattacharjee provided able accompaniment on the tabla and sitar respectively. Choreographed by Paramita Maitra, the perform-

ing artistes Sritama Banerjee, ReshmiMitra, NilopaMaitra, SatabdiMaji, SusantaGhosh, Shubhradip Shaw, Bishal Dutta, and Nilam Raj Roy performed with impressive stage presence. NKK's next presentation Dhamar showcased the Nritta aspects of Kathak dance in a metrical cycle of 14 beats. This composition highlighted the rhythmic intricacies of the Taal well, as the dancers executed it with neat footwork, led by their Guru.

Earlier, Preeti Roy Chand, eminent scholar and social Worker, Ramahari Das, Odissi music director, Tapati Choudhury, dance critic and Kedar Mishra, writer & dance critic lighted the ceremonial lamp to start the proceedings of the evening.

On the final evening, prestigious Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2022 and Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman 2022 will be presented to artistes acknowledging their dedication to respective art forms.

Guru Ratikant Mohapatra and Srijan will also present the Odissi dance ballet Ravan in the evening.

PNN

Rakul speaks on OTT vs big screen

Mumbai: Actor Rakul Preet Singh, who is currently being praised for *Cuttputli*, shared her piece of mind on OTT vs big screen releases. While talking about the box office pressure, Rakul said, "It's a mixed emotion. You live for the big screen. A few years back no actor would have thought that a film would release on OTT. So that was not our mind space, and slowly we sort of got warmed up to it and saw films doing very well on OTT. Somewhere, you still want your film to come on the big screen". Supporting her views, the *De De Pyaar De* actor further asserted, "But we do understand that there are certain genres that now the big screen limits itself to and *Cuttputli* per se was from the beginning being a thriller, a Disney+ Hotstar film".

She then added, "the box office pressure reduces but then the pressure as an actor is still there, because I'm not getting those numbers. For me, the thing is - how the reviews will be, how the film would be perceived and how will people like my performance, which is irrespective of whether it's coming in theatres or in OTT".

AGENCIES

Sara leaves netizens in splits

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan is one of the most entertaining celebrities on Instagram - with her funny rhymes as captions and reels. Recently, Sara made netizens laugh and how with her new reel which was about - before coffee and after coffee. Sara danced to the cult song, Jaya Bachchan and Sanjeev Kumar's *Baahon Mein Chale Aao* to portray a coy girl before she had coffee. And then there was a 360 degree turnaround as she danced to *Tinku Jiya* in typical Bhojpuri style and vibe for the 'post coffee' part. The energy was so on point. Sara can be seen dancing with her hair stylist Sanky Evrus in this reel as he would be the only one to take part with her in this abnormality, she laughed.

She's clearly on a roll and who's complaining? Sara is looking quite stunning in this orange ethnic wear and could also look convincing if she grooved to *Kesariya* in this outfit. The actress would be seen next with Vicky Kaushal in Laxman Utekar's next film and also *Gashlight* with Vikrant Massey.

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

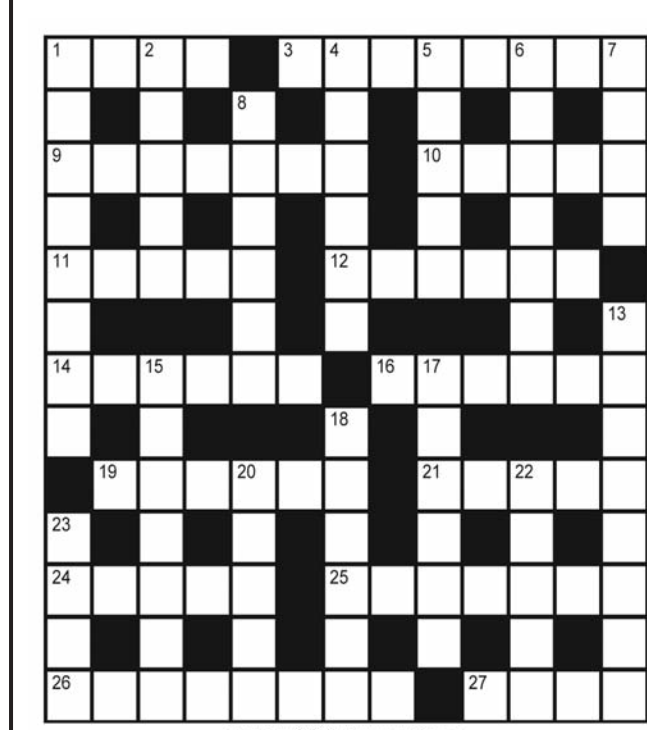


BREVITY



FUN post

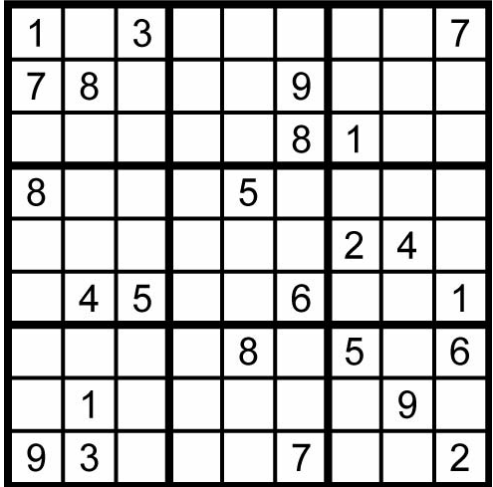
CROSSWORD



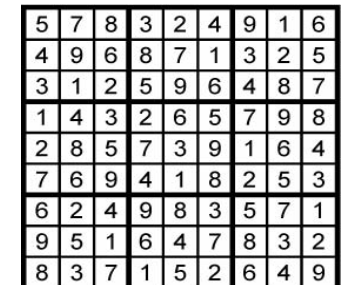
- Across
- 1 Stew
 - 3 Surveillance option
 - 9 War paint
 - 10 Coffee order
 - 11 Highway divisions
 - 12 Muzzle loader
 - 14 Time of year
 - 16 Young raptor
 - 19 Tubular food
 - 21 Cavalry sword
 - 24 Sharpened
 - 25 Ordinary
 - 26 Grotesquely carved figure
 - 27 Cut down
 - Down
 - 1 Well-known
 - 2 Stone worker
 - 4 Injury
 - 5 Highland wear
 - 6 Breakfast staple
 - 7 Romeo or Juliet, e.g.
 - 8 Cab of yore
 - 13 Heavenly
 - 15 After animal or personal
 - 17 Missing
 - 18 Gloomy
 - 20 Video's partner
 - 22 Courageous
 - 23 Carpet type

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



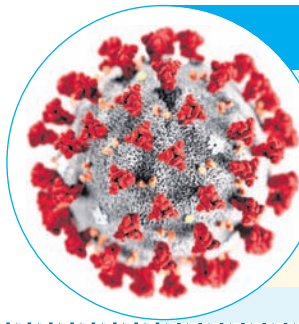
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



VIGILANCE GLARE

Forest wing sleuths of Odisha Vigilance conducted a raid at an illegally operating sawmill at Pradhanpada village under Jagatpur police limits in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,22,16,499	58,99,96,232	65,10,157
India	4,44,76,056	4,39,00,204	5,28,090
Odisha	13,29,472	13,18,798	9,184

Removal of sand from Sun Temple begins

ASI sets a target to completely remove the sand from the Jagamohan of Sun Temple within three years, in a scientific manner

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Thursday started removing sand from 'Jagamohana' (audience hall) of 13th century Sun Temple at Konark in Puri district for better conservation.

Jagamohana, which is around 128 feet tall, is the principal surviving structure in the ruins. Nata Mandira (dance hall), and Bhoga Mandapa (dining hall) are among the other surviving structures.

The ASI Thursday performed 'Bhumi Pujan' rituals to remove sand from the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. The decision to remove sand from the Jagamohan of the temple was taken at a national conference organised by ASI at Konark in 2020.

Several experts from around the world participated in the conference and suggested for removal of sand from the sanctum sanctorum of the Black Pagoda.

"We have been doing hard work for the last two years. We have completed the detailed documentation. After conferring with several engineers and people having expertise on the issue, we have formulated a safe system," said ASI superintendent Arun Mallick.

The sand will be removed through all four gates and the garbhagriha will be stabilised so that people can go inside it, he said. Besides, Orissa High Court has given a direction on this issue, he added.

ASI sources said as per the advice of various expert committees, documentation has been done using GPRS, endoscopy and laser scanning



EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT REMOVAL OF SAND WILL INCREASE THE LIFE SPAN OF THE TEMPLE BY SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS

THE SAND WILL BE REMOVED THROUGH ALL FOUR GATES AND THE GARBHAGRIHA WILL BE STABILISED SO THAT PEOPLE CAN GO INSIDE IT

IN THE FIRST PHASE, AN AUTOMATIC MECHANICAL WORKING PLATFORM IS BEING ERRECTED FOR SMOOTH REMOVAL OF SAND FROM THE 13TH CENTURY WORLD HERITAGE MONUMENT

during the last decade to study the stability and the inner condition of the sanctum sanctorum of the temple filled with the sand. BDR Construction Private Ltd has been entrusted with the job of the removal of sand. The construction company will provide the technical support only. ASI officials will be deployed for the removal of sand, the ASI Superintendent said.

In the first phase, an automatic mechanical working platform is being erected for smooth removal of sand from the 13th century world her-

itage monument. Sources said a hole will be made on the western side of the temple for removal of the sand. Experts believe that removal of sand will increase the life span of the temple by several hundred years.

The sand was filled inside the Jagamohan of the temple during the British rule (in 1903) to protect and conserve the shrine. ASI aims to remove the sand from inside the Jagamohan within three years in a scientific way by using the latest and sophisticated technology.

KISS bags UNESCO Int'l Literacy Prize

KISS HAS EARNED THE COVETED RECOGNITION OF BEING THE 5TH RECIPIENT FROM INDIA AND THE ONLY INSTITUTE FROM ODISHA TO RECEIVE THIS INTERNATIONAL HONOUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

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As a grassroots organisation aimed at nation-building, KISS has earned the coveted recognition of being the fifth recipient from India and the only institute from Odisha



to receive this international honour. It is also the third among the Indian non-profit NGOs and the first Indian tribal-based organisation to be conferred with this award, which is a matter of pride for India.

The UNESCO prize for KISS was announced by KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta during the celebration of International Literacy Day at the KISS campus. The announcement was met with a spontaneous outpouring of celebration by 30,000 KISS students.

KISS is a fully free residential education institution. It was founded by Samanta, a well-known educa-

tionist and social activist. It provides scope for comprehensive develop-

ment, vocational and sports empowerment for 70,000 tribal children (30,000 children pursuing education at campus and 40,000 alumni). Founded in 1993 with 125 students, it has grown on to become the world's largest educational institution for tribal children. KISS has collaborations with various UN bodies and international organisations. It has been in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 2015, affiliated to the UN Department of Public Information besides being conferred with a plethora of accolades and awards



tionist and social activist. It provides scope for comprehensive develop-

for its initiative at tribal empowerment and education.

Food licence must for Cuttack meat sellers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 8: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has banned sale of meat on roadside of Millennium City without a trade and food licence, a report said Thursday.

The matter came to the fore at a meeting of the meat sellers with the city mayor at the conference hall of the civic body, Thursday. Mayor Subhash Singh and meat traders from various markets in the city like Seminary Square, Buxi Bazaar, Pattapole, CDA, Krushak Bazaar, Purighat, Tulasipur, Khannagar, Satichoura attended the meeting.

In the meeting, it was said that no one will be allowed to sell meat without the necessary trade and food licences which have been mad mandatory now. It was decided that the law will be strictly adhered to in consensus with all parties, the mayor said.

All the meat sellers will have to obtain trade and food licences in phases. Every week, one meat seller will have to deposit 150 with the concerned contractor and get licence for a period of three days - Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Notably, the restriction was in force earlier but no one used to adhere to it. Meat sellers Sk Adil, Sk Sajid, Sk Tahir, Sk Tima, Sk Shakil and Sk Habib and others attended the meeting.

Peace Pagoda golden jubilee fete Oct 28

Chief Secretary asks Dhauli Development Committee to submit a detailed action plan regarding the celebration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The state government has decided to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Peace Pagoda and Buddhist shrine Dhauli Shanti Stupa situated on the Capital city outskirts in a grand manner. The Peace Pagoda built in 1972 by collaborative efforts of Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha and government of Odisha is completing its 50th year in 2022.

A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Thursday to commemorate the historic occasion October 28, 2022.

It was estimated that around 150 monks from different parts of the globe would join the auspicious celebration. A peace march would be held from Bhubaneswar to Dhauli on that day. The occasion would be echoed with pious Buddhist Chanting and Sutras.

Reviewing the progress of the preparatory works, Mahapatra directed departments concerned to complete the structural preservation and beautification works by the end of this month.

The state government has made provisions of around ₹1.87 crore for these works. A pathway around the Stupa would also be developed.

Padma Bibhusan Sudarshan Sahoo, who was present in the meeting, said that a team of Japanese engineers had visited the site to see the structural preservation works and they have appreciated the quality of the



PLAN FOR GRAND CELEBRATION

Around 150 monks from different parts of the globe would join the celebration. A peace march would be held from Bhubaneswar to Dhauli October 28

The state government has made provisions of around ₹1.87 crore for structural preservation and beautification works. A pathway around the Stupa would also be developed

work being undertaken by the state government.

The chief monk in charge of the Peace Pagoda also expressed his satisfaction over the quality and progress of the works.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed local Dhauli Development Committee functioning under the chairmanship of Khurda Collector to plan out the details regarding erection of the Golden Jubilee stage, its design, fabrication, carpeting, flower decoration, arrival and departure of the delegation and guests from other counties, their stay, reception etc with financial estimates.

The committee will submit the detailed plan to the government through the department of Odia

Language, Literature and Culture. The department was asked to expedite financial provision for these activities.

The issues related to renovation of the existing platform, restoration of light and sound show, trimming of the trees obstructing the complete view of the Stupa, maintenance of street lights, relocation of craft bazaar and shopping complex to a conspicuous site etc were discussed and resolved in the meeting.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed for regular maintenance of the tourist facilities set up at Dhauli by Dhauli Development Committee by utilising the revenue generated from entry fee and parking fee etc.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

ON INFORMATION CAMPAIGN, 3500 KMS IN 150 DAYS



ON MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN, 350000 SQ KMS IN 15 SECONDS



State NEET topper banked on systematic hard work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Odisha NEET 2022 (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) topper Priya Somadutta Nayak, a student of SAI International School here, Thursday said that self-study for 8-9 hours daily was one of the main reasons for his success.

Out of the 43,080 students who appeared for NEET, 26,279 qualified and Priya was on top of the list. He also said that NCERT books and solving the mock papers of Aakash BYJU'S Institute was also instrumental in helping him emerge topper with 705 marks with a percentile of 99.99. In the all-India rankings, Priya was in 39th position.

Priya said from the beginning of his education he has nursed ambitions to become a doctor and his main goal is to study at the New Delhi AIIMS. He got 175 each out



Priya Somadutta Nayak

of 180 in Chemistry, Botany and Zoology and secured the full score of 180 in Physics.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG) for 18 lakh candidates at 3,570 different centres located in 497 cities throughout India July 17, the results of which were announced late evening Wednesday. The examinations were conducted in 13 languages including Odisha.

About his future prospects, Priya stated that AIIMS, Delhi

is his dream college and he aspires to excel in the field of Medicine & Nephrology.

The examination was conducted in 13 languages (Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu). From Odisha, 43,080 appeared for the exam and 26,279 have qualified.

Silpi Sahoo, chairperson of SAI International, said, "It is a truly remarkable moment for SAI International School, for having its students not only ace JEE entrances but also sweep the NEET 2022."

Ajay Bahadur Singh Regional Director East, Aakash BYJU'S, said, "Priya was an uncut gem. He was a school topper and was roaring to do something big in life. We are happy that we could give him the competitive environment and all the support for him."

GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA 2022 Award Festival

5th to 9th September | 06:30 PM

Rabindra Mandap Bhubaneswar, Odisha

GKCM Award Ceremony
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Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Prativa Samman 2022

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Continued from P1

'Make in India' crippling ...

Denizens lost ₹79L to cyber frauds in Aug



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Amid a spurt in online frauds in Odisha, cybercriminals have reportedly duped more than Rs 79.98 lakh from many people in Odisha capital last month.

A total of 344 fraud calls were received by people in the city during the month and maximum 110 cases were related to debit card transactions. While fraudsters swindled people of Rs 79.98 lakh through both UPI as well as credit and debit card frauds in August, the cyber police have been able to retrieve Rs 6.11 lakh of the lost money. The above information was shared by the Commissionerate police here Thursday.

The Cyber Crime and Economic Offence Wing (EOW) police station of the city has received 344 calls from victims complaining about cyber fraud last month. As many as 298 calls were made by victims from the city alone.

The city cops received calls from 46 cyber crime victims residing in other parts of the state. The fraudsters duped 107 gullible persons of lakhs through various Unified Payments

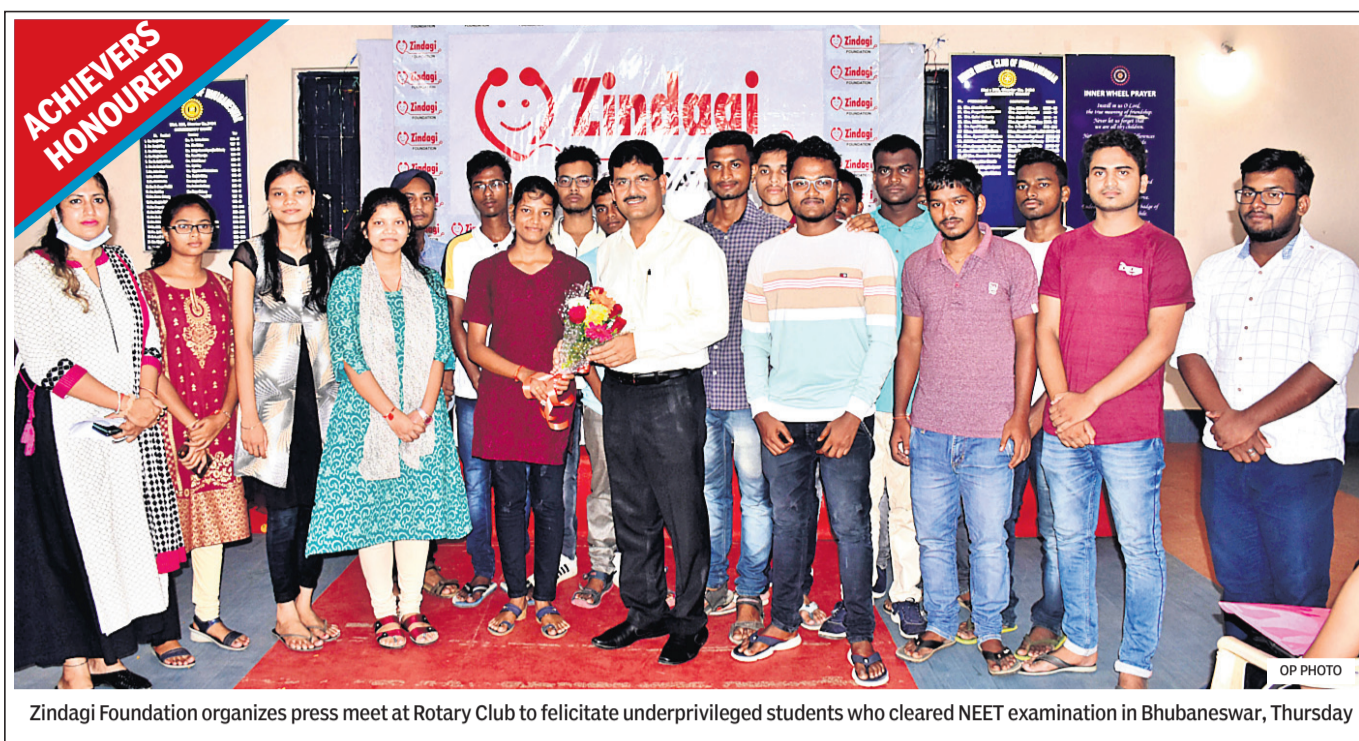
The Cyber Crime and Economic Offence Wing (EOW) police station of the city has received 344 calls from victims complaining about cyber fraud last month

Interface (UPI) related issues.

Meanwhile, as many as 110 victims lost their deposits to the criminals over cyber frauds regarding debit and credit cards. Many also alleged that the criminals cheated them through different social media platforms in the month of August.

The cyber crime has been looted Rs 79, 98,571 from the victims belonging to the city alone. The Commissionerate police have managed to get back Rs 6, 11,563 withdrawn or taken fraudulently by the cyber criminals in August. Meanwhile, it succeeded in getting freed Rs 26, 28,354 siphoned off by the fraudsters.

The city police have registered six cases against unknown cyber criminals in August.



Zindagi Foundation organizes press meet at Rotary Club to felicitate underprivileged students who cleared NEET examination in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Oppn demands 'white paper' on floods, damages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Opposition BJP and Congress Thursday asked Odisha government to publish a white paper on the last month's twin floods and damage caused due to calamity.

The opposition parties demand a day after Odisha government releasing the damage assessment report where it is said that Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs 128 crore for the assistance to the given to the people losing their houses, cultivation and other livelihood means due to the calamity.

While terming the state government's announcement of over Rs 128 crore assistance to the flood affected people as misleading and

and Subarnarekha in August. These floods could have been easily avoided had the government been serious, she said. Claiming that standing crops on vast areas were destroyed in the floods, the BJP leader accused the state government of having failed to provide houses to the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Non-availability of pucca houses have caused death of people in wall collapses, she alleged. Jatani MLA and Congress leader Suresh Routray said that many people have not been provided with minimum relief. He also alleged that damage assessment have not been proper and therefore a re-survey should be done and a white paper be published on the calamity.

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Fire at Market Building

Bhubaneswar: Fire broke out at Usha Showroom in Unit-II Market Building here Thursday night. Sources said four fire tenders were deployed to extinguish the blaze. Fire Service officials informed the media that the inferno has been put out completely and no casualty was reported in the incident. An investigation is on to ascertain the cause of the fire.



Spurt in suicide...

Earlier Wednesday, Niyati Nayak (24), an engineering student allegedly died by suicide at her house at the Railway Colony in Chandrasekharpur here. She took the drastic step when her family members had gone to the hospital. Police also suspect that Niyati took the drastic step after a fight with her boyfriend. They have seized her phone and examining her call records.

Psychiatrist Dr Amrit Pattojoshi said that post Covid-19 a lot of breakups are contributing to cases of student suicides. He pointed out that loneliness and lack of close proximity is causing depression among the youngsters. He asserted that a modification of lifestyle and support from family members can prevent suicide deaths.

YOUTH HELD FOR SHARING OBSCENE IMAGES OF GIRL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a 35-year-old youth on charges of sharing obscene and morphed images of girl on social media platforms. The accused was identified as Parikshit Nayak alias Kalita Das, a resident of Jhadabandha under Balimi police limits in Dhenkanal district.

Sources claimed that the accused came to know about the girl when she was staying at a girls' hostel in Naharkanta area where Nayak used to work as a cook around two years ago. Meanwhile, he slyly collected the details of the girl and her pictures.

He made a fake Facebook and Instagram account using her photo as profile picture just a few days after she left the hostel. The accused would share morphed images on social media platforms and with her relatives.

The accused took advantage of the hostel rules which strictly prohibited the use of mobile phone by inmates. Nayak managed to get the images and phone numbers of girls who used to contact their relatives through his phone.

On July 24, 2022, the victim girl lodged a complaint with cybercrime and economic offence police station. Based on the complaint, police registered a case and arrested the accused Thursday. He was later produced before the Pocco court that sent him to judicial custody Thursday.

The cops found during the course of investigation that the accused had also made fake social IDs of six other girls who were staying in the hostel.

Nayak also worked as a cook at a popular religious institution of the City. He also became a disciple of the religious order too.

'Timely action needed to counter climate change'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in association with the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha organised the 3rd edition of national conference on climate change initiatives-- "Alternative energy and mobility solution towards achieving Net Zero" at a city private hotel, Thursday.

The conference gives a platform to understand the latest developments in climate change policy resolutions & strategies and various alternative sources of energy and technological development & smart resource utilization.

In the conference, experts said that climate change is recognized as a significant man-made global environmental challenge and it will continue to influence our world for generations to come, if timely actions are not taken.

In the welcome address J B Pany, Chairman, ICC Odisha State Council said, "India can become a leader in production and export of environment-friendly green hydrogen. It will give India a quantum jump in its efforts to counter climate change."

Speaking on the occasion N R Sahoo Convener, ESH Committee, ICC Odisha State Council & Chief Environment Engineer, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), said that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperature, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level. It impacts all countries, but is particularly severe for developing countries like India K Murugesan, Member Secretary, OSPCB, said that Odisha is most affected of climate change with multiple cyclones every year. We are also blessed and fortunate with huge natural mineral and water resources which attract huge industry investment and project which is an advantage.

Odisha is first state to draft a Climate Change Action Plan. Also, Odisha is the first state in India to get its second phase climate action plan approved by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change (NSCCC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Murugesan said that Odisha is the high energy surplus state and making progress on green energy. The state creates energy not only for itself but for other states. We are focusing more on renewable energy such solar and wind energy. He said that zero emission is difficult to achieve but we can work to reduce its number by planting more and more trees.

K J Patel Director and Unit Head, IFFCO said Indian industry needs to adopt voluntary emission reduction targets and beginning to source renewable power. Many companies have started to adopt Internal Carbon Pricing. As India works towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity, numerous investment opportunities are likely to emerge in the key sectors. The industries are required to be prepared to meet the challenges of green house gas reduction.

ILO conducts training on PSEI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The International Labour Organization (ILO), under United Nation and Odisha Assembly of Small & Medium Enterprises (OASME) organized a training session on Promoting Sustainable Enterprise in India (PSEI) here Thursday.

About 10 entrepreneurs from food processing units, apparel and sea food sectors were selected from Cuttack and Khurda districts for the training. The training session was conducted to improve the manufacturing practice, goods manufacturing process, cost reduction among other. The six months and three module training includes a study tour to South Korea. The cost of the entire certification course will be borne by ILO. A formal MoU has been signed between ILO and OASME to work together in Odisha to develop state Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to make them export oriented units.

Moreover the ILO will also give the trained units export market linkage. State MSME department will help and provide support to ILO and OASME for conducting the PSEI training.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: As many as 147 Common Cadre Auditors joined the state government in the finance department. They were given appointment letters at an induction and orientation programme organised at Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan Thursday.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, joining the programme on virtual platform, asked the new entrants to work hard, with utmost sincerity, adopt new technology and give their best to the job they have been selected for.

He said, "We must keep it in mind that every single pie we are getting as salary and other emoluments comes from the people of the state", adding "As auditors, you are expected to oversee the utilisation of government funds and ensure effectiveness in public spending." Congratulating them on their entry to state government, he said that all of you have been chosen through a transparent merit-based selection process to work for the people of our state.

AUDITORS' APPOINTMENT Ensure effectiveness in public spending: CM



He further said that the principles of '5T' have set very high standards in public service delivery. All government employees are required to work with commitment, dedication and serve the people of the state with empathy and sincerity, he added. Highlighting the fast track development process in the state, he said that in the past two decades, there has been a phenomenal transformation in our state. Odisha has come a long way to be regarded now as one of the fastest growing states in the country. Besides, remarkable economic growth, the state has emerged as a model in the field of governance and public service, he added.

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari said that 5T and Mo Sarkar have become symbol of good governance in the state. Stating that the gov-

ernment is spending huge amounts in public welfare, he expected the auditors to ensure right spending of public funds.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said that Odisha is best known for its financial prudence. He asked the auditors to ensure financial discipline.

Three new recruits Stephanie Mallia, Janmejaya Mahanta and Mamata Sahu shared their experience of recruitment process. They all appreciated the transparency and swiftness of the process that have helped them come out successful for their merit.

Interacting with the new recruits, Secretary to CM 5T VK Pandian told the auditors to follow similar transparency in their jobs the way they experienced in their recruitment. Narrating his experience with the Chief Minister, he spoke on how the Chief Minister gives priority to prudence in spending public money. He advised the auditors to follow the principles of the CM and ensure transparency and economy in public spending.

Inclusion can bolster effectiveness of BSKY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: An online study report released by City based civil society organisations (CSOs), titled "Implementation of BSKY Scheme in Odisha", revealed that inclusion of eligible beneficiaries and increasing awareness about the scheme, especially among rural communities, will bolster the Odisha government's "Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY)", a scheme that aims to provide universal health coverage to economically vulnerable families.

Conducted between July and August 2022, the study covered 12 districts (Malkangiri, Koraput,



Rayagada, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, and Mayurbhanj) of the state where the population is predominantly from tribal, dalit and other marginalized communities. Responses were collected from 20,128 people who were either the beneficiaries of the BSKY scheme or those who had been left

out for some reason. The survey findings reveal that almost 13.8 per cent (2,787) of the BSKY card holders have already received health services. The respondents have also highlighted several reasons they have not yet received the smart card issued under the flagship government scheme. Of the 20,128 respondents who participated in this survey,

9.5 per cent (1,907) of them said that their cards still lie at the Gram Panchayat (GP) office. 7 per cent (1,401) said that they do not have any information on where to go to receive the card and who will issue the card to them. Also, 3.5 per cent (710) respondents alleged that local authorities forced them to pay a bribe to get the BSKY card.

Respondents have highlighted several reasons for lack of access to health services under the BSKY scheme, such as the lack of awareness, lack of timely service, hospitals not extending services, not having time to take the opportunity, and not knowing how to use it.

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KHURDA-BOLANGIR RAIL ROUTE

Funds spent on project less than budgetary allocation



Bichhupali Railway station (inset)

Bolangir, Sept 8: The much-hyped Khurda-Bolangir rail route has turned into a project of neglect as the railways ministry is allegedly spending fewer funds on the project than what had been allocated in the Budgets, a report said.

₹1,941 crore allocated in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budgets has not been spent during last 20 years. This means only ₹1,673.97 crore has been spent on the construction of the rail route from 2003-04 till July of 2022-23 fiscal

₹1,941 crore allocated in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budgets has not been spent during last 20 years. This means only ₹1,673.97 crore has been spent on the construction of the rail route from 2003-04 till July of 2022-23 fiscal

but only ₹49.80 crore has been spent on the project till July, this financial year. ₹1,941 crore allocated in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budgets have not been spent during last 20 years.

A detailed analysis of the figures reveals that the plan outlay as earmarked in the Budget in contrast with continuous low spending has only confused the people in the district. Similarly, the state government has sanctioned only ₹303.63 crore in last seven years from 2016-17 till 2022-23 fiscal.

The land acquisition for the rail project is also moving at the same pace. Three categories of lands including government, private and forest are being acquired for the long-awaited project.

It has been over 30 years since the rail route received approval but land acquisition is yet to be completed fully for the project. The government land earmarked for the project is yet to be fully acquired. Similarly, 1,674.37 acre of land out of 1,844.40 acre of forest land is yet to receive stage-2 permission.

Reports said, only 170.03 acre of forest land has received stage-2 permission while 205.04 acre of forest land received stage-1 permission. The information obtained from the railways ministry said that trains will start plying on an experimental basis from Bichhupali to its next stoppage Jharatarava from October.

The distance between Bichhupali station and Jharatarava is only 10 km. It was earlier decided to make the two stations functional by 2021 but it is yet to be realised.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the plying of trains till Bichhupali, January 15, 2019. He had then said that the rail route works will be expedited. However, even the work for this 10-km stretch has not been completed within the deadline.

TRADITIONAL DANCE



Girls performed Sambalpur dance at a district-level Nuakhai Bhetghat programme jointly organised by District Culture Council and Samalei Nrutyakala Parishad on the premises of Town Hall in Paralakhemundi

Central team probes Korei MGNREGS scam

Korei, Sept 8: A Central team has started investigation into alleged irregularities in a number of projects executed under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Korei block of Jajpur district.

A GRS told the investigating team that a playground of the panchayat was upgraded under MGNREGS in 2018-19. Again, funds were sanctioned for upgradation of the same playground in 2020-21. However, a plaque detailing about project executed in 2018-19 was put up there while there was no information about the utilisation of funds sanctioned second time for the same project.

Revised list of Satkosia oustees to be prepared

Angul, Sept 8: As many as 21 families of Kataranga village located in the core area of Satkosia wildlife sanctuary in Angul district have been relocated long ago, but they have alleged of not receiving their compensation amounts and being deprived of their benefits.

India successfully test-fires QRSAM

Balasore, Sept 8: India has successfully completed six flight-tests of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast, as part of evaluation trials by the Army, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said Thursday.



establishing pin-point accuracy of the weapon system with state-of-the-art guidance and control algorithms, including warhead chain," the DRDO said in a statement.

figuration consisting of all indigenously-developed sub-systems, including the missile with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, mobile launcher, fully automated command and control system, surveillance and multi-function radars, the statement said.

The uniqueness of the QRSAM weapon system is that it can operate on the move with search and track capability, and fire on short halt, the DRDO said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh implemented the DRDO and Indian Army on the successful flight trials.

Brown sugar worth ₹1 crore seized, 1 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, Sept 8: One person was arrested and brown sugar worth over ₹1 crore seized from his possession in Balasore district Thursday, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the state police's Special Task Force conducted a raid in Arad Bazar area in Balasore town and nabbed the accused who hails from West Bengal, an officer said.

A total of 1.38 kg of brown sugar was seized from his possession, he said.

The accused is wanted in three drug smuggling cases, the officer said, adding further investigation is underway to nab other members of the network which is involved in drug smuggling.

Youth gets life term for murdering uncle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, Sept 8: A local court Thursday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment after convicting him for murder of his uncle, a temple priest, in 2018 at Dandara village under Bangomunda police limits in Bolangir district.

Ramesh Padhi, a priest of Dangarbudha temple at Punji Pathar along state highway-42 in the area. Aswini had chased and hacked his uncle to death with a sharp-edged weapon on the village road, January 15, 2018.

The court of additional district judge in Kantabanji handed down the punishment after examining the statements

recorded 27 witnesses and the police charge-sheet. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹1 lakh on him apart from the punishment.

In default, he has to undergo an additional 4 years of imprisonment, the court observed while adjudicating the case. Advocate Dukhishyam Guru pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR (MAYURBHANJ) "e" Procurement Notice for Building Works Bid Identification No. - RWDRRP - 08/2022-23

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-29072022-237693 C.G-DL-E-29072022-237693 EXTRAORDINARY PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii) प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 28, 2022/श्रावण 6, 1944 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022/SHRAVANA 6, 1944 MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION New Delhi, the 28th July, 2022 S.O. 3492(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km. 117 to Km. 136.5 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS-Bhadrak, Dist-Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA.

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship, take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



Multipolar Reality

Just over three decades ago, the Cold War ended, and former Soviet-bloc countries began their transitions to market economies, which enabled them to engage with the rest of the global economy. The world's division into three segments – advanced capitalist economies, centrally planned socialist economies, and the “Third World” – appeared increasingly outdated. It was not, as Francis Fukuyama famously put it, “the end of history,” but it was an economic and political breakthrough, and the beginning of the contemporary era of globalisation. Is that era now ending, as many claim?

The face of globalisation has changed significantly since those early years. While economic and political globalisation initially went hand in hand, economic globalisation soon pulled ahead. We now have a globalised economy but without an effective system of global governance. The European Union shows what an integrated economy with advanced policy-coordination mechanisms looks like. But the institutions that were supposed to do this on a global scale – such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, and the World Health Organisation – lack adequate instruments for economic-policy coordination.

As a result, the divergence between political and economic globalisation is not only growing; it has lately begun to look like a clash. A political backlash against “globalism” in many countries seems set to unravel three decades of economic integration. But looks can be deceiving.

It is true that political globalisation is in retreat, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new cold war between the United States and China, and the hot war in Ukraine, which spurred the imposition of harsh sanctions on Russia. It is also true that these shocks have caused severe economic disruptions; they have hampered the production and distribution of goods and services, obstructed technology transfer, tested international financial arrangements, and undermined multilateral cooperation.

Moreover, public opinion has increasingly turned against globalisation, which many mistakenly blame for trends like accelerating inflation and deepening income inequality. This has often led policymakers to eschew pragmatism in favour of populism and protectionism – the nemeses of global economic openness.

But politicians, media commentators, and economists have been far too hasty in predicting the demise of globalisation. In fact, economic globalisation has only temporarily lost its momentum. Despite its drawbacks, globalisation supports economic growth, not least by enabling cross-border trade, which enables producers to take advantage of economies of scale. Recent shocks have strained, not doomed, global supply chains.

Likewise, cross-border capital flows, including portfolio and direct investment, support efficiency by enabling resources to reach places where they can be used more profitably. Though the pandemic and the Ukraine war are affecting these flows, the world is big enough to absorb liquid savings. A capital surplus somewhere will soon be used elsewhere.

Furthermore, despite the apparent shift in public sentiment against globalisation, the connections that support it – such as tourism and sport – are alive and well. While these spheres are under stress, people's enduring desire to travel and connect will continue to facilitate demand and growth.

Ultimately, economic globalisation is irreversible. After this period of turbulence – and the difficult social, cultural, demographic, and technological adjustments it entails – greater openness will win out. This process will be hindered, however, as long as political globalisation fails to keep up.

The world is currently at risk of splitting into two separate blocs: one led by the US and the EU, and the other dominated by China and Russia. The Economist Intelligence Unit predicts that these blocs “will cement themselves into the geopolitical landscape and use economic and military levers to court countries that are not aligned with either side.”

But, even if such a split does occur, confrontation is not inevitable. The two groupings can compete and cooperate peacefully, without reaching for “military levers” (which, in any case, could be rendered useless if economic levers are used well). The key is a more effective form of political globalisation.

The EU will be critical here; it does not have to take sides in the Sino-American rivalry, and could thus play a central role in both blocs. China, for its part, should seize the opportunity to strengthen its international standing.

As for Russia, it will see its stature significantly diminished, owing to its despicable aggression against Ukraine. Nonetheless, the country should not be excluded from global economic exchanges; Russia is simply too big to be ignored, let alone “canceled.” Meanwhile, African countries, as well as India, will play an increasingly significant role in the global geopolitical game.

This points to an unavoidable feature of future political globalisation: multipolarity. If forthcoming summits – from the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt – are to be successful, participants must accept that the days when one or two powers could impose their will on the rest are over.

Regional initiatives – such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity – can also provide political scaffolding for economic globalisation. Business – a natural ally of economic globalisation, and thus an enemy of political deglobalisation – should work harder to support these processes.

Shortsighted politics can be allowed to override economic pragmatism for only so long. The cascading challenges humanity faces can be managed, but only with enlightened political leadership capable of providing the kind of strategic vision needed to support economic globalisation and achieve social and ecological balance.

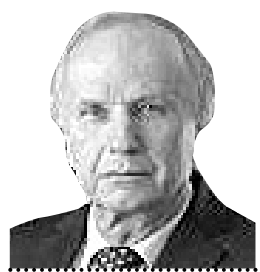
The writer is a former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Poland.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



DK Giri

SHEIKH HASINA'S INCLINATION TOWARD INDIA IS OBVIOUS, BUT THE CHALLENGE IS TO BUILD SOLID RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES OF BOTH COUNTRIES



Grzegorz W. Kolodko

The divergence between political and economic globalisation is not only growing; it has lately begun to look like a clash

FOCUS HASINA IN INDIA

REAFFIRMING TIES

Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, arrived in India last Monday on a four-day visit. This is her fourth visit as the Prime Minister and seventh as an individual and the Opposition leader. This visit signals to renew and reaffirm ties between India and Bangladesh, especially as Hasina, though a friend of India historically, is criticised for her recent pro-China tilt.

The current backdrop to India-Bangladesh bilateral negotiations is the growth of the economies of both countries. India has just overtaken the United Kingdom as the fifth largest economy of the world after USA, China, Japan and Germany. Likewise, Bangladesh also has graduated to the rank of a middle-income country in 2021. But the latter has run into rough weather owing to the international situation mainly sparked by the war in Ukraine. Energy and food prices were soaring causing widespread protests; the depletion of foreign currency reserve has made crucial imports prohibiting; the import orders from the West on garment has hit the industry, which is the largest in the country; the skyrocketing demand for wheat has made Bangladesh the fifth largest wheat importer in the world.

On the other hand, although India's economy is growing, New Delhi is facing political and security issues in the neighbourhood which are largely instigated by China; be it Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, Bangladesh and of course, Pakistan, which has become almost a vassal state for China. The recent floods although have made Pakistan rethink its neighbourhood policies. In this atmosphere of hostility and poaching of neighbours by Beijing, New Delhi would like to have friendly neighbours. Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina has been a steady and consistent friend.

During the Sheikh Hasina's last



In this atmosphere of hostility and poaching of neighbours by Beijing, New Delhi would like to have friendly neighbours. Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina has been a steady and consistent friend

visit in 2019, both the countries had signed seven pacts. In this visit also seven memorandums have been inked between India and Bangladesh in the areas of railways, science and space technology and broadcasting, among others. These memorandums were signed after extensive discussion on bilateral issues related to water, trade, economic ties and regional and global issues. The MOUs were significantly signed in the presence of both the Prime Ministers.

Across Asia, India is the biggest market for exports from Bangladesh. In order to deepen bilateral trade, both sides hinted at initiating discussions on a bilateral Economic Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which is expected to raise Bangladesh exports to India twofold and enhance the country's GDP by at least two percent.

There was, however, a concern from Bangladesh to rectify the wide asymmetry in the bilateral trade. Bangladesh exports 1.9 billion USD worth of goods to India and imports 16.15 billion USD from India. Sheikh Hasina and her team

of ministers accompanying her would like to at least partly balance the trade disparity. This would help her answer the domestic critics, who argue that their country importing 600 million USD of rice, mostly parboiled was a sign of India's overarching shadow on the country's economy.

The statement by Narendra Modi should lift the spirits of Bangladeshis. He said: “The trade between India and Bangladesh is increasing rapidly. We have decided to extend cooperation in the IT, space and nuclear sectors. Talks are also underway on power transmission lines.”

On the political front, the indication coming from the joint statement was that the common ground for understanding and cooperation was growing between two countries. Both leaders were full of appreciation of each other as they resolved to fight common threats of cross-border terrorism, radicalisation and COVID-like pandemics. Hasina reaffirmed that India is the most important and closest neighbour of Bangladesh. She extolled the bi-

lateralism between the two countries as the ‘role model for neighbourhood diplomacy’. Quite an assertion that! She attributed this to the visionary leadership of Modi that continues to add momentum to the bilateral relations. Modi reciprocated the goodwill for India and appreciation of his leadership. He said that Bangladesh had witnessed rapid development under the guidance of Hasina. “It is our biggest trade partner in the region and we share strong cultural ties,” he added. Remember that Hasina has been at the helm for 13 years. Although she has faced stiff opposition from her rival party BNP who even called her ‘a proxy of India’, it is under Hasina, the same radicalised elements suffered the biggest electoral setback – outright public rejection.

Sheikh Hasina looks to India as a friend and mentor owing to the strong historical inks from the days to liberation of her country. She herself had sought political asylum in India for six years upto 1981. Her family has had a 70-year-old link with the 12th-century shrine in Ajmer. The Chistis of the shrine have been the hereditary priests of Hasina family. Her father Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the founder of Bangladesh, had visited the shrine in 1957.

Sheikh Hasina's inclination toward India is obvious, but the challenge is to build solid relations between peoples of both countries. India should not repeat the mistake committed in Nepal by supporting the part of the population, the Madhesis. Each country requires a specially calibrated strategy. In Pakistan it is the government which is antagonistic unlike in Bangladesh where it is the people. New Delhi should see such nuances in the neighbourhood diplomacy.

The writer is Professor, International Relations, JIMMC.

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SPECTRUM POLITICS

The J & K divide gets deeper

It has been an ongoing debate for more than seven decades and it is about Kashmir's dominance in the erstwhile state of J&K with Jammu and Ladakh feeling neglected. Three years ago, this was ended with the stripping away of the special status and freeing Ladakh, but the divide between the other two constituents of the erstwhile state has gone deeper. A stark manifestation of the divide is the difference in the political preferences and ideologies of the two regions.

It was in 2014 that Jammu overwhelmingly voted for the BJP for the first time in the erstwhile state's history. For the BJP, the chinks in the Kashmir-centred politics were deep enough to strike its roots in Jammu and today, eight years on, the party's growth has been tremendous. What happened in 2014 was repeated in the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. The BJP won two LS seats in Jammu and also improved its vote share in the sensitive border state – from 34.40% in 2014 to 46.4% in 2019. Making its political preference clear, Jammu struck back at what it perceived as Kashmir's dominance and discrimination by negating Farooq Abdullah's National Conference, the Congress and other Kashmir-based parties.

The difference between the two regions is too apparent. It is rooted in religion, ideology, language and culture. In power sharing, the Kashmiris had always dominated

the erstwhile state's politics. The NC since its inception has essentially represented the regional patriotism of Kashmir. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's PDP is viewed as being tilted towards separatists and other parties too have traditionally confined their activities around the regional patriotism of Kashmir. The feeling of deprivation in Jammu has always been about political empowerment. The seeds of political disempowerment were sown with the distribution of seats for the State Constituent Assembly by Sheikh Abdullah's government in 1951. Out of the 75 Assembly seats, Kashmir got 43, Jammu was given 30 and two went to Ladakh. Jammu, and even Ladakh, therefore were not properly represented in the power structure and that only ensured concentration of power in the hands of Kashmiri politicians, which also meant that no person from Jammu or Ladakh could ever become the Chief Minister of J&K. The only time that a person from Jammu became the state CM was Ghulam Nabi Azad, who hails from Jammu's Baderwah town. As Kashmir took away the lion's share of all investments, and even received more attention from the Centre, Jammu's feeling of neglect grew over the years. This was accentuated by the advent of terrorism and the forcible exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, who took refuge in Hindu-dominated Jammu. Even as the discrimination

was sought to be portrayed as a “myth” by Kashmir-based parties, four commissions – Gajendragadkar Commission (1967), Qadri Commission (1972), Sikri Commission (1979) and Wazir Commission (1981) – were constituted to look into the complaints.

The commissions dealing with regional disparities and inter-regional animosity, particularly the Gajendragadkar Commission, admitted injustice to Jammu region. The Sikri Commission had preciously noted the injustices meted out to Jammu by stating that there existed “discrimination and favouritism in the fields of development, employment and education in the context of different regions, which was giving rise to irritation and tension among the people of the state.” Whether the discrimination by Kashmir-based rulers was deliberate in view of religious and cultural differences cannot be ascertained, but it created a wall of distrust that has grown over the years. The Modi wave, which overtook the country in 2014, overwhelmed Jammu as well, which gave the BJP a historic 25 seats. The divide was further deepened after the abrogation of Article 370, which has given state citizenship to lakhs of displaced persons and refugees, who had been denied this right by the previous governments, fearing a change in election dynamics. In the last three decades, as Kashmir was overtaken by ter-

rorism, Jammu saw a rise of the Right wing. The situation is such that any incident gets a religion and Jammu vs Kashmir colour. The rape of an 8-year-old girl in Jammu's Kathua was not treated as a crime, but took a communal colour.

Today, when talks of Assembly elections have started doing the rounds, communal and regional politics have also started taking the centre stage. The BJP may think it is well-placed in Jammu, but there are pockets where Muslims are present in sizable numbers. After the carving out of new Assembly segments, these Muslim voters will play a decisive role in 10 out of the 43 seats in Jammu, while in 47 seats in the Valley, the BJP may still not be able to open its account. In most of these 10 seats, Ghulam Nabi Azad, who has left the Congress to form his own party, can play a key role. Given that Azad has been praising PM Modi of late, a congenial atmosphere may be created. If that happens, Azad may be able to bridge the gap between Jammu and Kashmir.

The highly-anticipated Assembly elections, whenever they are held, will give a new political direction to the Union Territory. The divide has helped the BJP to establish itself in Jammu even as the Kashmir-based parties are trying to play regional patriotism to their advantage.

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Deepika Bhan

A STARK MANIFESTATION OF THE DIVIDE IS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE POLITICAL PREFERENCES AND IDEOLOGIES OF THE TWO REGIONS

WORDSWORTH

Blackmail

This common word looks weird because we no longer know the relevant meaning of the second part. It has nothing to do with mail delivered by the postal carrier, which is from Old French male, for a wallet (the word transferred from the pouch carried by a messenger to the things carried in the pouch). Nor is it linked to the chain mail of medieval knights; this comes from Latin macula for a spot or mesh, referring to the individual metal bits of the mail. (So blackmail, despite what you sometimes read, has nothing to do with medieval knights' chain mail turning black as ghastly retribution for dishonourable deeds.) The mail in blackmail (at various times also spelled mail, male and in other ways) is an old Scots word for rent. This was usually paid in what was often called white money, silver coins. It comes from Old Norse mal, meaning an agreement, later a contract, and then the payment specified by the contract. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries chieftains in the highlands of Scotland and along the border between Scotland and England ran protection rackets in which they threatened farmers with pillage and worse if they didn't pay up. This amounted to an informal tax or extra rent and the farmers, with twisted humour, thought of it as the opposite of the legitimate white money or white mail that they paid. Black has for many centuries been associated with the dark side of human activities, hence blackmail. The term was extended in the nineteenth century to other ways of extorting money with menaces, and in particular to the threat of exposing a person's secrets.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Seat belt for safety

Sir, It has been widely reported that not wearing seat belts was the primary reason for the deaths of Tata Group's former chairman Cyrus Mistry and the fellow passenger when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident near Palghar, Maharashtra. Seat belt is the most effective injury-prevention device in a four-wheeler. Though there are many accident-preventing systems in place like tyre pressure monitoring, lane departure, and back-up cameras, wearing a seat belt is still the best defence against injury and it doubles the chances of survival in a serious car accident. Talking about airbags, which has been brought to focus in the wake of Mistry's car crash, one of the most common excuses people give for not wearing a seat belt is that the airbags in their car offer enough protection in an accident. This is completely wrong. Airbags are designed to work in conjunction with seat belts to reduce injuries and deaths, and at the most they are only supplemental restraints. Succinctly put, airbags are designed wholly with the premise that you will wear a seat belt while travelling in a four-wheeler.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Nasal COVID vaccine

Sir, It is remarkable and praiseworthy that India's first intranasal anti-COVID vaccine, made by Bharat Biotech, has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India. The new BBV154 recombinant vaccine, which was created especially for intranasal administration without the need for needles, will now be used to administer the primary immunisations to those over the age of 18 for restricted use in emergency situations. The nasal vaccine was developed for India by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis, and it was finally licensed to Bharat Biotech in India. It has been established that BBV154 is immunogenic, tolerable, and secure. Immunoglobulin A, which is more frequently produced in response to nasal vaccines, serves as the immune system's first line of defence against diseases. Compared to the current intramuscular vaccines, nasal vaccinations are more effective at lowering the likelihood of disease transmission from person to person and offer long-lasting protection against the virus. Nasal vaccines have the potential to generate even more immunity than current vaccines. Experts believe that nasal immunisation may also help to shorten the duration of COVID and lower overall coronavirus transmission. Further clinical trials should be accelerated, and steps should be taken to ensure that the vaccine is soon accessible to the public.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

FORECAST OF MORE RAIN IN KARNATAKA

Like the state capital Bangalore, torrential rains have caused havoc in different parts of Karnataka, with overflowing rivulets and floods affecting normal life, and causing damage to life and properties. Forecast of more rains and overcast skies since early Thursday morning with slight drizzle has caused worry among citizens of rain-battered Bengaluru, who were preparing to get back to routine, after some respite the previous day and water level in flooded areas receding slowly.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE: BJP MLAs WRITE TO CBI

Delhi BJP MLAs have written a letter to the CBI urging the agency to take cognisance of the "sting operation" video released by the party early this week in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. They said the "sting operation" video has exposed the Aam Aadmi Party which claims to be "hardcore honest".

national

SC to begin hearing from Sept 13

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

EWS QUOTA



the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions in relation to admission to private unaided institutions?

And, can the amendment be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution also in excluding

the SEBCS/OBCs/SCs/STs from the scope of EWS reservation?

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit said the three issues suggested by the AG broadly covered all the aspects raised in the petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the 103rd Constitutional amendment.

The bench, also comprising justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S. Ravindra Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi and JB Pardiwala, noted the issues framed by several counsels and then decided to take up the three questions framed by the AG as the core issues to be decided.

The bench scheduled the batch of pleas filed by the NGO 'Janhit Abhiyan' and others for hearing from September 13. Senior advo-

cate P. Wilson, Sanjay Parikh and other counsels suggested their own issues for adjudication by the court.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan submitted that there are nearly 55 such issues, which were suggested by the counsels representing various parties in the matter.

The Centre had earlier told the apex court that a 10 per cent EWS quota was introduced to promote social equality by providing equal opportunities in higher education and employment to those who were excluded due to their economic status.

A three-judge bench of the apex court in August 2020 had referred the pleas questioning its validity to the Constitution bench.

"Jagan unhappy" talks trigger Cabinet revamp speculation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Sept 8: Political circles in Andhra Pradesh are abuzz with speculation of a reshuffle of the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led cabinet, with the ruling YSRCP and opposition TDP having a go at each other over the issue.

Reddy was reportedly unhappy over his ministers' response to certain charges by the opposition TDP involving his family and made known his displeasure to them at a cabinet meeting Thursday.

Information Minister Ch S V Gopala Krishna is learnt to have asked the Information Commissioner T V K Reddy to



hereafter send him cuttings of all adverse press reports daily morning so that he could issue a rebuttal. In this backdrop, talks are doing the rounds that the CM may revamp his Cabinet in November, by dropping at least three or four ministers. Earlier in April this year the AP Council of Ministers was reorganised when about half

the then incumbents were dropped and fresh faces inducted. TDP MLC and general secretary Nara Lokesh took to Twitter to take a dig at Reddy on the issue.

"Why change them (ministers) that many times? It will be enough if you are replaced," Lokesh commented. YSRCP leader and Former Information Minister Perri Venkataramaiah (Nani) hit back at Lokesh over the tweet. "How did you become minister (in 2017)? Don't you remember that five ministers had to be removed to accommodate you in the Cabinet?" Nani asked Lokesh. It would be better for Lokesh to tweet that as well, the YSRCP spokesman added.

New Delhi, Sept 8: The Supreme Court said Thursday that from September 13 it will begin hearing the petitions challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitutional amendment, enacted in 2019, to provide 10 per cent quota to economically weaker sections (EWS) in jobs and education.

Attorney General (AG) KK Venugopal suggested some key issues -- whether the 103rd Constitutional amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria?

Whether the 103rd Constitution amendment can be said to breach

भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office
ए/3, चंद्रशेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur
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No.5-ORC164/2013-BHU 17th September, 2021

To
**The Addl. Chief Secretary,
 Forest & Environment Deptt.,
 Government of Odisha,
 Bhubaneswar - 751001.**

Sub:- **Diversion of 21.52 ha of forest land in Uliburu Reserve Forest (including 2.107 ha for safety zone) for iron ore mining in Bagaiburu Iron Ore Mines by M/s Orissa Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. in Keonjhar district, Odisha during 3rd RML period.**

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No. 10F (Cons) 43/20 13-4940/F&E dated 07.03.2013 and No.22925/F&E dated 07.11.2013, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 21.52 ha of forest land in Uliburu Reserve Forest (including 2.107 ha for safety zone) for iron ore mining in Bagaiburu Iron Ore Mines by M/s Orissa Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. in Keonjhar district, Odisha during 3rd RML period, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of recommendation of State Advisory Group meeting held on 09.04.2013, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 21.11.2013, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.10609/9F(MG)159/2009 dated 29.05.2020 and No.15033 dated 03.09.2021, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 21.52 ha of forest land in Uliburu Reserve Forest (including 2.107 ha for safety zone) for iron ore mining in Bagaiburu Iron Ore Mines by M/s Orissa Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. in Keonjhar district, Odisha during 3rd RML period, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land.

- i. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006.
- ii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.
- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the forest area diverted, the CA areas, the proposed SMC work and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to user agency.

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency.

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The State Govt, shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Compensatory afforestation over 2.45 ha of non-forest land identified in Plot No.42/171/218 of Khata No.24/2 of village Champajhar of Banspal Tahasil under Keonjhar District within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Penal Compensatory Afforestation over 43.04 ha of degraded forest land identified in Uliburu Reserved Forest of Barbil Range under Keonjhar Forest Division within three years from the issue of approval as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter, from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account.

- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the species to be planted under C.A./Penal C.A. shall be indigenous to the area and naturally growing species shall be planted using intensive planting technique to ensure survival of the plantation. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals. These reports shall be communicated to IRO periodically.
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall pay towards cost of removal of trees enumerated before commencement of work and tree felling should be taken up in phased manner strictly as per requirement under the supervision of State Forest Department.
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department shall implement the approved Regional Wildlife Management Plan from the funds deposited in CAMPA account by the user agency.
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department and user agency shall implement the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan from the funds deposited in CAMPA account by the user agency.
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall undertake peripheral development activities in surrounding villages specially preventive health services, sanitation, drinking water augmentation with de-silting of village tanks and other water bodies located within 5 Km from the mining lease boundary.
- ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the area of 2.107 ha of forest land to be maintained as safety zone and it shall not be used for mining or any other allied activities in future.
- x. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- xi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the mining lease holder shall, after ceasing mining operation, undertake re-grassing the mining area, and any other areas which have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
- xii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency must start utilizing minerals having more than 45% Fe content within 3 years from the date of Stage-II clearance.
- xiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the approved scheme for fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area shall be implemented within three years at the project cost. Besides this afforestation on identified degraded forest land equal to one and a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done by the user agency at their cost under supervision of State Forest Department.
- xiv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4) located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease.
- xv. The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under.
- xvi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the user agency from the very first year and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha and to Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the Annual Report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the user agency, the Nodal Officer (FCA) or the Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.
- xvii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the following approved schemes/activities shall be undertaken by the user agency at the project cost:
 - a. A plan containing appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams shall be implemented.
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within lease to arrest soil erosion.
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°.
 - e. The State Govt./user agency shall ensure progressive mine closure/reclamation plan for regular use of top soil making the space allotted for top soil sufficient for storage. A minimum of half meter top soil may be stored and be maintained in sweet condition and shall be used during reclamation/land use planning.
 - f. The top soil should be removed and placed at a designated protected place with due care to protect the fertile component of the soil. The grass or other annual species may be planted to ensure intactness of minerals and germ plasm of the top soil.
 - g. The sub soil should also be removed and kept separately and used in reclamation in a way that sub soil is placed beneath the top soil.
 - h. The quantity of top soil and sub-soil excavated every year may be informed to Integrated Regional Office and proper record be maintained accordingly.
- xviii. The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xix. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xx. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xxi. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xxii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- xxiii. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xxiv. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during mining be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xxv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xxvi. The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxvii. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order(s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxviii. It may please note that violation of any of these conditions will be amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per Para 1.21 of Chapter-I of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

**Yours faithfully,
 Sd./- (Padma Mahanti)
 Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)**

Kingsway to Kartavya Path: Journey of majestic Rajpath

The ceremonial boulevard of the national capital running from the Raisina Hill complex to India Gate began its journey as Kingsway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: From witnessing the dawn of Independence to playing host to annual Republic Day celebrations for over seven decades, the historic Rajpath in

India's power capital has seen the colonial rule and basked in the glory of a free, democratic nation.

The ceremonial boulevard of the national capital running from the Raisina Hill complex to India

Gate began its journey as Kingsway, a majestic central axis in the heart of New Delhi that was built here after the imperial seat of the administration was shifted from Calcutta (now Kolkata) as announced by British monarch King George V in 1911.

Soon after Independence, Kingsway was renamed to Rajpath and Queensway running perpendicular to it was

rechristened as Janpath.

Now, Rajpath has been renamed as Kartavya Path as Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday inaugurated the newly-christened stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate as part of the revamped Central Vista Avenue.

On December 15, 1911, King George V and his consort Queen Mary laid the foundation stone of the 'new capital' of the British Raj.

In consonance with the vision of the king, architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker built the new capital city, whose grandeur and architectural splendour rivalled the best of the cities in Europe and America.

The centrepiece of this new capital was the Raisina Hill complex, housing the majestic Viceroy's House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan) and North Block and South Block forming the Imperial Secretariat.

A grand axis was laid from the Great Place (later renamed to Vijay Chowk) to India Gate by the architects with verdant lawns, fountains and ornamental lamp-posts on both sides, forming the resplendent Central Vista Avenue.

Baker created a circular Parliament House near the Rashtrapati Bhavan which was inaugurated by the then Viceroy Lord Irwin in January 1927.



The city, constructed between the two World Wars and which took over 20 years to build, was inaugurated February 13, 1931 by the same viceroy.

On India's Independence August 15, 1947, the boulevard from Raisina Hill to India Gate was chock-a-block with people, welcoming the dawn of a free India which shook off the yoke of a long colonial rule.

India then became a Republic January 26, 1950, and Rajpath has been the venue of all Republic Day celebrations since 1951.

Only the first Republic Day celebration was held at Irwin Stadium (now Captain Dhyan Chand National Stadium) behind India Gate complex, where the

Rajpath stretch ends.

The Rajpath and the Central Vista lawns flanking the promenade were officially renamed as Kartavya Path, as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) approved the renaming and issued a public notice in this regard Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, who is also a member of the NDMC, Wednesday said that Rajpath was known as Kingsway during the British rule, while Janpath was known as Queensway.

However, after 75 years of independence, it is felt that the name of Rajpath needs to be changed, in tune with the values and prin-

ciples of democracy and a contemporary, new India. The Kartavya Path will also inspire everyone who visit or cross the road to perform their duties towards the country, the society and their families, she said.

NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay said the proposal was received from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

On Thursday, Modi also unveiled the 28-ft statue of Bose at India Gate, housed in its ornamental canopy. The famed canopy, standing on four columns of the Delhi Order devised by Lutyens for the new capital's main buildings sitting on the Raisina Hill complex radially opposite the India Gate on an long and wide axis - Rajpath, had been lying empty since the statue of King George V was removed in 1968 and later dumped at Coronation Park in northwest Delhi, ironically the site of the 1911 coronation durbar.

The imposing marble statue of King George V housed under an ornamental canopy facing India Gate was unveiled in 1939 by the then Viceroy Lord Linlithgow as a fitting memorial to the British monarch under whose reign the capital of 'New Delhi' was built, according to archival records.

'Symbol of slavery Rajpath now consigned to history'



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said if India had followed the path shown by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, then it would have reached new heights and asserted that Rajpath, a symbol of slavery during the British Raj has now been consigned to history.

Speaking after unveiling a 28-foot statue of Netaji and inaugurat-

ing Kartavya Path, the stretch of road from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate earlier known as Rajpath, Modi said the renaming has given the country a new energy and inspiration.

He said that Kingsway or Rajpath, a symbol of slavery, has now been consigned to history and has been erased forever.

If India had followed path shown

by Subhas Chandra Bose, then country would have reached a new high; sadly he was forgotten, he said. Netaji's statue at India Gate will now inspire and guide us, Modi said. The revamped stretch is part of the Modi government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project. "We took many decisions in the last eight years which have imprints of Netaji's ideals and dreams," said Modi.

He also said that the changes undertaken by the government are not just limited to symbols but are now part of policies.

He thanked workers involved in the development of Kartavya Path and said that they not only built it but also showed others way of 'kartavya' (duty).

Makeover of terrorist Yakub Menon's grave starts political brawl

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 8: Seven years after terrorist Yakub Abdul Razzak Memon was hanged to death in 2015, a major political controversy ignited over the reported 'make-over' of his grave at the Bada Qabran in south Mumbai, here Thursday.

Following an uproar and a political free-for-all among Bharatiya Janata Party, Shiv Sena, Congress and Nationalist Congress Party, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis ordered a probe into the matter. Memon, 53, a CA, was found guilty and convicted for his role in the March 12, 1993 Mumbai blasts, and hanged in Nagpur Central Jail on July 30 (2015) - his birthdate - after all his pleas for pardon/clemency up to the President were rejected.

The original earthen grave, where Memon was buried, recently got a face-lift with a gleaming marble grave coming up there, amid flood-lighting - and apprehensions - that the terrorist's final resting place would soon become a 'mazar' (mausoleum).

Acting swiftly, the Mumbai Police Thursday yanked off the lighting arrangements in Bada Qabran this morning, as a grave political dogfight erupted among all the major parties for allegedly allowing the revamp there.

NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar said that there cannot be glorification of any terrorist and the beautification of Memon's grave should not be permitted.

Blaming its bete-noire and ex-ally Shiv Sena, BJP Spokesperson Ram Kadam asked why the ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray kept silent when Memon's grave was being converted into a shrine.

"Thackeray was the (then) CM and during his period the grave was turned into a shrine. This is their patriotism and love for Mumbai? Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the people of Mumbai," Kadam demanded. Hitting back, Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande dismissed the BJP's allegations and said when Memon was hanged, the BJP government was in power both in the Centre and state - here Devendra Fadnis was the CM and also home minister.

"Why did he allow Memon's body to be handed over to his family? What prevented the BJP government in the Centre and state to formulate a policy on how to deal with the mortal remains of terror convicts or other dreaded criminals," Dr Kayande asked.

While Afzal Guru was executed in February 2013 in the Tihar Jail of Delhi, Pakistani extremist Ajmal Kasab was hanged in Yerawada Central Jail in Pune.



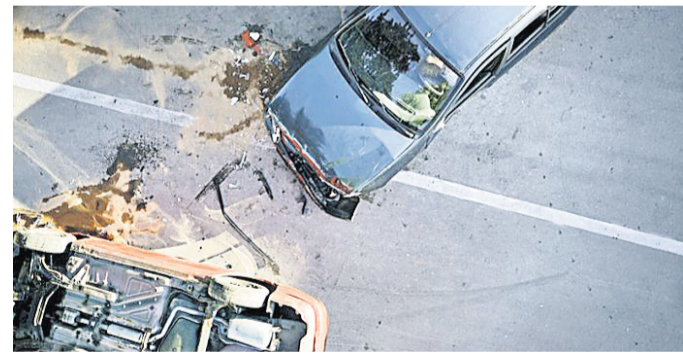
RAIN IN MUMBAI



Pedestrians holding umbrellas walk down a road during monsoon rains in Mumbai, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Maha sees over 59K fatalities due to road accidents in 5 yrs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: More than 59,000 people have died and 80,000 seriously injured in road accidents in Maharashtra in less than five years, the data released by the highway police revealed.

The state has witnessed 59,308 deaths in road accidents since the beginning of 2018, including 9,121

fatalities reported between January and July this year, it stated.

As per the data, at least 13,261 people died in road crashes in 2018, 12,788 in 2019, 11,569 in 2020 and 13,528 in 2021.

The road casualties have come into focus after the recent high-profile accidents witnessed on state roads.

Former Tata Group chairman

Cyrus Mistry was killed in a car crash on Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway near Palghar Sunday, while Shiv Sangram Party leader and former member of Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) Vinayak Mete died in an accident on Mumbai-Pune Expressway last month.

Maharashtra reported 35,717 accidents in 2018, followed by 32,925 in 2019, 24,971 in 2020, 29,477 in 2021 and 19,677 in the last seven months, the data highlights.

The data also revealed that 20,335 people were seriously injured in accidents in 2018, followed by 19,152 in 2019, 13,971 in 2020, 16,073 in 2021 and 11,584 between January and July, this year.

As per the economic survey of Maharashtra 2021-22, with 4.09 crore vehicles on roads January 1 this year, the state has 128 vehicles per kilometer of road length.

28-ft Bose statue one of India's monolithic, handmade sculptures

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 8: The 28-foot-tall towering statue of Netaji, which was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of the tallest, realistic, monolithic, handmade sculptures in India. A 100-foot-long truck with 140 wheels was specially designed for this monolithic granite stone to travel the 1,665 kms from Khammam in Telangana to New Delhi.

Officials of the Ministry of Culture said that the grand statue of Netaji has been carved from a monolithic block of granite weighing 280 MT. After 26,000 man hours of intense artistic endeavour, the granite monolith was chiselled to produce a statue weighing 65 MT. The statue is completely hand sculpted using traditional techniques and modern tools. The team of sculptors for executing the statue was led by Arun Yogiraj.

The statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose unveiled by the Prime Minister was installed in the same place where a hologram statue of Netaji was unveiled earlier this year on Parakram Diwas (January 23) by him to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji.

The Prime Minister's arrival at the canopy for the unveiling of the statue of Netaji was heralded with traditional Manipuri Shankh Vadayam and Kerala's traditional Panch Vadayam and Chanda. The unveiling of the statue of Netaji was accompanied to the tune of Kadam

The team of sculptors for executing the statue was led by Arun Yogiraj. After 26,000 man hours of intense artistic endeavour, a 280 MT granite monolith was chiselled to produce a statue weighing 65 MT

Kadam Badhaye jaa, the traditional INA song.

To demonstrate the spirit of Ek Bharat - Shrestha Bharat and Unity in Diversity, a cultural festival by 500 dancers drawn from all parts of the country, was showcased on the Kartavya Path. The glimpse of the same was shown to the Prime Minister on the step Amphitheatre near India Gate by around 30 artists who performed tribal folk art forms such as Sambalpuri, Panthi, Kalbelia, Kargam and dummy horse with live music by Nashik Dhol Pathik Tasha and Drums. Mangalgaan penned by Padma Bhushan Pt. Shrikrishna Ratanjankarji on the auspicious occasion of 1st Independence Day of India in 1947 was presented by Pt. Suhas Vashi along with a team of singers and musicians. A special 10 minute Drone Show on Netaji's life would be projected at India Gate at 8.00 pm September 9, 10 & 11.



28-ft statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose after its inauguration as part of the revamped Central Vista, in New Delhi, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Delhi to become 'city of lakes'; will act as tourist spots: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday said Delhi would soon become a city of lakes, which would act as tourist spots.

Elaborating on Kejriwal's announcement, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the government was undertaking rejuvenation and beautification of 50 lakes in the city.

Sisodia also took stock of the work at Sannoth Lake in Bawana in northwest Delhi.

In order to make Arvind Kejriwal's Delhi a city of lakes, I took stock of the work being done to restore and beautify Sannoth Lake.



With lakhs of litres of treated water daily, the dried up Sannoth

Lake is being transformed into one of the most beautiful picnic

spots of Delhi," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi.

He added that this project would also address Delhi's water shortage issue. Fifty such lakes that have lost their identity are being restored and this will enable recharge of groundwater and also address the problem of water shortage. Once this project is completed, Delhiites will be able to come here with their families and marvel at the beauty, Sisodia tweeted.

Quote-tweeting Sisodia's tweet, Kejriwal said, "After becoming 'city of tirangas', Delhi is set to become 'city of lakes'. Soon, we will have so many beautiful lakes across Delhi. They will act as refreshing spots for local people and tourist spot for outsiders."

of the day quote

You all know that the Centre has come up with the 'Amrit Sarovar' scheme. The road, transport and highway ministry can do great work in addressing the water woe

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER FOR ROAD, TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY

After two years, (assembly) elections will be held in Haryana and this (bypoll) is a trailer. We are sitting in Adampur and the by-election will take place in four months. Give one chance to Kejriwal. If I am not able to change Haryana, then kick me out

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

May the spirit of Onam bring peace, prosperity & happiness in everyone's lives

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Fresh flood threat in AP

Amravati: Incessant rains for the past few days in the upper catchment areas of Karnataka have left the major rivers in Andhra Pradesh swollen, causing a fresh round of floods in the Krishna and Penna basins. With the two major reservoirs - Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar - filled to the brim, over 3.67 lakh cusecs (cubic feet per second of water flow) of floodwater is being discharged in river Krishna.

Terror module busted in Punjab

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police Thursday claimed to have busted a terror module with the arrest of three people, including the prime accused in the Kurukshetra improvised explosive device case. Police also recovered an IED containing RDX weighing 1.5 kg along with a detonator, two pistols, eight live cartridges and a bike from them.

17 injured after bus overturns

Raisen (MP): Seventeen passengers were injured after their bus overturned in Jamunia Ghat in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district Thursday, a police official said. The incident took place at 4pm when the bus was on its way from Begumganj to Devri, said Silwani police station in charge Ramsujan Pandey.



I, Nitish Kumar, Hemant Soren and many others will come together in 2024. All opposition parties will join hands to defeat the BJP. All of us will be on one side and the BJP on the other. The BJP's arrogance of 300 seats will be its nemesis. There will be 'Khela Hobe' in 2024

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

RAILWAYS EYES ₹30K CRORE REVENUE FROM NEW POLICY

The Railways expects an incremental revenue of at least ₹30,000 crore per annum from freight services when 300 Gati Shakti cargo terminals will be operational, senior officials said Thursday



Onam celebrated with much pomp and gaiety

Onam is a festival connected with the return of Asura (demon) King Mahabali, under whose reign everyone lived in happiness and equality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 8 (PTI) Onam was celebrated with pomp and gaiety in Kerala on Thursday after its celebration in the last two years were marred by the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

In 2018 and 2019 also, Onam celebrations were dampened by the devastating floods in parts of the state.

Unlike the previous two years, people were not confined to their homes and celebrated Thiruvonam, whose highlight is the sumptuous 'sadhya' or feast, with their loved ones and friends.

Homes were decorated with beautiful floral carpets called 'pookko-

lam' of various designs and colours, family members gifted 'onakkodi' (new dresses) to each other and several varieties of banana chips, which Kerala is famous for, were prepared for the feast in households across the southern state.

In villages, people also put up high swings or 'oonjal' in the courtyards of their homes.

Subsequent to the feast, which comprised various traditional vegetarian dishes, pickles and desserts that are served on a banana leaf, people visited their relatives and close friends and took part in mass family gatherings which was not possible for the last two years.

There were also displays of traditional art forms and games, a part of the Onam festivities, which



Devotees take part in a ritual ceremony to welcome people dressed as Mahabali King Maveli, as part of Onam festival celebrations at Thrikkakara Temple in Ernakulam

were missing for the last two years.

According to folklore, envious of his popularity, the Devas (Gods) sought the help of Lord Vishnu to get him banished into the netherworld but before going down, Mahabali secured a boon from Vishnu to visit his subjects every year on Thiruvonam Day which this year falls September 8.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted people on Onam and said, "Onam greetings to everyone, especially the people of Kerala and Malayali community spread around the world. This festival reaffirms the vital role of Mother Nature and the importance of our hardworking farmers. May Onam also further the spirit of harmony in our society."

India ranks 132 out of 191 in UNDP's HDI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: India ranked 132 out of 191 countries in the 2021 Human Development Index, according to a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

India's HDI value of 0.633 places the country in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in the 2020 report. India ranked 131 among 189 countries in the 2020 human de-



velopment index. "Like global trends, in India's case, the drop in HDI from 0.645 in 2019 to 0.633 in 2021 can be attributed to falling life expectancy - 69.7 to 67.2 years. India's expected years of schooling stand at 11.9 years, and the mean years of schooling are at 6.7 years," the report said.

Human Development - a measure of a nation's health, education, and average income - has declined for two years in a row - 2020 and 2021, reversing five years of progress, the report said.

This is in line with the global decline, indicating that human development across the world has stalled for the first time in 32 years, the report said.

The report said a large contributor to the Human Development Index's recent decline is a global drop in life expectancy, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to 71.4 years in 2021.

The latest Human Development Report - Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World - launched by UNDP - argues that layers of uncertainty are stacking up and interacting to unsettle life in unprecedented ways.

Troops begin to disengage from Eastern Ladakh

The beginning of the disengagement process was an outcome of the 16th round of high-level military talks in July, according to a joint statement by the two armies



AGENCIES

to calls and an email from Reuters.

New Delhi, Sept 8: Indian and Chinese troops have begun disengaging from the Gogra-Hotsprings border area in the western Himalayas, the Indian government said in a statement Thursday, two years after clashes at the frontier strained diplomatic ties.

The statement comes ahead of a meeting in Uzbekistan next week which Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are expected to attend.

India said disengagement was taking place in a coordinated and planned way and is meant to keep border peace. "The eyeball-to-eyeball contact has ended," an Indian defence source said, referring to the latest agreement, although both countries still have thousands of soldiers lined up along the de facto border, known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"The forces have disengaged. They have not been de-inducted."

"This is the first step towards a calmer LAC," the source said, declining to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

The Chinese embassy in New Delhi did not immediately respond

India and China share an undemarcated 3,800 km-long (2,360 mile-long) border, where their troops previously adhered to long-standing protocols to avoid the use of any firearms on the frontier.

There have been 16 rounds of meetings between senior military commanders from both countries since June 2020 when Indian and Chinese troops clashed in the Galwan area of Ladakh.

At least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand fighting, leading to a sharp escalation in tensions between the Asian giants.

India then moved some 50,000 troops along contested areas in Ladakh to match Chinese deployments, some of them at altitudes of over 15,000 feet (4572 m), where scarce oxygen and freezing winter temperatures can be life-threatening.

Chinese troops dismantled dozens of structures and moved vehicles to empty out entire camps from the banks of the Pangong Tso lake in Ladakh in February 2021, as part of an agreement by both countries to pull back their soldiers, some of whom were deployed in close proximity to each other.

Not very fair to compare with practices in Sikhism, says SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 8: The Supreme Court Thursday told a counsel, representing a petitioner challenging the Hijab ban in Karnataka government educational institutions, that comparisons with turbans worn by Sikhs will be improper and practices of Sikhism were well ingrained in the culture of the country.

A bench comprising justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia told advocate Nizam Pasha, representing a petitioner, that the comparison with Sikhs may not be proper and the 5 Ks of Sikh have been held to be mandatory.

Pasha made an analogy to Sikhism to show that there is no basis for the

KARNATAKA HIJAB BAN

state to allow Sikhs to wear the turban and prohibit Muslim girls from wearing a Hijab. He contended that just like growing the hair and wearing a turban is one of the 5 Ks of Sikhism, obeying the word of Allah in the Quran is part of Tauheed/faith, which is one of the 5 pillars of Islam, so the duality of the position reflects discrimination.

Pasha said he went to a school, where there were several Sikh boys who wore turban of same colour to the uniform and it has been established that it will not cause violation of discipline. Justice Gupta

said five Ks of Sikh have been held to be mandatory and a five-judge bench of this court held that wearing turban and kirpan is essential for Sikhs. "That is why we are saying that comparison with Sikh may not be proper," he said.

Pasha reiterated just like the five Ks for Sikhs, there are five pillars of Islam and that is the exact position for us. Justice Gupta pointed out the condition of admission in a medical college in Punjab was that those who did not follow Sikhism cannot get in, and a girl was denied admission, as she trimmed her eyebrows and the matter is pending here. He further added that Sikhism practices are well established, and well ingrained in the culture of the country.



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina being welcomed by folk artistes on her arrival at Jaipur airport in Jaipur, Rajasthan

Political yatras in a bid to win voters' heart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanyakumari (TN), Sept 8: With Rahul Gandhi along with several Congress leaders embarking on a 3,570-km Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, here is a look at some key yatras undertaken in independent India and how they fared in transforming the fortunes of parties and leaders.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra is being billed as Congress's biggest mass contact programme since independence and a "turning point" in India's political history. The Congress has also said it is a "transformational moment" for Indian politics and a "decisive moment" for the party's rejuvenation.

1983, Chandra Shekhar's Bharat Yatra: Nearly four decades ago, former Prime Minister and then Janata Party leader embarked upon a padyatra from Kanyakumari, from where the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra also began this morning. Monikers such as the 'Marathon man' were given to Chandra Shekhar when six months after



he began January 6, 1983, the yatra reached New Delhi. His stature and the traction to the yatra went on rising as he passed village after village during his yatra for connecting with the people.

1990 Rath Yatra led by Lal Krishna Advani: The Rath yatra was taken out to give momentum to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The yatra that started in September 1990 was to cover 10,000 km and

culminate in Ayodhya October 30. It was halted in Samastipur in north Bihar and Advani was arrested. Political analysts feel the Rath Yatra gave a fillip to the BJP's electoral and ideological reach. As the demand for the temple gained momentum, the BJP's electoral fortunes also soared high.

1991 Ekta Yatra: This yatra was led by then BJP president Murli Manohar Joshi and sought to high-

light the BJP's support to national unity and its opposition to separatist movements. It began in December in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu and covered 14 states. It was seen as a follow-up to Advani's Rath Yatra to further boost BJP's electoral fortunes.

The yatra culminated with Joshi getting airlifted to Srinagar and unfurling the national flag at Lal Chowk in Srinagar January 26, 1992. According to political analysts, it was considered to have minimal success as not many locals participated.

2004 BJP's Bharat Uday Yatra: Advani's Bharat Uday Yatra highlighted India's achievements under the six-year reign of then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It did not pay the expected electoral dividend as the BJP suffered defeat in Lok Sabha polls and the UPA-I came to power.

2017 yatra by YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy: In the run-up to the April 2019 Andhra Pradesh assembly elections, YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy un-

dertook a massive Praja Sankalpa Yatra starting in 2017, covering over 3,500 km by foot across the state.

2017 Narmada Parikrama Yatra: Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh undertook the 'Narmada Parikrama' from the Barman ghat in Narsinghpur district, situated on the banks of the Narmada. Though Singh maintained that the 3,000-plus-km Narmada Parikrama was entirely a spiritual exercise, many observers said its political implications were evident and it contributed to the success of the party in 2019 assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh.

August 2021, BJP's Jan Ashirwad Yatra: The BJP launched a five-day Jan Ashirwad Yatra last year as part of which 39 Union ministers were sent to cover 22 states. The ministers undertook the Jan Ashirwad Yatras to cover 212 Lok Sabha constituencies and travel over 19,567 km to reach out to people and tell them about the government's achievements.

B'LORE FLOODS

K'taka leaders try to fish in troubled waters

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 8: The Bangalore flood crisis has given an opportunity to Karnataka's political leaders to score brownie points ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in the state.

The ruling BJP as well as the Opposition Congress leaders are going on boat rides, campaigning against each other.

Sensing the public mood turning against the BJP government, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai attempted to pass the buck to the Congress, holding it squarely responsible for the crisis. Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra paid a visit to flood-hit areas of the city Thursday. They took to boats to reach destinations in the flood-hit areas. Jnanendra said that at times of a crisis, politics should not be done. "Siddaramaiah should ad-



vised the government. He ruled the state for four years. These inundated buildings are not built in last four years," the Home Minister added. "This crisis situation and heavy rainfall has opened our eyes. We will work towards finding a permanent solution," he said.

Siddaramaiah after visiting the flood-affected areas hit back at the BJP government, saying that during his tenure action was taken to remove 1,300 among 1,953 encroachments. If the ruling BJP would have removed the remaining 600 encroachments, this situation would not have arisen, he added.

international



This week we have good news from the Kharkiv region. You have already seen reports about the activity of Ukrainian defenders, and I think every citizen feels proud of our warriors
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

COVID LOCKDOWN

The Chinese city of Chengdu extended a lockdown for a majority of its more than 21 million residents Thursday to prevent further transmission of Covid while millions more in other parts of China were told to shun travel in upcoming holidays



Queen passes away, Prince Charles to be king

The crowning achievement of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who died Thursday after 70 years on the throne, was to maintain the popularity of the monarchy across decades of seismic political, social and cultural changes that threatened to make it an anachronism. A dignified, dependable figure who reigned longer than any other British monarch, Elizabeth II helped steer the institution into the modern world, stripping away court rituals and making it somewhat more open and accessible



Prince Charles, 73, who had been heir to the crown for 70 years – the longest in the country's history – has ascended the British throne. The development followed immediately upon his mother Queen Elizabeth II, 96, passed away after being monarch since 1952 – which surpassed Queen Victoria's 63-year reign. Victoria ruled up to 1901. Elizabeth was also Queen of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, among other territories. "The Queen is dead. Long live the King." This has been the British tradition for centuries, though there is still the matter of an official coronation to consummate the ascension. Elizabeth breathed her last at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, one of her four 'royal' residences and possibly her favourite. Her family from near and afar had gathered

there to be at her side in her final moments. Apart from Charles, his elder son William, now next in succession, Charles' sister Anne, brothers Andrew and Edward and his wife Camilla were present. William's younger brother Harry, who now lives in the United States, was to attend a function in London, but cancelled his appearance to join the rest of the family at Balmoral. It was unclear whether his wife Meghan accompanied him. The couple have been estranged from their relatives for some time. Elizabeth was extraordinarily popular among her people and therefore widely accepted and respected by them. This rendered the British monarchy conceptually popular as well as opposed to republicanism. The same cannot arguably be said of Charles, although he will now have an opportunity to prove himself and gain

greater confidence of British citizens. A YouGov poll put Charles' popularity with the British people at 42 per cent, with 24 per cent disliking him and 30 per cent being neutral. He has been a tireless campaigner for the environment for decades, from much before it became fashionable to talk about it. He also values organic food and classical architecture. A question would arise as to whether Charles should automatically become head of the Commonwealth. But this was effectively decided by leaders of the 53-nation organisation, including India's endorsement of this move. He has in fact been officiating on Elizabeth's behalf at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings, including the summit held earlier this year in Rwanda. When Elizabeth's father George VI died in 1952, it was



by no means cast in stone that she would step into her father's role in the Commonwealth sphere. The appointment of George as head of the Commonwealth was for his lifetime only. However, a remarkable telegram from India's then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had settled the matter. In congratulating Elizabeth on succeeding her father, he also congratulated her on succeeding him as head of the Commonwealth. Such was Nehru's stature in the world, all member states of the Commonwealth fell in line with his sentiment.

Changes UK will see with a new monarch



replaced over time. However, since the monarchy was restored following the 10-year republic of Oliver Cromwell in 1660, it has become traditional for the monarch to face in the opposite direction to their predecessor. As such, Queen Elizabeth faces right and so Charles should be pictured facing left. During Elizabeth's long reign, five different portraits of her were used on coins. Postage stamps will likewise be updated to feature the portrait of the new king.

ROYAL CYPHER
The monogram used by the monarch which, currently features the queen's "EIIR" stamp below an image of the St Edward's Crown – will change. The cypher is replicated across Britain and appears on everything from red mail pillar boxes to police uniforms. In accordance with tradition, both the cypher and the royal coat of arms will change with a new king. However, cyphers on pillar boxes will only appear on new boxes and so the queen's cypher will stay on thousands across the country, just as many remain from previous monarchs on those that were installed before her reign.

LEGAL CHANGES
Senior lawyers will become King's Counsel rather than Queen's Counsel (QC) and other legal titles that use Queen will change to King.

Key events

Elizabeth was born at 17 Bruton St, London, April 21, 1926, and christened May 29 that year in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace. She became heir apparent when her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated December 11, 1936, and her father became King George VI. She was 10 years old. She married navy lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, a Greek prince, at London's Westminster Abbey November 20, 1947. They had four children Prince Charles (born in 1948), Princess Anne (1950), Prince Andrew (1960) and Prince Edward (1964). Philip died in April 2021, aged 99. She ascended the throne on the death of her father February 6, 1952, while she was in Kenya on a royal tour. She was crowned June 2, 1953 at Westminster Abbey, the first ever coronation to be televised. When she ascended the throne, Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong and Harry Truman were leading the Soviet Union, China and the United States, while Winston Churchill was British prime minister. She has been served by 15 prime ministers. During her reign, there have been 14 US presidents, all of whom she has met bar Lyndon Johnson. September 9, 2015, she surpassed the 63 years, 7 months, 2 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes that her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria spent on the throne to become the country's longest-reigning monarch in a line dating back to Norman King William the Conqueror in 1066. Elizabeth remains queen of 15 realms including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tuvalu. She celebrated her Platinum Jubilee – the 70th anniversary of her accession – February 6, 2022.

This is our country's saddest day because she had a unique and simple power to make us happy. That is why we loved her. That is why we grieve for Elizabeth the Great, the longest serving and in many ways the finest monarch in our history
BORIS JOHNSON | FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered as a stalwart of our times. She provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people. She personified dignity and decency in public life. Pained by her demise. My thoughts are with her family and people of UK in this sad hour
NARENDRA MODI | INDIAN PRIME MINISTER

It was with the heaviest of hearts that we learned of the passing of Canada's longest-reigning Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was a constant presence in our lives – and her service to Canadians will forever remain an important part of our country's history
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

In a world of constant change, she was a steady presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her. Her legacy will loom large in the pages of British history, and in the story of our world
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT



TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT QUEEN ELIZABETH II

BRITAIN'S LONGEST-REIGNING MONARCH
Elizabeth, who marked 70 years on the throne this year, is the oldest and longest-reigning monarch in British history. In September 2015 she surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years and seven months. In 2016, Elizabeth also became the longest-reigning monarch in the world with the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. In 2022, she became the second-longest-reigning monarch in world history, behind 17th century French King Louis XIV, who took the throne at age 4.

HOME-SCHOOLING
Like many royals of her time and before, Elizabeth never went to a public school and was never exposed to other students. Instead, she was educated at home with Margaret, her younger sister. Among those who taught her was her father, along with a senior teacher at Eton College, several French and Belgian governesses who taught her French, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, who taught her religion.

"NO 230873"
During World War II, young Princess Elizabeth briefly became known as No 230873, Second Subaltern Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor of the Auxiliary Transport Service No 1. After months of campaigning for her parents' permission to do something for the war effort, the heir to the throne learned how to drive and service ambulances and trucks. She rose to the rank of honorary Junior Commander within months.



GREAT MIMICKER
Elizabeth often gave the impression of a serious demeanour, and many have noted her "poker face", but those who knew her described her as having a mischievous sense of humour and a talent for mimicry in private company. Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has said the queen could be "extremely funny in private – and not everybody appreciates how funny she can be".

ROYAL TAXPAYER
She may have been the queen, but she paid taxes too – at least since 1992. When Windsor Castle, the queen's weekend residence, was ravaged by fire in 1992, the public rebelled against paying millions of

pounds for repairs. But she voluntarily agreed to pay tax on her personal income.

LITTLE LILIBET
The queen was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor of York, in honour of her mother, paternal grandmother and paternal great-grandmother. But as a child, she was endearingly known as young Lilibet by her family – said to be because she couldn't pronounce "Elizabeth" properly. In a letter to her grandmother Queen Mary, the young princess wrote: "Dear Granny. Thank you very much for the lovely little jersey We loved staying at Sandringham with you. I lost a top front tooth yesterday morning," before signing off, "Love from Lilibet." The nickname became more widely known

after Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, named their daughter Lilibet Diana in 2021.

A STEADFAST ROMANCE
Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip enjoyed a stable relationship for more 70 years, a union that far outlasted the marriages of three of her four children: Charles, Anne and Andrew. "He has been quite simply my strength and stay all these years," the queen said of Philip on their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple married in Westminster Abbey in 1947. When Philip died in 2021 at age 99, Elizabeth described his passing as leaving a "huge void" in her life, according to their son, Andrew.

MULTIPLE BIRTHDAYS
Elizabeth was born April 21, 1926, but it was sometimes confusing for the public to know when to celebrate. There was no universally fixed day for her "official birthday" – it's either the first, second or third Saturday in June, and was decided by the government. In Australia, her birthday was celebrated on the second Monday of June, while in Canada, was marked on a Monday either on or before May 24, Queen Victoria's birthday.

HOW MANY CORGIS?
It's widely known that Elizabeth loved corgis – Princess Diana reportedly called the dogs the queen's "moving carpet" because they accompanied her everywhere. She owned more than 30 corgis over the years. She also had two "dorgis" – crossbreeds of dachshund and corgi – named Candy and Vulcan. Elizabeth was photographed hugging one of the dogs as far back as 1936 at age 10, and was given a corgi named Susan for her 18th birthday.

A PRETTY NICE GIRL
The queen inevitably became the subject of pop songs. The Beatles immortalised her with the tongue-in-cheek "Her Majesty", calling her "a pretty nice girl" though "she doesn't have a lot to say". The brief song, sung by Paul McCartney and recorded in 1969, appeared at the end of the "Abbey Road" album. Other musical treatments weren't so kind. The Sex Pistols' anti-monarchist "God Save The Queen", released right before her Silver Jubilee in 1977, was banned on British television.

business



I would urge Indian investors to consider possible investments in infrastructure projects, manufacturing, in energy and transport sectors
SHEIKH HASINA | SHEIKH HASINA

ROAD SAFETY SCRUTINY

Amazon.com Inc said Thursday it has removed from its Indian marketplace listings of products that disable car seatbelt alarms, a day after the country's transport minister said he had asked the company to act against such devices



of the day quote

As far as our cooperation with the EU, I think it has a future. Of course it depends on policies and standards. We would be producing green hydrogen at lowest prices. China's price is opaque. I don't know how they price it

RK SINGH | UNION POWER MINISTER

The framework (digital lending) is designed to strike a balance between the need for an innovative and inclusive system while at the same time ensuring that the regulatory arbitrage is not exploited to the detriment of the customer's interest

M RAJESHWAR RAO | DG, RBI

While PropTech firms have been around in India for more than a decade and a half, of late, this space has attracted a lot of interest from investors, both domestic and overseas

DHRUV AGARWALA | CEO, HOUSING.COM

SHORT TAKES

Oil prices fall further

London: Oil prices fell Thursday, extending sharp losses from the previous session, as China's extension of lockdown measures to curb the Covid-19 spread exacerbated concerns that a slowdown in economic activity globally would hit fuel demand. Brent crude futures lost 40 cents, or 0.4%, to \$87.60 per barrel by 1002 GMT, near a late-January low. US crude futures were down 41 cents, or 0.5%, at \$81.53 a barrel, near a mid-January low.

Govt sets term to acquire Vi stake

New Delhi: The government will acquire a stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea after the stock price of the company stabilises at ₹10 or above, according to an official source. Vodafone Idea (VIL) board has offered a stake to the government at a par value of ₹10 per share. "There is a SEBI norm that the acquisition should take place at par value. DOT will clear the acquisition after VIL shares stabilise at ₹10 or above," an official source told PTI. VIL shares are trading below ₹10 since April 19. The stock declined by 1.02 per cent to trade at ₹9.68 on BSE.

Singtel offload 1.76% Airtel stake

New Delhi: Singtel entities have jointly offloaded a 1.76 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel for about ₹7,128 crore, according to sources. Bharti Airtel promoter Bharti Telecom Ltd has bought a 1.63 per cent stake from Singtel entity Pastel Ltd for ₹6,602 crore through an open market transaction. According to the bulk deal data available with the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Bharti Telecom purchased 9,62,34,427 shares, amounting to a 1.63 per cent stake in the company.

Wow! Momo Foods raises ₹125 crore

New Delhi: Quick service restaurant chain Wow! Momo Foods Thursday said it has raised ₹125 crore from OAKS Asset Management. The firm, which operates three brands - Wow! Momo, Wow! China and Wow! Chicken, said the funding is "part of a two tranche-raise with the second one being planned with another VC Fund". The fundraise from OAKS Asset Management has been done at a valuation of ₹2,125 crore and the company plans to raise another ₹100 crore in next quarter, Wow! Momo Foods said in a statement.

TO TAME INFLATION ECB ramps up rates by unprecedented 75 bps

With inflation at a half-century high and approaching double-digit territory, policymakers are worried that rapid price growth could become entrenched, eroding the value of household savings and setting off a hard-to-break wage-price spiral

REUTERS

Frankfurt, Sept 8: The European Central Bank raised its key interest rates by an unprecedented 75 basis points on Thursday and signalled further hikes, prioritising the fight against inflation even as the bloc's economy is heading for a likely winter recession.

Following up on its July rate hike, the ECB raised its deposit rate to 0.75% from zero and lifted its main refinancing rate to 1.25%, their highest levels since 2011, with further moves anticipated in October and December.

"This major step frontloads the transition from the prevailing highly accommodative level of pol-



RAISES DEPOSIT RATE TO 0.75% FROM ZERO	NEW ECB FORECASTS SHOW HIGHER INFLATION, LOWER GROWTH
EURO ZONE INFLATION UNCOMFORTABLY HIGH AND RISING	MORE RATE HIKES ALMOST CERTAIN

icy rates towards levels that will ensure the timely return of inflation

to the ECB's 2% medium-term target," the ECB said in a statement. Policymakers had for weeks oscillated between a 50 and a 75 basis-point increase, but another jump in both headline and underlying inflation appears to have settled the debate as figures indicate that price growth is now seeping into the broader economy, making it even harder to root out.

Indeed, the ECB raised its inflation projections once again, lifting the 2023 outlook to 5.5% from 3.5% and putting the 2024 rate at 2.3%, above its 2% target. Markets were little surprised, however, as investors had already priced a more than 80% likelihood of a 75 basis-point move, even if econ-

omists polled by Reuters were more evenly split, showing only a slight majority expecting the larger move.

Despite the frontloading, further rate hikes are likely, the ECB said. "Over the next several meetings the Governing Council expects to raise interest rates further to dampen demand and guard against the risk of a persistent upward shift in inflation expectations," the ECB added.

SERIOUS SITUATION

Going into the meeting, conservatives feared that anything other than an outsized move would signal that the ECB was not serious about its inflation-fighting mandate - officially its sole objective. That risked pushing up already high long-term

inflation expectations, which would signal a loss of confidence in the ECB and raise questions about the bank's inflation-targeting framework. Timid action also risked weakening the euro and boosting inflation further through more expensive energy imports.

The euro has been languishing around parity against the dollar for weeks, not far from a two-decade low hit earlier this month. That means more expensive exports of everything from oil to cars, which then raises prices for consumer.

The bank sees the euro zone economy expanding by 3.1% this year and 0.9% in 2023. While this year's growth projection was lifted a touch, it was lowered sharply for 2023.

Govt imposes 20% export duty on non-Basmati rice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: The government Thursday imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice to boost domestic supplies amid a fall in area under the paddy crop in the current Kharif season.

According to a notification by the revenue department, an export duty of 20 per cent has been imposed on 'rice in husk (paddy or rough)' and 'husked (brown) rice'.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs further said the export of 'semi-milled or wholly-milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed (other than Parboiled rice and Basmati rice)' will also attract a customs duty of 20 per cent.

The export duty will come in force from September 9, the notification added. The area under the paddy crop has been down by 5.62 per cent at 383.99 lakh hectares in the ongoing Kharif season so far due to poor rains in some states, as per the latest data released by the agriculture ministry.

India, the world's second-largest rice producer after China, commands a 40 per cent share in the global trade.

The country exported 21.2 million tonne of rice in the 2021-22 fiscal year, of which 3.94 million tonne were Basmati rice. It exported non-Basmati rice worth \$6.11 billion in the same period, as per official data.

The country exported non-Basmati rice to more than 150 countries in 2021-22.

Welcoming the export duty, former president of All India Rice Exporters Association Vijay Setia said Indian rice was being exported at a "very low price". The export duty would lead to a reduction in non-Basmati rice shipments by 2-3 million tonne, but the realisation from the exports would remain the same because of the 20 per cent duty. "It is a good decision in view of fall in paddy acreage," Setia said.

The association's current president Nathi Ram Gupta said the export of raw rice from southern parts of the country would be impacted, but shipments of parboiled may go up.

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

Rice production rose to a record 130.29 million tonne in the last crop year as against 124.37 million tonne in 2020-21. The government has already restricted exports of wheat.



M-cap of BSE-listed firms at all-time high of ₹282.66 lakh-crore

FOREIGN FUND INFLOWS AND COOLING CRUDE OIL PRICES BOLSTERED THE INVESTOR SENTIMENT, ANALYSTS SAID



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of ₹282.66 lakh crore Thursday, helped by a rebound in equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 659.31 points or 1.12 per cent to settle at 59,688.22 after falling in the previous two trading days.

The bounce back in equities, helped the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jump to ₹2,82,66,696.92 crore. Investor wealth also climbed ₹1.79 lakh crore Thursday.

"A solid rebound was the order of the day at Dalal Street as stocks simply zoomed in today's session. The credit for the rally can be given to overnight positive Wall Street cues and also to the fact that crude oil prices continued to tumble. Crude oil prices are trading at their lowest levels after February," Prashanth Tapse - Research Analyst, Senior VP

(Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank and Asian Paints emerged as the biggest gainers among Sensex stocks.

Tata Steel, Titan, NTPC, Nestle and Power Grid were the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.60 per cent and midcap index ended higher by 0.29 per cent.

A total of 2,062 stocks advanced, while 1,402 declined and 125 remained unchanged.

In Asia, markets in Seoul and Tokyo ended in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Equities in Europe were trading on a mixed note during the mid-session deals. The US markets had ended significantly higher Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.49 per cent to \$87.57 per barrel.

FROM 2% TO 13%

'Importing Russian oil to manage inflation'

Oil prices shot up over \$100 per barrel due to ongoing the Russia-Ukraine war stoking inflation globally. It affected those countries most that largely depended on imports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said India has ramped up the import of crude oil from Russia at discounted prices amid sanctions on Moscow as part of the country's inflation management.

"In a situation where global prices were going beyond anyone's affordability, at that stage to take a very strong political decision, I respect the Prime Minister for his courage on this to get it from Russia because they are ready to

give it to you at discount. And how speedily did we manage to do it," she said.

India ramped up its import from Russia from about 2 per cent of the total shipment of petroleum products to 12-13 per cent in a couple of months as part of inflation management, she said at a seminar organised by economic think-tank Icrier.

Amid sanctions imposed on Moscow due to the Russia-Ukraine war, some countries, including India, entered into bilateral

deals for the purchase of oil and gas at discounted prices.

"I give credit to the statesmanship of the Prime Minister to make sure that we did keep our relationship with all countries but yet manage to get the Russian crude... Sanctions, sanctions but countries (including Japan and Italy, among others) are finding their own way to get that Russian fuel (crude, gas)... That also is a part of inflation management," she said.

India is heavily dependent on oil-producing countries for meeting its energy needs. It imports 80-85 per cent of total energy requirements from abroad.

India is the world's third-biggest consumer and im-

Inflation control can't be singularly left to RBI, says FM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday said inflation management cannot be "singularly" left to the monetary policy as a majority of activities are outside its purview in the current context. "Inflation management cannot be singularly left to monetary policy, which has proved totally ineffective in many countries," she said. "The RBI will have to synchronise somewhat, maybe not as much synchronised as other western developed countries would do. I am not prescribing anything to the Reserve Bank. I am not giving any forward direction to the RBI but it is the truth that India's solution to handling the economy, part of which is handling inflation also is an exercise where the fiscal policy, together with the monetary policy has to work," she said. The minister further said there are economies where policy is designed in such a way that the monetary policy and the interest rate management is the one and the only tool to handle inflation, she said.

porter of crude oil.

Retail inflation declined to 6.71 per cent in July due to moderation in food prices but remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month. The Consumer Price Index-based retail inflation was at 7.01 per cent in June.

Century Mattress unveils eco-friendly mattresses

Bhubaneswar: Expanding its foam mattress portfolio, India's leading sleep specialist, Century Mattress, launched a collection of eco-friendly foam mattresses - The Foamtastic. The collection was launched for trade partners here at Hotel Vivanta, Thursday. The latest mattress range includes Posture Pro, Vibex, Softopedic 2.0 and Tuff 2.0. Foamtastic's Posture Pro is a firm memory foam mattress powered by the new Copper Gel Technology that supports the back and ensures a good night's sleep. The Vibex is a Certi-PUR US-certified foam mattress designed for extra comfort and bounce at an affordable price. The products have been developed at Century's factory in Odisha. Mattresses under the Foamtastic collection vary in firmness from 'Soft' to 'Extra Firm'. The product range starts from ₹17,500 for a King Size mattress, with warranty of up to seven years. The launch of the Foamtastic range is strategized to capitalize on the growing foam mattress segment.

JSP honoured for Best CSR Impact Initiative

Bhubaneswar: Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) has been honoured with the Best CSR impact initiative Award for its high-impact sustainable social development interventions. Prashant Hota, President & Group CSR Head of JSP, received the award in the Eastern India Leadership Awards programme held at Kolkata by World CSR Day & World Sustainability Congress September 8. The award partnered by Times Ascend has been certified by World CSR Federation. JSP has initiated multi-dimensional social development programmes in health, education, women empowerment, agriculture, skill education and other areas, reaching more than three million people. These interventions are implemented by JSP Foundation in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and other parts of the Country.

Apple offers adventure watch, satellite SOS iPhone, steady prices

The iPhone lineup that generates half of Apple's sales got tweaks to cameras and battery life, though only the iPhone Pro lineup got an upgrade to a completely new processor chip

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 8: Apple Inc avoided price hikes of its best-selling iPhones during its biggest product launch of the year, focusing on safety upgrades rather than flashy new technical specs with the exception of a new adventure-focused watch.

The iPhone maker leaned into safety technologies like the abil-

ity to detect a car accident and summon a rescue from a remote mountaintop to add allure to its devices. Apple positioned itself as the brand to allow users to pursue excitement and adventure - with a safety net.

Such intangible features "are the things that make you not just want the products for yourself, but also for loved ones," said Ben Bajarin, head of consumer technologies at

The iPhone 14 will start at \$799 and the iPhone 14 Plus at \$899 and be available for preorder starting September 9. The iPhone Pro will cost \$999 and the iPhone Pro Max \$1,099 and be available September 16

Creative Strategies. "Ultimately, the increased emphasis on safety - safety as a service - is super interesting as a value proposition."

Prices of the high-end iPhone 14s are the same as last year's iPhone 13 models. But Apple dropped its cheapest option, the

iPhone Mini, meaning its lowest-priced model now costs \$100 more than last year.

Apple said its satellite SOS feature will work with emergency responders. It also said that users will be able to use its FindMy app to share their location via satellite when they have no other connectivity.

The service will be free for two years with the iPhone 14. Apple did not say what would happen after that period.

On the watch front, the \$799 Ultra has a bigger battery to last through events like triathlons and better waterproofing and temperature resistance to operate in outdoor environments, as well as

better GPS tracking for sports.

All of the watches - which include a Series 8 priced the same as last year and an updated, cheaper SE model - and new iPhones will have the ability to detect when a user has been in a serious car crash and call emergency services.

The new Series 8 watch has a temperature sensor that will retroactively detect ovulation. The company emphasized the privacy approach of its cycle tracking. Privacy and reproductive health data has become a focus for tech companies in the wake of a US Supreme Court decision that ended a constitutional right to abortion in the United States.

LEWAN 'GOAL'SKI' CREATES HISTORY

34-year-old Pole becomes first player to score hat-tricks in Champions League for three different clubs, achieving the feat in Barcelona's 5-1 win over Viktoria Plzen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Sept 8: It didn't take long for Robert Lewandowski to leave his mark



with Barcelona in the Champions League. Lewandowski scored three goals in the team's opening 5-1 rout of Viktoria Plzen Wednesday, becoming the first player to get a hat-trick with three different clubs in the Champions League. The

34-year-old Poland striker now has seven Champions League hat-tricks, with the others coming with Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, justifying his nickname 'Lewangoalski' - famously called by his former teammate Thomas Muller in a press conference during the Pole's stint with Bayern.

Barcelona's biggest signing of the year continued his great start to the season, taking his tally to eight goals from his first five matches. Lewandowski said the goals were a gift to his wife, who was at the Camp Nou celebrating her birthday.

Frank Kessié, another Barcelona signing, and Ferran Torres also scored for the hosts in the Group C match at the Camp Nou.

Barcelona's victory ended a 34-unbeaten streak in competitive games for Plzen. The Czech Republic club had won 10 of their first 12 matches this season. It entered Wednesday's

game with 29 wins, five draws. Barcelona spent big to revamp their squad despite struggling financially in recent years. They finished behind Real Madrid in the Spanish league and were eliminated in the group stage of the Champions League last season, their first without Argentina great Lionel Messi.

Kessié, making his Champions League debut, opened the scoring with a header off a corner kick for his first goal for the Catalan club. Jules Koundé, another Barcelona signing in the offseason, redirected the ball toward Kessié with another header inside the area.

Lewandowski added to the lead in the 34th with a well-placed shot into the far corner from inside the area. He scored again in first-half stoppage time with a header after a nice cross by Ousmane Dembélé and with a low shot from outside the area in the 67th. Lewandowski,

signed from Bayern for nearly 50 million euros, had already scored five goals in four Spanish league matches this season.

Plzen had pulled one closer in the 44th with a header by Jan Sykora after a defensive lapse by the Barcelona defense. Torres scored the fifth goal for the hosts with a nice volley from close range in the 71st.

A penalty kick called in favor of Plzen in the 23rd was reversed after video review showed a foul by the attacker in the buildup.

Barcelona got the easy win despite Xavi rotating his squad and making six changes to the team that defeated Sevilla 3-0 in the Spanish league at the weekend, with Kessié and Ansu Fati among those coming in and veteran captain Sergio Busquets and newly signed Raphinha being left on the bench. Pablo Torre made his first-team debut by replacing Kessié in the 81st.

Bayern keep their tradition going



MILAN: Bayern Munich continued their tradition of winning their opening Champions League game by beating Inter Milan 2-0 at San Siro and it would have been more comfortable had it not been for Nerazzurri goalkeeper André Onana.

Leroy Sané fired Bayern ahead in the 25th minute and also had a part in the second goal, which Inter defender Danilo D'Ambrosio turned into his own net in the 66th. It was the 19th straight time the German team have won their opening match in the competition and the 17th time they have done so without conceding a goal.

It was further disappointment for Inter, who have already lost two matches in Serie A, including the derby against AC Milan over the weekend.

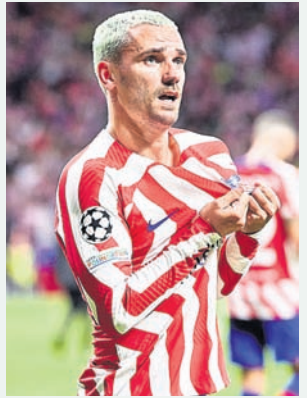
The manner of the defeat will also sting as Bayern were dominant for much of the match and had 21 attempts on goal compared to just nine for Inter.

Onana pulled off a great save to palm Thomas Muller's shot over the bar but could do little when Leroy Sané ran between two Inter defenders and onto a ball over the top from Kimmich, rounded the goalkeeper and deposited into the empty net.

A comedy of errors almost gifted Bayern its second as Alessandro Bastoni attempted to head Kimmich's shot back to his goalkeeper but perhaps did so too powerfully as Onana had to back-track rapidly to claw it out from under the crossbar and off the post.

Moments after risking it, the Nerazzurri did score an own goal. Coman and Sané combined beau-

Griezmann helps Atletico beat Porto



MADRID: It took a wild finish and a goal by Antoine Griezmann 11 minutes into stoppage time to end Atlético Madrid's home struggles in the Champions League. Griezmann found the net with a header off a corner kick in the last play of the match to give Atlético a 2-1 win over Porto at the Metropolitan stadium Wednesday, with all three goals of the Group B game scored after 90 minutes. It was only the second Champions League match to see three goals scored in the 90th minute or later excluding extra time. The other match involving the same two teams in December last year - a 3-1 win for Atlético at Porto. It was after Mario Hermoso gave Atlético the lead two minutes into stoppage time, but the hosts thought they were heading to another disappointing result when Porto equalised four minutes later with Matheus Uribe converting a penalty kick after a handball by Hermoso inside the area.

carefully on the edge of the area and the latter's cross-shot was turned into his own net by D'Ambrosio.

Napoli humble sloppy Liverpool

NAPLES: Liverpool have a long way to go to regain the form that took it to the final of last season's Champions League. Napoli overwhelmed the English power with three first-half goals in a 4-1 win in the opening round of group play.

Piotr Zieliński converted a penalty, André-Frank Zambo Anguissa doubled the lead after the half-hour mark and substitute Giovanni Simeone - the son of Atlético Madrid coach Diego Simeone - scored on his competition debut just before the break.

Zieliński added another two minutes after the break before Luis Díaz finally pulled one back for Liverpool on a counterattack in the 49th. Liverpool have now failed to win all four of their visits to the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, while coach Jurgen Klopp dropped to 0-4 in his career in Naples. Klopp was sent off during a loss while coaching Borussia Dortmund in 2013, then as at the helm for Liverpool defeats in 2018 and 2019.

Liverpool have started the Premier League season with just two wins from six games. Napoli is unbeaten in five Serie A matches and leads the league with 12 goals scored de-



STUNNING NIGHT: Piotr Zieliński (L) celebrates after a goal, (inset) Liverpool players look disappointed after the match, Wednesday

spite the offseason departures of captain Lorenzo Insigne, all-time leading scorer Dries Mertens and defensive stalwart Kalidou Koulibaly.

The recent form of the two teams held as Napoli got off to a blistering start. In the opening minute, Victor Osimhen beat Liverpool's off-side trap and dribbled around goalkeeper Alisson before striking a shot off the outside of the post from a sharp angle.

Four minutes later, Zieliński Alisson the wrong way with his spot-kick after James Milner

deflected a shot from the Poland midfielder with his arm. Osimhen then won another penalty after Virgil van Dijk stepped on his boot but Alisson blocked the ensuing spot kick from the Nigeria center forward.

Zieliński turned provider for Zambo Anguissa, who finished off a give-and-take with the Pole to make it 2-0. Simeone tapped in a cross from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. Zieliński's second came on a rebound of his own shot after Alisson failed to collect.

Virat ends 'long-awaited' ton draught Swiatek sails into semifinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 8: Iga Swiatek dropped four points in a row in her US Open quarterfinal against Jessica Pegula by missing shots, some wildly. So with Pegula up by a break at 3-2 and serving at 30-love, Swiatek walked over to the sideline in the middle of a game to swap out her white racket for another one.

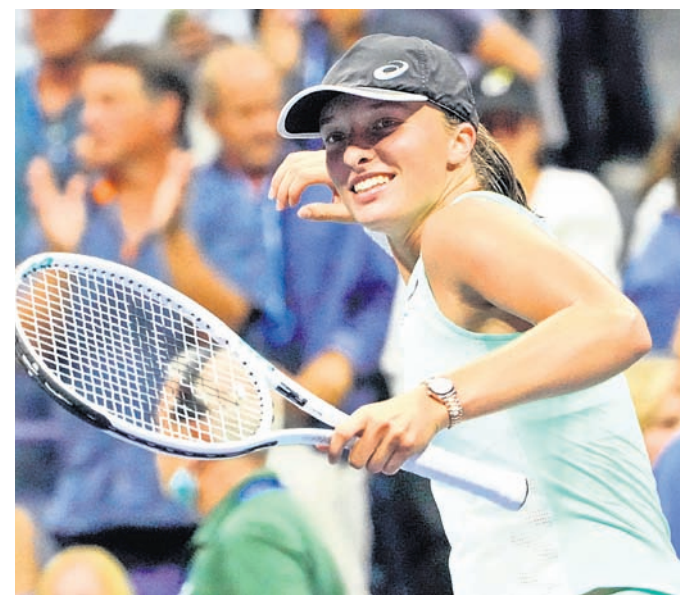
The Arthur Ashe Stadium roof was open, the 70-degree air was as cool and dry as it's been during a hot, humid tournament, and Swiatek figured maybe she should try a tighter string tension to see whether that would help control the ball a little more.

Whether that actually did the trick, or simply put Swiatek's mind at ease, the move certainly swung the direction of the match. The No.1-ranked Swiatek grabbed 14 of the next 15 points and, while closing things out was not easy, she reached her first semifinal at Flushing Meadows by pulling out a 6-3, 7-6(7-4) victory over Pegula.

Swiatek will face No.6 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in Thursday's semifinals. The other women's semifinal is No.5 Ons Jabeur against No.17 Caroline Garcia, who eliminated 18-year-old American Coco Gauff Tuesday.

Swiatek compiled a 37-match winning streak earlier this season, claiming the trophies at six consecutive events, but this is her first trip beyond the fourth round in New York. This marked Swiatek's eighth win in a row against an opponent ranked in the top 10, all in straight sets.

Of the four players remaining in the bracket, only Swiatek already owns a major championship. And only Sabalenka, who defeated two-time Slam runner-up Karolina Pliskova 6-1, 7-6(7-4), ever has been this far at Flushing Meadows previously; she lost in the semifinals last year.



FINAL-LIKE CONTEST

This was a match that would not end. Should not end, one might say. Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, two of the brightest young stars of men's tennis, traded shots of the highest quality and countless momentum swings across five sterling sets for 5 hours, 15 minutes until Alcaraz finally won the last point at 2:50 am Thursday, the latest finish in US Open history.

It was "only" a quarterfinal, no trophy at stake, yet was as taut a thriller as this tournament has produced or, likely, will, a tour de force of big cuts on the full sprint and plenty of guts, a 6-3, 6-7(7-9), 6-7(0-7), 7-5, 6-3 victory for the No.3-seeded Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain.

Alcaraz reached his first Grand Slam semifinal and is the youngest man to get that far at the US Open since Pete Sampras won the title at 19 in 1990. Alcaraz, who has a chance to move up to No.1 in the rankings next week, will face No.22 Frances Tiafoe of the United States Friday.

This match began Wednesday evening at about 9:45 pm and easily surpassed the previous mark for

latest time of finish at the US Open, which had been 2:26 am, shared by three matches.

A TIAFOE FEAT

About 20 minutes after Frances Tiafoe earned the first trip to the US Open semifinals by an American man since 2006, he met up in an Arthur Ashe Stadium foyer with a host of friends, Washington Wizards All-Star guard Bradley Beal among them. Everyone traded hearty hugs and huge smiles.

Tiafoe managed the tricky task of following up the biggest win of his career, against 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, with another milestone victory, beating No.9 seed Andrey Rublev 7-6(7-3), 7-6(7-0), 6-4 behind the backing of a boisterous crowd Wednesday.

Andy Roddick, who was in the Ashe stands Wednesday, was the last US Man to get to the semifinals in New York, losing to Roger Federer in the title match 16 years ago. Roddick also was the last man from the country to win any Grand Slam singles championship, taking the 2003 US Open.



BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 8: Virat Kohli (122 n o, 61b, 12x4, 6x6) got the most-awaited hundred in international cricket as he reached the elusive three-figure mark after 1020 days to set up India's massive 101-run win over Afghanistan and lighten up the dead rubber in the Asia Cup here Thursday.

Kohli struck his 71st interna-



ional hundred to take India to 212/2 after Afghanistan put India in to bat. Perhaps still smarting from their heart-breaking loss to Pakistan the night before, Afghanistan was blown away by a top-class spell of swing bowling from Bhuvneshwar Kumar (5/4), who ended up with career-best figures.

With the conditions aiding his strength, Bhuvneshwar got the ball to move both ways at will, leaving the opposition in shambles at 21/6. Their innings ended at 111/8

in 20 overs, courtesy Ibrahim Zadran (64 n o, 59b, 4x4, 2x6).

However, the night belonged to Kohli who warmed a billion hearts with a special innings. His unbeaten effort got him his first hundred since November 2019 and 71st overall, equalling Ricky Ponting's tally of international centuries. He is now only behind Sachin Tendulkar in the all-time list. It was also Kohli's maiden ton in the shortest format.

With Rohit Sharma being rested

WITH THIS CENTURY, VIRAT FINALLY EQUALS RICKY PONTING'S FEAT OF 71 INTERNATIONAL HUNDREDS

for India's final game of the tournament, stand-in skipper KL Rahul (62, 41b, 6x4, 2x6) and Kohli shared an entertaining 119 off 76 balls for the opening wicket.

It was a clinical display from India in their final game of the Super 4s but their pre-mature exit from another multi-team tournament has raised more questions ahead of the T20 World Cup starting next month.

India's constant chopping and changing in the playing eleven and lack of bowling depth hurt them in the continental event. With the series against Australia and South Africa lined up before the ICC event Down Under, the Indian think tank has a lot left to do.

BRIEF SCORES

India 212/2 (Virat Kohli 122 n o, KL Rahul 62; Fareed Ahmed 2/57) beat Afghanistan 111/8 (Ibrahim Zadran 64 n o; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 5/4, Deepak Hooda 1/3, Arshdeep Singh 1/7) by 101 runs.

Duleep Trophy: Shaw, Jaiswal shine on rain-hit day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 8: Prithvi Shaw hammered an unbeaten 61 (66b, 5x4, 4x6) and put on a century stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal (55 batting) as West Zone raced to 116 for no loss on a rain-hit opening day of their Duleep Trophy match against North East Zone here Thursday.

Sent in to bat by the North East skipper Hokaito Zhimomi after a long delay, Shaw made his intentions

clear right from the start. Jaiswal, who was watchful, however did not miss out when opportunities presented themselves. Bad light halted proceedings after 25 overs and subsequently play was called off.

BRIEF SCORES: West zone 116/0 (Prithvi Shaw 61 batting, Yashasvi Jaiswal 55 batting) vs North-East Zone.

EAST ZONE REACH 179/3 In Puducherry, East Zone reached

179/3 in 54 overs against North Zone in the other quarterfinal on a rain-hit opening day. The highly rated Riyan Parag, who was sent as the opener, fell to Navdeep Saini for 8 in the fourth over after a delayed start.

Fellow opener Sudip Kumar Gharami (68, 137b, 10x4) and Anustup Majumdar (47) ensured that the North bowlers did not cause any more damage with the new ball. They batted with cau-

tion and put on 79 runs for the second wicket before Majumdar fell to medium pacer Siddharth Jail.

Virat Singh (43 batting) settled in for a half century stand with Gharami before the latter fell to Himanshu Rana. Skipper Manoj Tiwary, who joined his deputy in the middle, ensured that there were no further setbacks for East.

BRIEF SCORES: East Zone 179/3 (Sudip Kumar Gharami 68) vs North zone.