

Das takes over as new BSE president

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government shifted Thursday the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) president Ramashis Hazra in a minor reshuffle in the IAS cadre. Hazra has been appointed as the director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services department, said a notification issued by the General Administration department. IAS officer Jyoti Prakash Das, presently working as the Inspector General of Registration in Cuttack has been given additional charge as BSE president.

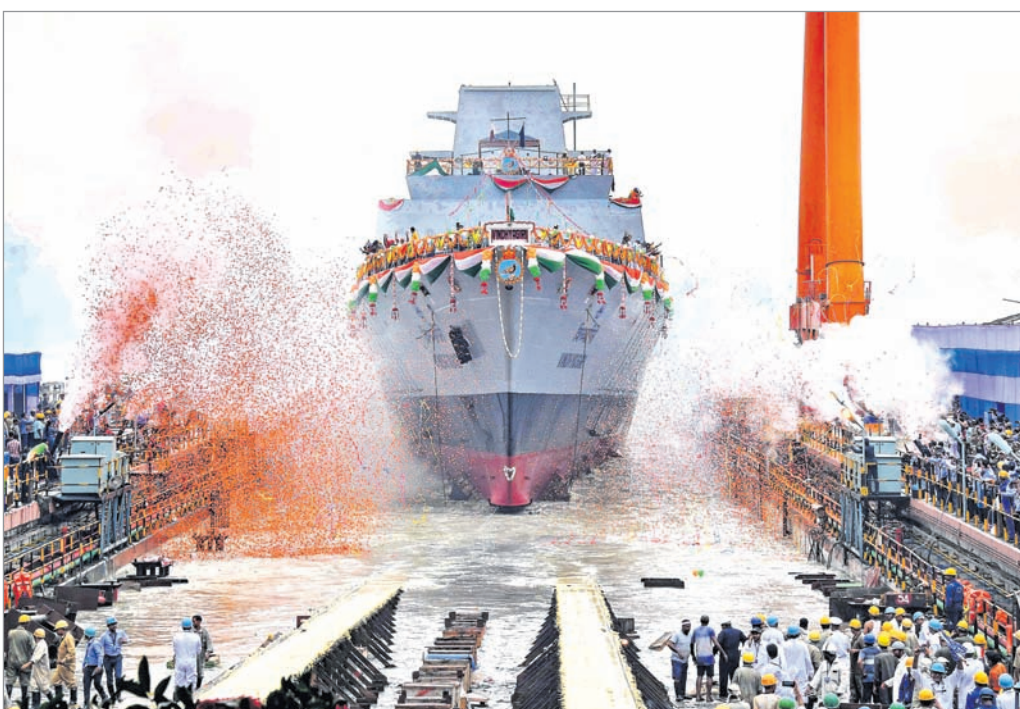
Fraudster held

Bhubaneswar: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha police has arrested the India head of a Chinese earning app involved in an online ponzi scam, an official said Thursday. S Chitravel, 31 was arrested from Aviyur in Tamil Nadu. He was brought to Odisha and produced August 16 before the OPID Court in Cuttack which remanded him to five days in police custody. P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If caught, our organisations will disown us, but that gives a feeling like we're in RAW and are serving the nation



BUILDING FIREPOWER: The Indian Navy launched Thursday its third stealth frigate, 'Vindhyagiri' from one of the docks on the Hooghly river in Kolkata. The warship was launched by President Droupadi Murmu P1PHOTO

HC orders CBI probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Orissa High Court ordered Thursday a CBI probe into the issuance of 'erroneous' JEE (Main), 2022 scorecard to a candidate last year. Hearing a plea filed by Anshuman Kanungo, a division bench of Justices BR Sarangi and Murahari Sri Raman asked the central agency to submit the investigation report within four months. In his petition, Kanungo informed the HC that he had secured 98.8810861 percentile in Session I and 98.9374067 in Session II of JEE (Main), 2022 conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). "Kanungo received the NTA scorecards for Sessions I (98.8810861) and II (98.9374067) in

his mail July 11 and August 8, 2022 respectively. However, later he was told by the testing agency that he had secured 18.8810861 percentile in Session I and 33.1374067 in Session II," Kanungo's lawyer AK Pandey said.

JEE SCORECARD 'ERROR'

With 98 percentile, Kanungo was hopeful of appearing in the JEE (Advanced), 2022. With no way out, the petitioner approached the testing agency, but to no avail, Pandey and his associate S Palit argued. They asserted that the document in Annexure-1 contains the photograph of the petitioner and QR code which indicates that Kanungo secured 98.8810861 in Session I. "It has been duly signed by the senior director of NTA and the

date of declaration of the result was July 10, 2022. The petitioner was also supplied with score card vide Annexure-4, wherein his CRL number has been prescribed as 11193," the lawyers said.

Deputy Solicitor General, PK Parhi, on the other hand, contended that the documents relied upon by the petitioner are not genuine. "Therefore the relief sought by the petitioner cannot be granted," he said.

The HC observed that if documents provided by the petitioner are genuine, he should get admission into choicest institutions like IIT or NIT. "However, if the documents are found to be not genuine, then it is to be found out how the same has been obtained by the petitioner," the HC bench added.

NEERAJ LIFELINE FOR JAVELIN JENA

After being prodded by Olympic champion, MEA intervenes and talks to Hungarian Embassy so that the Odia athlete can participate in the Worlds

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 17: A day after Odisha javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena's one-month visa was cancelled by the

Hungarian Embassy, he has got a fresh appointment for Friday. The new development has renewed hopes that the 27-year-old can still compete in the upcoming World Athletics Championships in Budapest, August 19-27.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in an update shared on 'X' (formerly twitter) said Thursday, "Thanks to all. Javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena has appointment at Hungary Embassy tomorrow at 9.00am."

In the wake of cancellation of Jena's visa, fellow javelin thrower and Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra sought Thursday the Ministry of External Affairs' intervention to resolve the issue so that the athlete could compete in the Worlds.

Taking to social media, Chopra urged Minister of External Affairs (MEA) S Jaishankar to 'find a solution'. "Just heard that there are issues with Kishore Jena's VISA, preventing him from entering Hungary for the World

C'ships. I hope the authorities are able to find a solution, as this is one of the biggest moments of his career. Let's do everything we can," Chopra posted tagging the MEA and Jaishankar.

Jena, who won gold July 30 in the Sri Lankan National Championships with a personal best of 84.38m, had made the cut through the world ranking quota. He had qualified for the event after being placed 36th in the 'Road to Budapest' list updated by World Athletics (WA).

3 hurt in freak shooting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 17: Three persons suffered injuries Thursday after a private security guard's gun went off accidentally while providing cover to a cash van near an ATM booth here. The injured persons were identified as Mohammad Ilias, 40, Sita Lakra, 30, and Anurag Tanti, 25, of Shanti Nagar locality in this town. They were standing in a queue to withdraw money from the ATM. Rajgangpur police have taken

into custody Ranjit Kumar, the guard who was in the van carrying cash, meant for loading in the ICICI Bank ATM. Speaking over the phone from Rajgangpur, SDPO Abhishek Panigrahi said, "We have detained Kumar and are questioning him. He has not been booked so far."

The SDPO informed that the gun went off as Jena was trying to hoist it on his shoulders after returning from the toilet. Panigrahi also said that the injured are stable and the wounds are not life-threatening.

98% POSITIVE PATIENT FEEDBACK

BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA
HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA

"EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS"

CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA

I RECEIVED A NEW LIFE THROUGH KIDNEY TRANSPLANT OF RS. 8.5 LAKH FROM BSKY
KALPANA, MAYURBHANJ

DSPL-188

Ajay Kumar Das
4189872XXXX

ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର Government of Odisha
ବିଜୁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

1 LAKH BENEFICIARIES AVAIL CASHLESS CARE OF ₹ 200 CRORE EVERY MONTH



BRITNEY 'HIRES' CELEBRITY DIVORCE LAWYER LAURA FOR HER LEGAL TEAM

Pop star Britney Spears is said to have hired divorce lawyer to the stars Laura Wasser following her reported split from model and actor Sam Asghari after 14 months of marriage. Sam had stopped wearing the engagement ring from July.

COLE SPROUSE TALKS ABOUT DEATH THREATS FROM FANS

Actor Cole Sprouse got candid about the backlash from Riverdale fans after he broke up with co-star Lili Reinhart. In a new interview, the *Jughead* depicter on the hit CW series talked about how fans were so invested in the show to the point he received death threats following the split, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will focus your attention today on your beloved. You will feel very energetic, but your commitment to work will falter. So don't be surprised if your superiors are annoyed. However, Ganesh says today is a day for romantic pursuits.

TAURUS
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost. The project you are working will progress speedily.

GEMINI
You will try to think up creative ways to perform your daily routine to get a break from the boredom and the rut of your daily schedule. You need to mingle more with people and practice some humility. Guests will come visiting at your home.

CANCER
The day looks set to be so good that you may end up inviting jealousy and envy from people around you. The stars are favourable for matters pertaining to heart. In short, a great day for boosting love and relationships.

LEO
It is an important day for you. Everyone in the office will accept your capabilities and will praise you. You may incur expenses on entertainment and luxuries. Your financial difficulties will now be solved. It is better to have an eye on long term gains. A progressive day on the whole, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesh says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be getting good news from abroad, which will make you happy. Those of you who are searching for jobs will get good news coming your way. Ganesh says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

SCORPIO
You are one social butterfly today. However, shunning the gossips, you spread kindness and happiness in your social groups. People will look up to you today for this reason. What goes around, comes around; spread joy and you are sure to receive joy, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Suddenly, you become ambidextrous and plan to multi task today, says Ganesh. Your instincts will guide you today; trust them and move ahead. You may come across few challenges. But, anyway, who wants an easy way out, right?

CAPRICORN
You firmly believe in the concept of 'health is wealth'. You have maintained a very good health so far and it will not be an issue today, also. Successful completion of current projects seem to be a distant target, however, you will finish them off. Your boss may get upset with you for not completing the work on time.

AQUARIUS
You wish to have more than twenty-four hours in a day! You are determined to finish off your pending work but somehow you will find it extremely difficult to get the load off your shoulders. You will try everything; from canceling your vacations to postponing your dates, but nothing will seem enough, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Ganesh asks you not to undertake any new project or business venture due to the alignment of the planets being unfavorable. You will do well in tasks that do not require too much creativity and innovation. Do not take sides when you are not required to and it make have heavy consequences in future.

You're director of your life: Kangana

New Delhi: Actress and filmmaker Kangana Ranaut, who is known for her portrayal of strong-willed characters on the screen, shared a glimpse of her upcoming roles, saying you are the director of your life, make it a blockbuster.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Kangana shared a collage of her looks from the three upcoming films-- *Chandramukhi 2*, *Tejas*, and *Emergency*. Along with it she wrote, "You are the director of your life...make it a blockbuster," followed by red heart emojis.

Recently, she took to her Instagram handle and heaped praise on John Abraham, calling him 'genuine and inspiring.

Kangana wrote, "I may have said a lot about negative people in the film industry but I must never forget those also (who) are absolutely genuine and inspiring. I worked with John and I don't have enough words to express how amazing he is, and many may not even know it because he won't pay the media for singing his praises."

She added, "He is kind and sorted, no marriage or relationship PR, no paid negativity for others, no harassment or taking advantage of women, no agenda or groupism, simply a wonderful man...love you John."

Kangana will be next seen in a series of high budget movies to be released over the next few months.



THE JENGABURU CURSE

Faria shares her surreal experience

Bhubaneswar: Filmmakers always strive for authenticity in their work, whether in costume, make-up, language, or even the locations they shoot at. Sony LIV's streaming show *The Jengaburu Curse* perfectly illustrates how complying with authenticity and real locations creates an impact.

While talking about her shooting experience, Faria Abdullah, who portrays the character of Priyambada Das said, "We have shot at real locations, be it the airport or the market. The Jengaburu team has really put in efforts to hold on to the authenticity of the locations."

Adding further she said, "I remember shooting in a buzzing market and the team constantly instructing people to not look in the camera and look elsewhere. The most exciting yet thrilling part of the shoot was to shoot in the real mines. We went 500 ft deeper inside the mines to shoot some scenes. We had to wear helmets and boots; the oxygen level dropped as we went deeper inside the mine. We were scared but the experience was surreal!"

Produced by Studio Next, *The Jengaburu Curse* is created and directed by Nila Madhab Panda. The series also features Nasser, Makarand Deshpande, Sudev Nair, Deepak Sampat, and Hitesh Dave in pivotal roles.

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CarryMinati now Asia's most subscribed person

Mumbai: YouTube sensation CarryMinati has amassed over 40 million subscribers and 3.4 billion views on his channel. He has become the most subscribed individual personality of Indian origin on YouTube within India and across Asia.

CarryMinati, whose real name is Ajey Nagar, said, "I'm truly touched with all the audience's love and support. I am grateful to have achieved a milestone I set for myself this year. For now, with the love and support of my fans, I want to explore other areas which can bring more depth to my content. I want to continue learning and evolving as I get older."

Ajey is counted among the most successful YouTubers of India who now joins the league of global influencers such as PewDiePie and MrBeast as the only Indian on the Top 50 list of most followed personalities on YouTube.

His authentic approach has garnered him numerous accolades, including five YouTube Creator Awards, two Silver Play Buttons, two Golden Play Buttons, and a Diamond Play Button. His main YouTube channel boasts a staggering 40 million subscribers.

Furthermore, he emulated the distinctive style of actor Rajinikanth by flipping his glasses. The video has clocked an impressive 500,000 views and more than 10,000 likes.

Japan envoy turns Rajinikanth fanboy

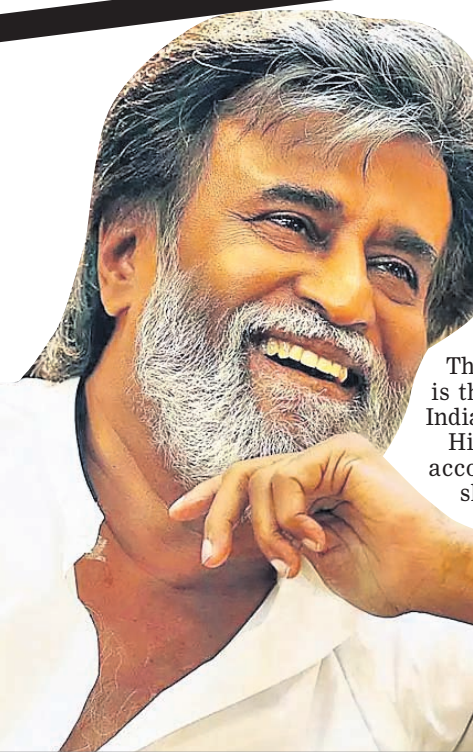
Mumbai: The *Kaavaala* song from the recent Rajinikanth-starrer film *Jailer*, which sees actress Tamannaah Bhatia exhibiting some killer moves, has become a rage with several Reel recreations.

The latest to join the bandwagon is the Japanese Ambassador to India Hiroshi Suzuki.

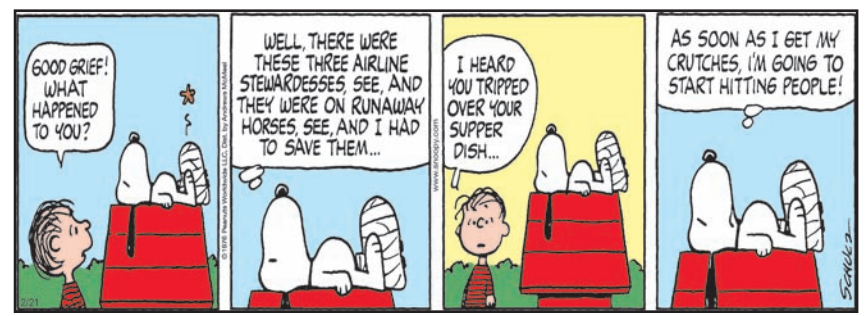
Hiroshi recently took to his X account (erstwhile Twitter) to share a clip of him dancing to the song as he embraced the dance steps. He

He wrote, "Kaavaalaa dance video with Japanese YouTuber Mayo san (@MayoLoveIndia. My Love for Rajinikanth continues..."

collaborated with the Japanese YouTuber Mayo San for the dance performance which has now gone viral. The video, 17 seconds in length, opens with Mayo San dancing the initial segment of the choreography, trying to imitate the steps by Tamannaah in the original composition. Following this, the Ambassador integrates himself into the choreographic sequence, joining in the next step alongside Mayo San.



PEANUTS



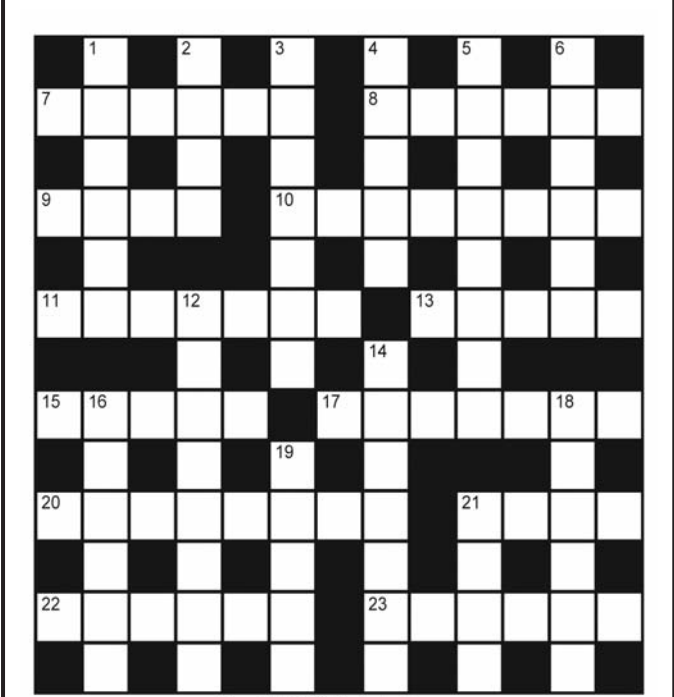
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



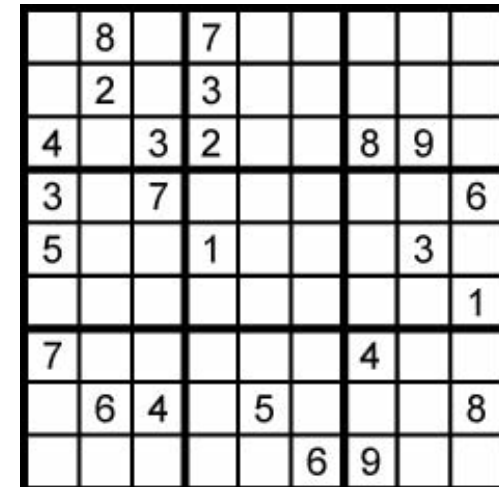
FUN post CROSSWORD



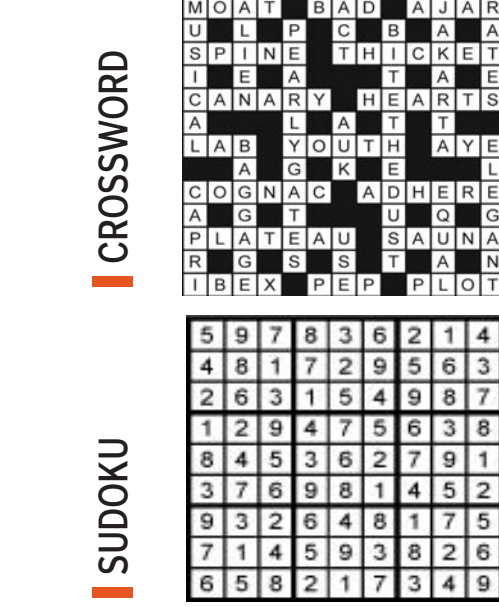
- Across**
- 7 Core
 - 8 Cheers up
 - 9 City on the Rhine
 - 10 Army unit
 - 11 Diver's garb (3,4)
 - 13 Musical exercise
 - 15 After dinner treat
 - 17 Elaborate parties
 - 20 Unstable (3-5)
 - 21 Small pigeon
 - 22 Confused
 - 23 All together
- Down**
- 1 Way off in the outback
 - 2 Knock for a loop
 - 3 Land features with special characteristics
 - 4 Trash hauler
 - 5 Small hills
 - 6 Dog house
 - 12 Beach find
 - 14 Dickens boy (4,3)
 - 16 Tristan's love
 - 18 Consultant's offering
 - 19 Hospital sections
 - 21 Facts and figures

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

INDIA BOSS OF CHINESE PONZI SYNDICATE HELD

EOW arrests 31-year-old S Chitravel from Aviur near Madurai in Tamil Nadu

Guanhua Wang, the mastermind of the scam, along with two other Chinese nationals, created at least three shell companies based in Bangalore to run several cyber-financial scams



Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch arrested the India head of a Chinese earning app involved in an online ponzi scam, an official statement said. S Chitravel, 31, was arrested from Aviur near Madurai in Tamil Nadu, the EOW said in a statement. He was brought to Odisha and produced before OPID Court, Cuttack August 16 which remanded him to five days police remand. The EOW said that the mastermind of this scam is Guanhua Wang, 40, of Hangzhou, China. He along with two other Chinese nationals (one male and one female) came to India in 2019 and stayed in Bangalore for a few months. They created at least

three shell companies based in Bangalore to run several cyber-financial scams. Chitravel was made director in one such company, namely 'Bettec Technologies Private Limited'. During Covid, the trio went back to China but continued running the scam through Chitravel and some other such hired directors and facilitators. Chitravel used to run the scam in India, the EOW said. Earlier, these Chinese people were operating illegal digital loan apps. When many people committed suicide after being trapped in loans, law enforcement agencies launched a crackdown against Chinese loan apps and the government banned many such loan apps. "Money is being siphoned out of India... to China through these scams. They

Gang threatened loan victims with porn pix

The gang supervised by Chitravel used to threaten and send morphed porn pictures of loan victims and their family members. After the loan apps were banned, they started running earning apps (a kind of online ponzi scheme with a promise of doubling/tripling money in a very short time), online betting and other apps. They were also using the morphed photos of celebrities in their online advertisements to lure new investors. To avoid action, they developed a software in China but got it uploaded from India so that it can be masked as an Indian app. generally use multiple layers of mule bank accounts at lower level, followed by current bank accounts of shell companies and finally, crypto traders and some dubious export-import firms to siphon money out of India," an EOW official said. In some cases, small amounts have also been withdrawn in cash in Dubai.

DENGUE TALLY CROSSES 2,100

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Dengue cases in Odisha have crossed 2,100-mark, an official said Thursday. This year, the state has reported 50 per cent more dengue cases than the previous year. While the state had reported 1,441 cases last year, this year the number has crossed 2,100. This year, a total of 2,111 patients have tested positive for the disease by August 16. According to the Health department sources, a maximum of 1,155 people have tested positive for dengue in Khurda district, followed by Balasore (179), Puri (150), Cuttack (125) and Jagatsinghpur (101).



WOMEN POWER
Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with Mission Shakti SHG members at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



MAHANGA STUDENT DEATH

SCW seeks report from Cuttack SP

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The State Commission for Women (SCW) Thursday directed the Superintendent of Police (Cuttack rural) to submit a detailed report after conducting an investigation into the mysterious death of a Class X girl of a school in Mahanga block June 18, 2023. Taking suo motu cognisance of the matter, the SCW registered a case and asked the Cuttack rural SP to submit the

involvement in the issue. In the purported audio, Nayak is allegedly heard demanding Rs 70,000 from the mother of the Physical Education Teacher (PET) of the deceased's school for destroying the evidence related to the mysterious death of the minor. It is alleged that the minor's family members used to torture her after they came to know about her alleged relationship with the PET who used to stay at former's house on rent.



District unit of BJD in Cuttack Thursday suspended former Mahanga block chairman Sarat Nayak from primary membership of the party

report within 15 days of the receipt of order. Meanwhile, the district unit of BJD in Cuttack Thursday suspended former Mahanga block chairman Sarat Nayak from primary membership of the party over the viral audio which gave a new twist to the minor student's death mystery and Nayak's

The deceased girl was accusing her father of forcing her to drink poison in a letter purportedly written by the victim that also went viral. The police have started a probe in the victim's village while another team recorded the statements of the PET and his mother at his village in Jagatsinghpur district.

FM collects soil from Jayee Rajguru village



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, August 17: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday administered the 'Panch Pran' pledge to a gathering during a programme at the Central Sanskrit University here and said every Indian should be free from the slavery mindset instilled by the British. She also collected "maati" (soil) in the 'Amrit Kalash' (sacred pot) at Biraharekrushnapur, the birthplace of renowned freedom fighter Jayee Rajguru in Puri. India will be developed and self-reliant only if we follow the pledge, she said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the need to eliminate any trace of colonial mindset," she said. Along with Sitharaman, the gathering at the varsity read out the 'Panch Pran' resolve, "We pledge to make India developed and self-reliant by 2047, we pledge to remove any trace of colonial

The Union finance minister honoured the family members of martyrs and freedom fighters in Puri district under 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign

mindset, we pledge to celebrate our heritage, we pledge to strengthen unity and respect those who protect the country and we pledge to perform the duties of a citizen." Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who also attended the event, said, "Modi has launched the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign to honour our martyred bravehearts. I thank all of you for taking the pledge for a better India." Sitharaman also collected "maati" (soil) in the 'Amrit Kalash' (sacred pot) at

Ministers unveil Kuwi, Desia books

BHUBANESWAR: Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Kuwi and Desia books during an event here Thursday. The event also witnessed the special cover release on behalf of the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications. Addressing the gathering, Pradhan said that there are over 62 tribes covering 23 per cent of total population of Odisha. So, it becomes necessary to teach students with help of pictures, stories and songs based on their local nature and culture to improve their oral skill, learning outcome and cognitive development, he added. In this regard, the National

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for the first time, in collaboration with Central University of Odisha, has prepared two invaluable books - 'Kuwi Primer' and 'Desia Primer' - for the children who are speaking Kuwi and Desia languages in undivided Koraput district, he mentioned. Sitharaman said the National Education Policy 2020 is a very progressive policy. "It is a result of different people putting their minds together & extensive consultations. NEP is a flexible policy. It is not something that the Centre decides and imposes on all the states." She further said that when one learns, speaks & thinks in one's mother tongue, there's clarity of thought which can be used later. That's why learning in the mother tongue is important, she added.

Modi govt has doomed forests: Jairam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, August 17: Taking a swipe at the Centre, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh Thursday said that in its hurry to do away with 'deemed' forests, the Narendra Modi government has actually doomed forests. "After Parliament passed the dangerous amendments to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 last week, which many including me had warned against, the Odisha government was quick to pass orders that 'deemed' forests would no longer be considered as forests," the Congress leader said in a tweet. "Now the Union Ministry says the state's order is withdrawn. Confusion galore... In its hurry to do away with 'deemed' forests, the Modi government has actually doomed forests," the Rajya Sabha MP added. He also attached a news report of the Odisha government withdrawing the deemed forest order.



Congress has opposed the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in Parliament. In a statement August 2, Ramesh had said that the substance of the amendments have been bulldozed through in Parliament which reflects the mindset of the Modi government, and the vast gap that exists between its global talk and domestic walk on the environment, forests and the rights of adivasis and other forest-dwelling communities. He also said that the journey of the Bill to soon becoming a law is a case study on how to completely subvert the legislative process.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	65151.02 ↓ 99.70
NIFTY	19365.30 ↓ 99.70
DOLLAR	83.11 ↓ 0.03
EURO	90.50 ↓ ₹0.50
GOLD	₹58,530 ↓ ₹151
SILVER	₹70,011 ↑ ₹289

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 29.8°C	30.5°C
	MIN 25.7°C	25.0°C
Humidity	100%	98%
Rainfall	56.2	6.0
		Light rain likely

Platelets can replicate benefits of exercise in brain

THE FINDINGS COULD HELP THE VERY ELDERLY OR SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD A BRAIN INJURY OR STROKE TO IMPROVE COGNITION

New Delhi, August 17: Scientists have found that an injection of specific blood molecules can replicate the benefits of exercise in the brain, paving the way for potential new treatments for age-related cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease patients. The study, published recently in the journal 'Nature Communications' found that platelets, the tiny blood cells critical for blood clotting, secrete a protein that rejuvenates neurons in aged mice in a similar way to physical exercise. "We know exercise increases

the production of new neurons in the hippocampus, the part of the brain important for learning and memory, but the mechanism hasn't been clear," said Odette Leiter from the University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia. "Our previous research has shown platelets are involved, but this study shows platelets are actually required for this effect in the aged mice," Leiter said in a statement. The study focused on exerkin, the biological compounds released into the bloodstream during exercise, which are believed to stimulate exercise-induced response in the brain.



"We discovered that the exerkin CXCL4/Platelet factor 4 or PF4, which is released from platelets after exercise, results in regenerative and cognitive improvements when injected into aged mice," Leiter said.

The study focused on exerkin, biological compounds released into bloodstream during exercise, which stimulate exercise-induced response in brain

The findings have significant implications for the development of drug interventions. "For a lot of people with health conditions, mobility issues, or of advanced age, exercise isn't possible, so pharma-

logical intervention is an important area of research," said Tara Walker from UQ's Queensland Brain Institute. "We can now target platelets to promote neurogenesis, enhance cognition and counteract age-related cognitive decline," Walker said. The researchers said the next step is to test the response in Alzheimer's diseased mice, before moving towards human trials. "It's important to note this is not a replacement for exercise. But it could help the very elderly or someone who has had a brain injury or stroke to improve cognition," Walker said.

HEAVY RAINFALL LIKELY FOR NEXT TWO DAYS: IMD



two places in Boudh, Kandhamal and Kalahandi districts.

Yellow warning of heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) has also been sounded for one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Gajapati, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh, Bargarh, Rayagada, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts.

Thunderstorm with lightning may also occur in Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Angul, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Boudh.

The intensity of rain is likely to decrease steadily thereafter, the IMD said.

The IMD said there is a possibility of wall collapse in kutcha houses and some damage to kutcha roads. Landslides are also likely in vulnerable hilly areas in Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts, it said.

Meanwhile, Special Relief Commissioner Satyabrata Sahu has put all districts collectors and authorities of urban local bodies on alert following the prediction of heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts till August 19.

“By 5:30pm Thursday, Khurda has received maximum rainfall of 78 mm followed by 67.8 mm in Keonjhar, 62.2 mm in Puri, 56.2 mm in Bhubaneswar, 56.2 mm in Titlagarh, 54 mm in Nabarangpur and 41.6 mm in Balasore,” the met office said.

Issuing orange warning (be prepared) for 15 districts, the IMD also said that the low pressure will trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) for one or two places in Puri, Khurda, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri till 8:30am Friday.

It also said that there is possibility of extremely heavy rainfall (more than 20 cm) at one or

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 17: With formation of a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal Thursday, the IMD predicted very heavy rainfall at several places of the state till Saturday, prompting the state government to put the district authorities on alert.

The cyclonic circulation over the northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB) has intensified into a low pressure area and under its influence, an intense cloud band is now moving across coastal Odisha into the interior districts, the IMD said.

Forecasting rainfall till Saturday, the Regional Meteorological Centre here said that heavy rain lashed several parts of the state during the day.

Kulange leads dengue awareness drive at SAI



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange led a dengue awareness campaign here Thursday at the SAI International School to educate school students about dengue prevention through home audits and interactive sessions.

In his interaction with the students, the commissioner highlighted key environmental concerns, advocating for zero dumping in City, advising them to avoid single-use plastics, maintain clean surroundings and practice proper waste segregation.

Notably, the BMC is organizing dengue awareness programme at City schools to create awareness among students. Earlier, such programmes were conducted at Chandrasekharpur Government High School, where students had been informed about dengue preventive measures by BMC's anti-larvae team, ward officer, project coordinator, swachh sathis and supervisors.

‘Everything possible with vision & passion’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Noted hotelier and lifetime Chairman, Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) JK Mohanty has been conferred the prestigious Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT). During a candid interview with OrissaPOST on receiving the coveted honour, Mohanty reveals his journey, mission and contribution to the state's tourism sector. Excerpts...

► **Congratulations on receiving the “Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)” from the KIIT for your valuable contribution to Odisha's tourism sector. Could you share with us your feelings and motivation to pursue ‘Tourism’ as your career goal?**

► For me, this is perhaps the most surprising gift from Lord Jagannath. It was on account of the blessings of my late parents, family members, friends, relatives and all well-wishers. I am also thankful to Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS for selecting me for this special honour from thousands of entrepreneurs in the state.



In fact, I evinced keen interest in tourism industry during my student days in Delhi University. I always desired that Odisha should have some good hotels and I would be a part of the hotel industry. I started my business with a seed capital of Rs 1 lakh which my mother gave me by mortgaging her jewellery.

► **Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) is the highest academic award given by any university. Why do you think you are selected for the award?**

► In my 42-year long career, I never dreamt of or desired to receive this prestigious award in my life. I wasn't a brilliant student neither did I study for this award which is usually given to people who are experts, excellent and specialized in different fields. From day one, my vision was

towards making Odisha an important tourist destination and I made it my mission and worked with passion.

► **How has your passion helped Odisha?**

► I began my journey at the age of 24 with a borrowed capital of Rs 1 lakh and eight employees at Hotel Swosti. Today, with blessings of Lord Jagannath and my mother, the Swosti Group now includes more than 1,500 families under its ambit. I think I have done my bit towards employment and job creation and, of course, customer satisfaction.

Through Swosti Travels I have been able to promote Odisha globally, while infrastructure like Swosti Chilika Resort helped a lot in promoting rural tourism and providing employment to villagers in its vicinity, completely stopping migration of labourers there.

► **What were the challenges you faced during your journey?**

► We encountered significant challenges, notably during the 1999 Super Cyclone and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, the Swosti Group navigated these trying situations with resilience and adept management.

► **You are in the hospitality business since 1981 and heading Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) since 1984. Have you faced any hurdles or difficulties while dealing with various government authorities?**

► I have always been a positive thinker and working closely with government agencies, bureaucrats, administration in various capacities. Although I have faced some difficulty, I overcame those with my humble attitude. My biggest strength is the strong support of the travel trade and my fellow hoteliers who have unanimously selected me as lifetime chairman of HRAO.

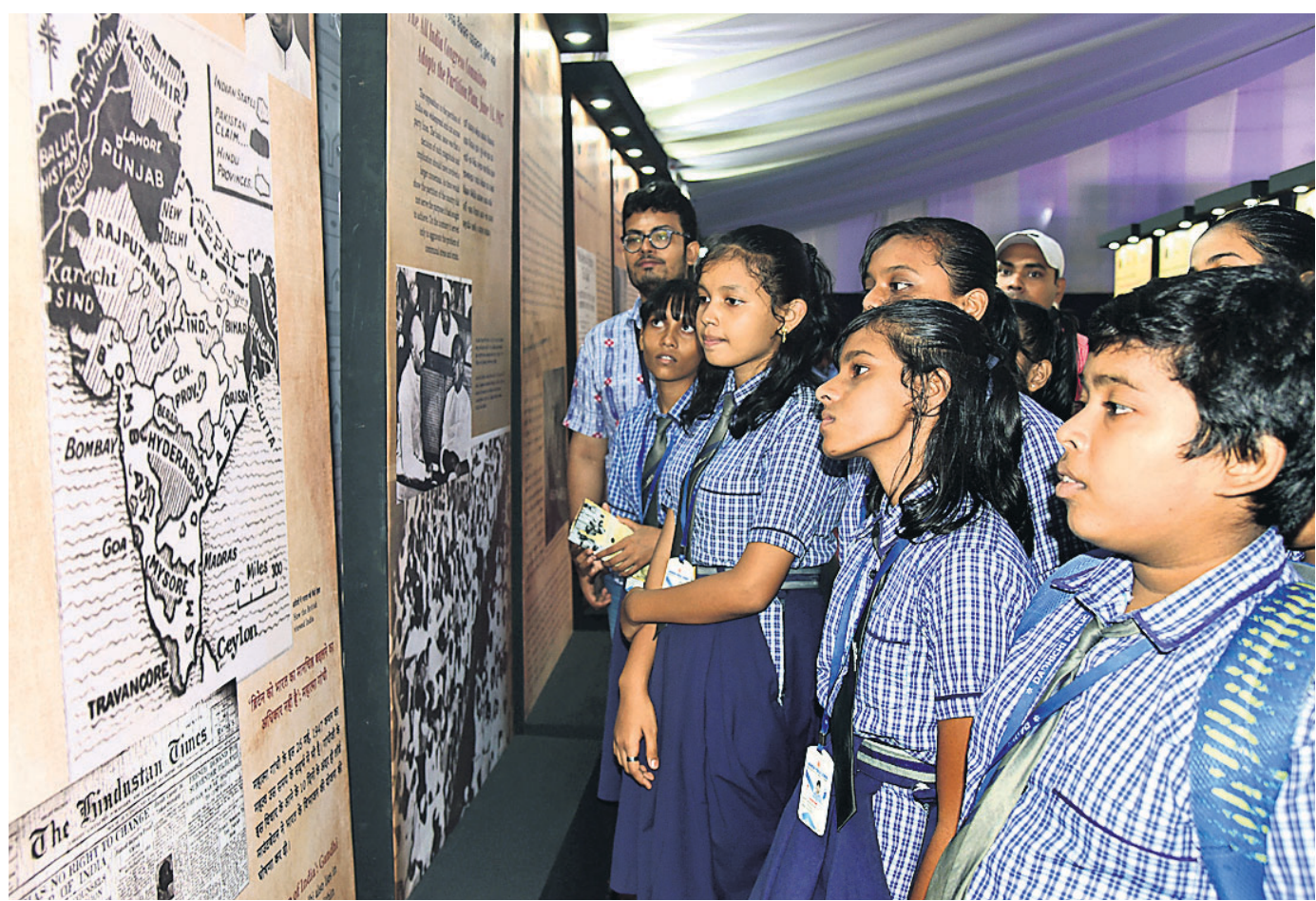
► **Your message to the younger entrepreneurs of Odisha...**

► Nothing happens overnight. If one works seriously with a vision and passion, I am sure everything is possible. In life there will be many ups and downs, hurdles, but one has to have patience to overcome the same with perseverance.

► **What is your success mantra?**
► Perseverance is not giving up. It is persistence and tenacity, the effort required to do something and keep doing it till the end, even if it's hard.

MKCF organises plantation drive

Salipur/Bhubaneswar: MAHAN Knowledge and Charitable Foundation (MKCF) of Salipur in Cuttack celebrated Independence Day and ‘MeriMaatiMeraDesh’ by planting saplings in Anganwadi campus as part of its ‘Connect to Nature’ programme. This will bring awareness and promote environmental consciousness which is the need of the hour. The foundation believes ‘Each One: Plant One’ and tries to imbibe the spirit of social responsibility in the mind of youths. The programme was attended by founder Gyanendra Dash, co-founder Puspapala Kar, Pradeep Dwivedi, Biswajit Nayak and others.



REMEMBERING LEGENDS: Students visit an exhibition on partition organised by the Central Education Ministry at Martyrs Memorial-cum-Freedom Fighters Home at Unit-9 in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

2-day Mallhar fest enthralled audience



SHRISTI SRINIDHI, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Padma Vibhusan Sudarshan Sahoo, noted Odissi dancer Ileana Citaristi and tabla player Guru Kulamani Sahoo were presented the Mallhar award on the concluding day of the Mallhar festival, organised by Nupur, at Rabindra Mandap here, Thursday.

Many eminent artists from within and outside of Odisha enthralled the audience with their enchanting performance during the two-day event.

The festival showcased various talents on the stage - from dance to music - under the guidance of Nrutyaacharya Guru Niranjan Rout who has been conducting the event for the last 12 years.

The performances depict the various stories and folklores associated with Lord Jagannath and various other deities.

On the first day, the event began at 4pm with a performance

by young artistes followed by solos and group performances by seniors.

Radheshyam Tarai, a Kuchipudi exponent, also performed on this occasion and made a painting of a tiger with his feet while stepping along the beats of music. Tarai said, “I have been dancing since my childhood. Being on the stage excites me and the best for me is the painting.”

Many music and dance gurus graced the occasion, including a noted Pakhauj exponent. The event concluded with speeches by the guests and the award ceremony where all participating students were presented with the ‘Nupur’ memento.

Students who had received the junior and senior scholarship were given away the Guru Niranjan Rout award. Akhankhya Das who had participated in a dance show and won was also bestowed with the Guru Niranjan Rout award.

OUAT holds session on Parthenium weed



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 17: A launching session of the Parthenium Awareness Week, organised by the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Weed Management was held at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) Wednesday.

OUAT vice chancellor PK

Roul highlighted the possible threat of the problematic weed Parthenium on human and animal health. He also said that along Parthenium some other foreign weeds like Mikania, Echinochloa are also creating problems in many ways in the ecosystem and should be managed by all the stakeholders.

The Dean of extension, PJ Misha highlighted the weeds impact on crop production and loss of biodiversity and stressed upon its integrated management. The Director, Directorate of Weed Research (DWR), Jabalpur, JS Mishra said about the steps taken by his organisation in creating awareness among the people to manage the weed.

NEGATIVE STUDENT FEEDBACK

Higher Education dept asks colleges to submit report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The higher education department has sought report from colleges where negative feedback from students had been received during an online survey, recently. Mousumi Nayak, joint secretary Higher Education Dept, said negative students' feedback about the colleges had been received through cloud-based Students' Feedback Form.

“The department wants you to look into the matters of your concerned institutions and furnish detailed report in this regard within 10 days to the undersigned,” the letter, issued to the concerned colleges by the department, read.

Students of these public uni-



versities have accused many of their faculty of not spending seven hours on campuses, and even some joining duty in an inebriated condition.

A month back, the department of Higher Education had asked students of public colleges and universities to point out the short-

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NEGATIVE STUDENT FEEDBACK THROUGH CLOUD-BASED STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

STUDENTS OF BHUBANESWAR-BASED BJB COLLEGE AND MAHARISHI COLLEGE OF NATURAL LAW POINTED OUT SEVERAL SHORTCOMINGS, LIKE POOR LABORATORIES, AND LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE AMONG OTHERS

comings in their respective institutions - academics, placements or infrastructure - through a Google form which was put up on its social media handles.

In their feedback, students of seven state-run universities informed the department that many of their faculty members

did not remain present in the campus for seven hours as mandated by the state government. Students also mentioned names of faculty who they accused of doing so in their feedback.

As per the University Grants Commission (UGC), workload of faculty members should not be less than 40 hours a week for 30 working weeks in an academic year.

The students have alleged that some of the faculty members turned up at their workplace in inebriated state. Similarly, students of several Bhubaneswar-based colleges pointed out several shortcomings in institutions like BJB College and Maharishi College of Natural Law that includes poor laboratories, lack of infrastructure among others.

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Border row: Yet another Telugu plaque in Kotia

Andhra administration puts up Telugu information plaque in Kotia's Dhulipadar eyeing to bring the villagers into its fold



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, August 17: There is no let up in border dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Reports said the neighbouring state is now trying a new trick as part of its continuous effort to wean the residents of bordering villages in Kotia panchayat away from the fold of Odisha administration and alienate them from Odia language.

In its latest incursion bid, the neighbouring state has put up Telugu information plaque and signage in Dhulipadar village under Kotia panchayat in this block of Koraput district in order to inform the villagers about various welfare schemes being implemented by the Andhra Pradesh government. Observers said the idea behind putting up cemented information plaque in Telugu language is to alienate the villagers from Odia language and lure them towards their state.

However, what is more surprising is that the district administration is still oblivious of the development and is yet to take steps to pre-empt such nefarious designs of Andhra Pradesh on Odisha soil. Locals questioned how the district administration could remain unaware about the Telugu information plaque despite scores of officials visiting the area daily. From this it can be well constructed how serious the officials are about the security and welfare of the bordering villages, they alleged adding that the move aims to wipe out Odia language in the fringe areas.

The concerned signage written in Telugu reads "land, water

and forest in addition to the MGNREGS scheme of the Centre are all yours. The safety and security of these resources is in your hands".

Sources said that Andhra officials set up the signboard August 12, Saturday evening ahead of the Independence Day. The sign board is carrying information about the Central scheme and the message of the Andhra Chief Minister.

Zilla Parishad member Tikai Gemel flayed the move by Andhra Pradesh stating that there must be a larger conspiracy by the neighbouring state behind putting up the Telugu plaque. Locals alleged that it is a new trick adopted by Andhra Pradesh to encroach upon the area and grab land in the locality.

Gemel strongly condemning the move said that Kotia belongs to Odisha and the information plaque should have been written in Odia.

When contacted, tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua, who is also the BDO (in-charge), said he is aware of the development and has informed the Collector. Action will be taken when the district administration issues an order in this regard.

Notably, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh have been locked in a bitter battle over territorial control of 21 of the 28 revenue villages in Kotia gram panchayat.

The Supreme Court has passed an order directing that the status quo be maintained by both the parties. However, Andhra Pradesh has been continuously entering the border villages and trying to woo the residents on the pretext of welfare schemes and other benefits.

Students made to stand in rain as parents skip school meeting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, August 17: In a shocking incident, some students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) here were allegedly made to stand out in the open by the school authorities as their parents or guardians did not turn up for a school meeting.

Furthermore, the students who were ordered to stand outside were thoroughly drenched in rain. The unfortunate incident has triggered resentment among the students, guardians and locals in the area.

Reports said, around 10-15 guardians skipped the meet-

ing called by the KV authorities in the district. Acting strictly, the principal of the school allegedly asked some students, whose guardians were not present in the meeting, to wait outside the school.

The guardians of the concerned students reached the school following the incident and discussed the matter with the principal. All of them condemned the untoward incident and stated that they will send a written complaint in this regard to the district Collector. The comments of the principal and the district administration could not be obtained in this regard.



REGIONAL ASPIRATION: Members of Zilla Kriyanushtan Committee stage a road blockade on NH-59 at Kacheri Square during a dawn-to-dusk bandh demanding district status for Titlagarh, Thursday. Normal life was severely hit as all government and private offices, banks, educational institutions and business establishments remained closed during the period.

20-year RI for minor's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, August 17: A fast track court here Thursday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) after convicting him for the rape of a minor girl.

The convict was identified as Okil Munda. The additional district and sessions judge Bijay Kumar Mishra of the fast track court heard the matter and pronounced the order under two sections after convicting Munda for the offence. The judge also slapped penalty of ₹15,000 on him apart from the punishment and directed the district

legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹5 lakh ex-gratia to the survivor.

In default, Munda has to undergo additional imprisonment for seven months. The judge pronounced the order after examining the statements of 10 witnesses and the police investigation report. This was stated here by public prosecutor Gyanendranath Jena who was pleading the matter on behalf of the state government.

According to the case diary, the survivor was asleep along with her elder sister at home while her mother had gone outside on some

work May 31, 2017. Munda barged into the house, picked up and took the minor to a nearby farmland and raped her there.

Meanwhile, failing to find her daughter after returning home, the girl's mother searched for her outside and heard her screams emerging from the farmland. She rushed there and rescued her daughter in a disrobed condition as Munda had fled the scene.

Later, the girl's mother lodged a complaint at the Telkoi police station. Police arrested Munda and produced him in the court for the offence.

Kendrapara remembers Mahatma Gandhi's foot march 90 years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, August 17: As the nation celebrated the Independence Day Tuesday, the people of Odisha remembered Mahatma Gandhi's historic foot march that he undertook nine decades ago covering many parts of the state including the coastal district of Kendrapara.

Spreading a message against untouchability, the Father of the Nation allowed Dalits to enter temples in some villages during that march in 1934, said Dr Basudeb Das (78), a researcher of Kendrapara.

"The padyatra by Gandhiji was one of the most momentous events in the country's freedom struggle," Das said.

During the march, Gandhi spent four days in Kendrapara district and toured different places.

"Meera Ben, Gopabandhu Choudhury, Rajkrushna Bose, Rama Devi, a German youth named K Kuto, Uma Bajaj, Binod Kanungo, Surendranath Pattnayak and many other followers accompanied him," Das said quoting historical records preserved by him.

Gandhi reached Kakatia village May 26 and spent the night in Salar Muth. He addressed meetings at Bhagabatpur and Tinukuhani Chhak the next day. He stayed for a couple of days at Garapur bungalow on the outskirts of



FILE PHOTO

Kendrapara town. Later, he visited Barimula and spent the night on May 30 in Dhumat village.

Gandhi took a bath while sitting on a stone at Dhumat village May 30, 1934. Villagers carried water from the nearby river in buckets for him. That stone, now known as 'Gandhi Shila', has been preserved at the same spot and a bust of him was built there.

"Neither I nor my father saw Mahatma Gandhi. But we worship the Gandhi Shila. My grandfather used to tell us how Gandhiji came to our area and infused the spirit of Independence among the local people," said Anuradha Mohanty, a college student from Dhumat village.

The 'History of Orissa' authored by former chief minister late Harekrushna Mahtab throws elaborate details on Gandhi's march in

During the march, Gandhi spent four days in Kendrapara district and toured different places

A statue was unveiled recently at Tinimuhani Chhak in Kendrapara township to commemorate the historic padyatra of the Father of the Nation in 1934

Those who took part in the yatra or were eyewitnesses to it are not alive to recall Babu's persona. But the fact that the great man had put his steps in Kendrapara makes us proud

MANABESH ROUT | A RESIDENT OF KENDRAPARA TOWN

the state.

"Those who took part in the yatra or were eyewitnesses to it are not alive to recall Babu's persona. But the fact that the great man had put his steps in Kendrapara makes us proud," said 30-year-old sales executive, Manabesh Rout, of Kendrapara town.

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi along with other freedom fighters was unveiled recently at Tinimuhani Chhak in Kendrapara township to commemorate the historic padyatra of the Father of the Nation in 1934.

A special cover of Gandhi's padyatra in Kendrapara was also released by the Indian Department of Post as a mark of tribute to the Father of the Nation.

2 TUSKERS ON RAMPAGE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 17: Two wild tuskers on rampage have made life difficult for villagers near Bonai. The situation turned dangerous Tuesday when the elephants entered two villages and ran amok in the streets. Life came to a standstill when the tuskers walked through the main streets of the villages.

Reports said, for the last one and half weeks, two elephants who have got separated from their herd are roaming freely in Sangogua, Talita, Tikayatpalli, Didipalli, Kelo, Kansar and other areas near Bonai. They got separated from their herd some three weeks back during a drive, informed a forest official. Since then all efforts to unite them



or drive them away have failed and the two are creating havoc in the locality.

When this was brought to the notice of Bonai DFO Lalit K Patra, he said, "The jumbos are really behaving a little differently. My experienced team is keeping an eye on them and tracking them. I am hopeful that soon they will be driven away."

EAST COAST RAILWAY

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No. Comm/ SBP/IREPS/Catg./23/17

01. ASSET DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SETTING UP, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RAIL COACH RESTAURANT AT CIRCULATING AREA OF SAMBALPUR STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

STATION : SAMBALPUR (SBP)

02. ASSET DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SETTING UP, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RAIL COACH RESTAURANT AT CIRCULATING AREA OF TITLAGARH STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

STATION : TITLAGARH (TIG)

03. ASSET DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SETTING UP, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RAIL COACH RESTAURANT AT CIRCULATING AREA OF MUNIGUDA STATION FOR 05 YEARS.

STATION : MUNIGUDA (MNGD)

Auction Start Date & Time : 28.08.2023, 1200 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 01), 29.08.2023, 1200 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 02 & 03).

Auction Close Date & Time : 28.08.2023, 1230 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 01), 29.08.2023, 1240 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 02 & 03).

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REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR

File No: S&S/2/OMSS(D)/Wheat/2023-24 Date: 17.08.2023

PRESS NOTE

To moderate the market prices of Wheat and Rice, it has been decided by Govt. of India to ofload 50 LMT Wheat and 25 LMT Rice in the open market through e-auctions in a phased manner under OMSS (D) through Food Corporation of India. The reserve price of rice has been reduced to Rs. 2900/QtL from Rs. 3100/QtL. Traders are also allowed for Rice e-auction up to 1000 MT per bidder.

As per recent tender floated by FCI, 7000 MT Wheat and 6000 MT Rice has been offered for e-auction from 11centres of FCI Odisha Region. The tender for sale of wheat and Rice under the OMSS(D) is floated on every Friday and interested bidder can register themselves at M-Junction (<http://www.valuejunction.in/fci>) for participating in e-auction.

General Manager (Region)

Sambalpur forest division pilots rocky hill plantation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 17: In a first, the Sambalpur forest division has launched efforts for rocky hill plantation with an aim to usher in green cover in the district, a report said Thursday.

The plantation experiment has been conducted for the first time at Kilasama reserve forest, Bhalubahal and Rengali forest ranges.

There are a few bald patches inside the forest blocks wherein normal plantation was not possible and the field staff was reluctant to take up plantation there owing to the rocky topography. This was stated here by Sambalpur DFO Biswanath Nilambaran while speaking to this correspondent, Thursday

The problem was analysed and the whole forest division area was assessed using GIS. About 700 hectare of land was identified

where there was rocky outgrowth with scanty or no vegetation. It was then decided to take up the experiment on one hectare area and the mode of plantation to be carried out was researched upon.

Experts and environmentalists have been roped in to aid and advice on the plantation. Local people have also been involved through Van Suraksha Samitis to make this programme successful and help them become self-reliant.

The plantation has been conducted with funds available from the district mineral foundation. Around 1,600 saplings have been planted per hectare of land at an expenditure of ₹10 lakh. The plants will be maintained for a period of three years.

Drought resistant plants and tough species like Sterculia urens (genduli), Ficus sps, Amla, Custard apple, Mohua, Kendu, Khaira



INNOVATIVE MOVE

were identified for plantation. Among these plant species, 60 per cent are Sterculia urens and ficus, and the rest 40 per cent are other species.

The plantation would be assessed for two years and all the observations would be recorded and analysed. The Forest department will also learn the causes wherever

the mortality rate is high and try to improve the method with localised modifications.

The technique used is to go for stone packing instead of pits in the absence of soil. Within those structures, foreign soil would be used. Cracks and crevices would be utilised for better results. Only vermicompost and organic ma-

nure 'Jeevamruta' will be used as fertilizers for nourishment of the plants.

GIS analysis of the landmass has been done and the area has been identified. Later, a team was sent for inspection of the natural forest and some species like Sterculia urens, neem and custard apple were shortlisted that can grow in the tough rocky terrain.

Currently, plantation is going on and for another six to seven months the progress will be observed. Based on the observations, Forest department will devise a standard protocol and carry out plantation in all such areas with the help of CSR or state funds.

The DFO was very hopeful about the success of the pilot project. He said that with Miyawaki method they have been able to grow forest with 35 to 45-feet high trees in just two years. "I believe this rocky land will soon be filled with forest," he added.

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THE MOTHER



Hunger Profiteers

The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have caused commodity prices to soar in recent years, severely undermining global food security. Now, global food prices are down from the peaks of a year ago, but no one should be complacent: the world's food woes are far from over. The risk of additional price volatility remains high.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin's annulment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and attacks on export infrastructure in Ukraine, grain prices have ticked upward again. But dysfunctional food markets are the long-term risk. Wheat remains more than twice as expensive as it was before the pandemic. Moreover, food-price inflation is still running above 5 per cent in most developing countries, and as high as 30 per cent in Rwanda and Egypt. Another global food-price spike is likely.

The real problem is that the growing market power of major agribusiness firms is raising the risk that extreme food-price swings will become the norm.

Consider the fertilizer sector. The tripling of fertilizer prices in 2020-22 – which drove up food prices – was partly fueled by higher costs for nitrogen fertilizer, which reflected the rising price of natural gas. But new data from GRAIN/IATP show that leading firms hiked fertilizer prices well beyond what was needed to cover increased production costs, increasing their operating profits to 36 per cent, even as they sold less product. The resulting profit ratios were three times higher than before the Ukraine war began, and well above the 13 per cent average posted by S&P 500 firms.

Global grain traders have similarly been able to translate tighter supplies into record profits. In mid-2022, grain multinational Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM) recorded its highest-ever quarterly profits. Its rival Cargill also banked record profits, with total revenues soaring by 23 per cent.

Such profiteering is made possible by growing corporate concentration in the food and fertilizer sectors. ADM and Cargill are two of the four "ABCD" firms – along with Bunge and Dreyfus – that control an estimated 70-90 per cent of the world grain market. Just four firms account for 75 per cent of nitrogen-fertilizer production in the United States, and 72 per cent of the potash-fertilizer market globally.

Through decades of mergers and acquisitions, such firms have been able to expand their influence up and down the supply chain, while amassing huge amounts of market data. Now, a proposed \$34 billion merger between Bunge and Viterra – the grain arm of the commodity giant Glencore – would mean further concentration of soybean and canola processing and distribution across the Americas.

Leading agribusiness firms enjoy huge supply-management and price-setting power, akin to the role of OPEC in oil markets. And they are not afraid to use it: previous episodes of market turbulence – in the 1970s and in 2008-11 – also led to higher profits in the fertilizer and grain-trading sectors. In a 2021 filing to US regulators, Nutrien, the world's largest fertilizer company, admitted that its "higher selling prices more than offset higher raw-material costs and lower sales volume."

For the world's poor, who spend as much as 60 per cent of their incomes on food, every percentage point of food-price inflation can be devastating. Skyrocketing import costs for food and fertilizers are also one reason why many low- and middle-income countries are now facing their worst debt crisis in 60 years.

Farmers, meanwhile, are mostly unable to benefit from soaring food prices, largely because the costs of inputs – supplied largely by major firms with huge market power – are rising even faster than commodity prices. With farmgate prices now plummeting, and debt rising (owing to interest-rate hikes), many farmers are struggling to stay afloat. As Russia's actions in Ukraine prompt wheat futures to surge again, it has become clear that food prices can spike without warning. There is little doubt that more shocks will come. The consequences are likely to be compounded if a few companies still hold such inordinate power over the world's food systems. That is why governments must act to change incentives before the next crisis arrives.

Compelling calls have been made to tax agribusinesses' windfall profits and re-invest the funds in climate-resilient food systems. Government scrutiny of fertilizer price-gouging – as farmers' groups have demanded – is also needed, along with stronger enforcement of competition policies to curb excessive mergers and acquisitions. Governments need to consider doing what for decades they have been reluctant to do – stepping in to break up monopolies.

The Bunge-Viterra merger offers an ideal opportunity to assess what kind of consolidation is really in the public interest and to send a clear message: profiteering from food crises will no longer be tolerated.

Jennifer Clapp is a professor at the University of Waterloo. Phil Howard is a professor at Michigan State University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Hope is the thing with feathers, That perches in the soul, And sings the tune without the words, And never stops at all. EMILY DICKINSON

They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for. TOM BODETT

You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming. PABLO NERUDA

WORDSWORTH

Miswanting

This word has been lurking in the academic undergrowth since two researchers, Daniel Gilbert and Timothy Wilson, used it in an article, Miswanting: Some Problems in the Forecasting of Future Affective States, in a book in 2000. It has suddenly taken on a higher profile because it was used in an article by Jon Gertner, entitled The Futile Pursuit of Happiness, in the New York Times, and it has subsequently been taken up by other journalists. To miswant something means that you mistakenly believe getting it will make you happy. Wanting to win the lottery may be your heart's desire, but as many people who do win find it brings problems for which they are unprepared and which often make them regret winning, to want to win may be a miswant. Similarly, a new car, or that new television, or even a new partner, may all seem to be your ultimate want, but if you actually get them, the delight often cools more quickly than you could ever have imagined, proving that they were really miswanted. The real problem with miswanting, the researchers argue, is that it leads you to want the wrong things and make poor judgements about what will really make you happy. As they said in their original article: "Much unhappiness ... has less to do with not getting what we want, and more to do with not wanting what we like". It is not the big stuff, hysterical action and miswanted acquisitions, that changes lives, but attending to the small details ... and enjoying everyday pleasures now rather than looking back at them with a sense of nostalgia at some point in the future (Independent, 12 Sep. 2003).



Anwesh Satpathy

OPPOSING THE BJP AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS SEEN AS BEING NOT ONLY UNFAIR BUT TANTAMOUNT TO OPPOSING THE COUNTRY

The no-confidence motion debates, which many claimed would mark the heralding of a new and presumably stronger Opposition, only exposed existing fault-lines. We were told that it was to force the PM to speak on Manipur. The motive was justified. A civil war worse than the 2002 riots of Gujarat is brewing in Manipur. Over sixty thousand have been displaced, hundreds killed, places of worship vandalised and set on fire, women raped and paraded naked on streets while the youth have picked up guns. There has been a near-complete separation between Kukis and Meitis. Moreover, the CM has openly and explicitly acted like the henchman of one community. From labelling critics of his own state as being from "foreigners" to arresting journalists for the slightest criticism, N Biren Singh has repeatedly exposed himself as being partisan to only one community in the conflict. The gravity of the situation can be glimpsed by how partisan its news outlets have become. The highest circulated newspaper of Manipur "The Sangai Express" in its editorial implicitly referred to Kukis as "gun-toting, bandana adorned gunmen who have nothing in common with the soil of the land."

Yet, the government, instead of showing the slightest hint of empathy has chosen to not acknowledge the problem. The Cabinet Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani bafflingly blames Rahul Gandhi for putting "Manipur on fire." This is particularly troubling given that Gandhi has actually gone to meet and console the victims of Manipur's ethnic and sexual violence while Irani draws ridiculous false equivalences in Parliament. What should be more sur-



The BJP continues to win elections despite rising prices, unemployment and devastating ethnic violence. The massive popularity cannot be explained away by merely the incompetency of Opposition

prising, arguably shocking in a normal world, is that it took a viral video of women being harassed by a mob for the PM to even speak on the issue. Moreover, the insensitivity of the PM was left inarguable through the fact that he choose to draw false equivalence between crimes against women in Opposition ruled states and the brewing civil war bordering on violent anarchy in Manipur. It showed the country what his critics have been arguing since a long time - the PM is more bothered by bad public relations than actual violence. In fact, violence can be used for building narratives, furthering polarisation and eventually garnering votes. We have seen this pattern repeated. The PM allows riots to materialise even on the other side of political spectrum when it suits his political ends, as is evidenced by the violence in Bengal and the violence during farmer's protest.

We have a government at the centre which has consistently refused to acknowledge its mis-

takes. During the 2012 Nirbhaya protests, PM Manmohan Singh cancelled his scheduled events and acknowledged his failures and the crisis at hand. It was then Chief Minister of Delhi who referred to the territory as the "rape capital." In contrast, the Modi government resorted to manhandling of acclaimed wrestlers while they were protesting against sexual abuse. The accused, BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, has 38 cases against him including of murder, rioting and kidnapping. Moreover, he has admitted to committing murder on camera during an interview. It took four months for the government to listen to the demands. The PM continues to maintain his silence.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, India's unemployment rate is 8.2%. According to a 2019 Pew survey, 76% of Indians consider unemployment to be a severe problem. A report prepared by the National Sample Survey Office in 2018 found that the unemployment rate had increased

to a four-decade high. After the details were leaked to Business Standard, the centre immediately backtracked by citing flawed methodologies. No report has been released since then by the government on unemployment. The lack of transparency seems inconsistent with the Prime Minister's constant rhetoric of development.

The BJP continues to win elections despite rising prices, unemployment and devastating ethnic violence. The massive popularity cannot be explained away by merely the incompetency of Opposition. PM Modi's success rests on his ability to craft narratives and convince people that we are actually better off. Opposing the BJP and the PM is seen as being not only unfair but tantamount to opposing the country. The PM is a selfless nationalist saviour who has risen from terrible poverty while his opponents are presented as corrupt, selfish, anti-national members of India's privileged elites i.e. the Lutyens media and the "Khan Market gang." That the BJP has built the exact same culture albeit with different elites is conveniently ignored. Thus, the suffering of the common man acquires a meaning. We are told that our economic problems are insignificant in the face of the interest of the nation. Surely, we can bear unemployment for a little while when the threat of terrorism from Pakistan looms. Modi, through his oratory and public relation skills, has successfully convinced enough Indians of this narrative. The public is not a mute spectator. The public is a participant, an actor in a drama directed by a master showman. A showman like no other.

The writer is an author and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM CORRUPTION

In pursuit of a transparent system



Dhurjati Mukherjee

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE NOW LIKE CORPORATE ENTITIES WITH MUCH ATTENTION ON EARNING MONEY FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS

Corruption has emerged as a serious problem in many countries of the Third World and India is no exception. The main reason for the rise in corruption has been the political framework which includes a nexus of the political class with all types of business groups. Apart from this, the bureaucracy motivated and supported by the political class has been resorting to various forms of activities, both anti-social and unethical, which ends up in massive corruption affecting the socio-economic fabric of the country.

What brings relevance to the subject of corruption are the recent observations of PM Modi in his blistering attack on Opposition bloc, INDIA, which he called a coalition of convenience of corrupt leaders interested "in promoting their families and protecting themselves from being prosecuted for their crimes." A few days back, Modi, in his virtual address, at a G20 meeting referred to Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, replacing IPC, that includes a provision for non-conviction based confiscation of properties of proclaimed offenders in India and overseas. That his government was waging a war on corruption was indicated in the fact that since enactment of the Economic Offenders Act (in 2018) assets worth over \$1.8 billion (around ₹15,000 crore) have been recovered

from fugitives in addition to attachment of assets worth \$12 billion (around 1 lakh crore) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act since 2014.

Though figures may appear impressive, it is difficult to take the PM seriously on questions of graft and corruption. Before delving into the problem, it is well known that corruption cases have been manifest all over the country, whether it is Karnataka, Bengal, Delhi or Maharashtra. Sociologists and economists agree that elections require huge funds and political parties, even the regional ones, need these resources. As such, they try to get funds not just from business houses but also from the public by extending favours. In West Bengal, thousands of crores were taken to give jobs to school teachers and municipal employees.

It is indeed distressing to note that as per a Transparency International survey, India has one of the highest incidences of bribery and use of personal connections to access key public services such as health and education. According to the survey, state services, particularly police, revenue department, hospitals and even lower courts are the most corrupt bodies.

The roots of corruption in India date back to British colonial rule. The British administration, which systematically excluded much of the Indian

population from key political and administrative processes, helped to institutionalise graft culture by enacting the crucial Official Secrets Act, 1923. This colonial act made it an offence for any public official to disclose state information or secrets. This act continues to play its role in sustaining graft culture in the post-Independence period, although India was mostly caught up in graft culture due to overzealous state regulation, particularly when it came to economic activities.

Surprisingly, even after the permit raj was abolished India's culture of graft began with the commencement of economic reforms and liberalisation in 1991. Economic reforms led to the ending of licensing for industrial activities and the abolition of import quotas, thereby removing many corrupt practices. However, this did not reduce graft. On the contrary, the economic reforms and high growth expanded the spaces for high volume corruption in every segment of society. For example, the opaque and arbitrary allocation of coal blocks and the telecom spectrum (infamously called 2G) which hit the state exchequer; clearly points to the massiveness of post-reform corruption. In fact, the UPA-II had to spend most of its time fighting a series of allegations of graft.

After the NDA government

came to power, corruption continued unabated with several high profile business leaders, reportedly close to the Prime Minister siphoning money from banks, and inflating prices of stocks. Given the magnitude and pernicious nature of corruption affecting every aspect of society and economy, the Indian State has done very little to stop it though leaders talk of the need to curb this evil.

Though Right to Information legislation was enacted in 2005, this has failed to curb corruption. The current regime has curtailed the powers of the Chief Information Commissioner via administrative changes and constitutional amendments, in recent years and restricted the scope of the RTI application too.

The political parties are now like corporate entities with much attention on earning money for the next elections and for distribution among cadres. In fact, the political system today is enmeshed in corruption at various levels as a result of which educated people do not join the political field. In this connection, state funding of elections has been talked about and may need a second thought. Meanwhile, as indicated by the PM, "zero tolerance against corruption" would become a reality by leveraging technology and e-governance may make the system transparent.

Combating dengue

Sir, The global rise in dengue cases has become a grave concern, extending its reach to new regions and posing a significant threat to global health. The WHO predicts a surge in cases due to global warming, which fosters disease-carrying mosquitoes. In 2022, reported dengue cases soared to 4.2 million, an eight-fold increase since 2000. Dr Raman Velayudhan of WHO's neglected tropical diseases department emphasises that nearly half the world's population faces dengue risk. Dengue, a viral infection caused by the dengue virus (DENV), enters humans through bites of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. Four dengue virus types—DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4—transmitted by freshwater breeding mosquitoes, pose unique dangers. These mosquitoes mature from larvae in a week and spread the virus by biting various Aedes mosquito species. Symptoms encompass fever, severe headache, muscle and joint pain, and a rash akin to measles. Strains like Type II and IV can lead to hospitalisation. Aedes aegypti mosquitoes transmit these symptoms, active during the day. Initial infection can be subtle, but later attacks are severe. Early recognition is vital for timely medical aid. Experts recommend essential measures such as avoiding mosquito bites, maintaining a healthy diet, and enhancing immunity to safeguard against the disease.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Unprecedented step

Sir, The image of the Election Commission (EC) as an impartial constitutional institution has eroded over the years. However, it took a severe beating following the strong comments of the Supreme Court earlier this year on the way the Commission members were appointed. The five-member constitutional bench's judgement to add the Chief Justice of India as a member of the high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition was to ensure impartiality in selections to the EC. Now, in an unprecedented step, the Centre has tabled a Bill that replaces the CJI with a minister appointed by the PM in the committee. The authority of the EC watered down once the single member commission was reconstituted by appointing two more members. It is unfortunate that the Centre is loathe to send a message that it desires an unbiased EC.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Kerala circus industry seeks aid



cus. The ailing industry of which people like Raveendran are an integral part of, is now seeking aid from the government to ensure the survival of hundreds of families.

Ajay Shankar, who owns two of India's top circus companies, Gemini Circus and Jumbo Circus, which were built by his legendary father 'Gemini' M V Shankaran, spoke of the need for government intervention to keep the industry afloat. "We survived three years of COVID lockdown. I had to keep going as there were more than 200 families depending on the circus," Ajay Shankar said.

When businesses reopened, circus companies too started to attract record crowds. Many performers returned to the rings. But what about times when the circus cannot function, asks Ajay Shankar, urging the government to provide the industry with some cash loans during off-season.

"We have to spend Rs 1.5 lakh per day. We can survive the off-season only if we get a good amount in excess of that expenditure (during peak season)," Shankar said. The Kerala government on its part has said that it would consider the demands of the circus industry. "If they submit a memorandum with regard to their demands to the government, then that would be considered favourably," Kerala Culture Minister Saji Cheriyan said.

person of short stature. He found recognition for his ability to pull off comic stunts.

Along with his elder brother, Gangadharan soon became a major circus attraction. He also acted in films with South Indian actors Mammooty, Kamal Haasan and Bollywood's Mithun Chakraborty -- a fact he states proudly.

Gangadharan, who is part of the Jumbo Circus currently playing at the famous Putharikandam Ground here, has been in the business for over 35 years, first with Gemini Circus and then with Jumbo. He has become a father figure to all the clowns in the company.

"With circuses being constrained by the severe restrictions on the exhibition of animals in addition to a ban on training children in acrobatics, it's a struggle to capture the interest of the spending public. It cannot survive too long. We do not have children training to perform, and the existing artists will retire soon. We have none to learn new tricks from and no animals to showcase," Raveendran, 87, a former trapeze acrobat and trainer who works with Jumbo Circus said.

Raveendran stands tall defying his age and has an amazing memory of all that he experienced during his career in the cir-



A bride feeds an elephant at a procession at Pavakulam temple in Kochi

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 17: Tears welled up in the eyes of Gangadharan, as he recalled how difficult it had been for him to put on the costume of a clown and walk to the circus ring to entertain the crowd, just a few minutes after receiving a telegram about his father's death. This was decades ago.

"Whatever happens, the show must go on," said 72-year old Gangadharan, who was born in a circus tent to parents who were also circus artistes. Although circuses tend to feature people with dwarfism in the role of clowns, Gangadharan is not a

Burqa clad man arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, August 17: Police here Wednesday arrested a 23-year-old male IT professional for allegedly entering a women's washroom wearing a burqa in a popular mall and recording their videos on his mobile phone.

The accused, a B.Tech graduate, was booked for the offences under sections 354(C) (Voyeurism) and 419 (Impersonation) of the IPC and Section 66 E of the Information Technology Act on the same day, police said.

He was then produced before a local court which remanded the accused to 14 days in judicial custody, an officer of Kalamassery police station said. The incident occurred on Wednesday at Lulu Mall here. The accused, who works in a leading IT firm based at the Infopark here, wore a burqa and entered a women's washroom and placed his mobile in there, police said.

He put his phone in a small cardboard box, put a hole in it for the camera to record visuals and stuck it to the door of the washroom, according to the po-

lice. After placing the camera, the suspect came out from there and stood in front of the main door of the washroom, police said.

Noting his suspicious behaviour, the mall's security personnel informed the police who reached the spot and questioned the accused, the officer said. Questioning revealed that he had disguised himself as a woman and that he was recording the scenes in the washroom on his mobile phone, police said.

Subsequently, the burqa and the mobile phone of the accused were seized and he was taken into custody. The officer said investigations were on to find out if the accused had carried out such acts in the past anywhere else.

The accused, who works in a leading IT firm, wore a burqa and entered a women's washroom and placed his mobile in there, police said

Udhayanidhi to lead DMK's hunger strike against NEET

The state-wide hunger strike is being held to seek the abolition of NEET and to condemn the Union government, which has not scrapped the national test yet, and the "irresponsible" Governor R N Ravi for his pro-NEET stand, the DMK said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 17: Udhayanidhi Stalin, the ruling DMK's youth wing chief and Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister, will lead a hunger strike here on August 20 against NEET, the party said.

The state-wide hunger strike is being held to seek the abolition of NEET and to condemn the Union government, which has not scrapped the national test yet, and the "irresponsible"



Governor R N Ravi for his pro-NEET stand, the DMK said.

The party slammed the Central government as being autocratic, as it has so far not abolished NEET, despite several students ending their lives as they could not realise their aspiration to pursue medicine. The fast is also being undertaken to condemn Ravi for claiming to have "powers" that he does not have. The reference is to the Governor's recent remark that he would never clear the

Bill to exempt Tamil Nadu from the exam's ambit if he "had the power to do so".

The Bill is pending with President Droupadi Murmu, and Chief Minister M K Stalin has urged her to clear it expeditiously. In a party release, DMK's youth, students and medical wings said that in Chennai the fast would be led by Udhayanidhi (Youth wing secretary), C V M P Ezhilarasan (Students' wing secretary) and Ezhilan Naganathan (Medical wing secretary).

The fast would be held across the state, the release said and exhorted people to rally behind them to abolish NEET and establish the educational rights of Tamil Nadu students, in order to save lives.

Days ago, a teen died by suicide here as he could not clear the qualifying test to pursue medicine. His father too died by suicide unable to bear the death of his son. According to the state government, 16 students have ended their lives due to NEET.

The DMK's fast against NEET is being held on August 20, the same day that the main opposition AIADMK had announced a mega party conference in Madurai.

Kerala govt to provide free Onam kits to poor families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 17: The Kerala government has decided to provide over six lakh free Onam kits to poor families and residents of welfare institutions in the state for the festival this year.

The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

It was decided in the meeting that Rs 32 crore would be allocated in advance to Supplyco, a state-run agency, to procure the items for the kit which would be distributed through ration shops, the statement said.

Of the 6, 07,691 kits to be distributed, 5, 87,691 will go to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card holders and the remaining 20,000 to residents of welfare institutions, it said.

The kit will contain tea, whole and split varieties of green gram, ghee, coconut oil, sambar powder, coriander powder and a cloth bag, the statement said.

Earlier in July, state Finance Minister K N Balagopal had in-

dicated that the Kerala government, which was facing a financial crisis, was unlikely to distribute free kits containing essential food items to ration cardholders in all categories during the upcoming Onam season.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2023-T-169
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH LEFT OVER WORK BY CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION OF HANDAPA STATION GOODS SIDING HIGH MAST.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 13,60,190.53, EMD (₹): 27,200.00
Completion period of the work : 03 (Three) Months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1630 Hrs. of 28.08.2023
 No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.irps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective bidders are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-456/O/23-24 Sambalpur

TN NGO promotes vulture conservation using art

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 17: A Tamil Nadu-based NGO, working closely for vulture conservation, is promoting the conservation of the big bird using art by roping in renowned artist Sivakumar, who has to his credit drawn more than 250 birds in the book 'Thiruvannamalai Mavatta Paravaikal'.

The book has details of each bird. The NGO, Arulagam has been closely working for vulture conservation in the state and has been campaigning among pharmacists and veterinarians on the need for preserving vultures and the importance of food chain.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, said that the organisation has joined hands with noted artist of Tiruvannamalai, R. Sivakumar to educate people about environmental issues and to provide inspiration to take action for preserving the environment.



The NGO, according to its office bearers will be displaying the artwork in 12 villages in Madhumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and eight in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode district. The NGO is of the opinion that the artwork will create an environment of support for the vultures among the local people and would be supportive for the conservation efforts.

There are nests of white backed vultures as well as that of Long billed vultures in the villages of Erode districts. The state government has been tak-

The NGO, according to its office bearers will be displaying the artwork in 12 villages in Madhumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) and eight in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode district

The NGO is of the opinion that the artwork will create an environment of support for the vultures among the local people and would be supportive for the conservation efforts

ing proactive measures for vulture conservation and the Tamil Nadu Drug Control Department had filed charges against suppliers, distributors, manufacturers and retailers of the drug Diclofenac in the state.

The government had formally put restrictions on the Diclofenac vial size in 2015. This was following the Bombay Natural History Society presenting evidences that the bigger vial sizes were being misused for veterinary use.

TN to set up zero liquid discharge facilities to prevent pollution

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 17: The Tamil Nadu government will be setting up 'Zero Liquid Discharge' facilities in textile clusters to prevent pollution and to ensure a green and clean environment.

The Central government has joined hands with the Tamil Nadu state government to set up 18 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems in Tiruppur, the textile capital of South India.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu government said that an amount of Rs 703 crore has been earmarked for setting up the new effluent treatment plants and ZLDs. The Tamil Nadu government will also be conducting research to dispose of the salt accumulated in



the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP), in Tiruppur.

A committee of senior technocrats, including scientists have been constituted to finalise the technology provider to eliminate the mixed hazardous salt and the waste that has accumulated over a period of time.

This committee, according to Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials, have held several deliberations and is in the process of finalizing the proper technology. This committee will also prescribe Standard Operating Procedures for establishing new CETPs and cost effective operation and maintenance of existing common effluent treatment plants.

As per industry estimates around 73,000 MT of mixed salt is accumulated in the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) in Tiruppur. The accumulated mixed salt waste is creating serious hazards to human health as well as the environment and hence the state government has constituted a committee to immediately finalize proper effluent treatment plants.

No. b-19

GOVT. OF ODISHA

Bid Identification No. EE-NH-KJR-07/2023-24
 e-mail: eenhkeonjhar@gmail.com

- No. of the Work : 1 No.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 79.28 Lakh (Approx.)
- Period of Completion : 6 (Six) Calendar Months
- Date and time of availability of Bid document in the portal : From 13.00 Hr. 18.08.2023 to 17.00 Hr. of 01.09.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 17.00 Hr. of 01.09.2023
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal : 11.30 Hr. of 02.09.2023
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, N.H. Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd./- Executive Engineer
 N.H. Division, Keonjhar
 OIPR-34048/11/0005/2324

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, DHARMAGARH
 DIST.: KALAHANDI, PIN - 766015

'e' Procurement NOTICE
 Bid Identification No. DHM/05/2023-24

No. C-1081: The Executive Officer on behalf of Dharmagarh NAC invites tenders in Single Cover System. Bid documents consisting of specification of the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

- Number of Civil Works : 5 (Five) Numbers
- Estimated Cost : 5.54 Lakh to 26.77 Lakh
- Period of Completion : As per NIT
- Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal : From 03.00 P.M. of 16.08.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of 27.08.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 05.00 P.M. of 27.08.2023
- Bids will be opened on : 10.00 A.M. of Dt.28.08.2023
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Dharmagarh NAC

Sd./- Executive Officer
 Dharmagarh NAC
 OIPR-13163/11/0009/2324



Artistes perform during a show of the Jumbo Circus in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Manipuri community people stage a protest over the ongoing ethnic violence in the state at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



President Droupadi Murmu, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and others during the launch ceremony of Vindhyagiri, the sixth ship of project 17A of Indian Navy, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders Engineers Limited, in Kolkata



Members of Bihar Pradeshik Agarwal Mahila Sammelan during celebrations of the upcoming Janmashtami festival in Patna, Bihar



Russian President Vladimir Putin, second right, and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin sit in a railway carriage exploring the Manezh Metro Station exhibition prior to the ceremony to launch passenger traffic on the Line D3 of Moscow Central Diameters via videoconference, at the Manezh Central Exhibition Hall in Moscow, Russia



BJP MLAs Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Om Prakash Sharma with other party MLAs wearing black stage a protest over alleged corruption in the Delhi Government, during a session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly in New Delhi



Israelis protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to overhaul the judicial system near an inauguration event for Israel's new light rail line in Petach Tikva, Israel
PT/AP PHOTOS



A car catches fire on the Lohia Path in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

national



Today Manipur is burning. Two communities are fighting each other, and women are facing inappropriate treatment. If the people of the country continue to fight amongst themselves, how will India become a Vishwa Guru

NO MORE CHANGE HASSLES

Passengers not having change while purchasing tickets on Noida Metro can now avoid hassle by using the UPI payment facility across all the stations of the rail network.



of the day quote

I had forecast that he (Vajpayee) will become the Prime Minister one day and it turned out to be true. The coalition was given the name National Democratic Alliance in 1999, under his leadership

It should be ensured that no goons, mafia, or criminals can occupy the land illegally. In criminal cases, the accused should be arrested by registering an FIR

While focusing on citizen convenience and aiming to improve the living conditions of those residing in these colonies, we reduced the requirements for approach road and internal road widths for regularisation eligibility.

SHORT TAKES

IndiGo pilot dies at boarding gate

Nagpur: A 40-year-old IndiGo pilot who was going to operate the airline's Nagpur-Pune flight died after collapsing near a boarding gate at the Nagpur airport Thursday.

Bittu Bajrangi sent to judicial custody

Gurugram/Nuh: Cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangi, arrested in connection with communal clashes in Nuh earlier in the month, was sent to 14-day judicial custody Thursday, police said.

JU student's death: Battle outside univ

Kolkata: A raging battle broke out between activists of an ultra-left organisation with BJP's Yuva Morcha members Thursday as the saffron party leader Suwendu Adhikari's convoy came up to a gate of the Jadavpur University.

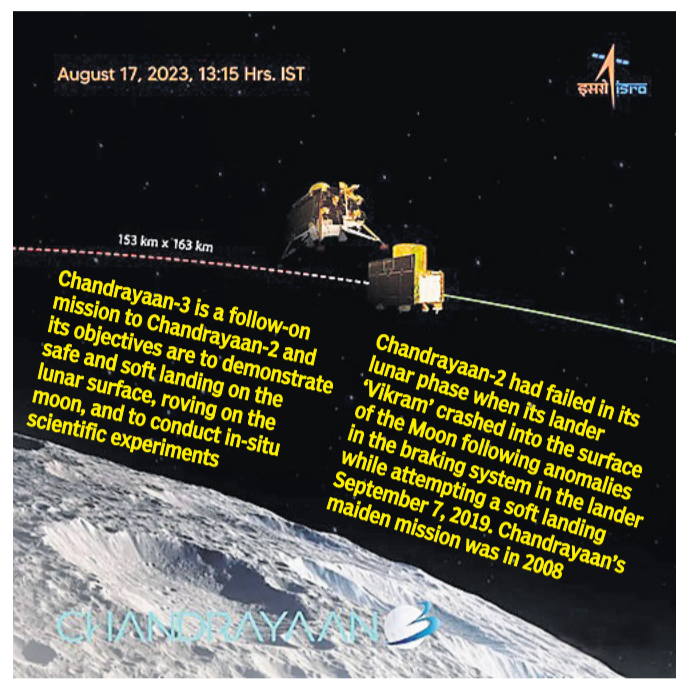
Rajinikath meditates at Ranchi ashram

Ranchi: Veteran actor Rajinikanth Thursday meditated for an hour at an ashram in Ranchi. On the previous day, he had held a "courtesy meeting" with Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan here upon his arrival from Uttarakhand.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 MISSION

Lander separates from propulsion module

THE LANDER MODULE COMPRISING THE LANDER VIKRAM AND ROVER PRAGYAN IS NOW READY TO BE LOWERED TO AN ORBIT THAT TAKES IT CLOSER TO THE MOON'S SURFACE. THE SOFT LANDING ON THE LUNAR SOUTH POLE IS SCHEDULED AT 5.47 PM NEXT WEDNESDAY



If the mission succeeds in landing a robotic lunar rover in ISRO's second attempt in four years, India will become the fourth country to master the technology of soft-landing on the Moon's surface after the US, China and the former Soviet Union

Moon will be attempted, an ISRO official said. The Propulsion Module will continue its journey in the current orbit for months/years, the ISRO said. "Now really the match starts. These are the final overs we are talking about," Chandrayaan-3 Project Director M Annadurai told PTI.

AGENCIES

Bangalore, August 17: India's Chandrayaan-3 mission on Thursday achieved a major milestone when its Lander Module carrying the rover inside successfully separated from the Propulsion Module to be on course for an unprecedented soft-landing on the moon's south pole planned August 23.

is 30 km and Apolune (farthest from where the soft landing on the south polar region of the

SPACE RACE HEATS UP

The race to the uncharted south pole of the Moon is quickening with India's Chandrayaan-3 and Russia's Luna-25 gearing up for lunar landings next week, each mission holding significant implications beyond the thrilling competition in the skies.

BILKIS CASE SC says state govt should not be selective in remission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The Supreme Court Thursday questioned the Gujarat government for extending the benefit of remission policy "selectively" to convicts, stating that the opportunity to reform and reintegrate with the society should be given to every prisoner.



half of the state of Gujarat. ASG Raju argued that the 11 convicts deserved the chance of reformation and their applications seeking remission were considered pursuant to an earlier judgement of the Supreme Court.

"He gave this opinion because the convicts did not fit into the (Maharashtra's remission) policy," he added. Further, the ASG said that the trial judge while awarding the sentence did not impose death penalty or specify that life sentence will run without remission.



NATURE'S FURY: Army and NDRF personnel carry out rescue and relief work at the site of landslide after incessant rains in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The death toll rose to 74 as another body was pulled out of the rubble of a Shiva temple here and two more people were killed in Chamba district

BJP names candidates for MP, Ch'garh polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: The BJP Thursday named its candidates for 39 seats in Madhya Pradesh and 21 in Chhattisgarh, none of which is currently held by the party.

The BJP's decision to name its candidates in these relatively weak seats so much in advance underscores its intent to get the better of the Congress in the two states, more so following the opposition party's big win in Karnataka a few months back.

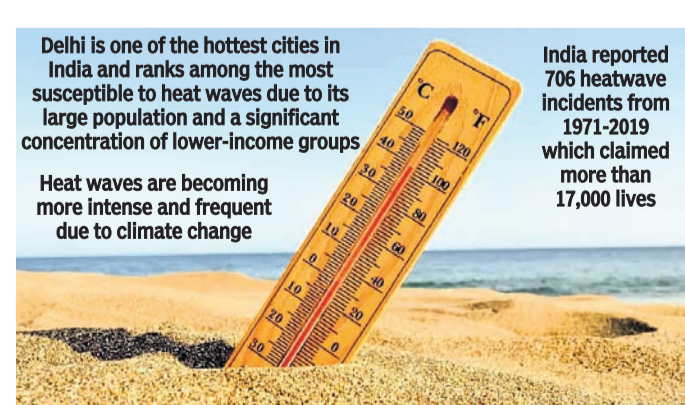
BJP had suffered serious reverses in the 2018 polls. The party has fielded Vijay Baghel, its Durg MP, from Patan which is currently represented by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel.

Delhi's 1st heat action plan: No schools in afternoon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17: Delhi will alter school timings, suspend non-essential water use, provide uninterrupted power supply to health facilities and survey vulnerable locations daily to mitigate the impact of extreme heat on susceptible populations in peak summers, according to the city's first heat action plan.

the indoors cooler. "The DDMA started working on Delhi's first heat action plan in September last year after Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena convened a meeting in this regard. The National Institute of Disaster Management vetted it and provided suggestions," a DDMA official told PTI.



Delhi is one of the hottest cities in India and ranks among the most susceptible to heat waves due to its large population and a significant concentration of lower-income groups. Heat waves are becoming more intense and frequent due to climate change. India reported 706 heatwave incidents from 1971-2019 which claimed more than 17,000 lives.

population. A 'red alert' will be triggered when the maximum temperature exceeds the normal temperature by at least 6 degrees Celsius. An 'orange alert' will be issued if the maximum temperature is four to five degrees Celsius above normal, while a 'yellow alert' will be given for a departure from normal ranging from 0 to 3.9 degrees Celsius.

The focus is on training and capacity-building for these groups. In Phase 2 (March to July), "cooling centres", including temples, public buildings, malls, and temporary night shelters, will be activated to offer outdoor workers, slum communities, and other vulnerable populations access to shaded areas in response to heat alerts.

international

of the day quote

China is always Sri Lanka's reliable strategic partner and appreciates that Sri Lanka has always been friendly to China and has stood by China on issues related to its core interests

WANG YI | FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Investments we make in one country can often yield benefits in others. Take food security. In India, starting in the 1960s, we worked with scientists and local farmers to develop and distribute high-yield, resilient seeds. Over the next two decades, those seeds helped to increase rice production in India by 50 per cent and wheat production by 230 per cent, ending a cycle of recurring famine and helping kick off a Green Revolution that boosted agricultural yields in other parts of the world

SAMANTHA POWER | UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) ADMINISTRATOR

In addition to English, children will also have to learn Hindi and Chinese in the future to fit into the changing world

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Google fined

Moscow: A Russian court Thursday imposed a 3-million-ruble (\$32,000) fine on Google for failing to delete allegedly false information about the conflict in Ukraine. The move by a magistrate's court follows similar actions in early August against Apple and the Wikimedia Foundation that hosts Wikipedia. According to Russian news reports, the court found that the YouTube video service, which is owned by Google, was guilty of not deleting videos with incorrect information about the conflict — which Russia characterises as a "special military operation".

10 killed in crash

Kuala Lumpur: A small aircraft lost control and crashed Thursday on a highway in Malaysia's central Selangor state, killing all eight people on board and two on the ground, authorities said. Selangor police chief Hussein Omar Khan said the six passengers and two crew members on the private chartered plane perished in the crash. The drivers of a motorcycle and a car that were hit when the plane smashed into the highway also died, he said. Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the plane left the northern resort island of Langkawi and had obtained approval to land at Subang airport.

PROBE ORDERED Arrests after mob burns churches in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, August 17: Pakistani authorities have arrested 135 people in connection with the unprecedented mob attack on 21 churches in Punjab province even as the government Thursday ordered a high-level probe into the riots and promised to "restore" all the damaged churches and homes of the minority Christian community. An enraged mob ransacked and torched 21 churches and several houses of Christians on Wednesday over blasphemy allegations in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad district, 130 km from Punjab's provincial capital Lahore. A Christian cemetery and the office of the local assistant commissioner were also vandalised. "A case has been registered against 600 suspects under terrorism and blasphemy charges," Punjab caretaker information minister Amir Mir said Thursday. A Punjab police spokesman said that 135 miscreants have been arrested for attacks on churches and houses of the minority community in Jaranwala. The members of the radical group Tehreek-i-Labbai

Pakistan were among those arrested. Mir said peace has been restored in the area and a heavy contingent of police and Rangers has been deployed outside churches and homes of the minority Christian community. He said police foiled many attempts aimed at damaging various buildings.

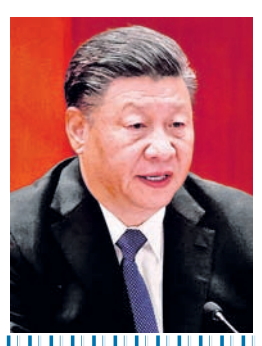
The chief minister has ordered a high-level investigation into the matter and those involved in this heinous crime will not escape justice," he said. Meanwhile, Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi promised to "restore" within three to four days all the churches and the homes of the minority Christian community which were attacked and torched by the mob.

Addressing a meeting attended by religious leaders of the Christian community on Thursday, Naqvi condemned the mob violence and said such actions are against the teachings of Islam and those of the Holy Prophet. He said the mob attack was a "planned conspiracy" to "light a fire in the country and sabotage its peace." He vowed to prevent any such "conspiracy" in the future.

A PUNJAB POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT 135 MISCREANTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR ATTACKS ON CHURCHES AND HOUSES OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITY IN JARANWALA. ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, MARKETS AND BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS REMAINED CLOSED IN JARANWALA THURSDAY. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS IN FAISALABAD THURSDAY ASSESSED THE DAMAGE TO THEIR HOLY PLACES AND HOUSES IN JARANWALA.



A Christian woman reacts after watching her home vandalised by an angry Muslim mob in Jaranwala in the Faisalabad district, Pakistan



We must maintain historic patience and insist on making steady, step-by-step progress
XI JINPING | CHINA PRESIDENT

THOUSANDS EVACUATED

Firefighters Thursday struggled to contain a wildfire that broke out in a mountainous national park on the Spanish island of Tenerife, prompting authorities to evacuate at least 3,800 people



People participate in a greased-pole climbing competition held as a part of the Independence Day celebrations at Ancol Beach in Jakarta, Indonesia

Kakar's 19-member Cabinet takes oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 17: A 19-member Cabinet of Pakistan's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar took oath Thursday to run the cash-strapped country until the general elections and ensure a seamless transition of power.

President Arif Alvi administered an oath to the caretaker Cabinet at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the presidential house.

According to an official statement, 16 federal ministers and 3 advisers are part of the Cabinet.

The oath-taking ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran at the President's House in Islamabad.

The ceremony was attended by Kakar, Punjab interim Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and others. The swearing-in of Cabinet ministers completed the process of government formation in the country, which is facing its worst economic crisis.

TRAGIC INCIDENT

Over 60 migrants feared dead

Seven bodies were found on the boat and an estimated 56 people are missing at sea and presumed dead, said International Organisation for Migration spokesperson Safa Msehli



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakar (Senegal), August 17: More than 60 migrants are feared dead after a Spanish fishing vessel rescued a boat off the Atlantic archipelago of Cape Verde that originally had more than 100 people aboard, authorities and migrant advocates said Thursday. Seven bodies were found on the boat and an estimated 56 people are missing at sea and presumed dead, said International Organisation for Migration spokesperson Safa Msehli. According to Senegal's foreign affairs ministry, 38 people were

rescued earlier in the week near Cape Verde, about 620 kilometres (385 miles) off the coast of West Africa. The Spanish migration advocacy group Walking Borders said the vessel was a large fishing boat, called a pirogue, which had left Senegal on July 10. Families in Fass Boye, a seaside town 145 kilometres (90 miles) north of the capital, Dakar, reached out to Walking Borders on July 20 after 10 days without hearing from loved ones on the

boat, group founder Helena Maleno Garzón said.

Cheikh Awa Boye, president of the local fishing association, said survivors called home from Cape Verde after the rescue. Boye said two of his nephews are among those missing. Spain's Maritime Rescue Service confirmed that a Spanish fishing boat named the Zillarri rescued 38 people and recovered seven bodies from a Senegalese pirogue on August 14 after spotting it adrift northeast of Cape Verde.

HISTORIC TREASURES STOLEN IN BRITISH MUSEUM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 17: The British Museum, one London's premier tourist attractions with thousands of precious artefacts on display including from India, has sacked a member of staff pending legal action after several treasures from a storeroom were found to have been stolen.

The famous public museum dedicated to human history, art and culture, which also has several ancient Indian artefacts on display including a gallery devoted to 'India: Amravati' sculptures, said

on Wednesday it has launched an independent review of security after items from the collection were found to be missing, stolen or damaged earlier this year.

The matter is also under investigation by the Economic Crime Command of the Metropolitan Police and the sacked employee remains unidentified while investigations are ongoing. "We called in the police, imposed emergency measures to increase security, set up an independent review into what happened and lessons to learn, and used all the disciplinary powers

STAFFER SACKED



available to us to deal with the individual we believe to be responsible," said George Osborne, Chair of the British Museum.

The former UK chancellor of the exchequer laid out the museum's priority as threefold: to

recover the stolen items; to find out what could have been done to stop this; and to do "whatever it takes", with investment in security and collection records, to make sure this doesn't happen again.

"It's a sad day for all who love our British Museum, but we're determined to right the wrongs and use the experience to build a stronger museum," he said. According to an official museum statement, the majority of the items in question were small pieces kept in a storeroom belonging to one of

the museum's collections. They include gold jewellery and gems of semi-precious stones and glass dating from the 15th century BC to the 19th century AD. None had recently been on public display, and they were kept primarily for academic and research purposes, the museum said.

"This is a highly unusual incident. The museum apologises for what has happened, but we have now brought an end to this — and we are determined to put things right," said Hartwig Fischer, Director of the British Museum.

Socialist wins key Spanish Parl vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, August 17: Spain's newly elected Parliament voted Thursday by a majority to elect a Socialist candidate as chamber speaker, breathing some life into acting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's aspirations of forming another leftist government.

The crucial vote was won by Francina Armengol with 178 votes in the 350-lower house of parliament, against 139 for the main conservative Popular Party's candidate. It was the first parliamentary vote since inconclusive national elections on July 23 left no group with an easy path to form government. Parties on the left and right have almost an equal number of seats.

It remains to be seen if Sanchez can round up the same support should he be called on by the king to try to form a government.

If not, a new election could be around the corner. The parliament was also to vote on eight members of the speaker's presiding council, a body that sets the agenda for parliamentary sessions.

Armengol won with the support of 14 votes from two separatist parties in the northeastern region of Catalonia, including seven from Junts (Together), a radical Catalan separatist party led by fugitive politician Carles Puigdemont, who resides in Brussels after fleeing Spain following his unsuccessful 2017 secession bid.

Junts were quick to point out that the vote was solely for the speaker position and did not indicate the party would back Sanchez.

TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

5 Indians among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero award winners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 17: Five youths from India have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.

The International Young Eco-Hero Awards programme recognises and encourages children and teens from ages 8 to 16 who have taken action towards solving the most critical environmental issues.

The awardees are eco-conscious youth who took the crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems. Winners of the International Young Eco-Hero Award are selected by a panel of independent judges, including experts in environmental science, biology, and education.

For the past 20 years, "Action For Nature" has recognised 339 Eco-Heroes from 27 countries and 32 US states, a media release on Tuesday said. All of this year's young climate champions are proving one thing loud and clear: the next generation of leaders has arrived, and they're unleashing their power on a global scale to tackle the climate crisis head-on," said Beryl Kay, president of Action for Nature. "The incredible accomplishments of this year's winners are more than just isolated projects — they're changing lives and transforming communities for



the better," he said. Dixit, who won first place in this year's competition, has been growing saplings to protect the environment since she was 4. Through the Green Eiha Smile Foundation, she and a group of volunteers have planted over 20,000 saplings, creating mini forests, parks, and green belts in her Indian city, providing shade and cleaner air.

"If the work is done with dedication and sincerity, then the biggest goal can be achieved," she said. Manya Harsha who won second place in the 8-12 year-old category has embarked on a mission to raise awareness about environmental issues and climate action. Through her books, blog, and YouTube channel, "The Little Environmentalist", she aims to inspire youth to take action and

become environmentally conscious. Manya engages in various activities such as walkathons, planting saplings, distributing seed balls, and organizing clean-up drives to make a positive impact on the environment.

Nirvaan Somany, who took second place in the 13-16 year-old category is the founder of "Project Jeans" to tackle the environmental impact of the fashion industry, specifically the waste caused by discarded denim, while also addressing the needs of the underprivileged. He repurposes used jeans into washable and insulating sleeping bags for the homeless, reducing landfill waste and providing better protection from harsh weather conditions.

With 6,000 pairs of jeans collected and 800 sleeping bags distributed to date, Nirvaan's initiative has made a positive impact on both the environment and

the lives of those in need. Mannat Kaur won third place in the 13-16 year-old category. Her project aims to address water scarcity and carbon emissions associated with freshwater supply and wastewater treatment. Karnav Rastogi, 13, who received an honourable mention in this year's competition is committed to raising awareness about and taking action to reduce plastic waste and combat climate change.

He wrote two books, "Kartik, Daddy & Plastic: A Journey About Beating Plastic Pollution" and "Kartik, Mixie & Monster: A Journey About Ocean Pollution," to educate young people about the impact of plastic pollution and climate change, providing solutions to tackle these issues. To date, he has distributed 5,000 copies of his books and has inspired countless young people to become champions of change.

business

of the day quote

Buses being a pivotal source of urban pollution, the decision will help substantially reduce pollution levels and consequential carbon emissions

Over the last few years, we have expanded beyond our usual B2C space, and have become a travel platform, offering travel products to channels outside of our popular, consumer-facing, travel super-app

Exports from India are an integral part of our global strategy. Crossing the 600,000 units mark is a significant milestone. India's strategic geographical location and the engineering capabilities here have been a key to our growing exports

RESULTS CORNER

Godrej Properties' net debt up 45%

New Delhi: Godrej Properties' net debt rose 45 per cent during April-June period of this fiscal to ₹5,298 crore from the previous quarter on aggressive land purchase across major cities. According to an investor presentation, net debt of Godrej Properties - the real estate arm of business conglomerate Godrej Group -- stood at ₹5,298 crore as June 30, 2023 as against ₹3,649 crore at March-end. Debt-equity ratio stands at 0.56. Since April last year, Godrej Properties has been aggressive in new business development under which the company is purchasing land outright and also entering into joint development agreements (JDAs) with land owners to create a pipeline for future development. It focuses on Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune and Bengaluru markets.

Airtel Payments revenue surges

New Delhi: Airtel Payments Bank Thursday said its revenue witnessed a year-on-year growth of 41 per cent to ₹400 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2023. The unlisted entity of Bharti Group said that its profit grew by 143 per cent on a year-on-year basis without disclosing the actual number. "For the first time, the Bank's quarterly revenue grew to ₹400 crore for the first quarter (Q1) of financial year (FY) 2024, an increase of 41 per cent YoY. For the Q1 FY24, the Bank's profits grew by 143 per cent on YoY," the company said in a statement.

Why is China not rushing to fix its ailing economy?

PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S FOCUS ON NATIONAL SECURITY IS RESTRICTING AND WORKING COUNTER TO THE ECONOMIC EFFORT, SCARING OFF THE MONEY BEIJING SAYS IT IS SEEKING TO ATTRACT

Beijing, August 17: With China at risk of tipping into prolonged stagnation and a spiralling property crisis threatening financial stability, there is growing unease over why its leaders are not rushing to revive the world's second-largest economy.

Even in a country known for opaque and drawn-out decision making, investors, analysts and diplomats are pointing to signs that Beijing seems hesitant to deliver the bold policies needed to prop up an ailing post-Covid recovery. This is not just an economic problem but a geopolitical one. US President Joe Biden - at loggerheads with China over hot-button issues like Taiwan, the

Bata in tie-up talks with Adidas to boost presence

Bangalore, August 17: Bata India is in talks with Adidas for a strategic partnership that could likely boost the German sportswear maker's presence in the south Asian country, CNBC-TV18 reported Thursday. Bata India's shares ended 5.3% higher, logging their best day since April 2020. Shares rose as much as 7.3% earlier in the session. Adidas was up 1.6%. The talks with Adidas are likely at an advanced stage with final deal contours in the works,



The centre of gravity of tech, which used to be in a few countries and centred around a few companies is moving to open source systems and younger and younger startups are disrupting the normal

ONGC'S LOW-CARBON ENERGY SHIFT

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is investing ₹1 lakh crore by the end of this decade in low-carbon energy opportunities, including renewables and green hydrogen as it looks to transform into a low-carbon energy player, the firm said



Life insurance payouts to be taxable if annual premium exceeds ₹5L

Press Trust of India

New Delhi, August 17: The Income Tax department has prescribed a mechanism for calculating income proceeds from life insurance policies where aggregate annual premium exceeds ₹5 lakh.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the Income Tax Amendment (Sixteenth Amendment), Rules, 2023, prescribing rule 11UACA for calculating income with respect to sum received upon maturity of life insurance policies wherein the amount of premiums exceed ₹5 lakh and such policy/policies are issued on or after April 1, 2023.

According to the change, for policies issued on or after April 1, 2023, the tax exemption on maturity benefits under Section 10(10D) will only be applicable if the aggregate premium paid by an individual is up to ₹5 lakh a year. For premiums beyond this limit, the proceeds will be added to the income and taxed at applicable rates. The change in tax provision with regard to life insurance policies, except ULIP, was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. The taxation provision for the amount received on the death of an insured has not been changed and that continues to remain exempt from income tax.



CNBC-TV18 said on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. Bata India, which is the flagship of Netherlands-based Bata



BN, houses brands like Hush Puppies and Scholl and has more than 2,050 stores across the country, according to its latest annual report.

Adidas, which sells shoes and apparels, already operates stand-alone stores across India. A strategic partnership would likely entail Adidas either offering its products on a wholesale basis to Bata or creating stand-alone "shop in shop" in Bata stores, analysts at Deutsche Bank wrote in a note. Either of the options would benefit Adidas "in an important long-term growth market" and likely help overtake Puma as the number one sportswear brand in India, the note added. Bata India has expanded its range of sneakers to more than 500 of its stores to cater to increased demand, its annual report showed. Sneakers continued to be a dominant category for the company as demand for athleisure footwear surged on the back of sports and adventure events, the Gurugram-based company added.

India is probably the fastest-growing market in our industry going forward

AFTER OIL BINGE NOW WHEAT

Russian discounts lure India

INDIA HAS NOT IMPORTED WHEAT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC DEALS SINCE 2017

Reuters

New Delhi, August 17: India is in talks with Russia to import wheat at a discount to surging global prices in a rare move to boost supplies and curb food inflation ahead of state and national elections next year, according to four sources.

The imports would allow New Delhi to intervene more effectively in the market to drive down wheat prices that stoked inflation to a 15-month high in July.

"The government is exploring the possibility of imports through private trade and government-to-government deals. The decision will be made cautiously," one of the sources told Reuters, when asked about wheat imports from Russia. India has not imported wheat through diplomatic deals in years. The last time India imported a significant amount of wheat was in 2017, when private traders shipped in 5.3 million metric tonne.

The government's plan to import Russian wheat is one of the supply-side measures being considered to bring down prices of key commodities like fuel, cereals and pulse along with an extension of rural schemes to ease the impact of inflation on the poor, two of the sources with knowledge of the matter said. Sources did not want to be named as the discussions are private and the final decision might be weeks away. India's finance, trade and government spokespersons did not reply to emails and messages seeking comment. Last month, Sanjeev Chopra, the most senior civil servant at the federal food ministry, said



Since the war in Ukraine last year, Russia has become India's second biggest seller of goods mainly on account of discounted oil purchases by New Delhi

there was no proposal to import wheat from Russia. LOW WHEAT STOCKS Although India needs only 3 million to 4 million metric tonne of wheat to plug the shortfall, New Delhi might consider importing 8 million to 9 million tonne of wheat from Russia to have a far bigger impact on prices, another source said. "Russia has indicated its willingness to offer a discount on prevailing market prices. There

TO CALM PRICES

- India mulls wheat imports from Russia at discount
- The country may seek up to 9MT of Russian wheat
- 'India can easily secure discount of \$25 to \$40/tonne'
- Wholesale wheat prices in India at 7-month high

are no restrictions on the export of food commodities from Russia," one official said. India is also importing sunflower oil from Russia and settling payments in US dollars and is planning to use the same approach, the official added.

"India can easily secure a discount of \$25 to \$40 per tonne from Russia. This will ensure that the landed cost of wheat remains significantly below local prices," said a dealer based in Mumbai with a global trade house. Wholesale wheat prices in India surged around 10% over two months to a seven-month high in August on limited supplies. Wheat stocks at government warehouses were at 28.3 million tonne August 1, 20% below the 10-year average.

INFLATION CONCERN LOOMS

Press Trust of India

Mumbai, August 17: Indian economy is gathering momentum in the second quarter, though inflation would continue to average above the central bank's comfort zone of 6 per cent, said an article in the RBI's monthly bulletin released Thursday.

The consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation shot up significantly to 7.44 per cent in July, from 4.87 per cent in the preceding month, mainly due to soaring prices of tomato, vegetables and other food items.

In his address to the nation on the Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to take more steps to contain price rise. The uptick in inflation in its June reading mutated in July, with the unprecedented shock to

'Economy gathering pace in Q2'

tomato prices spilling over to prices of other vegetables, said the article on 'State of the Economy'.

"While core inflation witnessed a moderation, headline inflation is expected to average well above 6 per cent in the second quarter," it said. The article has been authored by a team lead by Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

The central bank, however, said the views expressed in the article are of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India. The article further said that

with industrial production and trade weakening, the global recovery is slowing after a robust first quarter performance.

"In this stressed global environment, the Indian economy is gathering momentum in the second quarter of 2023-24," it said. Domestic drivers such as private consumption and fixed investment are offsetting the drag from the contraction in exports, it added.

RBI's rate setting panel, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), has retained its forecast of economic growth at 6.5 per cent for 2023-24, noting that domestic economic activity is holding up well, supported by domestic demand in spite of the drag from weak

external demand.

It also revised upwards its projection of inflation taking into account the recent price surges in the food category of the CPI.

The main revisions relate to the projections for the second and third quarters, with the forecast for the fourth quarter unchanged.

According to the article, high frequency food price data for August so far (up to 14th) show that prices of cereals and pulses continued to increase in August.

Edible oil prices continued to decline in July-August. Tomato prices, on an average, registered a further increase in August so far, although more recent data indicate some pull-back in prices. Onion and potato prices also registered sequential upticks.

Sensex, Nifty snap 2-day winning run

Indices slump on weak global cues



Press Trust of India

Mumbai, August 17: Snapping their two-day winning run, equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty closed in the negative territory Thursday, tracking losses in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and HDFC bank amid a weak trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 388.40 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 65,151.02. During the day, it fell by 493.32 points or 0.75 per cent to 65,046.10. The NSE Nifty slipped 99.75 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 19,365.25. "The mounting influence of weak global cues hindered the domestic market's ability to recoup, resulting in sustained selling pressure. The release of Fed minutes unveiled a divided stance among its members regarding the necessity of additional rate hikes, contrasting the previously anticipated rate pause," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

ITC was the biggest loser from the Sensex pack, sliding 2.04 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Reliance Industries, Larsen

New nadir for ₹

Mumbai: The rupee pared its initial gains and settled for the day lower by 1 paise at a fresh all-time low of 83.09 against the US dollar Thursday, weighed down by a strong greenback overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and rising US dollar. On Monday, the rupee depreciated 26 paise to settle at an all-time low of 83.08 against the US dollar.

& Toubro, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance and JSW Steel. On the other hand, Titan, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra and Bharti Airtel were the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,510.86 crore, according to exchange data.



democratic island Beijing claims as its own - last week called China a "ticking time bomb" due to its economic ills. "That's not good because when bad folks have problems, they do bad things," Biden said. So why has China's response been so tepid? The view of several China

watchers is that President Xi Jinping's focus on national security is restricting and working counter to the economic effort, scaring off the money Beijing says it is seeking to attract. "The core problem this year is that the leadership has given vague, high-level instructions for officials to balance eco-

A perennial fear of the Chinese Communist Party is that it could be overthrown if capitalism and the private economy grow strong enough

XU CHENGGANG | SCHOLAR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S CENTER ON CHINA'S ECONOMY AND INSTITUTIONS

nomie development against national security," said Christopher Beddor, deputy director of China research at Gavekal Dragonomics. "If officials are unsure what the leadership wants them to do, they're likely to put off any action until they receive more information. The result is policy paralysis, even if that comes at a substantial cost."

POWER TRANSITION

Others say the Communist Party's ingrained hesitancy towards measures that could shift power from the state to the private sector, and a government stacked with Xi's loyalists, may be stifling the policy debate and stymieing the response.

There may be more deep-seated reasons leaders are not rushing with measures to bolster confidence in the private sector, said Xu Chenggang, a scholar at Stanford University's Center on China's Economy and Institutions. Economists say China needs measures to boost consumption and business confidence, such as tax cuts or government-funded consumption vouchers, but add that unlike previous slowdowns, there is no quick fix.

All eyes on Bumrah, Gen-Next



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dublin, August 17: Almost 11 months after he hobbled off the field, Jasprit Bumrah will be cynosure of all eyes when he leads India against Ireland as the fast bowler's fitness and rhythm will be tested in the three-match T20 International series, starting Friday.

The team is packed with India's Gen-Next IPL performers like Rituraj Gaikwad, Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma but stakeholders in Indian cricket will keenly observe Bumrah, who will be key to home team's plans during the ODI World Cup starting in less than two months.

The 29-year-old Bumrah is coming back after undergoing a surgery to treat the lower-back stress fractures he had suffered during a home series against Australia ahead of T20 World

Cup, last year.

He will be bowling a maximum of just 12 overs across three games over five days but this series will allow chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar, ODI captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid to get a fair idea of where the Gujarat slinger is placed in terms of match fitness.

The 50-over cricket is, though, a different beast where he will need to bowl 10 overs across two, three or may be four-over spells.

The BCCI, on its official social media handle, released Bumrah's bowling video, where he was seen hurrying a right-hander with a well-disguised short-ball and then almost yanked a left-hander with a toe-crusher, a soothing sight for the Indian team management.

But match situation will be completely different and both Dravid and Rohit have once burnt

their hands by rushing him too early before the T20 World Cup in Australia last year. The results were disastrous. That was the last series he played before the longest lay-off of his seven-year international career.

He was named for a home series earlier this year, only to be pulled out at the eleventh hour as he underwent a surgery to treat a career-threatening injury.

The Ireland series not only gives Bumrah an ideal opportunity to add miles to his legs but will also help him get ready for the Asia Cup, where he will be pitted against the likes of Babar Azam upfront on September 2.

Ireland, led by Andrew Balbirnie with useful players like Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, left-arm spinner George Dockrell are a quality side in the shortest format even though they are yet to win a match against India till now.

Their left-arm seamer Josh Little was an integral part of Gujarat Titans squad last year and wouldn't mind to show what he is capable of against an Indian team full of performers.

The players in this Indian team, save Bumrah and Sanju Samson, will be vying for gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou and the core team would be keen to make most of the three T20Is.

The one player, whose place would surely be under the scanner is Sanju Samson. He is unlikely to get into the playing XI unless head coach Sitanshu Kotak gets a standing instruction from main team management to play the Kerala man ahead of Asia Cup.

Two exciting IPL finds - Jitesh and Rinku are expected to get their T20 India caps while Shivam Dube would be itching for a shot

THE SQUADS

INDIA: Jasprit Bumrah (C), Rituraj Gaikwad (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasad Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan.

IRELAND: Andrew Balbirnie (C), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ross Adair, Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Ben White, Craig Young, Theo van Woerkom.

at redemption.

Just like Bumrah, even Prasad Krishna is making a comeback to competitive cricket and before his lower back stress fracture injury which also required a surgery, the Bangalore fast bowler was a certainty in ODI set-up.

It is expected that selectors would check out Krishna's form before taking a final call on the Asia Cup squad expected to be announced by the end of this week.

It will be interesting to see how players and the team management balance individual and team goals while keeping the big picture in mind.

MATCH SCHEDULE

Ireland vs India
1st T20 International

Time: 7:30 pm

Telecast: Sports 18

Stream: Jio Cinema

CONTROVERSY STILL ON

Imran Khan included in PCB's revised video

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, August 17: In an apparent bid to end the controversy over the release of a video in honour of the former players, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has created more problems for itself. The PCB had faced a lot of backlash on social media over completely ignoring former captain Imran Khan in the tribute video released August 14.

Late Wednesday night, the PCB came out with an inexplicable explanation that due to duration problems, the tribute video was abridged and some important clips were missing from it but it had been rectified in the complete version.

It also said the PCB had launched a promotional campaign leading up to the 2023 World Cup and the tribute video was part of it.

The interesting part is that the duration of the earlier video from which Imran was missing and the "completed" version are around the same duration but this time the board has hacked all the clips and pictures of Wasim Akram and replaced them with Imran. Fans are now asking and wondering on social media where has Wasim disappeared.

Wasim had Tuesday lashed out at the PCB completely overlooking the role of Imran in some of Pakistan cricket's most memorable and iconic moments. Pakistan's former captain Rashid Latif said the PCB explanation was hard to digest because the tribute video was modified after nearly 48 hours.

"Why wasn't the mistake accepted and resolved as soon as



the backlash started on social media and in the media," he questioned.

He also noted that the PCB had a verified X (formerly Twitter) account which meant it can upload clips and videos up to 7-8 minutes duration and secondly there was no duration bar on Youtube as well for the PCB channel to upload longer videos. "So where does this duration problem come in for PCB?"

"It is an attempt to cover up and save face but the PCB still needs to give answers as to who was responsible for authorizing, making, approving and releasing the video," he added.

Ironically, the PCB also got mixed reactions after it uploaded a two and half minute video Thursday trying to chronicle the journey of Pakistan in all the World Cups from 1975 to 2019.

The video is mostly without any voice over or proper footage of Pakistan's World Cup appearances or key moments. This has now left some people wondering if a 2:30 seconds video suffices to properly chronicle Pakistan's journey in the 50-over showpiece.

MAN CITY WIN UEFA SUPER CUP



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athens, August 17: Manchester City marked their first appearance in the UEFA Super Cup by beating Sevilla 5-4 in a penalty shootout Wednesday to add another piece of silverware to their vast haul under manager Pep Guardiola.

After a 1-1 draw in regulation time and then nine successful spot-kicks in the shootout, Nemanja Gudelj struck his attempt against the crossbar to hand City victory inside Stadio Georgios Karaiskakis.

It was a 15th trophy won by City in Guardiola's reign that started in 2016 and made up for the loss to Arsenal in a penalty shootout in the Community Shield 10 days ago. Youssef En-Nesyri's towering header gave Sevilla the lead in the 25th minute of a match played in stifling heat and humidity in Athens.

City restored parity through a header by winger Cole Palmer in the 63rd as the European champions dominated the second half, with star striker Erling Haaland staying on the field for the whole game despite a big Premier League match against Newcastle coming up Saturday.

Guardiola became the second manager, after Carlo Ancelotti, to win the Super Cup four times and the first to win it with three different teams after doing so at Bayern Munich (2013) and Barcelona (2009, 2011).

Kyle Walker lifted the cup amid ticker tape and chants of "Champions" by his City teammates on the stage in the middle of the field. It is becoming a fa-

miliar sight, with the club having won the Premier League-FA Cup-Champions League treble last season for the first time.

This season might be tougher for Guardiola and City, with the match perhaps highlighting the team's need for more creativity and goal threat following the off-season departures of Ilkay Gundogan and Riyad Mahrez and an injury to Kevin De Bruyne that could sideline him for up to four months.

Palmer could be one answer, with the 21-year-old academy product impressing as City's most dangerous player and nodding in from Rodri's cross to add to his goal in the Community Shield. He should get more game time this season on the right wing following Mahrez's move to Saudi Arabia.

Sevilla occasionally troubled City on the break and off one such foray forward, En-Nesyri got in between Nathan Ake and Josko Gvardiol - making his first start for City - and leaping high to power in a header from Marcos Acuna's left-wing cross.

City goalkeeper Ederson pulled off two saves from En-Nesyri in the second half, either side of Palmer's goal, and didn't need to make a save in the shootout.

Haaland, Julian Alvarez, Mateo Kovacic, Grealish and Walker converted City's penalties, while Lucas Ocampos, Rafa Mir, Ivan Rakitic and Gonzalo Montiel netted for Sevilla.

Sevilla, who won the Europa League for the seventh time last season, have won just once of their seven appearances in the Super Cup. That was back in 2006 on their debut.

Dhinidhi, Ishaan shine at National Aquatic C'ships

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: Dhinidhi Desinghu of Karnataka came up with a sensational swim in the 100m freestyle for group II girls to recreate the national record at the 39th Sub Junior and 49th Junior National Aquatic Championships here, Thursday.

The 13-year-old clocked 57.67 seconds to erase Maana Patel's record of 59.12 created in 2014. Dhinidhi, with her powerful stroke was nearly 10m ahead of Sri Charani Tumu of Karnataka (1:02.55), when she touched the pads. Her new national record was only fraction of seconds slower than the best Indian time of 57.3 that stands in the name of Kenisha Gupta.

In another enthralling race, Ishaan Mehra, also from Karnataka, clocked 1:00.64 to rewrite the national record in 100m freestyle for group II boys. He bettered Suhas Pretham's record of 1:01.29 set in 2022. Finishing behind Ishaan was his statemate Vedanta Madhir. He clocked 1:01.98 to bag the silver.

On the back of his record-breaking performance on day one, Jananjoy Jyoti Hazarika of Assam dashed to a gold medal in the 50m butterfly, clocking 25.12s.

India men shooters bag team bronze



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 17: (PTI) India's campaign in the ISSF World Championship began on an unimpressive note as none of the six 10m air pistol shooters competing here on Thursday were able to clinch a 2024 Paris Olympic quota, though the men clinched a consolation bronze medal in the team event.

The men's 10m air pistol team, comprising Shiva Narwal (579 points), Sarabjot Singh (578) and Arjun Singh Cheema (577) clinched the bronze medal with an aggregate score of 1734.

The Chinese team of Zhang Bowen (587), Liu Junhui (582) and Xie Yu (580) took the gold medal with an aggregate of 1749 points, while the German team, comprising Robin Walter (586), Michael Schwald (581) and Paul Froehlich (576) bagged the silver with an aggregate score of 1743.

On a day when the Chinese shooters claimed all four gold medals at stake, the Indian men fared poorly in individual 10m air pistol event, with none of them making it to the eight-player final. Narwal (579) finished in 17th place after the qualification round, while Sarabjot was 18th with 578 points. Cheema finished 26th with a qualifying round score of 577.

The individual gold was won by China's Bowen (244.3), while the silver and bronze were bagged by Serbia's Damir Mikec (240.8) and Bulgaria's Kiril Kirov (215.7) respectively.

The Indian women fared even worse with the 10m air pistol trio of Esha Singh (572), Palak (570) and Divya TS (566) aggregating 1708 to finish 11th in the team event. The team gold was bagged by the Chinese with an aggregate score of 1728, followed by Hungary (1726) and Iran (1724) respectively.

In the individual category, Esha shot 572 in qualification to finish 32nd, while Palak was 40th with a score of 570. Divya, with a score of 566, finished 66th overall. The individual gold in the event went to China's Jiang Ranxin (239.8), while the silver and bronze were won by Greece's Anna Korakaki (238.3) and China's Li Xue (218.9) respectively.

Odisha roller skaters shine at non-stop relay marathon



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 17: The Odisha roller skating team found themselves in three record books following their non-stop roller skating relay marathon for five hours at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha Naval Tate Hockey flagged off the marathon.

"It's a proud moment for entire Odisha and in particular the roller skating sports," said Partha Sarathi Jena, Founder of Odisha Skating Academies well as the secretary of Odisha Roller Skating Association and Odisha Roll Ball Association.

National Records. The mega event was organised by High Performance Center 'Odisha Skating Academy', Kalinga Stadium. Olympian Anuradha Biswal and Rajeev Seth, Odisha Naval Tate Hockey flagged off the marathon.

"It's a proud moment for entire Odisha and in particular the roller skating sports," said Partha Sarathi Jena, Founder of Odisha Skating Academies well as the secretary of Odisha Roller Skating Association and Odisha Roll Ball Association.

Antim had last year become the first Indian woman to emerge junior World Champion. She is now one win away from defending her title, reaching the 53kg final.

For the first time ever, four Indian women wrestlers reached the gold medal bouts at the junior Worlds as Savita (62kg) and Antim Kundu (65kg) also stayed unbeaten Thursday.

Priya hogs limelight, Antim close to title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amman (Jordan), August 17: Priya became only the second Indian woman wrestler to become U-20 World Champion while fast-rising Antim Panghal also stormed into the title clash as unprecedented success followed India at the junior wrestling World Championships here Thursday.

Unperturbed by the cut suffered above her left eye, Priya easily got the better of Germany's Laura Celive Kuehn 5-0 in the gold medal bout, which had to be stopped twice due to bleeding suffered by the Indian.

Antim had last year become the first Indian woman to emerge junior World Champion. She is now one win away from defending her title, reaching the 53kg final.

For the first time ever, four Indian women wrestlers reached the gold medal bouts at the junior Worlds as Savita (62kg) and Antim Kundu (65kg) also stayed unbeaten Thursday.

PRAGGNANANDHAA OUSTS ERIGAI, ENTERS WC LAST 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 17: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4 via the sudden death tie-break to enter the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup chess tournament here Thursday.

With the win, the 17-year old Praggnanandhaa booked a place in the semifinals against American ace Fabiano Caruana and almost secured a spot in next year's Candidates event.

The teenaged chess star from Chennai, by virtually securing a place in the Candidates tournament, would be the only Indian other than five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand to feature in the Candidates.

With World No.1 Magnus Carlsen not likely to feature in the Candidates, Praggnanandhaa could be playing in the tournament to decide the challenger to current World Champion Ding Liren.

Praggnanandhaa had bounced back after losing the first game of the two-game classical series to win the second Wednesday to force the tie-break. In the first 5+3 blitz game, Praggnanandhaa played fantastic to take down Erigaisi, who hit back in the next to level the match.

Games three and four were won by Praggnanandhaa and Erigaisi respectively as the quarterfinals headed to a sudden death decider. Interestingly, all games were won by players with black pieces. Both the Indians showed nerves of steel, scoring wins in crucial games as the last eight clash ebbed and flowed due to enterprising play by the duo.

Two other Indians - 17-year old D Gukesh and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi - had crashed out in the quarterfinals, losing to World No.1 Carlsen and Nijat Abasov respectively. The top three finishers in the tournament qualify for the Candidates event in 2024 to determine the challenger to Liren.