



FANGIRL MOMENT

Actor Kangana Ranaut describes director Sanjay Leela Bhansali as the 'Living God' of the Hindi film industry

LEISURE P2



RUSSIA'S BRUTAL STRIKE

A missile attack in the centre of a northern city of Chernihiv kills seven people and injures 117 Saturday

INTERNATIONAL P10



SECOND T20I TODAY

India hope for better weather and a chance for the batters to show their mettle in the 2nd T20I against Ireland

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

ED files chargesheet against Pathak, son

Bhubaneswar: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has reportedly submitted prosecution complaint against dismissed Indian Forest Service officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash Pathak in connection with a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The special Court (PMLA), Bhubaneswar has been requested for the conviction of the accused and confiscation of attached properties to tune of ₹2.80 crore belonging to the Pathaks. Abhay Kant was arrested by Vigilance on the allegations of amassing properties through illegal means November 27, 2020. P3

GOVT DISCOURAGES EXPORT OF ONIONS

New Delhi: The Union government Saturday imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to check price rise and improve supplies in the domestic market. The Finance Ministry through a notification imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions till December 31, 2023. The export duty comes amid reports that onion prices are likely to rise in September. P11

FIRE IN TWO TRAINS

Bhopal: Fire broke out in two trains passing through Madhya Pradesh Saturday. In first incident, Telangana Express (12724) on Hyderabad-New Delhi route caught fire at Pandhurna railway station in Chhindwara district. The fire broke out in pantry of Telangana Express, triggering panic among passengers. However, as per the information, railway officials swung into action and brought the fire under control. The second fire incident was reported in Khajuraho-Udaipur (Rajasthan) intercity train at Gwalior district later in the day.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Since we replaced the sound of siren with flute, people are crowding to listen to the music, sir

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.7°C	32.8°C
MIN	25.2°C	25.2°C
Humidity	95%	75%
Rainfall	3.2mm	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



FESTIVE MOOD: Women in traditional Punjabi attire celebrate Teej festival at a village in Patiala district of Punjab, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

5T SECRETARY FACES INK ATTACK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, August 19: A man threw ink at 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Puri Collector Samarth Verma in Satyabadi area Saturday, police said.

The incident took place while Pandian was attending an event at Utkalmani Gopabandhu Smruti Mahavidyalaya in Satyabadi locality of Puri district.

The man who allegedly hurled ink at the IAS officers was identified as Bhaskar Sahoo, a resident of Haripur village under Kanas block under Satyabadi Assembly constituency in the district. The police overpowered Sahoo and detained him.

Immediately after the ink attack, the 5T Secretary went on meeting people and received their grievances while wearing the white shirt sprinkled with ink. Earlier in the day, he visited several areas of Puri district.

Meanwhile, Satyabadi's BJD MLA Umakanta Samantray alleged that Sahoo was a BJP man and he threw ink targeting Pandian with political motive.

The BJP denied the allegations of Samantray and said that the saffron party does not believe in ink attack.

"We oppose Pandian's visit and we do it openly giving prior notice. None of our party men is involved in today's ink attack," a senior BJP leader said.

Khaki under attack

SUB-INSPECTOR OF DHAULI POLICE STATION SUSTAINS SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES IN A DARING ATTACK BY ARMED MISCREANTS

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 19: A sub-inspector (SI) attached to Dhauli police station suffered grievous injuries on his head when a group of armed miscreants attacked a police team which had gone to round them up, late Friday night.

SI Ramesh Bhola was discharged from Capital Hospital after treatment, while the audacious assault on an on-duty police officer has raised serious question marks on the law and order situation in the Capital city as well as the vulnerability of ordinary citizens to criminal elements.

Dhauli police said they have so far managed to arrest four of the assailants while one more is still at large.

The incident, an official from the Dhauli police station said, occurred when a team of sleuths in plain cloth conducted a raid near an abandoned building to nab a habitual offender involved in an extortion case. The miscreants appeared from nowhere

ODISHA TOPS IN ATTACK ON COPS

As per NCRB data, Odisha has topped the Indian states in attack on police by criminals, gangsters and dacoits in 2021. The data also reveals that as many as 176 cops across the state sustained injuries in attacks by criminals in 2021. This exposed the poor planning by cops who were mostly in disguise and without arms during raids on criminals.

and pounced on the police party and attacked with hammers and iron rods. In the melee, SI Bhola was hit on his head that caused severe injuries.

"Dhauli police received information that some miscreants armed with weapons have assembled near the electric substation at Lingipur to commit highway robbery. Following the tip-off, a team of Dhauli police, Special Squad of Commissionerate Police and control room staff intercepted the anti-socials near the substation. The police faced retaliation from

the miscreants and two of our staffers sustained injuries. A case (164/23) has been registered in this regard at Dhauli police station. Several criminal cases are pending against these four accused at different police stations of the city," said Girija Shankar Chakrabarty, ACP of Zone II.

Some members of the robbers' gang have reportedly torched a TVS Apache and other items inside the house reportedly to destroy evidence regarding their criminal activities.

Nevertheless, this wasn't an isolated incident where the City police came under attack by miscreants while trying to bring them to justice.

In March 2019, four sleuths from Saheed Nagar police station had sustained critical injuries after a group of 8-10 miscreants attacked the cops and ransacked the police station.

Chakrabarty said police are investigating into the fire incident and the actual reason behind the torching of the vehicle and other items in the house would be ascertained soon.

Lookout circular against Hungarian

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 19: Bureau of Immigration (BOI) has issued a lookout circular against a Hungarian national and head of a crypto ponzi firm who is allegedly involved in deceiving investors, the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) said Saturday.

The firm, STA Token is accused of operating a ponzi business and collecting around ₹1,000 crore deposits from two lakh people across the country without any authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India, it said.

The circular was issued at the request of Odisha's EOW which registered a case against the company under different sections of the IPC and Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act. The involvement of second foreigner, a Dutch national, in this scam is under scrutiny.

Hungarian David Gez, the head of STA Token, had entered India twice in 2022-23 on a tourist visa and stayed in India for about 25 days travelling to various places like Odisha, Goa, Punjab, Jharkhand and Delhi, the EOW said. The first time he had travelled to India via USA and Turkiye and second time via Poland. Contd...P4

9 soldiers killed in Ladakh mishap

An Army vehicle carrying 10 personnel was on its way to Nyoma from Leh when its driver lost control and it plunged into a gorge at 4:45pm, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, August 19: Nine soldiers were killed and another was critically injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Leh district of Ladakh Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place near Kiari in southern Ladakh's Nyoma, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Leh PD Nitya said the Army vehicle, with 10 personnel on board, was on its way to Nyoma from Leh when its driver lost control and it plunged into a gorge at 4:45pm.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the death of the personnel.

"Saddened by the loss of Indian Army personnel due to an accident near Leh in Ladakh. We will never forget their exemplary service to our nation," the defence minister said on 'X', formerly Twitter.

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The injured per-

sonnel have been rushed to the Field Hospital. Praying for their speedy recovery," Singh said, without mentioning the number of soldiers killed and injured in the accident.

SSP Nitya said a police team rushed to the accident site and all the injured soldiers were shifted to an Army medical facility where eight personnel were declared dead. Another jawan died subsequently, she said.

The officer said one more jawan was undergoing treatment and his condition was stated to be "critical".

Condoling the death of the soldiers, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Ladakh in which we lost our valiant soldiers, as their vehicle fell into a gorge."

"The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. My sincerest condolences to them. May the injured recover at the earliest," he posted on 'X'.

'UDAN scheme faltered'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: A report by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out that the Centre's flagship UDAN scheme did not work on 93 per cent of the routes, said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday, and added that the common people only got 'lies' and 'jumlas' from the government.

A regional connectivity scheme was launched under the name of UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) October 21, 2016, by the Union government to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable to the masses in tier-2 and tier-3 cities and towns.

In a post in Hindi on X, Mallikarjun Kharge said that the Modi government's prom-

ise of enabling those wearing slippers travel by air has not been fulfilled "just like all their promises".

"We are not saying this, the CAG Report is saying this! The scheme (UDAN) did not work on 93 per cent of the routes. Even independent audit of airlines was not done. The much publicized Helicopter services also remained stalled," Kharge alleged.

"Didn't get 'UDAN', just talk of lies and jumlas! India will not forgive such an incompetent government now!" the Congress president said.

The Congress Wednesday had also alleged the CAG has pointed out "scams" in infrastructure projects of the BJP-led Central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be held accountable.

ChatGPT politically biased, finds new study

Although concerns of an inbuilt political bias in ChatGPT have been raised previously, this is the first large-scale study using a consistent, evidence-based analysis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, August 19: OpenAI's artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT has a significant and systemic Left-wing bias, according to a new study.

Published in the journal 'Public Choice', the findings show that ChatGPT's responses favour the Democrats in the US, the Labour Party in the UK, and President Lula da Silva of the

Workers' Party in Brazil. "With the growing use by the public of AI-powered systems to find out facts and create new content, it is important that the output of popular platforms such as ChatGPT is as impartial as possible," said lead author Fabio Motoki of Norwich Business School at the University of East Anglia in the UK.

"The presence of political bias can influence user views and has potential implications for political and electoral processes. Our findings reinforce concerns that AI systems could replicate, or even amplify, the existing challenges posed by the Internet and social media," Motoki said.

The researchers developed an innovative new method to test ChatGPT's political neutrality.



The platform was asked to impersonate individuals from across the political spectrum while answering a series of more than 60 ideological questions.

The responses were then compared to the platform's default answers to the same set of questions - allowing the researchers to measure the degree to which ChatGPT's responses were associated with a particular political stance.

To overcome difficulties caused by the inherent randomness of 'large language models' that power AI platforms such as

ChatGPT, each question was asked 100 times and the different responses were collected.

These multiple responses were then put through a 1,000-repetition 'bootstrap' (a method of re-sampling the original data) to further increase the reliability of the inferences drawn from the generated text.

"Due to the model's randomness, even when impersonating a Democrat, sometimes ChatGPT answers would lean towards the right of the political spectrum," said co-author Victor Rodrigues.

Several further tests were undertaken to ensure the method was as rigorous as possible. In a 'dose-response test' ChatGPT was asked to impersonate radical political positions.

In a 'placebo test', it was asked

politically-neutral questions. And in a 'profession-politics alignment test', it was asked to impersonate different types of professionals.

In addition to political bias, the tool can be used to measure other types of biases in ChatGPT's responses. While the research project did not set out to determine the reasons for the political bias, the findings did point towards two potential sources.

The first was the training dataset - which may have biases within it, or added to it by the human developers, which the developers' 'cleaning' procedure had failed to remove.

The second potential source was the algorithm itself, which may be amplifying existing biases in the training data.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesh. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

TAURUS
It is about time that you stopped running from your problems and stand up and face them, suggests Ganesh. Your loved ones will back you in your material generosity today. You will be magnanimous with the wallet to impress members of the opposite sex. Don't forget that time is also money, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will be afforded full co-operation by your relatives and friends. You will also be able to provide a solution to their problems by utilising your practical thinking. You will be influenced by your emotions while choosing between multiple alternatives. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of any decision you make today, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You have always been quite prudent when it comes to spending your hard-earned moolah, yet today you may feel stingier. And, you will rightly be so, for there may be unnecessary burdens and demands made on you by your near and dear ones. Although you will be aware of this, you will still be able to keep them happy, affirms Ganesh.

LEO
You will attempt to reschedule your daily routine to be able to make the most of your day. While it is easy to make plans, implementing them and sticking to them depends on your own discipline and determination. You will become more aware about health issues and pay closer attention to your diet.

VIRGO
A heady mixture of work and partying is on the cards today. The parties may go on well into the night. You will make the right decisions today which will prove to be vital in putting you on the road to success. Ganesh says people will profit by engaging you in their work.

LIBRA
Ganesh says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability. Ganesh says that today is not a good day to try out any new business ventures.

SCORPIO
Do not get carried away by sentiments and act like an emotional fool, tips Ganesh. Today, you will be in a dilemma as you have to choose between two best things. But, as they say, right choices are always tough to make. Be practical and take the right decision.

SAGITTARIUS
A fresh and renewed you, today all your focus is on your kith and kins. This includes sneaking some time off for your beloved as well! Romantic conversations and intimacy will add some spark to the day. After family, friends too come to take their share. An exciting evening in store for you!

CAPRICORN
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesh. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them. You will also let them know that they mean the world to you, and no matter what, you will be there whenever they need you.

AQUARIUS
You will aim for the bull's eye today. Whatever you'll do today, will be done with your focus set firmly on your target, says Ganesh. You will not waste your resource on something unfruitful, and such an attitude will make your journey smoother and faster.

PISCES
You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results. Everything you touch will turn to gold today, says Ganesh. Make the most of it.



COURT REOPENS JACKSON SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

King of Pop Michael Jackson had faced accusations of sexual harassment during the early 2000s after he was accused of allegedly molesting men and women in his crew. After his death in 2009, the files regarding his sexual harassment files were closed. But that has been opened again.

BRITNEY REFUSES TO PART WITH HER DOGS AMID DIVORCE BATTLE

In the midst of her tough ongoing divorce battle with her husband, Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are caught in a tussle involving their dogs, who the pop star has refused to give up, stating that she won't give her estranged partner custody of her beloved pooches.



HOMOPHOBIC COMMENTS ON OTT



Ameesha clarifies she was misunderstood

Mumbai: *Gadar 2* actress Ameesha Patel recently faced a backlash from the audiences for making homophobic comments. The actress had said earlier that OTT platforms are not suitable for Indian sensibilities as the content that is available on them mostly involved homosexuality. However, now she has said that she is now looking forward to being a part of a web series on an OTT platform.

In a recent conversation with a portal, Ameesha said that her statements were "misunderstood" and her main motive was to shed light on the significance of family-oriented content on streaming platforms.

She said, "I think that section is misunderstood because I have nothing against what is going on on OTT at all. But, I only used to hear from people 'we've put the child lock on to a lot of the shows and things like that because we can't watch 90% of the OTT with family. Because there is too much abusive language or too much nudity or violence, it is dark content and we want family content. We want a place where a grandchild can sit with a grandfather with everyone in between and watch a wholesome family film'. Which is what I had said was missing for a long time."

AGENCIES



'High time we tell stories about climate change'

Mumbai: Filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda, known for acclaimed films like *Kalira Atita*, and *Kadvi Hawa*, believes it's his responsibility to create awareness about climate change by telling stories about the relationship between nature and humans.

The 49-year-old director, who made his OTT debut with climate fiction series *The Jengaburu Curse*, said he consciously explores stories that highlight consequences of environmental crises, which he has witnessed both in India and throughout the world.

"I think more than fascination with (this kind of) storytelling, it is also a responsibility and I would consider myself to be a responsible person and creator. I grew up in a certain environment in a humble village (in Orissa) and became a globetrotter, I saw the world is changing too fast."

The *I Am Kalam* filmmaker went on to add, "I believe it is high time we need to tell these stories (of environment and climate change) to people."

In *The Jengaburu Curse*, currently streaming on SonyLIV, the director looks at the impact of mining on humans and nature. The show, written by Mayank Tewari, is billed as India's first climate fiction thriller series.

The national award-winning director said the story of *The Jengaburu Curse* (Jengaburu means a red mountain) explores the repercussions of mankind's never-ending greed through this story which is set against the backdrop of the mining industry.

PTI

Kangana reveals about her 'living god'

Mumbai: Actor Kangana Ranaut took to her Instagram stories and penned a heartfelt note for filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. She called him the "most genuine and indulgent artist" living in the film industry. Kangana said that whenever she visits SLB, he sits in front of her like a 'living god'. She also praised his passion for cinema.

Kangana wrote, "I deeply admire Shri Sanjay Leela Bhansali as an artist, he never fakes success or glory. He is the most genuine and indulgent artist living in the film industry right now. Nobody that I know who is so helplessly in love with the magic of cinema and so driven by his passion. Above all, he minds his business, intense creativity

and rare integrity. He is a living legend. I just love Sanjay sir."

Kangana will next be seen in the films, *Emergency* and *Chandramukhi 2*. In *Emergency*, Kangana will portray the role of former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. The film will hit the theatres November 24, 2023.

AGENCIES



Abhishapta Ishwar to narrate god's vulnerability on stage

► The play has been adapted from a few poems of Hara Prasad Das' poetry anthology 'Vamsha' that bagged the prestigious Moortidevi award in 2012

Known for adapting several classics and literary works of Odia into plays in the past, the troupe this time will dramatise a few poems of anthology 'Vamsha', said its secretary Debadutta Pati who also has directed the play.



Moortidevi Award in 2012.

"Earlier, Uttar Purush had adapted many classics of Odia literature into plays which were well received by the audience.

This time, about 25 actors are attending the rehearsal sessions and working hard to make this play a success. We hope, the theatre lovers of Bhubaneswar will be thoroughly entertained this time too," added Pati who had earlier garnered appreciation for his previous works such as *Yupakastha*, *Cycle*, *Red Frock*, *Drohi*, and *Narira Kankala*.

Pati, who has also dramatised the play, has requested the theatre fans to buy tickets to enjoy this unique play and support the revival of theatre culture in the state.

PNN

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

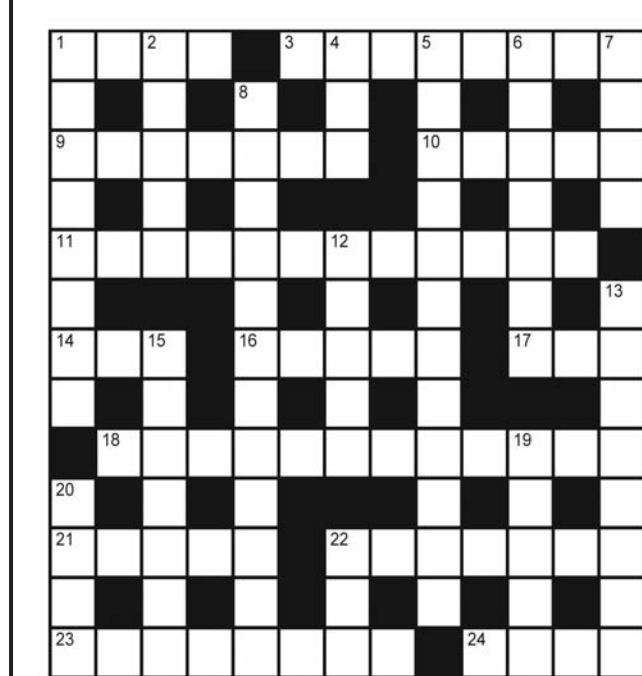


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

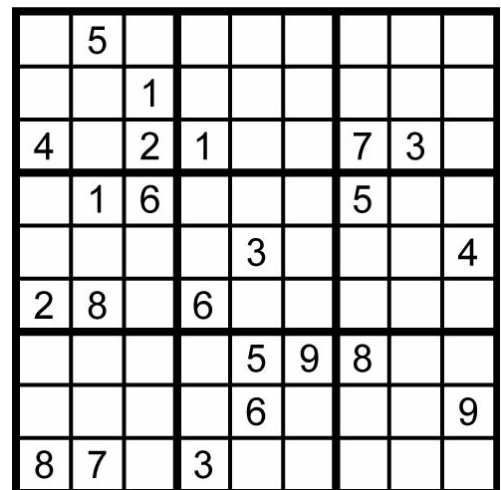


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- Across**
- 1 Highlander
 - 3 Embroidery frames
 - 9 Flustered
 - 10 Symbol of authority
 - 11 Like some supermarket meats (6-6)
 - 14 Butterfly catcher
 - 16 Word with ear or peace
 - 17 Small pouch
 - 18 Neighbor of (4,8)
 - 21 Stares
 - 22 Beefsteak
 - 23 Despised
 - 24 Sugar source
 - 5 Perambulator (4,8)
 - 6 Get ready for bed
 - 7 Prophet
 - 8 Magicians
 - 12 Machete
 - 13 Precise
 - 15 Brass instrument
 - 19 Medicinal plant
 - 20 Ancient
 - 22 "See ya!"

SUDOKU

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

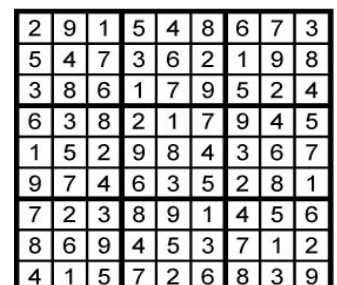


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

AT TEACHER'S FEET

Guru Gopal Chandra Panda being honoured during the 'Gurushree Samman Utsav' organised by Pragnya Nrutyayan at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



Regular run of Tejas Rajdhani Exp begins



Bhubaneswar, August 19: Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express with Tejas coaches providing upgraded amenities started its regular services from here, Saturday. The first Tejas rake has been introduced via the Sambalpur route. Other rakes will be introduced soon, officials said. Railway Minister Ashwini

spected the train before its departure towards New Delhi. In a related development, the railways has decided that Puri-Patna-Puri and Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar Special trains will be extended to the last week of October. The decision was taken after reviewing the passenger profile management and also from demands of the public, an official release said, adding that services of 08439 Puri-Patna Special leaving from Puri on Saturdays has been extended to October 28. In the return direction, the train leaving from Patna Sundays will run up to October 29. Similarly, 02832 Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad Special will run up to October 31 and 02831 Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar Special will run up to November 1. The scheduled timings and stoppages for the above train will remain unchanged, the release said.



BRUSHING UP: An artist gives finishing touches to 'Ma Khudurukuni' idols in Kumbhar Sahi area of Cuttack, Saturday

CM: state investing to augment power infra

Bhubaneswar, August 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said the state government is investing significantly to augment the power generation and distribution infrastructure in Odisha. Addressing a function in which 412 candidates joined the state-run Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd, Patnaik said reliable power supply is an indispensable entitlement of every citizen, and a basic ingredient of growth. "We must work for ensuring quality uninterrupted power supply to our consumers, farmers and in-

NHRC seeks report from Chief Secretary

THE APEX RIGHTS BODY SAID IT WOULD CALL FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY IN THE EVENT THE REPORT IS NOT SUBMITTED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from the state Chief Secretary about the alleged social boycott faced by 11 families in Ganjam district. Acting on a complaint filed by a human rights activist, the NHRC issued directions to the Chief Secretary August 17 asking the later to submit the report within four weeks. The apex rights body stated that it would be compelled to invoke coercive process u/s 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 calling for personal ap-



pearance of the concerned authority in case the report is not received within the stipulated time. Human rights activist Rabindra Mishra in his complaint had stated that 11 families are being subjected to social boy-

harassed on false allegations of practicing black magic. The rights activist mentioned that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Ganjam and Gajapati Collectors, but no action has yet been taken by the authorities. Thereafter, he urged the Commission to intervene in the matter. Taking cognisance of the complaint, the Commission has directed the government to present an action taken report before it within 4 weeks from the date of receipt of the letter. Mishra said social evils like the practice of ostracism, social boycott, Kangaroo court and witch hunt still continue in Odisha as government efforts have failed to achieve much effect.

Maoist camp busted in Nuapada; arms, explosives seized

Bhubaneswar: Security forces busted a Maoist camp at a forest in Nuapada district and seized explosives, police said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the CRPF, Special Operations Group (SOG) and district police raided the Pathadhara reserve forest in Sinapali police station area near the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, Thursday, they said. During the raids, they busted the Maoist camp. Among the items seized were 28 detonators, 1 kg of explosives, an empty case of AK-47 rifle, two radios, batteries, a Maoist uniform, knives and arrows, said Superintendent of Police (SP) GR Raghavendra. There were around 20-25 Naxals at the spot, but they managed to flee, he said, adding that there was no exchange of fire.

Pensioners' body seeks hike in pension, DA

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The All Odisha EPF Pensioners' Association has urged the Central government to consider enhancing the minimum monthly pension amount of EPS-95 pensioners to ₹9,000 plus DA, on par with the Central government retirees. In a memorandum Saturday, the Association said more than 2 lakh EPS-95 pensioners in Odisha are getting monthly pension between ₹5,000 to ₹3,500 from September, 2014 without any enhancement as yet. Moreover, no dearness allowance has been given to them to neutralize the price index and half of them are getting less than ₹1,000 monthly pension. They are leading a very precarious life due to want of proper food and medicines for survival at their old age.

Prosecution complaint against Pathak and son under PMLA

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) against dismissed Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash in connection with a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The Special court (PMLA) Bhubaneswar has been requested for the conviction of the accused and confiscation of attached properties to tune of ₹2.80 crore belongs to the father-son duo. Pathak was arrested by the state Vigilance over allegations of amassing movable and immovable assets through illegal means November 27, 2020. The ED had initiated an investigation under PMLA on the basis of a DA case (6/20) registered by the state Vigilance in 2020. The case was registered under Sections 13(2) and 13(1) (b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against Abhay Kant Pathak for possession of disproportionate assets. The state Vigilance Directorate had claimed that Pathak was found to have possessed disproportionate assets to the tune of around ₹9, 35, 42,594 which was 435% of his total income. Pathak's son was also arrested by the vigilance on charges of abetting Pathak in the former's criminal activities. "During investigation of the money laundering offence, several other FIRs and chargesheets registered by Odisha Police involving Akash Kumar Pathak and Abhay Kant Pathak have also come to notice. These FIRs and chargesheets revealed the criminal activities of Akash Kumar Pathak who has duped people in lieu of providing jobs in Tata Motors," said ED. Recently, ED had also seized a BMW Luxury Car (OD-07-AG-7272) belonging to Pathak. The ED attached properties worth ₹29.83 lakh April 28, 2022 and ₹76.12 lakh May 30, 2023.



WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY: BMC Mayor Sulochana Das visiting a photo exhibition organised at Soochna Bhavan on the World Photography Day in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

ED files chargesheet in drug seizure case

New Delhi, August 19: A chargesheet on money laundering charges has been filed against two Odisha-based people for the alleged illegal possession of more than 3 kg of brown sugar category of narcotics, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said, Saturday. The prosecution complaint was filed against Sk Ashik and his brother Sk Mohatab before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Bhubaneswar July 28. The court took cognisance of the charge sheet Friday, the agency said in a statement. The money laundering case stems from a state police Crime Branch (Special Task Force)

Being social, plant-based diet help live longer

Those following a plant-based diet with limited added salts and sugars, adequate rest, exercise and socialisation were found to have a 29 per cent lower risk of all-cause mortality and a 28 per cent lower risk of cancer mortality compared to others who were non-adherent to this lifestyle, a new research has said. In a study of adults in the UK, those who adhered closely to a Mediterranean lifestyle had lower risk of all-cause and cancer mortality. The researchers analysed the habits of 110,799 members of the UK Biobank cohort, a population-based study across England, Wales, and Scotland using the Mediterranean Lifestyle (MEDLIFE) index, which is derived from a lifestyle questionnaire and



diet assessments. The study by the Autonomous University of Madrid (AUM) and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, published in the journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings suggests that "it's possible for non-Mediterranean populations to adopt the Mediterranean diet using locally available products and to adopt the overall Mediterranean lifestyle within their own cultural contexts," said lead author Mercedes Sotos Prieto. "We're seeing the transferability of the lifestyle and its positive effects on health," added Prieto, adjunct assistant professor of environmental health at Harvard Chan School. Participants in the study, who

were between the ages of 40 and 75, provided information about etary habits' and 'physical activity, rest, and social habits and conviviality'. Among the study population, 4,247 died from all causes; 2,401 from cancer; and 731 from cardiovascular disease. The researchers observed an inverse association between adherence to the Mediterranean lifestyle and risk of mortality. Adherence to each MEDLIFE category independently was associated with lower all-cause and cancer mortality risk. The "physical activity, rest, and social habits and conviviality" category was most strongly associated with these lowered risks, and additionally was associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease mortality, said the researchers.

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5T Secy takes stock of devpt works in Puri dist



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 19: As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian concluded his two-day visit to Puri district Saturday.

On the second day, Pandian reviewed the ongoing mega and other piped water supply projects at an estimated cost of ₹396.5 crore in Kakatpur, Nimapara, Astrang, Gop and Satyabadi

tration the direction of Chief Minister to ensure redressal of public grievances promptly.

Later, he interacted with Mission Shakti groups at Puri and assured them support from the government for their activities. He emphasised that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has high priority for women empowerment. He directed the collector for early completion and transfer of DLF and BLF buildings in the district. He also instructed the officials to ensure that loan melas are organised at the panchayat level.

In Kakatpur, he directed the administration to expedite the land survey and settlement operations and resolve the long pending land patta issues. He also asked the collector to prepare a plan for the development of betel vine farmers in the area.

Special Secretary to CM R Vineel Krishna, IG, Ashish Kumar Singh, Collector Samarth Verma, SP, Kanwar Vishal Singh and other district level officials accompanied Pandian during his visit.

block. He directed the officials to ensure completion of these projects completed in phases as per the timelines starting this December.

He participated in the public grievance redressal meetings at Kakatpur, Nimapara and Satyabadi. He heard the grievances of the people and assured that he will bring to the notice of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik all the major issues. He conveyed to the local adminis-



UP IN ARMS: Non-Government Aided and Unaided College (Plus Two and Plus Three) Teaching and Non-Teaching Employees' Association staging a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, seeking fulfillment of their various demands

Webinar held on 'global warming'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The Odisha Society of Americas (OSA) in association with 'Mo College Abhijan' conducted a webinar titled, "Global Warming and its Impact on Snow and Ice" under the Dhauri Webinar Series, Saturday which was attended by various students and college authorities.

Durwood Zaelke, founder and President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD) in Washington, DC, and Paris, was the key speaker at the webinar who enlightened everyone about the strategies that cut non-CO2 super pollutants, particularly short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including methane, black carbon, hydro fluorocarbons, and tropospheric ozone which results in depletion of Arctic's sea ice. In his speech, he mentioned "half of the Arctic's sea ice is already gone, and the rest could disappear within 10 to 15 years."

At the South Pole, the Antarctic sea ice cover is at a record low, and at the third pole, glaciers in the Hindu Kush region in the Himalayas are melting at a fast rate and could shed as much as 80 per cent of its ice by the end of this century. As these glaciers melt, the water results in avalanches, flooding, landslides, inundating farmland and declining summer. Arctic sea ice has direct correlations with the strength of the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) that provides more than 70 per cent of India's annual precipitation.

Upendra Tripathy, Principal Advisor of (Education) to CM Naveen Patnaik was present at the meeting while it was coordinated by Durga Mishra (Department Head Electronics and computer science NJIT, Ajay Mohanty and Aditya Chowdhury of 'Mo College Abhijan'.

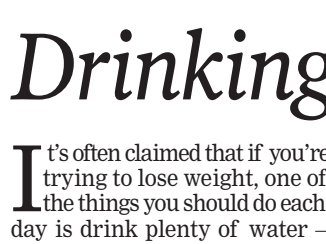
'Journalism a new science for globe'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 19: Journalists have a great responsibility towards the nation and nation building. Their writings and deliberations help to bring about change in the society and remains under the constant vigil. Journalism is a new science for the globe, the expert said during the induction programme at Utkal University.

Four days of Induction Programme for Masters in Journalism & Mass Communication (MJMC) Programme of Utkal University was organised by Post Graduate Department of Public Administration, Utkal University during August 16 to 19.

During the inaugural address, eminent media personality and academican Pratap Aditya Mishra said that newspapers played a very crucial role in the freedom movement of India. Journalism is the triumph of truth over falsehood and the art of presenting truth objectively is expected at every point of time.



Noted Writer and Editor of

"Katha" Gaurahari Das addressed the event and reiterated on the fact that in the contemporary times media becoming a medium for displaying political power is a matter of worry.

It is affecting journalists to provide true, impartial and factual news. Journalism is now considered as a new science on earth in which creative writing is emphasized. The ability of intricate writing would never shed its luster in the age of tech marvels including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) Das said.

Former Higher Education Secretary Partha Sarathi Mishra emphasized on the students to be trained according to the needs of print, electronic and digital media industries.

Padmalaya Mahapatra and Assistant Professor Jyotirmayee Tudu spoke during the program which was chaired by Head of the Department of Public Administration & Coordinator of MJMC Pratima Sarangi. Hemanta Kumar Dash delivered the welcome address.

Use your innate qualities for humanity's betterment: Guv

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 19: At the 19th Annual Convocation of KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU) organised here Saturday, Governor Ganeshi Lal urged the graduating students to explore their innate qualities and use them for betterment of humanity.

Joining the convocation as the chief guest, the Governor exhorted the young graduates to spread the message of love in society and uphold values of justice, equality and fraternity. Drawing parallel to the charm and fragrance of a flower that keeps smiling in face of adversities and pain, he asked the students to discover their natural talents.

A total of 6,638 students were conferred with bachelors, masters and PhD degrees at the convocation, where the university also conferred Honoris Causa doctorate degrees upon three eminent personalities: Ajit Kumar Mohanty, chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and secretary of Central Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, chairman and managing director of Swosti



Group of Hotels and Chander Prakash Gurnani, CEO and managing director of Tech Mahindra.

In his presidential address, KIIT DU chancellor Ashok Kumar Parija said that education is passport to a bright future and KIIT is shaping bright minds as responsible citizens of the nation.

He said that KIIT's success is 'littered with transformational milestones' and credited founder Achyuta Samanta for his unwavering commitment and persistent efforts to take the university to new heights in the field of education.

Vice chancellor Sasmita Samanta presented a report on

achievements of the university, informing that KIIT-DU now ranks among the top 16 public and private universities in the country as per the NIRF India Rankings and is in the cohort of 601-800 universities globally in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023.

At the event, medals were awarded to 68 students for their outstanding academic performances. Four students were awarded the Founder's Gold Medals for their outstanding all round and academic performances, while 32 students were awarded Chancellor's Gold Medals.

Lookout circular against Hungarian

Continued from P1

In Odisha, he travelled to Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak. Gez has deleted his Instagram account after registration of the case but his Indian associates are still issuing YouTube videos using his AI generated picture and voice, the EOW said.

According to the rules of the ministry of external affairs, indulging in business and promotion activity is not allowed for those in the country with tourist visa.

The official said that the EOW will report the matter to the MEA for necessary action.

The official said that the EOW will report the matter to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for necessary action, in addition to the legal action in the case.

The EOW has so far arrested Gurtej Singh Sidhu and Nirod Das, the country and state heads of STA Token respectively, from Rajasthan and Bhadrak August 7.

A Bhubaneswar-based investment advisor and financial consultant was also nabbed August 15.

Rain not likely for next four days: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 19: The low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB) and adjoining areas of West Bengal-north Odisha coasts now lies over north Chhatisgarh and neighbourhood with the associated cyclonic cir-

ulation extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height.

It is likely to move west north westwards across northeast Madhya Pradesh during next 24 hours, the IMD informed. According to the Met department, there will be no rain in the

state over the next four days. However, August 23 and 24, there are chances of rainfall and thundershower. The IMD bulletin revealed that August 23 and 24, thundershower with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur; Keonjhar;

Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Angul, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Ganjam. "Also Heavy Rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh," the IMD stated.

Drinking a gallon of water per day won't help lose weight

It's often claimed that if you're trying to lose weight, one of the things you should do each day is drink plenty of water - with some internet advice even suggesting this should be as much as a gallon (about 4.5 litres).

The claim is that water helps burn calories and reduce appetite, which in turn leads to weight loss.

But while we all might wish it was this easy to lose weight, unfortunately there's little evidence to back up these claims.

Myth 1: water helps burn calories One small study of 14 young adults, found drinking 500ml of water increased resting energy expenditure (the amount of calories our body burns before exercise) by about 24 per cent.

While this may sound great, this effect only lasted an hour.

And this wouldn't translate to a big difference at all. For an average 70 kg adult, they would only use an additional 20 calories - a quarter of a biscuit - for every 500ml of water they drank.

Get facts about the coronavirus pandemic and the latest research. Another study of eight young adults only saw an increase in energy expenditure when the water was fridge cold - reporting a very modest 4 per cent increase in calories burned.

This may be because the body needs to use more energy in order to bring the water up to body temperature, or because it requires more energy for the body to filter the increased volume of fluid through the kidneys. And again, this effect was only seen for about an hour.

So although scientifically it



might be possible, the actual net increase in calories burned is tiny. For example, even if you drank an extra 1.5l of water per day, it would save fewer calories than you'd get in a slice of bread.

It's also worth noting that all this research was in young healthy adults. More research is needed to see whether this effect is also seen in other groups

(such as middle-aged and older adults).

Myth 2: water with meals reduces appetite

This claim again seems sensible, in that if your stomach is at least partly full of water there's less room for food - so you end up eating less.

A number of studies actually support this, particularly those conducted in middle-aged and older adults. It's also a reason people who are unwell or have a poor appetite are advised not to drink before eating as it may lead to under-eating.

But for people looking to lose weight, the science is a little less straightforward.

One study showed middle-aged and older adults lost 2 kg over a 12-week period when they drank water before meals com-

pared with people who didn't drink any water with their meal.

Younger participants (aged 21-35) on the other hand did not lose any weight, regardless of whether they drank water before their meal or not.

But since the study didn't use blinding (where information which may influence participants is withheld until after the experiment is finished), it means that participants may have become aware of why they were drinking water before their meal.

This may have led some participants to purposefully change how much they ate in the hopes it might increase their changes of losing weight.

However, this doesn't explain why the effect wasn't seen in young adults, so it will be important for future studies to in-

vestigate why this is.

The other challenge with a lot of this kind of research is that it only focuses on whether participants eat less during just one of their day's meals after drinking water. Although this might suggest the potential to lose weight, there's very little good-quality evidence showing that reducing appetite in general leads to weight loss over time.

Perhaps this is due to our body's biological drive to maintain its size. It's for this reason that no claims can be legally made in Europe about foods which help make you feel fuller for longer with reference to weight loss. So, although there might be some appetite-dulling effects of water, it seems that it might not result in long-term weight change.

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Rayagada turns hub of ganja cultivation

Farmers and landowners are seen getting increasingly drawn to the cultivation due to high profit margin



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 19: Rayagada district has turned into a hub of illegal cultivation of cannabis and its smuggling to destinations in and outside the state, a report said Saturday.

Ganja cultivation has become rampant with farmers and landowners taking it up on a large scale leaving aside cultivation of other crops. Large scale illegal farming of ganja can be seen in Muniguda, Chandrapur, Padmapur and Kashipur blocks of Rayagada district.

Observers said that a well-oiled racket is working behind the cultivation and smuggling of the contraband whose network is spread in various parts of the country and even outside.

Farmers and landowners are seen getting increasingly drawn to the cultivation due to high profit margin. As a result, cultivation of other crops has suffered a setback while ganja cultivation has picked up in the district.

DREADED MAOIST RAJA REDDY DIES

Malkangiri: Dreaded Maoist Raja Reddy who had created panic in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh died Friday in a Red camp inside Bastar forest in Chhattisgarh. He had been suffering from some disease for the last few days. Many cases have been pending against him at various police stations in Chhattisgarh. The Chhattisgarh government had declared ₹1 crore cash reward on his head as he had caused numerous losses to police, administration and general public. After getting the news of his death, Bastar police administration conducted a search operation to verify the truth. A video showed a person resembling Raja lying on the ground with fellow cadres sitting near him and was crying inconsolably.

A FARMER REQUESTING ANONYMITY SAID THAT HE EARNS FIVE TIMES MORE PROFIT FROM GANJA CULTIVATION THAN WHAT HE EARNS BY GROWING OTHER CROPS

THINGS HAVE COME TO SUCH A PASS THAT PEOPLE HAVE EVEN STARTED LEASING OUT THEIR LANDS TO GANJA FARMERS

their earnings increase manifold by leasing out land for cultivation of ganja instead of any other crops. This trend has spread to various parts of the district while the district excise personnel and police have failed to act tough on the cultivation and trade of the illegal plant.

Sources said that ganja cultivation is especially done in Muniguda, Kashipur, Padmapur and Chandrapur blocks. The rampant cultivation is not only linked to high profit margin but also financial and other assistance the farmers receive for the crop.

There is no dearth of money for the cultivation as ganja traders from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh visit the areas frequently and encourage farmers and landowners to take up the cultivation by providing them financial assistance. They also supply them seeds, fertilisers and arrange

motor pumps to draw water for the cultivation.

Various hilly villages in remote Raghubari, Dimiriguda panchayats of Muniguda block, Sundarpadar, Kancharaguda, Jambaguda panchayats of Padmapur block and remote Bijapur village of Chandrapur block are the hotspots of ganja farming.

In Kashipur block, the cultivation is done on the hilly farmlands of Kapuguda, Taladeska, Jubapadar, Tureighati, Kichikhal and Pitajodi villages. This apart, farming is also done in abandoned and deserted areas of Kashipur and other blocks by concealing it from locals.

After harvest, ganja traders from Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Puri and Kendrapara visit the concerned areas of cultivation to smuggle the contraband in suitcases and bags through bus, train and various cargo vehicles. Later, it is smuggled outside of the state in a clandestine manner avoiding the prying eyes of police and excise personnel.

When contacted, district Excise Superintendent Abhiram Behera said that the excise, police and forest personnel are often conducting joint raids and destroying the ganja cultivation. They are also encouraging people to take up cultivation of cash crops where their earnings will increase and they will not face any problem in selling their produce.

The excise and police personnel conduct joint raids in November and December when Ganja is harvested, he added. Locals have demanded the district administration to intervene and take necessary action against the cultivation of the illegal substance.

However, what has surprised many is that despite tall claims by the Excise superintendent, illegal cultivation and smuggling of ganja is only increasing in the district.



LUNCH TIME: Deer munch leaves in their enclosures at Sambalpur Zoo on a rain-soaked day at Motijharan in Sambalpur Saturday

OP PHOTO

GANJA WORTH ₹3L SEIZED; ONE HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 19: The Government Railway Police (GRP) has arrested one person with the seizure of 33 kg ganja worth ₹3 lakhs from him at Rajgangpur, Saturday. The arrested person was later handed over to the Excise department.

Reports said one Gourav Kumar Singh, in his early 30s, was found moving suspiciously on platform no. 2 of Rajgangpur station and was caught by the GRP for his doubtful movements. Police recovered 33 kg ganja in his possession. Soon, he was arrested and during interrogation, it was found that he was from Jharkhand and this was his regular activity. The substance was purchased from Malkangiri, informed an official who did not want to be named.

Child swapping charge rocks Jharsuguda DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, August 19: Child swapping slur rocked Jharsuguda district headquarters hospital (DHH) Saturday as a couple lodged a complaint alleging swapping of their newborn son.

The couple was identified as Rajkumar Giri and his wife Deepanjali Giri of Rampur area in Brajarajnagar town of Jharsuguda district.

The couple alleged that the hospital staff informed them about birth of a son during delivery. However, an hour later, an employee of the hospital handed over a newborn girl to his wife who was suffering from cleft lip. The couple refused to leave the hospital premises until their newborn son is handed over to them and demanded a DNA examination to establish the truth.

When contacted, CDMO Dolamani Patel said that the matter is being probed after receiving a complaint from the woman's husband. The veracity of the claim can be ascertained after availability of the report, he said.

Sources said that Rajkumar admitted his pregnant wife Deepanjali for delivery at the obstetrics and gynaecology department of the hospital after she went into labour at 12 noon, Friday. There the doctors administered her treatment.

Later, when she went to the toilet of the hospital to relieve herself, she delivered a baby boy near the lavatory while returning to her bed. On being informed by her husband, nurses and other hospital staff picked up the newborn, cleaned the woman and took her to the bed. However, an hour later, a nurse brought a newborn girl having cleft lip and handed it over to the woman. The hospital staff allegedly refused to listen to Giri and went away leaving the newborn girl with the couple when he questioned the whereabouts of his newborn son.

He demanded a proper probe and stringent action against persons responsible for child swapping. Locals demanded to scan the CCTV footages in the hospital and conduct a DNA test to bring out the truth.



Locals have demanded to scan the CCTV footages in the hospital and conduct a DNA test to bring out the truth

Notably, the couple has two girls and they went for the third pregnancy expecting a son this time.

10-yr RI for kidnapping, rape of minor

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, August 19: Additional District & Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge (POCSO) Pranati Pattanaik Saturday convicted one youth for raping a minor girl and sentenced him to 10 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) along with a fine amount of ₹4,000.

The judge further ordered that the convict would undergo another six months of RI if he failed to pay the fine amount, Special Public Prosecutor Manoj Kumar Sahoo said.

The 26-year-old convict identified as Mustafar Khan of Gopalpur village under Aul police station was sentenced to 10 years RI and a fine of ₹4000 for kidnapping a minor girl of his village July 5, 2017 and raping her several times.

According to the prosecution, the accused used to stalk the minor girl, who was studying in Class X in the local high school.

The victim girl had rejected the love proposal of Khan. On July 5, 2017, while the victim was returning from tuition on her bicycle, the accused forcibly kidnapped the girl and took her to a house in Indupur area and spent the night.

Later he took her to Visakhapatnam and stayed with the victim minor girl in a rented house. He also shifted the girl to Hyderabad where he stayed in a rented house and forcibly raped her several times.

When Khan came to know that the victim girl's mother had lodged an FIR against him at Aul police station, he sent the minor girl to Kendrapara with the help of a friend.

The victim's mother had lodged an FIR July 6, 2017 at Aul police station. The accused was later arrested by the police.

While adjudging the case under Sections 341, 366, 376(2)(i)(n) of IPC, Section 6 of POCSO Act, the judge after verifying the evidences and cross examining the witness, pronounced the judgment.

CANTEEN BOY TO FOLEY ARTIST

Odia youth's awe-inspiring journey to Bollywood

Bisoi has walked many arduous miles starting from the twists and turns of the ghat roads of Odisha's Kashmir Daringbadi to the straight and sleek highways of Mumbai, the City of Dreams



POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, August 19: You may not see him, but the sounds that you hear in the movie theatre may very well have been created by him. Sunny Deol's latest release and blockbuster movie Gadar 2, which has taken the cinemas by storm, has brought the spotlight on an Odia youth Varun Bisoi, a successful foley artist in Mumbai's film industry. He has worked as a foley recordist for movies in several languages including the Odia film Daman.

He has worked behind the scene for popular and acclaimed Bollywood films like Bajirao Mastani, PK, 3 Idiots, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Don-2, Uri, Robot, Andhadhun, Toilet: Ek Prem

Katha, Rustom and Padmavat. Bisoi, has walked many arduous miles starting from the twists and turns of the ghat roads of Daringbadi to the straight and sleek highways of Mumbai, the city of dreams.

Growing up, Varun, the third son of late Sreebatsa Malbisoi, had to face several hurdles arising out of abject poverty. His father died when he was in high school in the year 1996. Having learnt the skill from his father, he had to work as a tailor from his teenage to extend a helping hand to his widowed mother who did odd jobs to make both ends meet. He had to let go of formal studies in

the year 2000 when he was doing Matriculation.

However, he had bigger dreams that kept him going. With the ₹400 he had with him and borrowing ₹500 from his friend, he embarked upon his journey to Mumbai in January of 2002. He approached the Natraj Studio but failed to get any job there. Later the night watchman of the studio had arranged for him the job of a canteen boy. Along with his work, he learnt the works of a foley artist and after working with Aradhana Studio for long, he is now climbing the ladder of success by establishing his own studio. And he has never looked

What is a foley artist?

A foley artist is a person who re-creates sounds for film, video, and other media in post-production to enhance audio quality. They replace sounds using a variety of props to create specific sounds that cannot properly be recorded on set. Foley studios have viewing screens, and props, as well as recording equipment to record sounds as they watch the film. These sounds include anything from the swishing of clothing, the breaking of glass, footsteps, or squeaking doors. This art is very much essential for all kinds of motion pictures. The term 'Foley' comes from Jack Foley (1891-1967), a sound effects pioneer. He worked with Stanley Kubrick but never received much credit besides the term itself.

back since then. So far, he has worked in more than 150 films collaborating with acclaimed directors and stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar, Sunny Deol, Nana Patekar, and Ranveer Singh among others.

Now, after the Gadar-2 success, he has become the talk of the town in Kandhamal. Not only Varun Bisoi, but also another youth Shivasambhu Dugal who accompanied him to Mumbai in 2021 also got success as a co-foley artist. Before Shivasambhu was taken to Mumbai by Bisoi, he was working as a hawk for Dharitri newspaper for some days.

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"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
1st Corrigendum to Identification Online Tender 02/RWD-II / 2023-24, Dt.10.08.2023
No. O-695- Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the online tenders for the works Sl. No. 18, Sl. No. 19, Sl. No. 32, Sl. No. 33, Sl. No. 34, Sl. No. 35 are hereby cancelled and other conditions are remain same.
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ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B) - 11/2023-24/JYP(K)
No. 6353 Date: 16.08.2023
No. B-716: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
1. Name of the Work : Building Works as mentioned in DTCN
2. No. of Works : 4 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.9.34 lakhs to Rs.17.47 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : Two Months to Three Months
5. Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 23.08.2023 upto 17.00 hours of 01.09.2023
6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 17.00 hours of 01.09.2023
7. Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 02.09.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypore.
Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Division
OIPR-34027/11/0012/2324

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/E-Tender/65
Dt. 10.08.2023
(1) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-189-2023, Dtd. 07.08.2023
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF PATHWAYS FOR LIGHTING FACILITY AND WELDING POINTS AT ADB YARD, EXCHANGE YARD & CC YARD OF CARRIAGE & WAGON DEPT/ PARADEEP.
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) : 469.34 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,84,700.00.
(2) Tender No. etendernorthkur-189-2023, Dtd. 07.08.2023
DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF 8 BAYS PLATFORM SHELTER AT BHADRAK & JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD STATION, (3) BAYS PLATFORM SHELTER ON PLATFORM NO - 1 & 2 AND 2 BAYS ON PLATFORM NO - 3 & 4 AT BHADRAK STATION AND 3 BAYS ON PLATFORM NO - 2 & 3 AT JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD STATION.
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) : 136.89 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,18,500.00.
(3) Tender No. e-Tender-NORTHKUR-189-2023, Dtd. 08.08.2023
DESCRIPTION : PROPOSED JACKETING OF PIERS AND ABUTMENTS AND OTHER PROTECTION WORKS OF BR. NO-361 (UP) AT KM.291/1-5 BETWEEN BAUDPUR - BHADRAK UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (NORTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) : 238.06 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,69,000.00.
Completion Period : 10 (Ten) Months (for Sl. No. 1 & 3), 09 (Nine) Months (for Sl. No. 2).
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 30.08.2023 (For all the Tenders.)
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be 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 : <https://www.treps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.),
PR-468/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 29/ET/SBP/ENGG/2023-24 Dated: 14.08.2023
(1) e-Tender No. : 13-eT-DENW-SBP-23
NAME OF WORKS : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN LAKHOLI (EX)-BHIMKHOJ (EX) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2024 UNDER SSE (P.WAY)/MAHASAMUND IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,51,72,520/-
Bid Security : ₹ 2,25,900/-
(2) e-Tender No. : 14-eT-DENW-SBP-23
NAME OF WORKS : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN BHIMKHOJ (IN)-NAWAPARA ROAD (EX) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2024 UNDER SSE (P.WAY)/KHARIARI ROAD IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,55,22,720/-
Bid Security : ₹ 2,27,700/-
(3) e-Tender No. : 15-eT-DENW-SBP-23
NAME OF WORKS : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN BHIMKHOJ (IN)-NAWAPARA ROAD (EX) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2024 UNDER SSE (P.WAY)/NAWAPARA ROAD IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,53,29,600/-
Bid Security : ₹ 2,26,700/-
(4) e-Tender No. : 16-eT-DENW-SBP-23
NAME OF WORKS : EXECUTION OF ALL PERMANENT WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN KANTABANJI (IN)-TITLAGARH (EX) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2024 UNDER SSE (P.WAY)/KANTABANJI IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,53,29,600/-
Bid Security : ₹ 2,26,700/-
Completion Period for the work: 30.09.2024 (for all tender).
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 Hrs. on 08.09.2023 (for all tender).
No manual offers sent by post/courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.treps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers 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.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.),
PR-474/O/23-24 Sambalpur

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

CARBON CAPTURE & DELAY



As long as coal plants are still operating, it is a good idea to make them capture their CO₂ emissions. But that does not mean it is a good idea to be helping them continue to operate. The sooner that coal is replaced by renewables, the better it will be for the planet, consumers, and even utility companies

right, mandating CCS, in theory, should indeed make coal even less competitive than it already is. But CCS mandates do not operate in a vacuum.

In practice, operating licenses for coal plants are not issued by the same people writing federal rules. These decisions are made at the state and local level, primarily through state-level public utility commissions that have many competing priorities. Even if they are committed to decarbonising, one important goal is to keep the lights on. That goal, in turn, has all too often been interpreted as keeping current generation capacities profitable. When faced with new CCS mandates and accompanying subsidies, they may simply see an opportunity to maintain coal-plant profitability for longer.

How can federal policymakers get around this problem? Broadly speaking, the focus should be on pushing cheaper solar and wind power into the system, as that will force coal- and gas-plant operators' hands. We also need better, nimbler planning and investment processes, to allow for grid-connection rights to be reassigned from coal plants to renewables that would be built in their stead. As matters stand, most US states do not give consumers a choice about how their electricity is generated. That needs to change.

As long as coal plants are still operating, it is a good idea to make them capture their CO₂ emissions. But that does not mean it is a good idea to be helping them continue to operate. The sooner that coal is replaced by renewables, the better it will be for the planet, consumers, and even utility companies.

The writer is a climate economist at Columbia Business School.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

In May, the US Environmental Protection Agency proposed new power-plant rules that would effectively require every existing coal- or gas-fired plant in the United States either to capture and store most its carbon dioxide emissions, or to switch to burning low-emissions "green hydrogen." Yet it would be cheaper to replace America's more than 200 coal-fired plants with new solar or wind facilities, and then to do the same with its gas plants soon thereafter.

This claim will surely be met with cries of: "It's not that simple! You also have to account for the Earth's rotation, cloud cover, and a lack of wind." Indeed, one also must acknowledge ever-present NIMBYism, long-term energy contracts, and other complexities that stand in the way of immediately swapping coal for solar. But nobody is seriously suggesting shutting down every fossil-fueled power plant everywhere all at once. The transition will take time.

Time, of course, is relative. Even the new EPA rules would be phased in gradually, with the real bite coming only in the next decade. But we can't wait for the EPA's rules to bite and force the changes, nor should we. And the "we," in this case, includes everyone from consumers to local energy regulators to utility executives and banks planning their investment decisions.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a godsend, and green hydrogen has the potential to be one, too. But, looking to the next decade and beyond, we also will be deploying many other advanced climate-tech solutions, from better batteries to smarter grids. Given the urgency of the climate crisis and all the new technologies coming down the pike, it makes little sense to

wait for the EPA's new rules to force changes years from now.

Power-plant economics are changing fast. In 2019, the think tank Energy Innovation published its first "coal cost crossover" report, which found that 62% of US coal plants were more expensive to run than to replace with local solar or wind generation. By 2021, that figure had risen to 72%; and as of earlier this year, it was 99%. With the exception of one coal plant in Wyoming, it would be cheaper to produce electricity with solar or wind, plus battery storage, than to keep the existing coal fleet up and running.

While the 2023 figure accounts for the expanded solar and wind tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act, it does not include additional incentives like those provided by the IRA's loan programme, which utilities can tap to help finance renewables. More to the point, it came before the new EPA proposals, raising the question of what effects these rules might have.

For the most part, the EPA's rule changes are standard reg-

ulatory fare, reflecting the need to pass muster with a Supreme Court that is intent on curtailing federal regulators' powers. Instead of allowing for flexibility in achieving carbon-reduction goals, the EPA is taking a more direct approach, essentially mandating that existing coal plants capture and store their released carbon. But especially in connection with generous IRA subsidies for CCS technology, US policymakers may be unwittingly throwing a lifeline to coal plants that would otherwise be economically unviable.

When considered in isolation, the EPA rule is clearly good for the environment and for public health, since it would significantly decrease particulate matter and ozone pollution. But assessments of CCS tend to get murky fast. Let's not forget, Donald Trump and his advisers were big fans of the technology, which they saw as a way "to help coal and still help the climate."

Since combining CCS with coal will always be more expensive than burning coal out-



Gernot Wagner

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE IS A GODSEND, AND GREEN HYDROGEN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE ONE, TOO



Aakar Patel

A riot in India is how we define what happens when the majority inflicts organised violence on a minority community. When the minority responds, and again we are seeing this in Manipur, this violence is classified differently in India and given another name

State & Riots

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER



The word riot is defined as a "violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd." Generally the world over, the word is understood elsewhere to mean the fury of society against the State. For example the Paris riot in 1968, which began with student protests against imperialism and capitalism. Or the Los Angeles riot of 1992, following the acquittal of the police officers who assaulted Rodney King.

In 2011, after the fatal police shooting of a man named Mark Duggan, there were riots in cities across England in which five were killed and 3,000 arrested. In the riots that broke out in France this year after the killing of a 17-year-old by police, three people died, of whom two perished in fires.

This word, then, does not capture the meaning of a riot as it is understood in India, that of organised violence against citizens by other citizens. During an episode of such violence, the State steps aside and allows, till the violence naturally cools down, the passion of the majority to reveal itself as arson, rape, loot and murder. Elements of the State often actively participate in the violence, feeling the same strong emotions as the mob it is meant to subdue. We can see evidence of this unfold before us. Even the best governed states do not appear to have the capacity to control the damage and those who are counted as our most competent chief ministers have failed on this count. It is also true that the violence is justified in the minds of many, including those who lead the State.

In an interview with the Indian Express published a few years ago, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was asked: "The Muzaffarnagar riots took place under the last government but of the 44 cases decided, there has been acquittal in 43 cases. Why isn't your government filing appeals?"

The Chief Minister replied: "The chargesheets in the Muzaffarnagar cases were filed by the previous government. The (riots) were the result of biased policies and failure of that government under which the whole society was differentiated on the basis of caste, belief and religion. There is nothing like that in our government. On the question of appeal, we will do that if needed. If there is no need, why should we unnecessarily intervene in the matter of the court?"

The root of such violence is an underlying sentiment existing perennially in a large part of our society, and kept stoked through politics. An external trigger then sets it afire: an assassination in 1984, an act of vandalism in 1992 or an incident on a train in 2002.

The other difference between the riot abroad and the riot here is that of spontaneity. The riots referred to in the instances above were not anticipated. In India, we are aware that the deliberate raising of the temperature will have consequences. The BJP legislations by Union and state governments on cattle transport, beef possession, interfaith marriage, the absurd and Kafkaesque (as described by the Economist) events of the NRC in Assam, the criminalisation of divorce, what we are doing in Srinagar and so on must be seen in this light. Such work keeps the pot boiling.

A collection of columns written in Indian newspapers in recent years will read like the diary of Victor Klemperer. He was an academic, a scholar of languages, who kept a record of what was done to him and others in Germany in the 1930s. There is something happening daily on this front, no matter what else goes on in the economy, or in Manipur or at the border in Ladakh.

Action at the Kashi Vishwanath temple this month will produce similar sentiment as was produced by events in Ayodhya earlier. The decision handed down by the Supreme Court in the latter matter has not been discussed in politics as a property dispute, which is how the SC views it. It has instead been projected as vengeance and retribution against a building made five centuries ago — Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1526 and died in Agra five years later aged 47 — on the site of another building apparently made earlier. How much earlier was the previous structure built?

BJP MP from Baghpat Satyapal Singh, when he was still an IPS officer, wrote an article ("Proving the historicity of Ram," Rediff.com, April 14, 2008) in which he determined that Lord Ram lived 8,69,108 years ago. Meaning 500,000 years before the appearance of Homo Sapiens. That is, of course, only if one believes in the theory of evolution, which Mr Singh, who headed education in India through his Human Resources Development portfolio in the first Modi government, says he doesn't.

It will be interesting to see how the world views us as we now go about resolving this pressing matter in Kashi judicially and how we will anticipate and control what will come after the survey is over. It would be too much to hope that the State is mindful of potential consequences and doing what it can to mitigate them as yet another crisis approaches.

Lastly, to go back to where we started, a riot in India is how we define what happens when the majority inflicts organised violence on a minority community. When the minority responds, and again we are seeing this in Manipur, this violence is classified differently in India and given another name.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

Chinese aggression: A global problem

In the run-up to BRICS summit in South Africa to be held on August 22-24 which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend, another round of talks took place between India and China. The Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) held talks on 14 August to ease the persisting tension along the LAC. This was the 19th round of Corps Commander level talks almost four months after the last one held on 23 April.

Despite multiple rounds of talks, the problems at Depsang in Daulat Beg Oldi sector and Charding Nullah Junction (CNJ) in Demchok sector are still to be resolved. Besides, after four rounds of disengagement from Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Gogra (PP-1A) and Hot Springs (PP-15), the Indian and Chinese armies still have more than 60,000 troops each stationed in Ladakh Theatre.

From the available reports, there was no forward movement in talks on 13 and 14 August held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side except both countries agreeing to resolve the issues in an expeditious manner.

The focus of the meeting apparently was on confidence building and adhering to border protocols and sharing of patrol

information between troops of both sides. Reportedly, India had pressed for access to all old patrolling points along the LAC. Note that Indian soldiers used to patrol PPs 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13; the Chinese have blocked the Indian passage to these points. The Chinese have been blocking Indian patrols that go on foot beyond the bottleneck area or 'Y' Junction. While the Indian Army can go ahead using force to reach its traditional patrolling points, it has avoided doing so not to create any new conflict. Indian patrols can reach the 'Y' Junction by road also. However, travel beyond the 'Y' Junction is possible only by foot through two routes which originate from the Junction itself.

The north route, along the Raki Nala, goes towards PP10 and the southeast route goes towards PP13 along the Jiwan Nala. The Chinese claim about 1.5 km here from an Indian military camp in an area called Burtse. Indian forces also have been blocking Chinese patrols from going beyond the 'Y' Junction. In 2015, the Chinese army had intruded right upto the claim line before retreating.

The latest round of talks has perhaps been prompted by the impending meeting between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. A meeting on the side-

lines of BRICS summit is not ruled out. Also, the Xi is expected to be in New Delhi for the G20 summit in September. In July, on the fringe of G20 Summit in Indonesia, Modi and Xi discussed the need to normalise bilateral ties on border issues.

At home, the Opposition parties are gunning for Modi on his incapacity to push the Chinese army back to a position of status quo. Moreover, they are questioning him on his equivocal statements on Chinese incursion into the Indian territory. In the beginning, Modi maintained that not an inch of Indian land was occupied by the Chinese. Later, negotiations pointed towards India asking China to roll back. At any rate, Modi's China policy is somewhat shrouded in mystery causing people to doubt his diplomatic acumen or military preparedness or sagacity in strategic alliance building.

The government is claiming that the infrastructure and connectivity on the border has significantly improved over the past nine years. These have enhanced India's ability to respond to China's action along the LAC.

It is worth bringing in the comments made by a Republican Congressman on how to counter China. Mike Waltz, co-chair of Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, on an ex-

posure visit to India, said in an interview last Tuesday, that such trips expose the members of the US Congress to different aspects of the country and help them in framing policies and legislation. He urged, "India and the US have to stand together militarily, economically and democratically to counter China's assertive behaviour across the region." He warned that China's action is aggressive, and it is going to become more aggressive in future.

Elaborating the point, he said that China is aggressive in Western China, in Tibet, on the LAC, Taiwan, the Philippines, South China Sea — across the board really. So, this is not just a Taiwan problem or an Indian border problem. It is a global problem. He reminded that Xi is nudging his country to prepare for war.

Waltz suggested that along with military and defence ties, economic cooperation between India and the US and its Western allies is critically important. While relocating the supply chains, the US and the West can look at countries like India for manufacturing and other industrial outputs. I have been advocating this line, and for India, this is the way to go.

The writer is Secretary General, Association For Democratic Socialism. @INFIA



DK Giri

MODI'S CHINA POLICY IS SOMEWHAT SHROUDED IN MYSTERY CAUSING PEOPLE TO DOUBT HIS DIPLOMATIC ACUMEN OR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OR SAGACITY IN STRATEGIC ALLIANCE BUILDING

WISDOM CORNER

More smiling, less worrying. More compassion, less judgment. More blessed, less stressed. More love, less hate. ROY T. BENNETT

Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality. CARL SAGAN

How hurtful it can be to deny one's true self and live a life of lies just to appease others. JUNE AHERN

WORDSWORTH

Mongo

A Talk of the Town piece in the issue of the New Yorker for 13 November 2006 reported on an anthropologist-in-residence programme in the city's Department of Sanitation. An aside mentioned mongo, a word used by sanitation workers for the act of creatively recycling refuse, reclaiming and putting back to useful purpose items that had been thrown out. The magazine has featured the word before — its first recorded appearance was in the New Yorker in September 1984. It's one of that large group of terms which is almost impossible to research and about whose origin nobody seems to know anything at all. But we may with some confidence assume that it's not the same word as the US slang term mongo meaning "huge" (which is a short form of humongous, perhaps influenced by mungo) or "idiot" (which is an abbreviation of Mongol or mongoloid, in the now deeply deprecated sense of a sufferer from Down syndrome), nor that it refers to the Flash Gordon planet. It matches least badly to mungo, another name for shoddy, an inferior cloth made from recycled fibres taken from old woven or felted material.

Authoritarian govt

Sir, The Union government in order to break the colonial mindset has brought changes in respect of three British laws — the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act. Unfortunately, there was no discussion among stakeholders, which speaks volumes of the authoritarian nature of the government. All the three colonial era laws were well drafted and seldom caused any impediments in running the judiciary smoothly. As far as the IPC is concerned, it has stood the test of time. A plethora of reasons can be cited for delay in disposal of cases, which include the defective infrastructure in lower courts and appointment of some raw hands in the lower judiciary. With the accentuation of political rivalry, the number of cases has also increased appreciably. At the drop of a hat, cases are filed, which tend to slow down the disposal of listed cases. British laws are in no way responsible for this.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Menace of ragging

Sir, The tragic incident at Jadhavpur University — an 18 years old student dying due to ragging — serves as a stark reminder of the urgency to combat ragging within educational institutions. While anti-ragging laws and regulations exist, their effectiveness hinges on stringent implementation, awareness campaigns, and a commitment from both students and faculty to eradicate this harmful practice. Rebranding ragging as mere "steam release" or tolerating it as a rite of passage is no longer tenable — such attitudes only perpetuate a culture of impunity and thwart the development of responsible citizens. It's time to address this issue head-on. To truly harness the potential of India's youth, the menace of ragging must be uprooted. Rather than merely reacting after tragic incidents, it's imperative to proactively instill a sense of accountability, empathy, and respect within educational institutions. This demands a collective effort — universities must foster open dialogue, encourage reporting, and prioritise the safety of students over political considerations. By fortifying anti-ragging regulations, bolstering their enforcement, and dispelling any notion of tolerance for such behaviour, India can indeed cultivate its demographic dividend, harnessing the transformative power of its youth to shape a brighter future for the nation.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Kuki MLAs to boycott Assembly session

The boycott of the proceedings by Kuki-Zo MLAs will make the affairs a damp squib even as all eyes will be on the Naga MLAs now

New Delhi, August 19: "A big shout-out to the Indian Army for their dedication in bringing them (212 Meiteis) home," tweeted Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, even as the Assembly session summoned from Monday could be boycotted by Kuki legislators.

Owing to large-scale demands from opposition parties and civil society organisations, the beleaguered Manipur government headed by Biren Singh has decided to convene the Assembly session from Monday (August 21).

But the 10 Kuki-Zo legislators have announced that they will not attend the upcoming session.

BJP legislator Paolienlal Haokip said that seven saffron party MLAs and three others will also not attend the session as a mark of protest against the 'criminal attacks' against the Kuki-Zo community in a 'state-sponsored pogrom'.

He went on to state that the capital Imphal valley has turned into a 'valley of death' not only for the Kuki-Zo community, but also for all other "ethnic Mizo people" - irrespective of the fact whether they are from Manipur or Mizoram.

The 10 legislators are -- Haokholet Kipgen (Independent) Kinmeo Haokip Hangshing (KPA), Chinlungthang (KPA), and L.M. Khaute, Nemcha Kipgen, Ngursanglu Sanate, Letpaao Haokip, Letzamang



Haokip, Paolienlal Haokip and Vungjagin Valte, all BJP MLAs. Letpaao Haokip and Nemcha Kipgen are ministers in the Biren Singh government.

The boycott of the proceedings by Kuki-Zo MLAs will make the affairs a damp squib even as all eyes will be on the Naga MLAs now.

Forty MLAs from violence-hit Manipur, including eight Naga MLAs had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding the withdrawal of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki militant groups and implementation of

NRC in the state. They also said that a 'separate administration' sought by Kuki groups was absolutely unacceptable.

The potent insurgent group NSCN-IM, which enjoys considerable community-based support base in the Naga areas of Manipur, criticised the Naga MLAs for writing such a letter/memorandum to PM, which it said had nothing to do with the political aspirations of the Naga people.

The memorandum said, "A 'separate administration' as demanded by the ITLF/Kukis

is absolutely unacceptable under any circumstances."

The eight Naga MLAs included NPF Manipur unit President Awangbou Newmai, also a minister in the Biren Singh government.

Wednesday, the Kuki MLAs sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding the creation of the posts of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police or equivalent posts for the five hill districts of Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Chandel, Tengnoupal, and Pherzaw.

They also demanded the

sanction of Rs 500 crore from the PM's Relief Fund for the proper rehabilitation of the Zomi-Kuki people.

"No member of Kuki-Zo community is in the Imphal valley and no member of the Meitei community is in the hill areas," the MLAs said.

The 10 legislators in another letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah have asked for immediate dialogue for political and administrative recognition of the 'ethnic separation' that has been forced upon them.

"Even members of the state Assembly were not spared. MLA Vungjagin Valte and his driver were waylaid while he was returning from a meeting at the Chief Minister's bungalow in May. His driver was beaten to death," the Kuki leaders alleged.

In his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, Prime Minister Modi had said both the state and Central governments are working together to find solutions to the issues in Manipur and "will continue to do so".

"In the last few days, we have been hearing continuous reports of peace, and the entire nation stands with the people of Manipur. The people of Manipur have maintained peace in the past few days, and they should continue to foster that peace, as it is the path to resolution," Modi had said.

Protest against Amit Shah's 'illegal immigrants' remark



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Churachandpur/Imphal, August 19: Manipur's Joint Students' Body (JSB) Saturday staged a rally in Churachandpur in protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament that the state's present crisis was due to influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar.

The JSB, which comprises the Zomi Students Federation (ZSF), Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) and Hmar Students Association, requested the home minister to clarify his stand. Shah had told the Parliament August 9 that problems started in Manipur with the influx of Kuki refugees from neighbouring Myanmar after the military rulers there started a crackdown against militants in 2021.

The Kuki refugees started settling down in the jungles in the Manipur valley, raising fears of a demographic change in the region, Shah had said, adding that

the unrest began when rumours started circulating that defused settlements had been declared as villages. The student's body also expressed its unhappiness on the statement of India's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that most of the bodies lying at RIMS and JNIMS hospital morgues are that of illegal immigrants.

"This has been taken very seriously by the Kuki-Zo tribals and they demand the solicitor general to come up with valid proof," the JSB said.

Mehta, appearing for both the Union and Manipur governments, August 1 told the Supreme Court that "most of the unclaimed bodies are of infiltrators." The protesters also said filing of FIRs against Kuki-Zo tribal intellectuals and leaders is an attempt to silence their voices. The rally, which started from Lamka public ground and culminated at the Wall of Remembrance, passed through Tipaimukh Road, IB Road and Tedim Road.

Remove Biren for failing to restore normalcy: CPI(M)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala/Imphal, August 19: Senior CPI(M) leader Jitendra Chaudhury, who is currently visiting strife-torn Manipur as member of a party delegation, Saturday demanded the removal of Chief Minister N Biren Singh for 'failing to restore normalcy'.

Chaudhury, the Tripura unit's general secretary and part of the CPI(M) delegation that is on a three-day visit to the violence-affected state, alleged that the ethnic violence in the north-eastern state was part of the BJP-RSS 'strategy of engineering division among people across the country. The BJP, however, dismissed the CPI(M) leader's allegations as baseless and asserted the state was on the path to peace.

"We don't see the strife in Manipur as an isolated situation but as part of the BJP-RSS' pan-India strategy of creating divisions and triggering mistrust among people to rule them. Such incidents are happening everywhere," Chaudhury told PTI over the phone.

The CPI(M) delegation, led by its national general secretary Sitaram Yechury, visited three relief camps in Manipur and also met Governor Anusuiya Uikey Friday. "The situation in



Manipur is alarming as mistrust is growing with each passing day. The Biren Singh government in the state, instead of bringing peace, has failed to take any visible step in restoring normalcy," he said.

"It was said that the Centre will monitor the situation in Manipur but the reality on the ground is very different. Biren Singh, who has become indispensable after his much-hyped drama of resignation, is running the show to date," the CPI(M) leader alleged. "We don't demand sacking of the BJP-led government in Manipur but seek the immediate removal of Biren Singh," he said.

Tripura BJP chief spokesperson Subrata Chakraborty dismissed Chaudhury's allegations and asserted that peace will gradually return to Manipur.

NEET politics hots up in TN

Since the inception of NEET in 2017 more than twenty students have taken their lives after failing to clear the highly competitive qualifiers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 19: A 19-year-old student in Chrompet, Chennai, committed suicide on August 12. The young man, Jagadeeswaran, who had more than average marks in the tenth and twelfth class qualifying examinations could not clear the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) for the second time and had enrolled himself in a tuition centre for a third attempt. Unfortunately, he committed suicide and after his last rites Sunday, his father Selvasekar, a photographer by profession and a single parent, hanged himself as he was unable to bear the loss of his son.

Since the inception of NEET in 2017 more than twenty students have taken their lives after failing to clear the highly competitive NEET qualifiers. The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly has passed two bills banning NEET in the state and reverted to the medical admission of marks in the qualifying plus two examination being the criterion.

After Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi rejected the first bill, the assembly passed another bill abolishing NEET in the state which was forwarded by the Governor to the President for her assent.

The ruling DMK had during the run-up to the 2021 assembly elections promised the people of Tamil



Nadu that it would abolish NEET in the state. However, even after two years, the DMK government led by Stalin has not been able to abolish NEET in the state and provide an alternative to students for admission to medical colleges.

Recently the Tamil Nadu Governor had during an interaction with students who were felicitated for clearing NEET and joining medical colleges, said that if it were he who is to decide, then he would never abolish NEET and lashed out against the government of Tamil Nadu.

This was not taken well by the state government and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had blasted the Governor stating that the Tamil Nadu assembly had passed the bill against NEET unanimously barring the four BJP legislators who had walked out of the House then. The death of Jagadeeswaran and his father Selvasekar has again put the focus

on the anti-NEET agitations in the state. The DMK youth wing secretary and Tamil Nadu minister Udayanidhi Stalin who is also the son of Stalin has announced a one day hunger strike in protest against the continuation of NEET in the state.

According to the DMK, the NEET was an examination which was only for elite students and those who could afford the tuition fees of high end coaching institutions. The party is of the opinion that poor children from rural backgrounds and government institutions are relegated to the background due to the NEET and that for equality the qualifying marks for the plus two examinations should be made the criteria.

The votaries of NEET have said that the state government was battling for the capitation lobbies in private medical colleges.

NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL
PURUSHOTTAMPUR (GM), PIN - 761018
Email id: purushottampurnac@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 06811-295222
Letter No. 2763/NAC Dated: 19.08.2023

"e" Procurement Notice
Tender Ref. No. PUR-NAC-03/2023-24
No. C-1114: Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, class of the contractor and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be seen on Govt. website, i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Works as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of Works : 52 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 5.13 lakhs to Rs. 19.99 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 30 days to 45 days
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 A.M. on Dtd.22.08.2023 to Dtd.01.09.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 01.09.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 02.09.2023 at 1.30 P.M.
- Tender document in original should drop in tender box at NAC Purushottampur Office : Till 5.00 P.M. on Dtd.01.09.2023 during office hour
- Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, NAC Purushottampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Officer
NAC, Purushottampur
OIPR-13187/11/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-459
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Berhampur Irrigation Division, Berhampur
Phone/FAX No. 0680 2281983, e-mail: eebam_irr@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice No. e-BEID-03/2023-24

- Name of the Scheme : Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Tanks for the F.Y. 2023-24.
- Total No. of Works : 11 (Eleven) Nos. of individual works.
- Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.18.23 Lakhs to Rs.48.69 Lakhs.
- Period of Completion : Six months.
- Other details as follows :

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Period of availability of Bids online	Period of submission of Bids online	Date and Place of opening of Bids online
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Superintending Engineer, Berhampur Irrigation Division, Berhampur	e-BEID-96/2023-24 to e-BEID-106/2023-24	From 28.08.2023 (10.00 A.M.) to 07.09.2023 (5.30 P.M.)	From 28.08.2023 (10.00 A.M.) to 07.09.2023 (5.30 P.M.)	08.09.2023 (11.00 A.M.) in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Berhampur Irrigation Division

Bidders are to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Web-site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum/cancellation of the tender can be seen in the above website only.

OIPR-32025/11/0004/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Berhampur Irrigation Division

Murugan idol stolen from TN temple traced to US

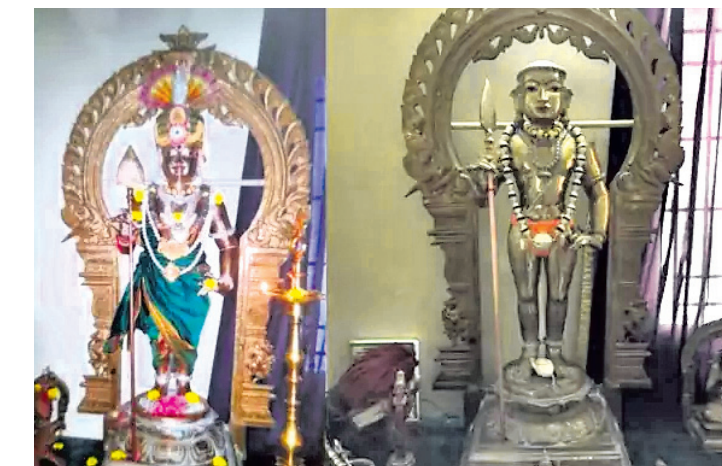
The idol in standing posture was stolen in the year 2,000 from the temple belonging to the 7th or 8th century (later Pallava period)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 19: An idol of Lord Murugan (Subrahmanya), allegedly stolen from a temple of the later Pallava era in Thachur village of Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district, has been traced to the US after 23 years, the state Idol Wing CID said Friday.

The police corroborated it with a list of confiscated idols available with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the principal investigative arm of the US Department of Homeland Security responsible for investigating transnational crimes and threats.

"A detailed investigation is being conducted in this regard. After getting the list of stolen idols from the HSI-USA, action will be taken to retrieve the stone idol of Lord Murugan through Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to our



country," Additional Director General of Police, Idol Wing CID, Shailesh Kumar Yadav said.

August 3, one Periyasamy Udayar from Thachur village filed a complaint with the Idol Wing

Police claiming that an idol of Lord Murugan in standing posture was stolen in the year 2,000 from the temple belonging to the 7th or 8th century (later Pallava period) located in Thachur village.

No complaint seems to have been filed at the time of the theft 23 years ago. He alleged that the temple was destroyed during foreign invasions by Malik Kafur and by Mughal kings but was later resurrected.

"There were 13 stone idols of deities at the temple and devotees started worshipping them from 1998 onwards," he had said in his complaint, police quoting him said in a release. The idols of Vishnu, Sridevi and Boodevi were recovered and handed over to the Ullundurpettai Sri Adikesava Perumal temple recently by the Idol wing, ADGP Yadav said in the release. Superintendent of Police S Sakthi Ganesan, Additional Deputy Superintendents of Police G Balamurugan and KPS Devaraj, and DSP North Zone U Muthuraja were part of the team that traced the idol.

GOVT. OF ODISHA
PANCHAYATRAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BASTA
Email- ori-basta@nic.in

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.- 01 BASTA/2023-24
No.I-323:- The critical dates, amount put to tender and class of contractor may be read as follows.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Approx estimated cost excluding GST (In Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Amount of EMD to be deposited online (1% of amount put to tender) (In Rs.)
1.	Repair & Up-gradation and const. of (boys & girls) toilet of Laxminarayan Higher Secondary School, Jamsuli	3265535/-	'C' & 'B'	32700/-
2.	Repair & Up-gradation of Sidheswar Higher Secondary School, Amarda	5504558/-	'B'	55100/-
3.	Repair & Upgradation of Laxminarayan Mahavidyalaya, Jamsuli	3284130/-	'C' & 'B'	38300/-
4.	Repair & Up-gradation and const. of (Boys & Girls) toilet of Sidheswar Degree College, Amarda	4340165/-	'B'	43500/-

CRITICAL DATES

Sl. No.	Event Description	Date
1.	Last date & time of seeking clarification	Upto 17.00 Hrs. of Dt.31.08.2023
2.	Date & time of opening of Bid	Dt. 07.09.2023 at 11.00 hrs
3.	Period of availability of tender online	From 11.00 hrs. of Dt.22.08.2023 to 17.00 hrs dt. 05.09.2023
4.	Last date & time of Bidding online	Upto 17.00 hrs dt.05.09.2023

All other terms & conditions remain un-altered.
OIPR-19171/11/0002/2324 Sd./- BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BASTA



Fire advances through the forest in La Orotava in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. Firefighters have battled through the night to try to bring under control the worst wildfire in decades on the Spanish Canary Island of Tenerife, a major tourist destination



INS Vagir, an Indian Navy submarine is on an extended-range deployment to Fremantle, Australia



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his way to Pangong Lake in Leh



A priest performs 'Deodhani' dance during Deodhani festival at Kamakhya temple in Guwahati



Police personnel try to stop Aam Aadmi Party supporters during their march to the Secretariat demanding a probe into allegations against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram



A landslide affected area where several buildings were damaged after heavy rains, at Krishna Nagar ward in Shimla



Workers unload sand from a boat despite state government's ban on sand mining, near Tekari ghat in Patna



Vehicles stuck on Manali-Chandigarh Highway due to its closure following landslides, near Pandoh in Kullu

of the day quote

While the LG administration was busy showing off the Tiranga Yatra in Kashmir another took place in Jammu where right-wing fanatics openly called for a Muslim genocide

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

Students have to attend six hours of coaching class, then attend extra classes and give weekly tests. It is time for improvement. We cannot see young students committing suicide

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

History cannot be buried or changed by removing the names of leaders who have not been a part of the BJP, it will emerge and remain

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Scindia loyalist returns to Cong

Bhopal: A loyalist of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and working committee member of the Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party has joined the Congress. Samandar Patel (52), an Other Backward Classes leader from Jawad area of Neemuch, had joined the BJP when Scindia and MLAs loyal to him rebelled against the Congress in March 2020, leading to the collapse of the Kamal Nath government. "The BJP neither accepted nor respected me nor my supporters. I was never invited to party functions despite being a working committee member. In fact my supporters were bullied with false cases," he said.

Journo's murder: Four arrested

Patna: Four people were arrested in connection with the murder of journalist Vimal Kumar Yadav in Bihar's Araria district, police said Saturday. Yadav, who worked for a Hindi daily, was killed at his residence in Premnagar village on Friday. The accused knocked at his house around 5.30 am, and fired at him as soon as he opened the gates, they said. Those arrested were identified as Vipin Yadav, Bhavesh Yadav, Ashish Yadav and Umesh Yadav -- all residents of the district, police said.

Two detained for Instagram posts

Bareilly (UP): Tension reigned in the Sheeshgarh town of the district after two teenagers from different communities made derogatory remarks about each other's religion on Instagram, police said Saturday. Police have detained two teens, one Hindu and one Muslim, in connection with the incident. Around 9 pm Friday, some people from the Muslim community lodged a police complaint alleging that a 14-year-old student of Class 9 had made objectionable remarks on their religion on Instagram. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Raj Kumar Aggarwal said.

17-year-old boy beaten to death

Thane: A 17-year-old boy was beaten to death by a group of 10 persons over a quarrel in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said Saturday. The victim Sameer Lokhande was attacked in Kalyan town on Friday evening and he succumbed to the injuries at a hospital this morning, an official said. A group of 10 persons attacked Lokhande with iron rods and sharp weapons at a ground in Khadegolawali area, he said. The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital and later shifted to a facility in neighbouring Mumbai, where he died during treatment, the official said.



People associated with the ideology of the BJP and its mother organisation RSS opposed the Quit India Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. To conceal this fact, they are now hoisting the national flag in every house

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

AFRICAN SWINE FLU REPORTED

An outbreak of African swine flu has been reported in Kanichar village in Kannur district of Kerala following which the district Collector has ordered culling of pigs in two farms there



Vehicles make their way through a waterlogged Delhi-Gurugram Expressway service road following heavy rains, near Narsinghpur in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

Brothers booked for ₹12 cr fraud at tiger reserve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrapur, August 19: A case has been filed against two brothers operating a firm that was given a contract for online booking of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, after it came to light that they allegedly indulged in irregularities worth more than Rs 12 crore, police said.

The accused duo, Abhishek Vinodkumar Thakur and Rohit Vinodkumar Thakur, are residents of Chandrapur city, and a case of cheating was registered against them at Ramnagar police station on Friday, they said.

The complaint was lodged by Divisional Forest Officer Sachin Shinde against the duo, whose partnership firm - Chandrapur Wild Connectivity Solution - was given the task of online booking, a statement issued by the district Superintendent of Police (SP) office said.

"The accused brothers have been operating online bookings at the TATR since the past few years. However, recently it came to light that the accused allegedly did not pay Rs



12,15,50,831 to the tiger reserve's management," it said.

A senior forest department official said. "It was found that they did not pay the required amount to the TATR. Their irregularity came to light during a routine audit. When the authorities sought clarification from them, they failed to furnish details of payments. Also, they did not cooperate with the officials." After that, the TATR management last week terminated their firm's services and appointed a new agency for online booking, he said.

CHHATTISGARH POLLS KHERA TAKES A DIG AT KEJRIWAL

THOUGH THE CONGRESS AND THE AAP ARE PART OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL INCLUSIVE ALLIANCE (INDIA) OF SEVERAL OPPOSITION PARTIES, THERE HAS BEEN FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO AT THE STATE-LEVEL

Chhattisgarh govt will be compared with the previous Raman Singh govt."



"Let us choose a sector of your choice and compare the performance of Congress government in Delhi vs your govt here. Ready for a debate?" Khera said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: The Congress Saturday hit back at Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal for his criticism of its government in Chhattisgarh and challenged him to compare the performance of the previous Sheila Dikshit government with his current dispensation in the national capital.

The Congress' sharp reaction came after Kejriwal, campaigning in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, slammed the "terrible condition" of Chhattisgarh government schools.

Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addressed an AAP workers' convention in Raipur earlier in the day. Responding to Kejriwal's attack, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Why go to Raipur? Performance of our

Earlier this week, fissures had emerged between the two over Congress leader Alka Lamba's remark that the Congress was looking to prepare on all seven Lok Sabha seats in the national capital, drawing a sharp response from AAP which had said what was the point of INDIA alliance if the grand old party was looking to go solo. The Congress had later clarified that no decision had been taken about alliance and the number of seats it would fight on in next year's Lok Sabha polls.

SC unhappy over Gujarat HC deferring abortion plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: The Supreme Court Saturday expressed displeasure over the delay by the Gujarat High Court in deciding a rape victim's plea for medical termination of her 26-week pregnancy, saying "valuable time" has been lost during the pendency of the matter.

Taking note of the urgency in the matter, the apex court, which took up the woman's plea for hearing on a Saturday, said it would hear the case again on Monday, August 21 as the first item. In a special sitting on a Saturday, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan observed that there should be a sense of urgency in such cases and slammed the "lackadaisical attitude" of the high court in treating it as any normal case and adjourning the hearing.

The bench also issued notices



to the state of Gujarat and others seeking their responses on the woman's plea. During the hearing, the apex court was informed by the counsel for the petitioner that the 25-year-old woman had approached the high court on August 7 and the matter was taken up the next day.

He said the high court had on August 8 issued a direction for the constitution of a medical board to ascertain the status of pregnancy as well as the health status of the petitioner. The report was submitted on August 10 by the medical college where she was examined, the counsel said.

The top court noted that the report was taken on record by the high court on August 11 but "strangely", the matter was listed 12 days later i.e. on August 23 "losing sight of the fact that every day's delay was crucial and of great significance having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case".

The bench also noted that the petitioner's counsel has brought to its notice that the case status of the matter showed that the petition was rejected on August 17 by the high court, but no reasons were dictated in the court and the order is yet to be uploaded on the high court's website.

"In the circumstance, we direct the secretary general of this court to inquire from the registrar general of the High Court of Gujarat and ascertain as to whether the impugned order has been uploaded or not," the bench said.

ROW ERUPTS OVER 'We20 MEETING'

Jairam Ramesh claimed that people were stopped from attending the 'We20 meeting' held at the Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhawan on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in a high-security area and questioned the police action against a 'peaceful' meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: A row erupted here after police objected Saturday to a conclave at a CPI(M)-owned building, where activists and opposition leaders had gathered to critically evaluate the government's narrative on G20, claiming the organisers did not inform or take permission for the event held in a "sensitive" zone.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh claimed that people were stopped from attending the



'We20 meeting' held at the Harkishan Singh Surjeet Bhawan on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in a high-security area and questioned the police action against a "peaceful" meeting.

The CPI(M) contended that no police permission was required for such meetings or seminars in private buildings and said the "Modi government must stop interfering, through the Delhi Police, in the democratic right of citizens to hold discussions and seminars in the capital".

The police said that after in-

formation was received, it found that people were gathered and a tent was also erected at the building.

The organisers could not produce any valid permission, a senior police officer said, adding that they had not intimidated the police about the programme and the gathering.

DDU Marg is a sensitive zone and in view of the upcoming G-20 event, no gathering without any prior permission or intimation can be allowed, hence the organisers were advised to remove tents and asked not to continue the programme without a valid permission, the officer said.

The CPI (M) alleged the action of the Delhi Police was uncalled for and an attempt to suppress dissenting opinions being voiced.

"The Surjeet Bhawan is owned by the CPI(M) where it conducts various activities, including party education and seminars. Various civil society organisations, under the banner of We20, were conducting a meeting on the issues raised by the forthcoming G20 summit," the party said in a statement.

Shadow of K'taka, infighting queers BJP's pitch in Telugu states

THE PARTY'S PERFORMANCE IN THE 2024 LOK SABHA POLLS IN TELANGANA WILL DEPEND ON HOW IT FARES IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 19: The BJP's best ever performance in Telangana was during the 2019 general elections when it won four Lok Sabha seats. But retaining them will be a huge challenge for the party, which in recent times, has been dogged by infighting.

The party's performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Telangana will depend on how

it fares in the Assembly elections scheduled to be held later this year. And as things stand now, the prospects are not bright.

The BJP's defeat in the Karnataka Assembly polls held in May and an apparent upswing in the Congress's political fortunes, have dealt a blow to the saffron party's morale in Telangana. The BJP is seen relegated to the third position.

Not long ago, the saffron party was in an aggressive mode and



was projecting itself as the main challenger to Telangana's ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). However, it now seems to be losing steam. The defeat in Karnataka and internal bickering in Telangana leading to change in the state leadership have dealt twin blows to the party's morale. The manner in which Bandi Sanjay Kumar was

eased out to make Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy the president of the party unit has not gone down well with supporters of the former. Some leaders within the party have privately admitted that the change of guard was a suicidal step as they believe that it was Sanjay who lifted BJP to what it is in the state today.

Known for his aggressive

Hindutva politics, the MP from Karimnagar had led the party to victories in two Assembly by-elections and the impressive performance in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls. Sanjay had also won praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for strengthening the party through his "praja sangram yatra" and by aggressively taking on ruling BRS.

However, the BJP's debacle in Karnataka seems to have changed the direction of the wind. The dissidents from BRS and other parties, who were looking at the BJP earlier, dropped their plans and instead preferred the Congress. Khammam MP Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, former minister Jupally Krishna Rao and several other leaders

joining the Congress has rattled the BJP. Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender and some others unhappy with Sanjay's style of functioning felt emboldened to force a change of guard.

Kishan Reddy's appointment as the new party chief appeared to have dampened the enthusiasm of BJP cadres as a section of party leaders perceive him as a soft leader.

Last week, the BJP received another jolt when its leader and former minister A. Chandra Sekhar quit the party and decided to join the Congress. Some more leaders, including former MPs Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Komati Visweswar Reddy, Vijayashanthi, and G. Vivek Venkataswamy, are also believed to be waiting for an appropriate time to cross over.

international

of the day quote

Before making a final decision, I want to have a first-hand look on the ground and see if utmost safety measures are taken for the release, and if everyone involved is committed with a strong sense of responsibility for the project

On one front, a contest for supremacy unfolds between the United States and China across the expanses of the Pacific Ocean. Simultaneously, a power struggle emerges between the Western nations and Russia in the context of Ukraine

We want to make the relationship between Brazil and Cuba one of great friendship

SHORT TAKES

NKorea slams UN human rights meet

Seoul: North Korea slammed a recent United Nations meeting about its human rights record, asserting the United States used the international organisation for a "scheme" against Pyongyang, state media KCNA reported Saturday. The UN Security Council discussed human rights abuses in North Korea on Thursday, with the US ambassador criticising leader Kim Jong Un for using "repression and cruelty" to develop nuclear weapons and missiles. US President Joe Biden and the leaders of South Korea and Japan agreed at Camp David Friday to deepen military and economic cooperation, facing China's growing power and nuclear threats from North Korea. They also agreed to hold military training exercises annually and share real-time information on North Korean missile launches by the end of the year.

Migrants rescued

Athens: Greek authorities Saturday rescued nearly 60 migrants in inflatable dinghies trying to cross from Turkey to the nearby eastern Aegean Sea islands in two separate incidents, the coast guard said. In recent weeks Greece has seen a rise in such arrivals, mostly in small unseaworthy boats provided by smugglers. A coast guard statement said a patrol boat located 41 people early Saturday on a drifting inflatable dinghy off the island of Lesbos. All were safely evacuated and taken to a reception centre on the island.

MOON LANDING

Russia's spacecraft suffers technical glitch

THE LUNA-25 ENTERED THE MOON'S ORBIT WEDNESDAY, THE FIRST RUSSIAN SPACECRAFT TO DO SO SINCE 1976

Moscow, August 19: An "abnormal situation" occurred at Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft Saturday as it was preparing to transfer to its pre-landing orbit, Russia's national space agency Roskosmos said. The Russian spacecraft is scheduled to land on the south pole of the moon Monday, part of a big power race to explore a part of the moon which scientists think may hold frozen water and precious elements. "During the operation, an abnormal situation occurred on board the automatic station, which did not allow the manoeuvre to be performed with the specified parameters," Roskosmos said. Specialists are analysing the situation, it said, without providing further details. Earlier, Roskosmos said it had received the first results from the Luna-25 mission and that they were being analysed. The agency also posted images of the moon's Zeeman crater taken from the spacecraft. The

Taiwan VP in eye of the storm

CHINA LAUNCHES DRILLS IN ANGRY RESPONSE TO LAI'S TRIP TO US

REUTERS

Taipei, August 19: Taiwan's vice president and front-runner to be the island's next president, William Lai, is in the eye of the storm after China launched widely expected drills near Taiwan in an angry response to his brief visits to the United States this month.

By afternoon, Taiwan's military said it had detected 42 Chinese warplanes making incursions around the island's air defence zone, while eight Chinese vessels were also participating in the drills. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Saturday also condemned China's military exercises, and said Beijing has used "various intimidating speeches and fake news... to openly intervene and interfere in the democratic election process in our country".

While Lai has repeatedly said ahead of January's election that he wants to keep the status quo with China, which claims Taiwan as its own, and offered to talk to Beijing, the Chinese government has only reacted with hostility. "We don't want to become enemies with China. We can become friends," Lai told a Taiwanese television station this month. But in China's view, Lai is a separatist and "troublemaker through and through", for comments he first made in 2017 as premier about being a "worker" for Taiwan's independence, a



I think China hates him, really hates him. It is because if he is elected as the leader of Taiwan, he may come to advance his goal of Taiwan independence, which will provoke a crisis across the Taiwan Strait

WU XINBO | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROFESSOR, SHANGHAI'S FUDAN UNIVERSITY

red line for Beijing.

In 2018, as premier, he told parliament he was a "practical worker for Taiwan independence", causing one Chinese newspaper, the widely-read Global Times, to call for China to issue an international arrest warrant for Lai and prosecute him under China's 2005 Anti-Secession Law.

Lai said at the time and many times since he simply meant Taiwan is already an independent country, and on the campaign trail stuck by President Tsai Ing-wen's line that the Republic of China, Taiwan's formal name, and the People's Republic of China are "not subordinate to each other". Taiwan's constitution states that the Republic of China is a sovereign state, and that has been a consensus shared by all Taiwan's main political parties. The Republic of China gov-

Elections not for 'bully next door' china to decide: Min

Taipei: Taiwan's foreign minister accused China Saturday of trying to "shape" Taiwan's upcoming election, after Chinese military exercises were launched around the island. "The PRC has made it clear it wants to shape Taiwan's coming national election," said foreign minister Joseph Wu on the ministry's official X account. "Well, it's up to our citizens to decide, not the bully next door." In the past year, Beijing has stepped up political and military pressures against Taiwan, sending in near-daily warplanes incursions and vessels around the island.

ernment fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists, who set up the People's Republic.

What worries Beijing is the idea that Lai could try to change the status quo by declaring the establishment of a Republic of Taiwan, which Lai has said he will not do.

Still, while China has announced sanctions on several senior Taiwanese officials, including Foreign Minister Joseph Wu, it has not done so for Lai,



perhaps indicating Beijing does not want to totally shut the door to one day having talks with him.

"They are wary and maybe a bit distrustful of William Lai, but it doesn't mean that Beijing cannot be pragmatic," said George Yin, a research fellow at National Taiwan University. "Given that Beijing has become increasingly hawkish, I think the next Taiwanese presidency would very likely be characterised by a series of grey

zone conflict and economic coercion. I think the intensity would go up," Yin said. Lai, during the election campaign, has been at pains to say he will stick to President Tsai's path of proffering talks with China and maintaining peace and the status quo, while also pledging to defend the island and reiterating only its people can decide the island's future.

Lai became vice president in 2020, standing as Tsai's running mate where they won a landslide victory after warning of the threat to Taiwan from China given Beijing's crack-down on anti-government protests in Hong Kong.

Since then, China has massively ramped up military drills near Taiwan and held two rounds of war games, last August and again in April, in response to Taiwanese engagement with the United States.

7 killed, 117 hurt in Russian strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chernihiv, August 19: A missile attack in the center of a northern Ukrainian city killed seven people and wounded scores of others Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy travelled to Sweden, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

The dead in the daytime strike on the northern city of Chernihiv included a 6-year-old girl, while 12 children were among the 117 wounded, acting mayor Oleksandr Lomako said.

Zelenskyy condemned the attack, which he said hit buildings including a theater and a university.

"This is what a neighbourhood with a terrorist state is, this is what we unite the whole world against. A Russian missile hit right in the center of the city, in our Chernihiv," he wrote on Telegram. "A square, the polytechnic university, a theater. An ordinary Saturday, which Russia turned into a day of pain and loss."

In Sweden, Zelenskyy met officials at Harpsund, the prime minister's official summertime residence, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Stockholm. He will also meet Sweden's King



Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia at a palace in the area.

At a joint news conference, Zelenskyy and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson announced that the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation on production and training and servicing of the Swedish CV-90 infantry fighting vehicles. As part of the agreement, Zelenskyy said, Swedish CV-90 vehicles will begin production in Ukraine. He also stressed the importance of supplying Ukraine with modern aircraft. "We do not have superiority in

the air, and we do not have modern aircraft. In reality, the Swedish Gripen is the pride of your country, and I believe that the Prime Minister could share this pride with Ukraine," Zelenskyy said, adding that "appropriate actions" would be taken in the following weeks to "open up the possibility of obtaining the appropriate aircraft."

"I will also have negotiations with several other states tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. I am confident that we, together with our partners, will do everything and achieve the appropriate result in the sky so that the Russians do not have an advantage there," he said.

Kristersson expressed his condolences to Zelenskyy for the attack in Chernihiv. He called the Russian missile strike an "act of brutality" which "only reinforces the need for us to stand with you in all your struggles."

Sweden abandoned its long-standing policy of military non-alignment to support Ukraine with weapons and other aid in the war against Russia. The government says Sweden has provided 20 billion kronor (1.7 billion euros) in military support to Ukraine. Sweden also applied for NATO membership but is still waiting to join the alliance. In Russia, President Vladimir

Putin visited top military officials in the city of Rostov-on-Don near the Ukrainian border.

The Kremlin said that Putin listened to reports from Valery Gerasimov, the commander in charge of Moscow's operations in Ukraine, and other top military brass at the headquarters of Russia's Southern Military District.

"CANNOT WIN" The leader of the Russian battalion fighting to maintain control of Urozhaine called for "freezing the front" Thursday, saying his troops "cannot win" against Ukraine. "Can we bring down Ukraine militarily? Now and in the near future, no," Alexander Khodakovskiy said in a video posted to Telegram.

Overnight into Saturday, Ukraine's air force said it shot down 15 out of 17 Russian drones targeting northern, central and western regions.

The deputy governor of the western Khmelnytskyi region, Serhii Tiurin, said two people were wounded and dozens of buildings damaged by an attack.

In the northwestern Zhytomyr region, a Russian drone attack targeted an infrastructure facility and caused a fire, but no casualties were reported, said Gov Vitalii Bunechko.

HALF-CENTURY IN CAPTIVITY

Lolita, an orca whale held captive for more than a half-century, died Friday at the Miami Seaquarium as caregivers prepared to move her from the theme park in the near future



Pakistan cops thwart major terrorist plot, nab 13 ultras

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, August 19: Pakistan's law enforcement agencies Saturday claimed to have averted a major terror plot by arresting 13 terrorists, including three ISIS commanders, who were planning to target important installations across the Punjab province.

The militants were arrested from Lahore, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Rawalpindi, Chiniot, Kasur and Multan during the last couple of days, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police said in a statement.

"The arrested terrorists had planned to target important installations across the province," it said.

With the arrest, law enforcement agencies foiled a "major terror plot" in the Punjab province, it said.

The arrested terrorists belong to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Daesh (ISIS), Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan and Al-Qaeda.

Some 2,360 grams of explosives, one IED bomb, 11 detonators, pistols and bullets and banned literature have been recovered from them, the statement said. Last week, the CTD arrested 21 terrorists in Punjab. Hundreds of terrorists of TTP and ISIS have been nabbed this year after the truce between the Pakistan government and TTP ended in November last year.

The attacks on security forces have seen a rise in the country after the truce ended.

WORST WILDFIRES

British Columbia under state of emergency



The province currently accounts for over a third of Canada's 1,062 active fires

REUTERS

Kelowna, August 19: Thousands of British Columbia residents were on high evacuation alert Saturday after rapidly intensifying wildfires forced the Canadian province to declare a state of emergency, while some sections of a key transit route between the Pacific coast and the rest of western Canada were partially closed.

The western province of British Columbia has experienced strong winds and dry lightning in the past 36 hours due to a cold mass of air interacting with hot air built-up in the sultry summer. That intensified existing forest fires and ignited new ones.

By Friday, an out-of-control fire in southern British Columbia grew more than one hundredfold in 24 hours and forced more than 2,400 properties to be evacuated. The fire was centred around Kelowna, a city some 300 kilometres (180 miles) east of Vancouver, with a population of about 150,000.

As conditions continued to deteriorate quickly through Friday evening, Premier Daniel Eby declared a province-wide state of emergency to access temporary authoritative powers to tackle fire-related risks.

The fires moved so rapidly on Friday that the number of people under evacuation order went

from 4,500 to 15,000 in an hour, while another 20,000 were under evacuation alert.

The flames have already destroyed several structures in West Kelowna and authorities have been warning that the province could potentially face the worst couple of days of the fire season this year.

Forest fires are not uncommon in Canada, but the spread of blazes and disruption underscore the severity of its worst wildfire season yet.

This is an historic wildfire season for British Columbia. The state of emergency declaration communicates to people across the province the seriousness of the deteriorating situation

Spain fires force people to flee

More people were evacuated from their homes on the Spanish island of Tenerife Saturday morning as a wildfire raging in the north of the island remained out of control, but the flames have so far avoided major tourist areas. Fierce flames lit up the night sky late overnight from Friday to Saturday. The blaze broke out on Wednesday in a mountainous national park around the Mount Teide volcano - Spain's highest peak - amid hot and dry weather. Regional leader Fernando Clavijo, said some 5,000 hectares (12,000 acres) were affected with a perimeter of 50 km (30 miles), and 7,000 people were evacuated or confined to their homes.

of the day quote

Post-Covid-19, the demand for natural food ingredients has surged. FSSAI's new regulations for nutraceuticals and organic foods are driving growth in the sector

PRABODH HALDE | CHAIRMAN, ALL INDIA FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION (WESTERN REGION)

India enjoys zero duty on all considered products for export of furniture to the US market, which clearly underlines the big advantage to enter the US market

MOHIT SINGLA | CHAIRMAN, TPCI

There has been exponential growth in the number of AIFs in India. Unlike a decade ago, when offshore investors were funding India's AIFs, the expanding pool of domestic investors is helping them grow today

SHESHAGIRI RAO PAPIKAR | FOUNDER & CEO, BHIVE GROUP

SHORT TAKES

GQG buys stake in Adani Ports

Mumbai: Investment firm GQG Partners raised its stake in Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone Ltd August 17 to 5.03% after buying more shares, GQG said in a disclosure Saturday. GQG Partners, which held a 4.93% stake in Adani Ports, acquired another 0.10% or 2.2 million shares of the company through a bulk deal, the disclosure made late Saturday said. The investment comes after Deloitte quit as auditor for Adani Ports, in the first such move after US short-seller Hindenburg Research's critical report on the Adani group that was published in January. The Adani group has denied all Hindenburg's allegations. Reuters reported last Wednesday that GQG partners bought an 8.1% stake in Adani Power for \$1.1 billion via block deal.

Tablet market falls

New Delhi: Tablet market shipment in India declined by 22 per cent year-over-year in the June 2023 quarter, while it grew 29 per cent quarter-on-quarter, CyberMedia Research said in a report. Apple led the tablet market with a marginally higher share than Samsung. "The overall tablet market witnessed a 22 per cent YoY decline in the second quarter, 2023," CMR's Tablet PC market report said. According to the report, 5G tablets show a 7 per cent year-on-year growth.

I-T's latest tweaks may raise your take-home salary

I-T DEPARTMENT NOTIFIES RULES FOR VALUING RENT-FREE ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: Employees drawing substantial salaries and having rent-free accommodation provided by their employers will now be able to save more and get a higher take-home salary as the income tax department has revised norms for valuing such houses.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified amendments to the Income Tax Rules which will come into effect from September 1.

As per the notification, where unfurnished accommodation is provided to employees other than the central or state government employees and such accommodation is owned by the employer then the valuation shall be: (i) 10 per cent of salary (reduced from 15 per cent) in cities having population exceeding 40 lakh as per 2011 census (earlier, 25 lakh as per 2001 census), (ii) 7.5 per cent of salary (reduced from 10 per cent) in

X will strip ability to block accounts: Musk

REUTERS

Washington, August 19: Social media company X, formerly known as Twitter, will remove a protective feature that lets users block other accounts, owner Elon Musk said Friday in another controversial move for the company he bought last year.

The block function on X allows a user to restrict specific accounts from contacting them, seeing their posts or following them.

"Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature', except for DMs," Musk said in a post on the platform, referring to direct messages.

He said X would retain the mute function, which screens a user from seeing specified ac-



counts but, unlike blocking, does not alert the other account to the action.

The billionaire owner has described himself as a free speech absolutist, but some critics have said his approach is irresponsible. Researchers have found

The New National Cooperative Policy document is almost ready and the submission process is underway. We can now look forward to the release of the policy and its implementation

SURESH PRABHU | CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL AND FORMER UNION MINISTER

Our users' safety on X is our number one priority. And we're building something better than the current state of block and mute. Please keep the feedback coming

LINDA YACCARINO | CEO, X

an increase in hate speech and antisemitic content on the platform since he took over, and some governments have accused the company of not doing enough to moderate its content.

Removing or limiting the block feature might bring X into con-

OVER 1 LAKH XUV700 RECALLED

Mahindra & Mahindra is recalling over 1 lakh units of its sports utility vehicle XUV700 to inspect wiring routing in engine bay, as per a regulatory filing. The company said it will inspect wiring loom routing in the engine bay of 1,08,306 units of XUV700 manufactured between June 8, 2021 and June 28, 2023 for a potential risk of abrasion cut of wiring loom



Google to delete inactive accounts

The tech giant will delete accounts that remain inactive for 2 years from Dec 1

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 19: Google Saturday sent emails to its billions of users, saying the company updating the inactivity period for a Google Account to two years across all its products and services.

This change starts rolling out now, and will apply to any Google Account that's been inactive, "meaning it has not been signed into or used within a two-year period".

An inactive account and any



content in it will be eligible for deletion from December 1, 2023, the tech giant said.

These changes do not impact you unless you have been inactive in your Google Account for two years or have not used your account to sign in to any Google service for over two years.

"While the changes go into effect today, the earliest we would enforce any account deletion would be December 2023," said Google.

Govt unveils green hydrogen standards

With the notification, India becomes one of the first few countries in the world to announce a definition of Green Hydrogen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: The government Saturday unveiled Green Hydrogen standards and included electrolysis and biomass-based methods in its definition.

In a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India, the New and Renewable Energy Ministry said in a statement.

The standards issued by the ministry outline the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources.

The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods, it stated.

After discussions with multiple stakeholders, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy



has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than 2 kg CO2 equivalent / kg H2.

The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certification of green hydrogen and its derivatives shall be specified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

The notification also specifies that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.

The notification of the Green Hydrogen Standard brings a lot of clarity to the Green Hydrogen community in India and was widely awaited, it stated.

IN A FIRST

40% export duty on onion

Onion prices have started inching up amid reports of lag in onion coverage in the ongoing kharif season

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 19: The government Saturday imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to increase domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices.

The export duty, which is the first time ever on onion, has been imposed as the retail sale price of the kitchen staple, according to government data, touched Rs 37/kg Saturday in Delhi.

The Finance Ministry through a Customs notification imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions till December 31, 2023.

Between April 1 and August 4 this fiscal, 9.75 lakh tonne of onions have been exported from the country. The top three importing countries in value terms are Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UAE.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said in order to increase the availability of onions in the domestic market especially in view of the upcoming festival season, the government has decided to impose a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions.

"It was also being noticed that there was a sharp rise in ex-



ports in the recent past," Singh said.

The government had always used a minimum export price tool to curb onion exports. However, for the first time this year, export duty has been slapped for effective control of the outward shipment.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the all-India average retail price of onion was ruling at Rs 30.72 per kg Saturday, with a maximum price at Rs 63 per kg and a minimum at Rs 10 per kg.

In Delhi, onion was ruling at Rs 37 per kg Saturday, as per the data. The trade data showed onion prices ruling at Rs 50 per

RISING INFLATION

INDIA'S ANNUAL RETAIL INFLATION ROSE SHARPLY TO A 15-MONTH HIGH OF 7.44% IN JULY FROM 4.87% IN JUNE

FOOD INFLATION, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY HALF OF THE OVERALL CONSUMER PRICE BASKET, HIT 11.51%

RETAIL FOOD INFLATION WAS AT ITS HIGHEST SINCE JANUARY 2020

kg in the national capital.

According to the wholesale price index (WPI) data for July, onion inflation spiralled to 7.13 per cent, against (-4.31 per cent

in June.

The annual retail or consumer price inflation has touched a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, against 4.87 per cent in June, amid a sharp spike in food prices.

The government has maintained 3 lakh tonne of buffer onion this year. It has started disposing of it in the wholesale market since last week in key locations.

So far, 2,000 tonne of buffer onion has been sold in wholesale mandis of Delhi, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the Secretary said.

The buffer onion is usually used for market intervention during the lean period between August and September till the arrival of the fresh crop from October onwards.

Onion is a politically-sensitive commodity. The restriction comes ahead of assembly elections in key states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana due at year-end.

Prices of some of the most used vegetables in Indian kitchens, including tomatoes, onions, peas, brinjal, garlic and ginger, have more than doubled in the last few months.

Senthil Kumar N joins IndianOil Board as Director (Pipelines)

NEW DELHI: Senthil Kumar N has joined the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd as Director (Pipelines). As the head of IndianOil's cross-country pipelines network of nearly 18,500 kms, Senthil will be responsible for the massive and complex pipeline infrastructure of the Corporation that includes single point mooring systems, crude oil tank farms, city gas distribution networks and pipelines traversing through difficult terrain. Senthil is an Electronics and Communication Engineer with over 33 years of versatile experience in operations & maintenance of IndianOil's countrywide network of oil & gas pipelines. His vision for the Corporation dovetails technological improvements, infrastructure development & operational efficiency based on the five pillars of 'Excellence, Integrity, People Connect, Net Zero & Happiness'. Before joining the Board as Director (Pipelines), he was serving as Executive Director (Operations) at IndianOil's Pipelines Division Head Office. A strong advocate of leveraging the power of technology to find solutions, Senthil has played a pivotal role in boosting pipeline security systems. In a major technological breakthrough to curb pilferage in pipelines, he anchored the installation of Pipelines Intrusion Detection and Warning System. In a first for IndianOil, he conceptualised Central Pipeline Information Management Systems (CPIMS) with backbone alternate communication system. In a breakthrough step that eliminated manual intervention in custody transfer of petroleum products from pipelines to Marketing storage terminals and enhanced efficiency & productivity, he led the team to implement mass flow meter-based custody transfer metering system.



BIZ BUZZ

Ramco organises mason clubs' annual award meet

BHUBANESWAR: The Ramco Cements Limited, one of the leading cement manufacturer of the country, organised annual award function meet of Ramco Mason clubs at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar.

Ramco Mason clubs are in more than 25 districts with over 7,000 masons enrolled in the initiative. Initially, it was launched in 2-3 districts of South Odisha only, but looking at its success, it has been expanded to 25 districts. Based on the internal parameters set by the company to reward masons, this year those of Puri, Bhubaneswar, Nayagarh and Khurda were invited and given gifts varying from dinner sets, 5G enabled smartphones, washing machines, smart-led TVs, gold coin and gift vouchers of reputed banks. "Ramco Cements is increasing its Orissa Grinding unit capacity by adding another million tonne. Hence masons have a major role to play in promoting the cause of good construction practice and increasing the reach of Ramco premium products," said Pratik Ray, State Head - Odisha. Other officials from the company present during the award function were Awadhesh Singh, AGM-Technical services; Ranjan Sahoo, DGM (Marketing); Chandhi Prasad Mohanty, DGM (Marketing); Suresh Kumar Panda, Senior Manager (Accounts); Siddharth Sankar Sahoo, Deputy Manager (Brand Management) and Soumya Ranjan Dash, Deputy Manager (Technical Services). The company has been marketing around a million tonne of cement each year in the state.



SBIOA celebrates 45th Foundation Day

BHUBANESWAR: State Bank of India Officer Association (SBIOA) has observed 45th Foundation Day. A blood donation camp was organised by SBIOA at SBI Local Head Office Bhubaneswar on the occasion. SBI Bhubaneswar Circle Chief General Manager Chandershekar Sharma inaugurated the blood donation event. More than 60 officers had participated in the blood donation event. SBI Officers' Service Condition book was also inaugurated by Sharma. SBIOA has also donated school bags and food items to differently-abled students of Beleswar Deaf and Dumb High School located at 42 Mouza on the occasion. SBIOA Circle General Secretary Arun Kumar Bishoyi thanked all members of the union for their whole-hearted support and cooperation. SBIOA Circle President Amitabh Das and other leaders of the union have contributed for the successful management of these events.



Titan to buy 27.2% stake in CaratLane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 19: Jewellery maker Titan Saturday announced increasing stake in its subsidiary and new-age jewellery brand CaratLane to 98.28 per cent by acquiring an additional 27.18 per cent share for Rs 4,621 crore.

The Tata group-managed firm has entered into a share purchase agreement with CaratLane founders - Mithun Sacheti and Srinivasa Gopalan - and their family members to acquire all the shares held by them representing 27.18 per cent, taking its total holding to 98.28 per cent, said a joint statement.

"CaratLane is a subsidiary of the company and on completion of the aforesaid share purchase would result in an increase in shareholding of the company in CaratLane from 71.09 per cent to 98.28 per cent on a fully diluted basis," it said.

Over the cost of the acquisition, Titan said it will pay "Rs 4,621 crore towards the purchase of 27.18 per cent equity shares of CaratLane on a fully diluted basis".

CaratLane Trading is an unlisted entity and its turnover in FY23 stood at Rs 2,177 crore. It also operates in the manufacturing and sale of jewellery.

Titan expects the acquisition to be completed by October 31, 2023, subject to the timely receipt of requisite regulatory approvals from the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

"On acquisition of 27.18 per cent of the shareholding of CaratLane, the company would hold an aggregate of 98.28 per cent of the equity share capital on a fully diluted basis and voting rights in CaratLane," it said.

India eye series win

Rinku 'living mother's dream'

INDIA: Jasprit Bumrah (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh 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 Weerkom.

MATCH SCHEDULE
India vs Ireland
2nd T20 International
Time: 7:30 pm
Telecast: Sports 18
Stream: Jio Cinema



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dublin, August 19: Buoyed by Jasprit Bumrah's impressive return, fancied India will hope for better weather and a chance for the team's young batters to show their mettle in the second T20I against Ireland here Sunday. After the Jasprit Bumrah-led bowling attack impressed to restrict Ireland to 139/7 in the series opener, incessant rain denied the middle-order batters an opportunity to prove their worth. India were declared winners by two runs via the Duckworth/Lewis method and both the teams will hope that they get to play a full match in the second game. Expected to lead the Indian batting in the coming years, the likes of Shivam Dube, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rinku Singh will hope they get a chance to spend sufficient time in the middle.

Having got out after getting a good start in the first match, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal will look for a big score and so will Tilak Varma, who was dismissed for a golden duck days after his stupendous performance in the West Indies. While the newcomers in international cricket dominate the top-order, veteran wicket-keeper-batter Sanju Samson lends a bit of experience to the Indian batting order in the absence of people like Suryakumar Yadav, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya. Though injuries have remained a part of his career, all-rounder Washington Sundar has also gained enough experience at the top level, and he will be pressed into service by Bumrah, who is leading the team in the absence of regular T20I skipper Hardik.

As far as the batting is concerned, India were cruising until Craig Young's two wickets in the last over pegged them a bit. Leading the side on his return after an 11-month injury layoff, Bumrah claimed 2/24 in his first match in almost a year, including bowling nine dot balls while forming a formidable partnership with T20I debutant Prasidh Krishna (2/32) — also on a comeback trail — to restrict Ireland to a modest total after opting to bowl. In these conditions, toss can play a vital role and India were lucky in that aspect, and the visitors wouldn't mind if the coin lands in their favour Sunday, too. In the post-match press conference, leg-spinner Bishnoi, who also picked up two wickets in an excellent spell, had no qualms in admitting that India didn't mind winning the toss.

As far as Ireland was concerned, they struggled to recover after Bumrah claimed two wickets in his very first over, setting the platform for his side's win. The home team will have to dish out a much-improved performance with the bat if they are to challenge India who are strong enough even in the absence of the seniors. Like Bumrah did for India, the seasoned Paul Stirling will have to lead the way for Ireland. The Irish will also look up to men like Andrew Balbirnie, Joshua Little, Craig Young and George Dockrell for guiding their team. The series is significant for Bumrah, who gets an ideal opportunity to test himself and get into the groove ahead of the Asia Cup and World Cup, tournaments where his presence will be vital from the Indian perspective.



Rinku Singh celebrates with Jasprit Bumrah, who presented the former his India cap before the match (inset), after the comeback man dismissed an Ireland batter, Friday



hard and keep up my efforts. "My family had a massive role in my journey to date. When they didn't have enough to fund my career, my mother borrowed money from others to keep me going. Where I am today is because of the support I have got from them." The 25-year-old has also made the cut for the Hangzhou Asian Games scheduled from September 23 to October 8.

I have achieved the first goal I set out to achieve — to get selected for the Indian team. From here on, I will do everything within my capabilities, give my 100% to achieve the team's desired results and be in the mix for as long as I can
RINKU SINGH

Compound archers strike gold twice at WC Stage 4



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 19: Indian archers claimed a double in the compound events, winning both men's and women's team gold medals in the World Cup Stage 4, here Saturday. The fourth-seeded Indian men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar dined second-seeded American trio of Kris Schaff, James Lutz and Sawyer Sullivan 236-232. India now have two gold and two bronze from the last World Cup of the season, while Jyothi remains in the hunt for a second

medal in the individual section, slated later in the day. India earlier claimed a pair of recurve team bronze medals. The recurve men's team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Atanu Das and Tushar Prabhakar Shelke were the first to seal their place on the podium as they came from behind to beat Spanish trio Pablo Acha, Yun Sanchez and Andres Temino. The recurve women's team of Bhajan Kaur, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur then repeated the feat with a bronze of their own, as it beat Mexico's Alejandra Valencia, Angela Ruiz and Aida Roman in a shoot-off after the teams were locked at 4-4.

10-man Liverpool beat Bournemouth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool, August 19: Liverpool overcame an early deficit and a disputed red card to beat Bournemouth 3-1 at Anfield in the Premier League Saturday for their first win of the season. Bournemouth stunned the host by taking the lead through Antoine Semenyo in just the third minute after Liverpool turned the ball over cheaply deep inside its own half. But Luis Diaz equalized with an acrobatic volley in the 28th and Liverpool was awarded a penalty when Joe Rothwell made light contact with Dominik Szoboszlai just inside the area, and the midfielder fell theatrically to the ground. Mohamed Salah's spot-kick was saved by Bournemouth goalkeeper Neto, but the Egypt striker slotted in the rebound to put Liverpool ahead. Salah's goal put him past Steven Gerrard into fifth place among Liverpool's all-time leading scorers, with 187. Alexis Mac Allister was then shown a straight red card in the 58th for kicking Ryan Christie's leg after a mistimed challenge for the ball, giving Bournemouth hopes of a comeback.



Luis Diaz (in red) wheels away in celebration after scoring Saturday

But going a man down seemed to only galvanize Liverpool, and Diogo Jota was on hand to turn in the rebound after Szoboszlai's deflected shot was palmed away by Neto in the 62nd. After opening the season with a 1-1 draw at Chelsea last weekend, Liverpool has four points from their opening two games, while Bournemouth has one point.

IMPRESSIVE BEGINNING
Harry Kane scored one goal and set up another on his Bundesliga debut as Bayern Munich routed Werder Bremen 4-0 in the Bundesliga's opening game of the season Friday. Kane, who finally completed his protracted transfer from Tottenham the previous weekend, showed straight away why

Bayern reportedly paid more than 100 million euros (USD 110 million) for the forward. Kane needed only three minutes to set Leroy Sané free for the opener, before he finally beat Bremen's Jiri Pavlenka with a low shot in the 74th. A Bremen defender's studs deflected the shot slightly inside the left post. Thomas Muller set up Sané for the third goal in the final minute then Alphonso Davies set up Mathys Tel to complete the scoring in injury time.

MATCH SCHEDULE
FIFA Women's World Cup Final
Spain vs England (3:30 pm)
Telecast: Star Sports & DD Sports
English Premier League
West Ham vs Chelsea (9 pm)
Telecast: Star Sports Select
La Liga (Spanish League)
Barcelona vs Cadiz (11 pm)
Betis vs Atletico (1 am, Monday)
Telecast: Sports 18
Serie A (Italian League)
Udinese vs Juventus (12:15 am, Monday)
Telecast: Sports 18 & Jio TV

OFC squander lead to go down 1-2 vs Bodoland

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 19: Odisha FC squandered their lead to suffer a 1-2 defeat against Bodoland FC in their Durand Cup match, Saturday. In a captivating clash, amidst pouring rain in Kokrajhar, Odisha FC took the lead in the second half with Pungte's goal in the 62nd minute. However, Bodoland rallied back to win 2-1. Maneshwar restored parity for Bodoland in the 81st minute before Mbenda found the winner in the 90th minute. After a goalless first half, the Juggernauts took the lead as Aphaoba beat the fullback and drove in a low cross from the right flank. Pungte was waiting for the chance and he slotted for the Kalinga warriors. However, the local team equalised nine minutes from time as Maneshwar struck. In the 90th minute, Bodoland broke Odisha FC hearts when Mbenda scored the winning goal. This was their first ever win at the Durand Cup. Both teams will not qualify for the quarter-finals of the Durand Cup 2023.

Sable disappoints at Athletics Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, August 19: National record holder 3000m steeple-chaser Avinash Sable failed to qualify for the final round of the World Athletics Championships after finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat race in a shocking result here Saturday. Sable, who trained abroad for many months on Sports Ministry's funding to prepare for this showpiece, clocked 8 minute and 22.24 seconds to finish seventh in heat 1. Only the top five finishers in the three heats make it to the final round. Sable was expected to at least make it to the finals, if not win a medal. His performance is a huge disappointment for the Indian camp. He holds the national record of 8:11.20.

Records shattered in Sub Junior and Junior Aquatic Nationals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 19: Vidith S Shankar of Karnataka broke his own national record with a sensational swim in the 100m breaststroke for group 1 boys at the 39th Sub Junior and 49th Junior National Aquatic Championships 2023 here. He clocked 1:04.26 to create the new national record at the new Aquatic Centre in Kalinga Sports Complex. His previous timings were 1:05.04. Jharkhand's Rana Pratap who has been in superb form came close to Vidith's timing but narrowly missed and settled for silver medal with a timing of 1:04.89, while Bengal's Sayan Bhowmik finished third with a timing of 1:06.72. Interestingly, in the 200m but-

terfly for group II girls, the event witnessed Karnataka's Tanishi Gupta and Dhinidhi Desinghu breaking the record set by Apeksha Fernandes (2:23.67) in 2019. Tanishi added the gold medal to her kitty with an impeccable timing of 2:21.45, while Dhinidhi Desinghu clocked 2:22.18. Maharashtra's Nirmaye Sachin Ambetka came in at third with a timing of 2:31.95. Meanwhile, in the boys' 50m freestyle event for group II, Karnataka's Ishaan Mehra created a national record with a timing of 24.68. He beat his own record of 24.71. Tamil Nadu's Nitishsai Harinath clinched the silver medal with timing of 25.60, while Assam's Nibir Hazarika won the bronze medal with timing of 25.89.

Odisha gets its first academy for sprinters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 19: In a first, an academy for sprinters — Sports Science India Academy of Sprinters (SSIA) — was launched here Saturday. The academy was formally inaugurated at an event held on its premises in Surya Nagar area. Founded by arthroscopic surgeon and sports science expert Dr Sarthak Patnaik and entrepreneur Soumya Patnaik, the academy, having a vision to identify the latent talents in the state and galvanize them into action, is a one-stop solution for all needs of athletes at the grassroots-level. Meanwhile, as many as 18 winners of the 'SSI Sprint Challenge' were felicitated at the event. More than 200 children from various slums and schools in the state capital had participated



in the first-of-its-kind Sprint Challenge — hosted by the Sports Science India (SSI) Academy of Sprinters — to give a shoutout to the Indian contingent for the Hangzhou Asian Games. The 'challenge' was conducted for various categories — U-10, U-11 & U-12 — August 12-15. At the

end of the event, the children shared their messages for the Indian squad on a huge white board at the venue. "We are determined to popularise and promote sprint across the country. Our academy will impart holistic training to the sportspersons and coaches, con-

duct tournaments, and offer sports science-related facilities and solutions to players and athletes," said Dr Patnaik. "The academy has two units operating from India. Adhering to its patent and standardized athletic coaching methodology, the academy now aims to expand its network in India and abroad and set up a network for athletes and sports enthusiasts," he added. SSIA is the flagship project of Bhubaneswar-based SSI, a centre for sports excellence. "I wish to make Odisha, the most vibrant and sought-after destination for sports in the country. And, that isn't about revamping infrastructure alone. In order to make Odisha a popular destination in the sporting world, we need to have our talent pool ready," Dr Patnaik signed off.