



JANHVI'S INCLINATION

Janhvi Kapoor aims to embrace glamour and comedy, longing to reconnect with her natural inclination

LEISURE P2



ZELENSKY VOWS RETALIATION

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vows stern retaliation for a Russian missile strike on his country

INTERNATIONAL P10



MAIDEN TRIUMPH

Spain win their maiden Women's World Cup crown defeating England by a solitary goal in Sydney

SPORTS P12

Muslim couple lynched after son elopes with Hindu girl

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sitapur, August 20: In a shocking incident, a Muslim couple was beaten to death with iron rods and sticks by their neighbours after their son eloped with a Hindu girl in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district.

Three people have been arrested in the case, and the police say that the murder was allegedly a result of an affair between the victim's son and the daughter of one of the accused. The couple, Abbas and his wife Kamrul Nisha, died on the spot following the attack and all the accused fled from the spot.

Sitapur SP Chakresh Mishra said a few years back Abbas' son had eloped with a girl from the neighbouring household. A case was registered in this regard and Abbas' son was sent to jail.

When Abbas' son was released from jail a few days back, some members of the family planned the attack on the couple, the police said. "According to the villagers, the son of the deceased couple and Shaukat Rampal's daughter Ruby had an affair. Shaukat had abducted Ruby in the year 2020. At that time, Ruby was a minor and after registering a case, the police sent Shaukat to jail. He again abducted and married Ruby in June," Chakresh Mishra said. Police say that the three main accused have been arrested and a hunt is on for the remaining two.



REMINISCING RAJIV: Locals during a prayer meeting for former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 79th birth anniversary near Pangong Lake, in Leh, Sunday. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also attended the meeting. PTI PHOTO

Elderly woman dies in elephant attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 20: An elderly woman died in an elephant attack in a forest under Athgaon section of Bolangir forest division, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Premalata aka Muga Nanda (77) of Athgaon after villagers spotted her body inside the forest, Sunday morning.

As per sources, Premalata had gone inside the forest for collecting firewood. However, she did not return home till night.

Her family members and other villagers could not find her even after a frantic search. When some villagers went inside the forest Sunday morning, they found the body on the ground and noticed footsteps of an elephant near the body.

Bolangir forest ranger Keshab Kishore Nayak along with forester Byasadev Sahu, forest guards and elephant squad reached the spot and launched an investigation. After confirming that the woman died after being trampled by the elephant, her body was taken in a special vehicle by the forest department and the post-mortem conducted at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital here.

Most corruption complaints against MHA employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The highest number of corruption complaints last year was against employees of the Union Home Ministry, followed by those working for the railways and in banks, according to the Central Vigilance Commission's latest annual report.

In total, 1,15,203 such complaints were received for all categories of officers and employees across central government departments and organisations in 2022, it stated. Of these, according to the report, 85,437 were disposed of and 29,766 were pending -- 22,034 for more than three months.

The CVC has prescribed a time-limit of three months for chief vigilance officers, who act as a distant arm of the probity watchdog, to examine complaints, an official said.

While the home ministry received 46,643 complaints against its employees last year, 10,580

While home ministry received 46,643 complaints against its employees last year, 10,580 were received by the railways and 8,129 by banks, according to Central Vigilance Commission's annual report

were received by the railways and 8,129 by banks, according to the report.

Out of the total complaints against home ministry employees, 23,919 were disposed of and 22,724 were pending disposal -- 19,198 pending for more than three months, it said.

The railways had disposed of 9,663 complaints, while 917 were pending disposal -- nine for more than three months, the

report, which was made public recently, stated. Banks had disposed 7,762 corruption complaints and 367 were pending -- 78 for more than three months. There were 7,370 complaints against employees of Government of National Capital Territory Delhi, it stated. Of these, 6,804 were disposed of and 566 were pending -- 18 for more than three months.

The report stated that 4,710 complaints were against employees of the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (including the Central Public Works Department), the Delhi Development authority, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the Delhi Urban art Commission, the Hindustan Prefab Ltd, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, the NBCC and the NCR Planning Board.

Of these, 3,889 were disposed of and 821 were pending -- 577 for more than three months, it stated.

RUSSIAN MOON MISSION FAILS

REUTERS

Moscow, August 20: Russia's first moon mission in 47 years failed when its Luna-25 spacecraft spun out of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit. A soft landing of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit. A soft landing of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit. A soft landing of control and crashed into the moon after a problem preparing for pre-landing orbit.

Russia's state space corporation, Roskosmos, said it had lost contact with the craft at 11:57 GMT Saturday after a problem as the craft was shunted into pre-landing orbit. A soft landing had been planned for Monday. "The apparatus moved into an unpredictable orbit and ceased to exist as a result of a collision with the surface of the moon," Roskosmos said in a statement. It said a special inter-departmental commission had been formed to investigate the reasons behind the loss of the Luna-25 craft, whose mission had raised hopes in Moscow that Russia was returning to the big power moon race. The failure underscored the decline of Russia's space power since the glory days of Cold War competition when Moscow was the first to launch a satellite to orbit the Earth.

All eyes now on Chandrayaan-3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 20: ISRO Sunday said it has successfully reduced the orbit of Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander module, and it is now expected to touch down on the surface of the moon at 1804 hours August 23.

The space agency said the lander module would undergo internal checks ahead of the planned soft landing. The lander module (LM), comprising the lander 'Vikram' and rover 'Pragyan', is expected to touch down on the lunar surface Wednesday, August 23 at 18.04 hours, ISRO said.

According to ISRO, India's pursuit of space exploration will reach a remarkable milestone with the Chandrayaan-3 mission poised to achieve a soft landing on the surface of the moon.

This eagerly anticipated event will be broadcast live August 23, starting from 17:27 hrs IST on multiple platforms, including the ISRO Website, its YouTube channel, ISRO's Facebook page, and DD National TV channel. "The soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a monumental moment," ISRO said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our teaching methods are the same, but but we've installed new fans for students' safety and to stop suicides

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.2°C	33.5°C	
MIN	26.0°C	26.4°C	
Humidity	81%	85%	Forecast
Rainfall	2.0	Nil	Light rain likely

₹56cr default: Sunny Deol's villa to go under hammer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 20: State-owned Bank of Baroda has put on the block a property owned by actor and sitting BJP Member of Parliament Sunny Deol to recover ₹56 crore through an e-auction to be held August 25.

The Gurdaspur MP, whose latest flick Gaddar 2 is a box office success having already grossed over ₹300 crore since the release last week, has been in default on a ₹55.99 crore loan from the bank and interest and penalty, since December 2022, the second largest state-owned lender said in a public tender Sunday.

The bank, which has attached the property, Sunny Villa located on the Gandhigram Road in the tony Juhu area of the megapolis, has fixed the reserve price for the auction at ₹51.43 crore and an earnest money deposit of ₹5.14 crore. Apart from the Sunny Villa, the 599.44 square metre property



also houses Sunny Sounds, which is owned by the Deols, and is the corporate guarantor to the loan, while his actor-politician father Dharmendra is the personal guarantor of the debt, according to the auction notice.

A bank spokesperson did not offer any other details to PTI when contacted such as when and how much was the loan availed of by the actor and what is the other guarantee it has for the loan as the value of the property is lower than the outstanding the borrower owes to the bank.

Bitten 10 times, man rescues 5,600 snakes in 10 yrs

THE 28-YEAR-OLD FROM A HARYANA VILLAGE HAS BEEN RESCUING SNAKES WHICH ENTER PEOPLE'S HOMES AND OTHER PLACES FOR NEARLY A DECADE NOW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 20: Once bitten, twice 'not' shy! Snakes may rattle many but rescuing the reptiles is a child's play for Pawan Jogpal from Haryana's Fatehabad district, who is undeterred even after being bitten 10 times.

The 28-year-old man from Bhattu Kalan village said he has been rescuing snakes, which enter people's homes in the rural hinterland and other places, for

nearly a decade now. Jogpal claimed he has rescued more than 5,600 snakes and has been bitten 10 times so far.

"The latest snake I rescued was a baby cobra, which was spotted in an open area near the venue of the Independence Day function in Fatehabad, where the chief minister was to unfurl the national flag," he said.

Jogpal said he rescued many snakes who took shelter on trees during the recent floods which caused waterlogging in many areas. The rescued snakes are released in the forests, he said.

"I have been rescuing snakes for more than 10 years now. Most of them are the ones which enter people's homes and gardens in villages," Jogpal said.

Asked what prompted him to take up snake rescue as a full time job, he shared an anecdote. Jogpal said when he was around 17 years old, a snake had entered his house in his village.

He said while the neighbours and other people gathered there



tried to kill it, he was persuading them not to harm the creature. "I tried to rescue it, but in the meantime someone hit the snake and killed it. That incident left a deep impression on me. Later, I started

watching the Discovery channel. First, I started rescuing small snakes. I read many books about snakes and gathered knowledge about them," he said.

"Now, I can handle snakes

quite easily. So far, I have rescued more than 5,600 snakes. I have been bitten 10 times by snakes, including a cobra due to which I was hospitalised for two days. I was also bitten by a wolf snake, which was non-venomous," Jogpal said.

He said he also rescues monitor lizards or any bird which he finds injured. "People call me over phone and I reach there with my team and we rescue snakes and leave them in jungles," he said.

Jogpal said he has three more people who work for him in his team. "We carry special gloves, sticks, shoes, hook and other safety gear with us," he said.

Jogpal said he also tries to create awareness among people about snakes.

"In our area, people don't kill snakes anymore. If they spot a snake, they call me and we rescue it. I tell people that snakes only attack in self-defence when they feel their life is in danger," he said.

leisure



HILTON HITS OUT AT HATERS IN CROWD WHO TROLLED HER

Singer Paris Hilton has hit back at her haters that stood at the front of a crowd at a music festival that she was performing at Tomorrowland, claiming that she was instead playing a pre-recorded mix of her music, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

DICAPRIO OPEN TO PRODUCING A LIVE ACTION FILM

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has now become more than open to making a film based on the Japanese anime film *Akira*, which has been a monumental influence on even Hollywood directors, particularly Zack Snyder who has frequently called it one of his favourite films.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
So what if plans that you had earlier made have not materialised. You will make a reassessment today, and by mid-day you will sort out a lot of things which will boost your confidence.

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

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

CANCER
You will be quite sentimental and emotional today, you will help needy relatives. You will reach new heights in romantic interlude. Ganesh indicates that a member of the opposite sex will attract you and you reap full advantage of this attraction.

LEO
There is no other way out of your current predicament except hard work. You will need to decide whether you want to work hard to achieve your goals, or let them slip in pursuit of leisure. It is in your best interests to make some effort now to reap substantial gains later, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Today will be a creative and beneficial day for you at your workplace. In the afternoon, Ganesh says, you will be in your element. With your professional acumen, you will succeed in sharing your ideas with your boss and getting his approval. You will be free in the evening to indulge in lavishing your affection on your beloved.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that a person of the opposite sex will be attracted to you and this may lead to a romantic relationship in the near future. This is a good time for you to clear any doubts that your life partner may have with regards to you. For those who are single this is a good time to propose to your loved one.

SCORPIO
Your far sightedness will make you realise the importance of financial security. Thus, you are in a mood to make long term investments. Social recognition awaits you in the evening. Ganesh feels that people look up to you as a wise person and thus seek high values from you.

SAGITTARIUS
You may feel as if you are caught in a rat race and for you it has become important of survive it. Though it is challenging enough, you are excited to get a new mission in life. Take a break in the evening and enjoy it with family and friends, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Excitement is in the air, especially in your personal life. You will receive some extremely positive news, it may be related to one of your family members or to all of them. With encouraging remarks and rewards for your efforts, professional life seems good, too. But, don't let your confidence turn into over-confidence as you may commit an irreversible mistake, warns Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You will most likely play a peace envoy today, sorting out conflicts with diplomacy, your own as well as others'. Don't ignore any offer on the career front, as it may be the best thing to happen to you! The evening brings romance, says Ganesh, but also a lovers' tiff.

PISCES
Hard work and dedication will rule the roost today but all your work and effort won't be in vain, says Ganesh. You will spend your entire day over a problem or to achieve your goal but before the end of the day it will be well within your reach.

Janhvi's quest for challenging roles

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor who marked her entry into Bollywood through Shashank Khaitan's *Dhadak*, has expressed her desire to revisit her roots by taking on glamorous roles and exploring comedy.

The *Gunjan Saxena* actress opened up about the expectations that followed her after *Dhadak*, regarding conventional and glamorous roles. She believes that such roles hold the potential to garner immense popularity and extend an actor's reach. However, she chose to embrace challenging roles to test the limits of her acting abilities, embarking on a journey to establish her prowess.

The actress now recognizes that she has become somewhat overwhelmed by stories revolving around pain and trouble. She expressed, "I want to look good and dance a little bit on screen because somewhere along this journey, I forgot that is what comes naturally to me the most. So, I think it is time for me to go back to my natural state for a bit."

On the work front, Janhvi has *Mr. and Mrs. Mahi* and *Ulajh* in the pipeline.

AGENCIES

'Industry was against Hrithik's launch'

Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel is currently basking in the success of the super hit *Gadar 2* and has been receiving immense love and appreciation from the audience, in an exclusive interview revealed that the film industry was against the launch of Hrithik Roshan.

The *Race 2* actress revealed, "Everyone was against the launch because everyone had no faith in Hrithik because, at the same time, Mr. Bachchan's son Abhishek was being launched, I was a non-filmy, he was being launched with Kareena so this was a very underdog project till of course *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai* actually came to the screens."

She further added, "People asked Mr. Rakesh Roshan to change the release date because we had Shah Rukh and Amir Khan's films *Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani* and *Mela* before and after us. People asked Rakesh, 'How can you bring these two nobodies in between two hurricanes of films.' And he said, 'I'm not going to change. I have faith in my film.' That was enough for me and Hrithik that our director had faith in us. It was enough for me that such a big director like Rakesh Roshan was risking his career and his son's career with a new girl like me. So that gave me the confidence that he has faith in me, to give your best to your film. And, the rest is history."

AGENCIES

Yami on playing woman of substance

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam who plays a lawyer in the recently released hit film *OMG 2*, says better roles will be written for women in films when actors will be forthcoming about playing a character of substance, genre no bar.

"I think it all comes from the writing. The audience was always welcoming such films... Change takes time. There should be awareness that actresses themselves want to essay a pivotal role in any kind of film, be it an out-and-out commercial, a high concept or a women-related film. The role has to have some substance, which is important.

"Accordingly, meatier roles will be written for women. Audiences always accept good films and eventually all this will have an impact on the box office. I'm glad I'm part of this era, which this awareness is there. I'm happy that my contemporaries and my seniors are doing such an incredible job. This is just the beginning," Gautam told PTI.

"Stardom and all will come and go, it's all temporary. We are fortunate as actors that we get so much love from people. People often desire to be admired by others, be loved and respected, irrespective of the profession. Here, we are loved by people who we don't know," the 34-year-old added.

PTI



'Bodyshaming isn't people's birthright'

Mumbai: Actress Sameera Reddy, known for being open about her struggle with postpartum depression, said in a recent interview that people around her were 'unforgiving' about her weight gain after she had her son.

"Forget about my postpartum weight... that was long back. A while ago, I was at the airport where the security guard, on checking my Aadhar card

commented, 'Madam, aap bahut badal chuke ho (You have changed a lot)'. So, it (being body shamed) is not about postpartum, but it is everywhere," says the *De Dana Dan* actress.

"That was the first time I experienced the harsh reality of our society, especially in India. Everyone wanted to have an opinion and wanted to voice it loud. Basically, they think it's their birthright [to comment on a woman's body]. We all go through it," states Sameera, who has been a part of films

such as *No Entry* and *Race*.

"All body types are different, and we have to be particularly kind towards a new mother. Sometimes, it's hard to bounce back, because you all need your time to heal emotionally and physically. Everybody should be given that choice. There is no formula on how you should look after giving birth. People forget that giving birth is a miracle," asserts Sameera.

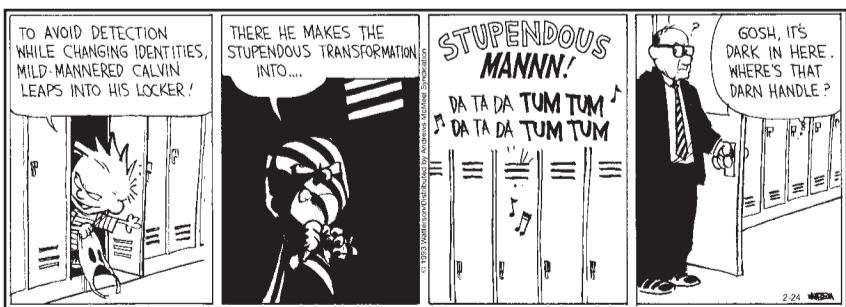
AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



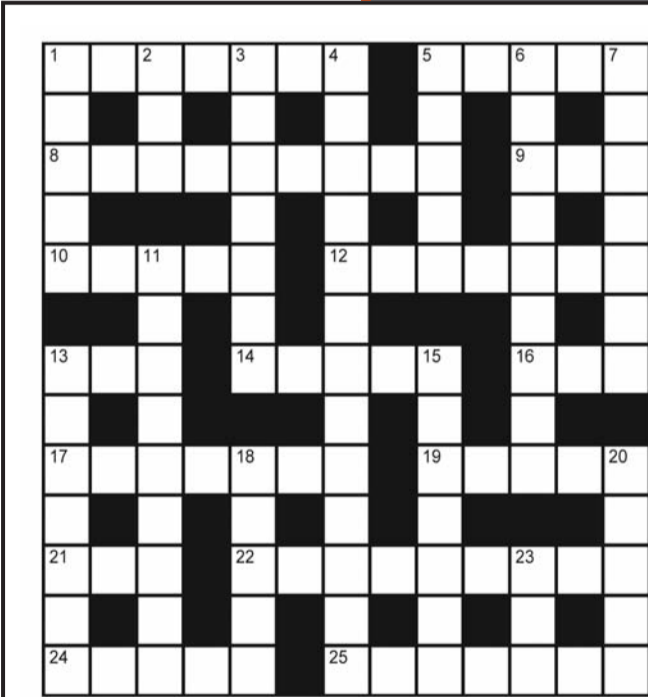
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



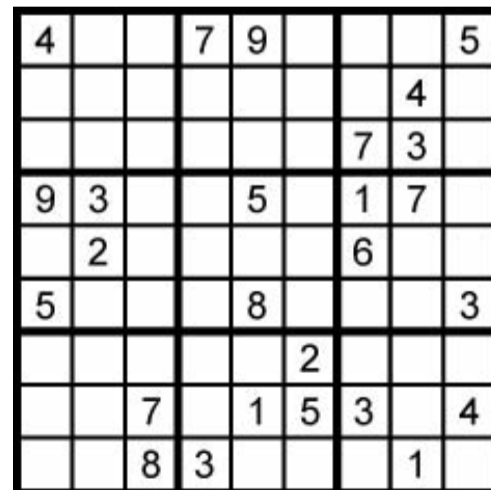
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Driver's aid (4,3)
 - 5 Fastener
 - 8 Garnet
 - 9 Period
 - 10 Sand bar
 - 12 Anonymous
 - 13 Wine holder
 - 14 Requires
 - 16 Victorian, for one
 - 17 Dry red Italian table wine
 - 19 Inundated
 - 21 Kimono closer
 - 22 Signal or arrow, e.g.
 - 24 Glove material
 - 25 Sage (4,3)
 - Down**
 - 1 Iditarod and Grand Prix, e.g.
 - 2 Balloon filler
 - 3 Overly sentimental
 - 4 Oriol (7,6)
 - 5 Impudence
 - 6 Between
 - 7 Funnel-shaped flower
 - 11 In a dangerous situation (2,4,3)
 - 13 Cruel
 - 15 Mediums' sessions
 - 18 Unsophisticated
 - 20 Egret
 - 23 Scottish cap

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

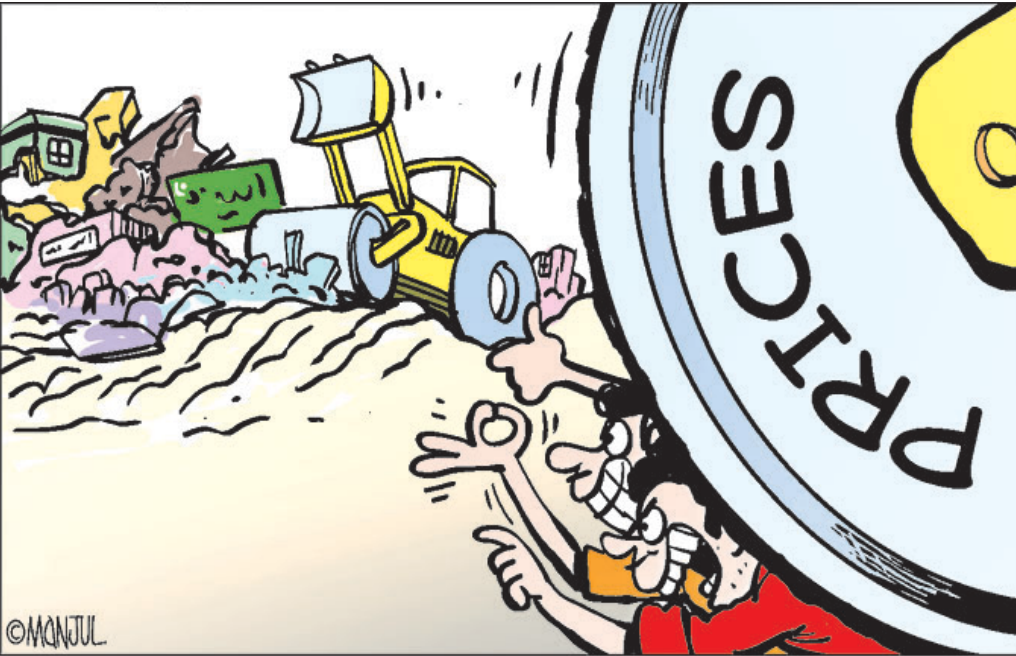
downtown

MAKING A MOVE

Children take part in a chess tournament organised by Puri Chess Association in the Pilgrim City, Sunday



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



NHRC SEEKS REPORTS ON 'HOUSES TO HOMELESS'

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 20: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought fresh reports from Keonjhar and Koraput collectors within four weeks on allotment of houses to the homeless.

The commission's move came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. In his petition, Tripathy had alleged that hundreds of poor families have been living without proper shelter due to the negligence and inaction of the state government.

The commission picked up 40 cases in three districts – Ganjam, Koraput and Keonjhar – relating to alleged discrimination against potential beneficiaries of Prime Minister Awas Yojna (PMAY) and conducted a virtual hearing August 4.

The commission closed the cases of Ganjam district after the collector submitted that the beneficiaries have pucca houses.

Out of the cases related to 140 households, 45 were allotted houses under PMAY, while 45 were on the waiting list, said the Keonjhar collector.

The NHRC directed the Keonjhar collector to submit a report within four weeks men-



The commission picked up 40 cases in three districts – Ganjam, Koraput and Keonjhar – relating to alleged discrimination against potential beneficiaries of Prime Minister Awas Yojna (PMAY) and conducted a virtual hearing

tioning the details of the beneficiaries and the benefit granted to them.

The Koraput collector, on the other hand, said in 18 cases, the beneficiaries were on the waiting list, three have pucca houses, and in one case, the beneficiary has not claimed the benefit under PMAY. In two cases, the beneficiaries will be considered after fresh entry starts in PMAY portal. In one case, the beneficiary did not have land. Hence, benefit of PMAY cannot be granted to him.

The commission directed the Koraput collector to look into the matter and submit an updated factual report to the commission within four weeks.

Development Commissioner-Annu Garg, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, Koraput collector Abdaal M Akhtar, Ganjam collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, Keonjhar collector Ashish Thakare and the petitioner were present during the hearing.

Ganja, brown sugar worth ₹70L seized

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Police and Excise officials Sunday seized ganja and brown sugar worth around Rs 70 lakh from two different places in and around Berhampur and arrested two persons.

While Golanthara police seized over 1,108 kg ganja and a truck in which it was being carried at Sorada junction, Berhampur Excise department seized 32 gram of brown sugar worth Rs 3.20 lakh at Sriram Nagar area under Bada Bazar police station limits. The truck driver was identified as Sushant Kumar Mohanty (43) of Kendrapara district. Maheswar Maharana (32) of Sriram Nagar here was held for possessing brown sugar, officials said.

Preliminary inquiry revealed the ganja was being illegally transported from Srikakulam area in Andhra Pradesh to Guwahati in Assam, SP (Berhampur) Saravana Vivek M said. The ganja packed in 24 sacks was being transported in the truck in the guise of husk, he said. During checking of vehicles at Sorada junction Saturday, police stopped a truck for inspection and found the ganja packed sacks, the SP said.

Similarly, acting on a tip-off, excise officials caught Moharana with 32 gram of brown sugar, said Manisha Bhol, inspector Excise, Berhampur.

Ensure 'proactive disclosure' under RTI Act: SC to govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The Supreme Court has directed the Central Information Commission (CIC) and the State Information Commissions (SICs) to ensure proper implementation of provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 including on proactive disclosure of information by public authorities.

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, said public accountability is a crucial feature that governs the relationship between 'duty bearers' and 'right holders'.

The top court said power and accountability go hand in hand and noted that while all citizens shall have the 'right to information' under Section 3 of the Act, the co-relative 'duty' in the form of the obligation of public authorities is recognised in Section 4 of the RTI Act.

"We direct that the Central Information Commission and the State Information Commissions shall continuously monitor the implementation of the mandate of Section 4 of the Act as also prescribed by the Department of Personnel and Training in its Guidelines and Memorandums issued from time to time," the bench also comprising justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala said.

Section 4 of the Right

to Information Act deals with the obligations of public authorities.

Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act lays down the information which should be disclosed by public authorities on a suo motu or proactive basis. Section 4(2) and Section 4(3) prescribe the method of dissemination of this information.

The apex court stated this in a judgement on a plea seeking effective implementation of a provision of the Right to Information Act which mandates public authorities to disclose vital information about their functioning.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Kishan Chand Jain seeking effective implementation of the mandate of Section 4 of the RTI Act dealing with the obligations of public authorities.

The PIL contended that the provision is the soul of RTI without which it remains an ornamental law.

The plea also referred to the reports of the Central Information Commission which reflect poor compliance with the mandate of Section 4.

It said that the Department of Personnel and Training had issued an Office Memorandum requiring a third-party audit, which witnessed poor participation.

Govt urged to make traditional clothes must at Srimandir

Puri: Servitors of Srimandir's Khuntia Nijog have urged the state government to make traditional clothes mandatory for devotees visiting the shrine. They have submitted a memorandum in this regard to ST Secretary VK Pandian during the later's Puri visit recently. "In our memorandum, we've urged the state government to make traditional attire must for devotees visiting Srimandir. We've also urged for strict implementation of the ban on use of mobile phones on the temple premises," said the Nijog's president Hajuri Krishna Chandra Khuntia.



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HITACHI Split Room Air Conditioner
Model No. **RSNG318HEDO**
FAILS TO MEET ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PARAMETER FOR 3 STAR

*This notice has been issued in compliance with the provision of Regulation 7 of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Particulars & Manner of their Display on Labels of Room Air Conditioners) Regulations, 2017.

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
A statutory body of under Ministry of Power, Government of India
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 (INDIA)
Telephone : 011-26766700, Email : helpdesk@beeindia.gov.in
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MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

Check the Star Rating of the Product and authenticity of the label at "BEE Star Label App" and on "BEE Star Label Portal- www.beestarlabel.com" before buying.

Scan the QR Code to know more




POWER SAVINGS GUIDE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ISEER - 3.55*

Label Period: Jul. Jan. 2018 - 31st Dec. 2021

Apparatus Type	Split AC
Brand	HITACHI
Model No.	RSNG318HEDO0001
Capacity (Nominal)	1.81 kW (6000 BTU)
Cooling Capacity (Nominal)	1.81 kW (6000 BTU)
Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER)	3.55
Star Rating	3 Star
Compressor Type	Single Stage
Heat Pump	No



Alert Consumers!

HITACHI Window Room Air Conditioner
Model No. **RAW511HEDO**
FAILS TO MEET ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PARAMETER FOR 5 STAR


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4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 (INDIA)
Telephone : 011-26766700, Email : helpdesk@beeindia.gov.in
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Scan the QR Code to know more



POWER SAVINGS GUIDE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ISEER - 4.45*

Label Period: Jul. Jan. 2018 - 31st Dec. 2021

Apparatus Type	Window AC
Brand	HITACHI
Model No.	RAW511HEDO0001
Capacity (Nominal)	1.81 kW (6000 BTU)
Cooling Capacity (Nominal)	1.81 kW (6000 BTU)
Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER)	4.45
Star Rating	5 Star
Compressor Type	Single Stage
Heat Pump	No

5T Secretary reviews various projects in Jharsuguda dist



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 20: As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Jharsuguda to review the progress of various developmental works in the district and redressal of public grievances. He visited Ramachandi Temple in Brajrajnagar and Jangha Linga Temple in Laikera where he interacted with Sebayats, trustee members and locals for development of temples along with better facilities for the devotees and took suggestions on various aspects of transformation of the temple and related pilgrim/ tourist amenities. He directed the district administration to prepare a master plan for development. Pandian reviewed the progress

directed the officials concerned to prioritise and expedite the process. Pandian also reviewed the progress of construction of 4 lane carriageway road corridor project at an estimated cost of Rs. 82 crore in Belpahar and Brajrajnagar for transportation of coal from Brajrajnagar coal fields and the progress of construction of RoB at an estimated cost of Rs. 41 crore in Sarbahal for Jharsuguda town.

He interacted with Mission Shakti Groups at Jharsuguda and assured them all support from the government for their activities. He told them that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has high priority for women empowerment. He directed the Collector to facilitate awareness about the interest free loans and also to organise loan melas at Panchayat level.

During the day, he participated in the public grievance meetings at Lakhanpur and Laikera. He interacted with the locals and heard their grievances. He underlined Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's top priority towards citizen grievances and assured them early resolution of the petitions submitted.

Special Secretary to CM, R Vineel Krishna, Suresh Ch Dalai, RDC (ND), Sambalpur, Deepak Kumar, IGP, Sambalpur, Aboli Sunil Naravane, Collector & DM, Jharsuguda, Parmar Smit Parshottamas, S.P., Jharsuguda and other district level officials accompanied him during the visit.

of ongoing two Mega Lift Irrigation Projects of Lakhanpur block at an estimated cost of Rs. 113 crore that will irrigate 7553 Ac of Lakhanpur block. The projects will be completed by September.

He reviewed the progress of ongoing Mega Piped Water Supply in Jharsuguda, Kirmira, Kolabira, Laikera and Lakhanpur block. The projects will cost around Rs. 600 crore.

He also reviewed the progress of ongoing Water Supply Projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 295 crore for Brajrajnagar and Belpahar Municipality. The projects will be operationalized in phases from January 2024.

Pandian reviewed the progress of Survey and Settlement Operation of 19 unsurveyed villages located in the periphery of Hirakud dam reservoir. He



MAGAZINE RELEASE: BMC Mayor Sulochana Das among guests during the release of 4th edition of 'Matighara Sahitya Aasara' at Buddha Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OIIPCRA review meeting by DoWR

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Water Resources Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg reviewed projects on climate resilient agriculture in a meeting held in the conference hall of Rajiv Bhawan here Saturday.

The meeting was attended by the PR&DW Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, A&FE Principal Secretary Arabind Kumar Padhee, F&ARD Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashisth, CGM, NABARD,



Directors of the key departments, Collectors of Ganjam and Mayurbhanj, representatives of agencies such as ICRIASAT, ICARDA and IRRI.

During the review of projects, Garg sought all the key departments' close coordination for realizing the project objectives

and ensuring benefits for the communities. She stressed that, besides accelerating all the activities of the projects, there is a need for pursuing innovation, building climate smart villages and leveraging technology for effective monitoring.

Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture (OIIPCRA) is being implemented in 15 districts of the state with an objective to intensify and diversify agricultural production and enhance climate resilience under four components: climate smart intensifi-

cation and diversion of production; improving access to irrigation and water productivity; institutional capacity strengthening and project management.

Besides improving availability and irrigation in minor irrigation tanks, the project is taking up cross-sectoral convergence of water/ agriculture/ horticulture/ fisheries sectors to benefit farmers through increased quality of irrigation service; average yields; marketable outputs; diversified incomes and climate resilience.

Renowned neurologist joins KIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Renowned epileptologist P Satishchandra has recently joined Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Bhubaneswar as professor emeritus bringing his expertise and experience in neurology to the City institute.

Satishchandra, whose expertise lies in treating patients suffering from epilepsy, is scheduled to have his first OPD session at KIMS August 21. He was previously the president of Indian Epilepsy Association for 2021-22.

The neurologist has won several awards in his career including the 'Karnataka Rajyotsava Award' given by the Karnataka government in 2014, M Vishveshvaraih Award for 'Best Medical Scientist' and was decorated as 'Ambassador for Epilepsy' by International League against Epilepsy in 2007.

RSC holds session on 'camera & its journey'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Regional Science Centre (RSC) in City organised an interactive session on 'Camera and its Journey' with Debasis Chatterjee, a renowned photographer working for Odisha State Archaeology Saturday.

A team of professionals from Cannon India Pvt Ltd,

Bhubaneswar interacted with students and showed various techniques used in photography. RSC jointly organised a beautiful collection-based exhibition on 'Camera: Antiquity to Modernity' with 3 Gen Production House, Bhubaneswar.

The exhibition showcased rare collections to depict the story of camera and its transformation from plate camera to



film roll camera and digital ones. The programme was attended by more than 150 students from various schools along with many

enthusiasts who interacted with experts to explore the technical aspects of photography, advancements in equipment and the evolution of photographic techniques. RSC Project Coordinator Kapil Jain said he was hopeful of organising such programme at a larger scale in the future for creating science and technology awareness among the masses.

Rain likely in 13 dists today: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Light to moderate thundershower is very likely over 13 districts of the state Monday, the IMD regional centre said in its bulletin Sunday.

Due to prevalent monsoon trough and a low pressure area, light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over 13 districts of Odisha during next 24 hours,

India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre said.

In its mid-day bulletin, the IMD regional centre mentioned, "The Monsoon trough at mean sea level now passes through Jaisalmer, Kota, and centre of low pressure area over the central parts of north Madhya Pradesh, Raipur, Gopalpur and thence east-south-eastwards to East central Bay of Bengal and extends up to 3.1 km above mean sea level."

Electricity theft at stone crusher unit in Khurda

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Taking action to curb electricity theft, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited's (TPCODL) enforcement team for Khurda Electrical Division identified Saturday a stone crusher unit under Khurda electrical section no 4 stealing electricity.

"The unit in Khurda stands accused of illegally siphoning off a staggering 174 kw of power. These illicit activities were un-

covered during a routine inspection by the TPCODL enforcement team, sending shockwaves through the local community and highlighting the pressing need to curb such unauthorized practices," said a TPCODL official.

During a routine inspection by the TPCODL enforcement team Saturday in the Khurda Electrical Division, an anomaly in the electrical setup of a stone crusher caught attention of the inspecting officers. During the inspection,

it was discovered that the CT Box chamber seals had been tampered with.

"The PT voltage wire of the Y-Phase of the metering circuit was deliberately disconnected, and the CT wires of the metering circuit for all phases were also deliberately left loose in contact. The total connected load found in the said crusher industry is 174 kW, and this discrepancy could result in a loss of more than Rs 0.67 Crore in revenue terms," added the official.

CLASSIFIED LOST

I, Sri Siddhant Mohapatra, S/o Laxmidhar Mohapatra of Sana Tulasipur, PS. Baghamari, Dist.- Cuttack, by virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public No. 304/17.8.2023, do hereby declare that on dt. 16.08.2023, when I was travelling to Banki Kacheri Road, near Banki Bazar, somewhere I lost my plastic bag, in which I have carried some original documents including my Aadhaar Card, rent receipt of ROR of my land and RSD No. 960/dt. 3.5.1996 in original form. After all efforts I could not able to traceout the same.

Nostalgia the biggest matchmaker among GenZ, Millennials

Nostalgia is a powerful emotion that plays a significant role in matchmaking among the younger generations—the GenZ and the Millennials. For this, dating app QuackQuack conducted a comprehensive survey using a structured questionnaire to explore and study the degree to which nostalgia acts as a matchmaker among these age groups. A total of 12,000 individuals between 18 to 32 from both Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities participated in the survey. The population consisted of GenZ and Millennials, with 48 per cent of participants identifying as female and 52 per cent identifying as male.

Good Old Days
26 per cent of daters, both GenZ, and Millennials, explain how they love building new connections based on shared nos-

talgia—cartoons, pop culture references, TV shows, movies, and music—seem to be a big hit among these people. It brings back memories of the good old times when things were simpler, and the burden of life had not fallen on their shoulders. It is also fascinating to see how most people have lived through the same or at least similar experiences while growing up.

Nostalgia gives deeper insight
43 per cent of Millennial daters between 28 and 32 find discussing nostalgic topics like their favorite TV series and favorite games to play growing up helps build better bonds of friendship and even romance. It gives a deeper insight into their matches' lives and also works to remove any awkwardness from the interaction. It's a conversational topic that flows without dis-



ruption, helping people get to know each other better: 24 per cent of these people disclosed that nostalgia had played a role in helping them connect with others in a romantic and platonic way.

Conversation Starter
19 per cent of GenZ women between 20 and 25 reported using nostalgic topics as a conversation starter when getting to know someone. For people living outside for work and studies, their favorite food, especially home-

made food, is something they love to talk about with a new match. They believe that having shared nostalgic experiences with a potential partner or friend makes them feel more connected and understood.

Impact on dating preference
32 per cent of daters from metros and smaller cities admitted actively seeking out individuals with similar nostalgic interests to form more profound connections. Millennials, for example, love discussing the tran-

sition from no technological support growing up to the massive advancement of tech and its presence in every sphere of life now. Going to internet cafes to play games and for in-depth studies seem strange and almost unreal in today's day and age. The way people fell in love in those days, with no phones, no video calls, and no instant messaging, makes it seem more romantic today and makes for a very intriguing subject to discuss, especially with a potential romantic connection, says these daters. The GenZ daters love reminiscing about their school days and exchanging notes on how their lives looked so much alike their new matches'.

Sentimental for the 90s
Considering that GenZ was born between mid-1990 and early 2010, they are awfully inclined to-

wards all things '90s, and 25 per cent of men and women between 18 to 25 from both Tier 1 and 2 cities love matching with people who share the same sense of sentiment for the simpler days.

Starting from '90s fashion—baggy jeans and oversized clothes, the vintage look such as the mullet hairstyle for men and shag and fringes for women, movies, and sitcoms, GenZ is hopping on the nostalgia express and taking a trip down the 90s and times well before their time. These young daters also expressed how nostalgia is a form of escapism from the mundane reality of life, helping people reach out for a simpler time that existed once but no more. And people love connecting with other individuals who seem to share and understand these sentiments.

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Plan afoot to build in-stream storages in Boudh, Sonepur

4 fraudsters caught during NITR recruitment

The four appearing the test on behalf of others belong to Hisar and Jind districts of Haryana

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 20: The Sector-3 police Sunday arrested four persons who faked their identity posing as examinees and appeared in the written test conducted for recruitment of non-teaching staff at NIT Rourkela.

Speaking to the media DSP Pushpanjali Ningi informed that the four would be produced before court Monday. The four accused identified as Punit Singh, Gaurav Chahar, Sunil Singh and Manish Kumar were appearing the test on behalf of four other persons Deepak, Suraj Khagwal, Sunil and Deepak Mallik. All of them belong to Hisar and Jind districts of Haryana, a senior police official said.

"After a complaint was received



from NIT authorities, we have taken the four into the ambit of enquiry. Soon the other four will be brought in for interrogation," informed Zone 1 DSP Pushpanjali Ningi. Besides, the officer informed that the police have recovered some hi-tech devices. She declined

to furnish any further details lest it might hamper the investigation. However, it is suspected that the four have local help.

NIT Rourkela was conducting a written examination Saturday for the post of non-teaching staff on its campus. The four were car-

rying identity cards, examination hall cards and photographs. However, the invigilators became suspicious about their photographs. When the invigilator started inquiring about their parents, home address, marks secured in +2 and graduation, eventually it was proved they were faking as examinees for others.

However, the authority decided to allow them to appear in the examination. NIT's own security guards were kept ready and they pounced on them once they came out of the hall. Initial investigation revealed that they were impersonating four others. Professor Rohan Dhiman, Registrar, NIT Rourkela soon filed a complaint with Sector-3 police late Saturday evening and the four were taken into custody by police soon after.



HARNESSING MAHANADI WATER

Residents of Sonepur town, Ulunda and Birmaharajpur blocks in Subarnapur as well as those in Boudh town, Boudh and Kantamal blocks in Boudh will benefit immensely from the projects

The twin projects will help fulfil the growing water demand for drinking and domestic purposes as well as irrigation through mega lift irrigation points built in Mahanadi and Tel river basins

Boudh and Kantamal blocks in Boudh district will benefit from the projects.

The twin projects will help fulfil the growing water demand for drinking and domestic purposes and irrigation to the farmlands during rabi season through mega lift irrigation points built on Mahanadi and Tel river basins.

Concerned, the state government prepared a master plan to make proper use of the water of Mahanadi and its tributaries. The state government in 2017 decided to construct multiple barrages on Mahanadi. A preliminary survey was conducted and later a technical advisory committee gave its approval to construction of the projects. However, the projects got delayed.

Sonepur MLA and the then state finance minister Niranjan Pujari while presenting the annual Budget for 2023-24 FY had announced construction of the two projects in Subarnapur and Boudh districts.

The Water Resources department in Boudh had prepared a detailed project report (DPR) of ₹925.59 crore for construction of the project at Khairamal in the

district which is about three kilometer from Rameswar in Sonepur town, the confluence of Mahanadi and Tel rivers.

A similar DPR of ₹1,024.81 crore was also prepared for construction of the project at Godhaneswar in Birmaharajpur block which is about 20 km from Sonepur town, the district headquarters of Subarnapur district.

The engineer-in-chief (EIC) of state Water Resources department had sent the proposal to the state government for administrative approval May 22 but hung fire briefly. However, the proposed projects got a fillip when the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary-cum-5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Subarnapur district July 4.

Pandian visited Rameswar and reviewed the implementation of the proposed Khairamal project. He assured that the projects will receive administrative approvals very soon. Finally, after the state government's approval August 18, it was learnt that the tender will be invited as per EPC (engineering procurement and construction) contract basis.



GARDEN UPKEEP: Two women workers clearing grass and weed at Jawahar Udyan in Hirakud town under Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Sunday OP PHOTO

Sambalpur to soon get Butterfly Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, August 20: Sambalpur district will get a butterfly park by the end of this year, officials said Sunday.

Divisional Forest Officer V Neelambaram said around ₹25 lakh will be spent for developing the butterfly garden at Budharaja reserve forest, which is located in the heart of the city.

Nectar-rich flowering plants of different species will be planted there to attract butterflies, he said, adding that some beautification work will also be carried out.

The primary goal of the butterfly park is to create a habitat that provides food, shelter and breeding opportunities to various species of butterflies, Neelambaram said.

"The blueprint for the butterfly garden will be ready within two-three days, and the work on the project will start after the monsoon. We are hopeful that the park will be ready by December," he said.

Budharaja reserve forest, spread across 63 hectare, is a major tourist attraction of Sambalpur. People throng the hilltop, which also has a Shiva temple, for a bird's view of the city.

Budharaja reserve forest, spread across 63 hectare, is a major tourist attraction of Sambalpur. People throng the hilltop, which also has a Shiva temple, for a bird's view of the city.

Hit by speeding truck, ex-serviceman dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jamankira, August 20: An ex-serviceman died in a road accident near Dasagharia on NH-53 under this police limits in Sambalpur district, Sunday morning.

The deceased was identified as Birendranath Karwar (82) of Radhakrushnapada under this police limit. He earned fame by serving in the Indian Army for long 30 years and was honoured by the President of India.

As per information, the mishap occurred while Birendranath

was riding his scooty on NH-53 near police station. A speeding truck which was going from Sambalpur to Deogarh hit him from behind.

Birendranath received severe injuries on his head and was profusely bleeding while being rushed to Kuchinda hospital in a police van. However, he was declared 'brought dead' by the doctors.

Birendranath was honoured by the Kuchinda MLA on the occasion of Independence Day this year. His younger son is also serving in Indian army.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WOMAN SARPANCH SELLS ORPHAN GIRL FOR ₹5 LAKH

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 20: A woman sarpanch of Sundargarh district allegedly sold an orphan minor girl for ₹5 lakh to a couple from Gujarat who then engaged her as a domestic help and tortured her, the police officials said Sunday.

The accused was identified as Dalrasa Gudia, the sarpanch of Biribira panchayat under Sadar police limits. The matter came to light after the girl managed to return to her village and narrated her ordeal to a local woman named Golapi.

The woman took her to Dharuadihi police station where she filed a complaint. Initially, police did not register her complaint but yielded after the woman and the girl met the Sundargarh SP.

Police registered a case and launched an investigation. Meanwhile, the woman sarpanch has been absconding after reports surfaced in the area. The girl's statement has been recorded



and she has been shifted to short stay home in the area.

The accused lured the girl and sold her to a Gujarat couple on the pretext that she will be undergoing training for tailoring which will help her become self-reliant.

The girl came in contact with the accused when she met her for sanction of her PDS ration. The sarpanch persuaded her to visit Gujarat where she can learn tailoring free of cost.

Finally, the girl agreed to this proposal following which she was taken to Jharsuguda and handed over to Binay Patel of Puruna Basti, July 2022. She was

initially told that her training would start at Jharsuguda but Binay informed her that she had to leave for Gujarat immediately where her training would start.

She was taken to Gujarat where she was forced to work as a domestic help at Binay's house in Ahmedabad. His wife Sunita forced her to work from 5am till 9pm in exchange of meagre pay of ₹700. There she learnt from Sunita that they had bought her by paying ₹5 lakh to the sarpanch.

She was held hostage at home and never allowed to go outside. Finally, she managed to convince them that she would come back and returned to her village.

Sundargarh towns to get 24x7 metered water by December

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 20: The major towns of Sundargarh district are set to get round the clock metered water supply by the end of this year, an official said here Saturday.

"We are almost completing all our formalities in four of the major towns of the district -- Sundargarh, Rajgangpur, Biramitrapur and Rourkela. In fact, the pilot run has already begun with the CM inaugurating one such project at Biramitrapur last August," informed Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) GM Pratap Keshari Mohanty here.

Mohanty added that Rajgangpur command centre has five district metered areas (DMA) among which Ranibandha is already functional with residents getting round the clock water supply. The rest of the DMAs will be operational in the month of October. In the first week of October, the trial run will begin and by November the entire town will be getting metered water round the clock. The automation process is going on. Besides, the old pumps and other accessories are being replaced and that will be over by the end of this month, informed the GM.

In Sundargarh there are nine DMAs under the command centre. Work is almost over with one DMA operational at this moment and a trial run going on. "The rest will begin by the end of this month and in September the pilot run for all the DMAs will

begin. At this moment automation is going on in the rest eight and very little work is left," informed GM Mohanty.

In Rourkela, there are 35 DMAs under the command centre. Of these, the DMAs 32, 35 and 36, belonging to Jagda, Vedyvas and Jhartarang are operational now. "At this moment we are checking their efficacy through trial runs and those will be over soon. For Rourkela we have kept December as the month when the entire city will get water supply 24x7 through the meter system," informed the officer.

Only the Koel Nagar project is going to take some time to finish due to some technical issues. "For Koel Nagar and its adjoining areas like Shakti Nagar we are going to set up independent plants and the work has already begun. Meanwhile, work on 17 plants is already over and soon we will start a trial run," Mohanty said.

Rourkela witnessed the worst water crisis in the year 2016 when water supply was seriously affected due to an alarming depletion in the water flow in Koel and Sankha rivers. At that time the need for the barrage was felt which is now under construction.

Keeping in mind the flow of water in Brahmani and the surplus water that will get stored after the construction of the barrage, the 24x7 water supply concept was planned. Similar plans were also undertaken simultaneously for the rest of the areas.



Minor girl turns labourer to feed 3 siblings

FATHER ABSCONDING AFTER MOTHER'S DEATH ONE YEAR AGO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, August 20: The heart-wrenching story of a 15-year-old tribal girl Janha has come to the fore as she has been taking the responsibility of three siblings single-handedly at Karanjashahi tribal village under Karasingi panchayat under this block of Ganjam district.

As per reports, when Janha's mother died a year ago, her father Pramod Dalabehera also left the house leaving behind their four minor children.

After becoming orphan, Janha unfortunately had to stop her studies at the age of 15 and turned a labourer for the survival of her two sisters Tara (12)



and Banita (10) and brother Om Prakash (6). She has strong de-

sire to restart her studies but the weight of responsibilities

that have fallen on her shoulders is not allowing her to follow her will.

Whatever she earns by working as a daily labourer is spent arranging food for the survival of her siblings. They don't even have a proper house to reside in. The walls are in a dilapidated condition that may collapse at any moment forcing the four children to take shelter on the verandah of their house.

Despite their pathetic condition, no government aid has come in their way. If the administration extends its helping hands towards these small children then their future will be secured, said some local intelligentsia.



Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism.

SRI AUROBINDO



Patients' Dilemma

The cost of medicines has been rising by leaps and bounds and in many cases these are sold at prohibitive prices. The common man is hit hard and often has to pay hefty amounts for treatment. The desire for maximising profit among many pharmaceutical companies manufacturing branded drugs is such that the prices of medicines are pegged way too higher than the manufacturing costs. On the other hand, it also has to be acknowledged that the cost of research and discovering combinations of chemicals that work against a particular ailment must be high for top pharma companies. These high research costs are generally bypassed by smaller companies producing generic drugs which they can manufacture without long drawn research and chemical trials on the actual effectiveness of different combinations of drugs. Since the patents of most drugs from original manufacturers expire due to a built-in lifespan, generic manufacturers are then free to produce the same drugs without research or even randomized trials. Because the laws in India do not make dissolution testing mandatory for generic manufacturers, the efficacy of the generic drug is in question, compared to the original.

Then there is also the issue of long and complex generic names of drugs and more importantly the combinations with other chemicals in varying percentages of a particular drug. The task of writing down the generic names with the exact combinations of varied chemicals would become near impossible for doctors. This would also create a situation where patients, unable to decipher the particulars, are left at the mercy of the pharmacist at the counter who might choose to present the drug whose manufacturer offers the highest commission. These more often than not, would be newer companies that are testing their drugs rather than reputed established brands. As a fallout, the patient might become the scapegoat. A time seems to be coming when pharmacies, in place of doctors, will be courted by pharmaceutical companies for pushing their brands.

The Union Health Ministry has dropped broad hints that a quid pro quo exists between a section of physicians and many pharmaceutical companies. It is said that palms are greased by way of commissions in cash and kind. The over 60-page guidelines for the professional conduct of registered doctors of modern medicine recently notified by the country's apex regulator National Medical Commission (NMC) contain provisions ranging from what medical degrees doctors can mention on their prescription pads to the kind of advertisements they can put out, the records they must keep and the way they treat patients through teleconsultation. This would also imply that doctors might be compelled to spend much more time maintaining documents that would be required by the government rather than treating patients or upgrading their skills. The guidelines also warn doctors against receiving commissions from pharmacies and diagnostic laboratories as well as attending conferences sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. Here, it may be noted that every other country encourages its medical fraternity to stay updated on the latest development in medical science by attending national and international conferences and meetings which are mostly sponsored by pharma companies. The government of India would not be able to state when it last organized any conference of doctors where papers were presented about innovations and improvements. By stopping the inflow of knowledge, the new guidelines will hinder the growth of medical care in India.

According to the new guidelines, all doctors will mandatorily be required to prescribe generic drugs failing which they will be penalised and even their licence to practice may also be suspended.

What has triggered vehement protests from the medical fraternity is the guideline urging doctors to use generic drugs and inform patients that they are equivalent to branded medicines. Doctors are asked to encourage people to purchase drugs from Jan Aushadhi Kendras and other generic drug outlets.

The regulations notified on August 2 stated, "Generic medicines are 30 to 80 per cent cheaper than branded drugs. Hence, prescribing generic medicines may overtly bring down health care costs and improve access to quality care." However, in a recent study, it has been found that generic drugs have a markup of about 1000 percent over manufacturing costs. This may be due to the fact that these manufacturers hardly have any costs of research, innovation and testing and their efficacy would be doubtful. In other words, the government wants to drag allopathic medicine down to the level of untested Ayurveda and Ayush medicines and on the other hand put a leash to control doctors and the whole of the medical fraternity.

The move to force doctors to prescribe only generic medicines is facing a storm of protest from the medical community so much so that the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has compared it to "running trains without tracks." It believes the matter is of great concern since it directly impacts patients' care and safety. There is justification to the criticism that the government has no mechanism to ensure quality control for generic drugs by local companies which have far less capital to invest than big pharmaceutical companies.

The question is who will be held responsible if such medicines do not prove to be efficacious or negatively impact healthcare.

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge. **DANIEL J. BOORSTIN**
- Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing. **RICK RIORDAN**
- The possession of knowledge does not kill the sense of wonder and mystery. There is always more mystery. **ANAIS NIN**

WORDSWORTH

Moniker

Moniker has had so many spellings that it's difficult to keep track of them all. Jonathon Green gives 14 in The Cassell Dictionary of Slang, for example. This variability is a sure sign the word was for long passed from person to person in speech rather than in writing. The first known written example is from 1851, in Henry Mayhew's London Labour and the London Poor, in which Mayhew gives it as moneker. It was recorded in the Sydney Slang Dictionary in Australia in 1881, spelled monniker, and seems to have reached the USA not long after. This may imply that it was a London term, exported by migrants. Most slang writers, including Eric Partridge and Jonathon Green, suggest it was originally tramps' slang. As a moniker was often, even usually, an assumed name or nickname, this is plausible. There are as many suggestions of its origin as there are variants on its name, though few of them sound even marginally convincing. A long list of them is given in Paul Beale's 1984 revision of Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English. Some early forms have suggested to writers that it might be from monarch, the idea being that it is one's name that partly rules one's life. One learned proposal was that it was ekename (an ancient term for a nickname, from eke, additional – a relative of eke out – which changed to nickname through a shift of the n in an ekename) that was converted into moniker by backslang. A further idea is that it comes from the saintly name Monica. Others link it to one or other of a pair of Italian words, which is just possible if we assume that it's old enough to have entered slang via Lingua Franca. The association with tramps has led some writers to find a source in Shelta, an ancient secret language used by Irish and Welsh tinkers and gypsies, in which it would be derived from Irish ainm, name (support for this is in The Secret Languages of Ireland by R A Stewart Macalister, dated 1937, which gives munika as one form of the Shelta word.) Expert opinion, for which you may read "guesswork" if you like, is leaning towards a blend of monogram with signature, largely because moniker can mean someone's John Hancock.



Edoardo Campanella

IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO USHER IN THE FUTURE, AI DEVELOPERS SHOULD HEED THE LESSONS OF THE PAST

Disruptive technologies are rarely welcomed by workers or others with a significant stake in the status quo. Innovation requires adaptation, and adaptation is costly. Powerful incumbents' resistance to revolutionary technologies has been a major factor in past periods of stagnant growth. Predictably, the initial enthusiasm for generative artificial intelligence, following ChatGPT's release last year, has given way to fears of technological unemployment.

No one expects disruption caused by AI to be minor. According to Goldman Sachs, "generative AI could substitute up to one-fourth of current work" in Europe and the United States, with administrative and legal professions being more exposed than physically intensive professions such as construction and maintenance. Already, AI can produce text, videos, and pictures that are indistinguishable from human-created content. It is vastly better than humans at any task involving pattern recognition, and it is increasingly good at making basic judgment calls in many domains (for example, in responding to customer-service queries).

History offers hints about how the backlash against AI will play out, though some parallels are more useful than others. The most common analogy is to the Luddites, who reacted to industrialisation in early-nineteenth-century England by destroying the machines. But this comparison is inapt, given that AI is an indestructible digital tool. Similarly, AI is unlikely to revive trade unions, which were born of industrialisation, because it primarily threatens white-collar jobs, rather than assembly-line workers.

To find an adequate historical comparison, we need to go back further to the Middle Ages, when powerful craft guilds – associations of lawyers, notaries, artisans, scribes, painters, sculptors, musicians, physicians, and so forth – regulated skilled pro-

FOCUS DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

THE AI BACKLASH



To unleash AI's full potential, policymakers and innovators alike should promote uses that elevate, rather than suppress, human agency

fessions across Europe. Though guilds benefited society by ensuring product quality and certifying practitioners' qualifications, their main purpose was to protect and enrich their members by excluding competitors. Such monopolisation generated large profits with which to reward political elites at the expense of consumers – "a conspiracy against the public," as Adam Smith put it.

Guilds were generally conservative when it came to innovation. Though they promoted a favourable environment for technological change through technical specialisation, artisan upward mobility, and monopoly rents, they resisted new devices and products, banned members from adopting novel processes, and boycotted wares and workers from places that used forbidden techniques. In response to guilds' petitions, local rulers often passed laws blocking innovation.

The printing press is a case in point. Invented in 1440, it did not become widely used until the eighteenth century, owing to obstruction by scribes' guilds. Similarly, in fifteenth-century Cologne, masters of the linen-twisters' guild banned horse-powered twisting-wheels for fear that horses would take their jobs.

But this is not to suggest that guilds were anti-technology. While they fiercely opposed labour-replacing innovations, they were generally open to

labor-augmenting ones that saved working capital and improved quality.

Nowadays, many of those threatened by generative AI – such as lawyers, doctors, or architects – are organised into professional associations that, in fact, descend from the old guilds. In Europe especially, these organisations still restrict competition by imposing entry barriers, setting professional fees, establishing qualitative standards, curtailing the use of advertising, and other measures.

Looking ahead, we may see many professions form a common front to control AI through general rules concerning data regulation, ethical standards, or capital taxation. But the fiercest reactions will likely be confined to specific professions, given how much the threat of automation varies from one occupation to another. Like medieval guilds, today's professional groups will likely appeal to sympathetic politicians and lobby for regulations to control AI. Ideally, these efforts will steer the technology toward labour-augmenting uses, rather than labour-replacing ones.

Moreover, some professions will police themselves, such as by establishing new standards for interactions between clients and AI; prohibiting the automation of certain tasks on ethical grounds; or limiting access to certain client data for privacy reasons, thus curbing the

learning potential of the technology. Medical doctors, for example, will probably insist that they be given the last word in AI-assisted disease diagnosis, and reputable news outlets will want to check the reliability of facts reported in AI-written articles.

As is always the case, some members of a given profession will be more vulnerable than others. In the Middle Ages, the wealthiest masters exerted the most influence over public authorities, and often shaped policies to their own benefit – rather than to the benefit of all guild members. Today, partners in law firms will welcome the cost-cutting automation of tasks performed by younger associates (such as writing standard contracts or finding legal precedents), so long as they can retain the high-value-added tasks that they themselves perform.

Some countries will be much more exposed to a guild-style backlash than others. In Europe, guilds formally disappeared after the French Revolution, when rulers came under pressure to establish more egalitarian societies and unleash industrialisation. Nonetheless, the corporatist mindset has survived across the continent, as evidenced by persistent over-regulation in the services sector. By contrast, the US has no history of craft guilds.

To unleash AI's full potential, policymakers and innovators alike should promote uses that elevate, rather than suppress, human agency. If AI is seen as more of a threat than a source of empowerment, well-organised lobbies will delay or even derail its adoption in many sectors. The slow diffusion of the printing press is a cautionary reminder. In their eagerness to usher in the future, AI developers should heed the lessons of the past.

The writer is Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM INFLATION

Stable price regime must

With the highest ever food inflation at 7.4% in 15 months in July and the Reserve Bank of India hinting at far more increase in prices, the government is mulling wheat imports from Russia to stem food shortage despite the highest ever production of 330.53 tonnes.

Price curbs are not easy. So, after over 53 years, the government is considering wheat imports to boost supplies and curb inflation ahead of the series of state elections this year and the Lok Sabha polls next year. The exercise may cause foreign exchange drain. The balance of payment position is largely not in favour because of the import surges. An eightfold rise in incomes is needed at constant 7.6% growth till 2047 for the country to be called developed. A tall order indeed.

Import is also needed to serve the free food grain programme to 81 crore people. This has affected the stocks that need fast replenishment. Any fall in supplies is feared to raise the prices beyond the normal level. Wheat production is estimated at 112 million tonnes, according to the third advance estimates. It is higher than last year's figure of 107.4 million tonnes and even

the 2020-21 production of 109.58 million tonnes.

In 2017, private firms had imported 5.9 million tonnes of wheat. However, in diplomatic terms no import was made since 1970, when the PL480 imports were stopped with the Green Revolution changing the food grain scenario.

The government is exploring the possibility of imports through private trade and government-to-government deals. It is serious about checking prices of key commodities such as fuel, cereals, and pulses and wants to improve supplies in rural areas to ease the impact on the poor. Remember, they are a major vote bank. Even small price disturbance can have wider political repercussions, which the Centre wants to stay clear of now.

In its August bulletin, the RBI has cautioned on the price front. It has found July inflation abnormally high at 7.44% in terms of consumer price index (CPI). The RBI has raised its second quarter, July-September, inflation forecast to 6.2% against 5.4% earlier. It states that incidence of supply shock is not over as it was evidenced with the sudden spurt in tomato prices and slow surge in onion prices.

The RBI says that the vulnerability of the economy to recurring incidence of vegetable price shocks warrants major reforms in perishable supply chains covering transportation networks, warehousing and storage technologies and value addition processes that dampen the amplitude of these swings.

Prime Minister Modi has a dream for India – to be among the most developed economies in the world. That's also a dream that Indians have been cherishing since long. Can it happen in a hurry? The government thinks it can with the unleashing of spending spree ahead of elections and high debt. Normally, a debt should not be an issue if it is supported with high income, low inflation and measured actions for improvement of the living conditions, just not vague development. Spending and debt, however, spurt prices.

A State Bank of India research note claims that India could get to the third global spot in GDP terms as early as 2027, provided the economy grows at 8.7% for four years till then. Even with a bit of slip, touching the third is almost a certainty. That, however, does not guarantee the overall living condition would match

that of Japan (GDP \$4.4 trillion) and Germany (\$4.2 trillion), which India is aiming to surpass.

By virtue of population, India could qualify to be a "large economy" but in actual terms it would remain a poor country. It ranks 139th in the world and the poorest among the G20 nations with a per capita income of \$2601. So, without check on prices, increase in production and jobs, the country may attain a "high" rank, but in the real sense it has to work harder to come out of the developing syndrome.

The per capita income must rise by eightfold to \$21,664, as per International Monetary Fund's classification. According to July 2023 RBI bulletin, the economy has to grow at 7.6% for 25 years till 2047 to attain a moderately high-income level. So far, the economy has clocked growth higher than 7.6% just seven times since 1991.

This calls for larger sharing of the fruits of growth and not just linear increases. The New Education Policy needs a thorough review and reforms else a generation could forfeit the opportunity to move up the income ladder. An affordable price regime is a must to ensure that India can leapfrog.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

AFTER OVER 53 YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING WHEAT IMPORTS TO BOOST SUPPLIES AND CURB INFLATION

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Promising breakthrough

Sir, Surgeons at the New York University Langone Transplant Institute accomplished a remarkable feat by performing a kidney transplant using a pig's kidney in a person who had died. This breakthrough is significant because it indicates that using pig organs could be a potential solution for organ shortages in human transplant procedures. The transplant took place on July 14 under the leadership of Dr. Robert Montgomery, who heads the Department of Surgery and directs the NYU Langone Transplant Institute. By using a pig kidney with specific genetic changes, the doctors were able to prevent immediate rejection by the human body. This procedure marked a major advancement in the field of xenotransplantation (the transfer of organs between species). The pig kidney, which was genetically modified, continued to function well for more than 32 days after transplantation. This shows promise for eventually conducting similar transplants in living patients who require organ replacements. The pig kidney's performance exceeded expectations. It demonstrated the ability to concentrate urine and eliminate creatinine, a byproduct of muscle function that can be harmful if it accumulates in the body. This suggests that the pig kidney was able to function similarly to a human kidney.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Stressed students

Sir, The 'coaching capital' of India, Kota is again in the news for the wrong reasons. There have been nineteen incidents of suicide in the city this year by students undergoing coaching for competitive examinations. Suicide is not alien to Kota, nor are the suicide helpline prevention numbers or counsellors. But now the district administration has officially taken a few steps to address the students' woes, the most important being counselling them every fortnight to spot suicidal tendencies. This needs to be sustained, but whether or not such massive and repeated counselling sessions are feasible for each and every student is the moot question. More than 2 lakh students go to Kota every year with an ambition to fulfil their and, mostly, their parents' aspirations. It may not be out of place to counsel a few overanxious and overbearing parents as well who push their children to extremes without trying to appreciate their aptitude and acumen.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Haryana to combat malnutrition in Nuh



AGENCIES

Chandigarh, August 20: The Haryana government will introduce a spirulina-based product under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for severe acute malnourished and moderate acute malnourished children on a pilot basis in Nuh for six months.

Spirulina, an algae that grows in fresh or saltwater, is rich in nutrients and possesses antioxidant properties.

A study conducted by the Institute of Health Management and Research (IHMR), Bangalore, demonstrated a 46 and 67 per cent reduction in malnutrition by administering spirulina for six months to children.

Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said three nutrition-rich programmes will be implemented across all blocks of the aspirational district Nuh under Nutrition Campaign-II.

These programmes aim to alleviate malnutrition and anaemia among children and women. Nutritional support in the form of ready-to-eat food items, nutritional packets, and antioxidant-rich foods will be provided to children and women in all blocks of Nuh district.

The Women and Child Development Department will

provide aarthonut (peanut mix) under the Integrated Child Development Scheme to severe acute malnourished and moderate acute malnourished children. He said women and child development would introduce a pictorial card game called "Poshan ki Potli" to raise awareness about the nutritional value and benefits of different food items.

Spirulina, an algae that grows in both freshwater and saltwater, is rich in nutrients and possesses antioxidant properties, according to an official release.

Sanjeev Kaushal, after presiding over the fifth meeting of the state convergence committee under POSHAN Abhiyaan here, said three nutrition-rich programmes will be implemented across all blocks of the aspirational district Nuh.

These programmes aim to alleviate malnutrition and anaemia among children and women. Nutritional support in the form of ready-to-eat food items, nutritional packets, and antioxidant-rich foods will be provided to children and women in all blocks of Nuh district, he said.

The women and child development department will provide 'aarthonut' (peanut mix) under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to severe acute malnourished and moderate acute malnourished children on a pilot basis in Nuh district.

He said the development would introduce a pictorial card game called "Poshan ki Potli" to raise awareness about the nutritional value and benefits of different food items.

Lollapalooza to return to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

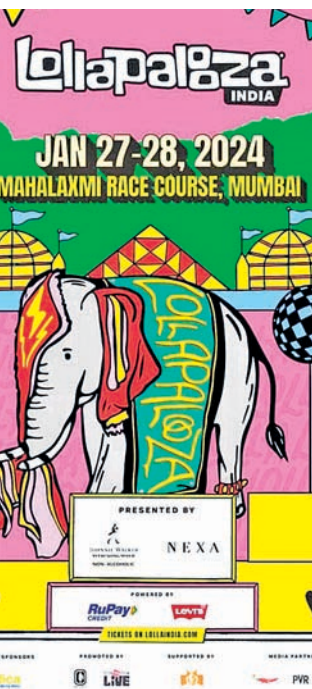
Mumbai, August 20: Multi-genre music festival Lollapalooza will return to India with its second edition, set to be held in January 2024, the organisers announced Friday.

The music festival will take place January 27 and 28 at the Mahalaxmi Race Course here, a press release stated.

"Building upon the immense support and appreciation received during its debut, Lollapalooza India 2024 promises to deliver an unparalleled celebration of music, art, food, activities and culture.

"Featuring four stages with piping energy and over 20 hours of live music performed by some of the biggest names globally and locally, the festival is truly an experience of a lifetime with innovative culinary selections, art, fashion and much more," the organisers said.

BookMyShow Live, the live entertainment experiential division of BookMyShow, will spearhead Lollapalooza India as the promoter and co-producer for the festival's Indian edition along with global producers, Perry Farrell and C3 Presents.



FARMERS IN AHMEDNAGAR STOP ONION AUCTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 20: Farmers in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district Sunday halted the auction of onions to protest the Centre's decision to impose 40 per cent duty on export of the kitchen staple.

Onion growers in Rahuri tehsil of Ahmednagar district halted the ongoing auction of the bulb in the wholesale market.

The Central government Saturday imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions till December 31, 2023 to increase domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices.

"The Union government's anti-farmer stand has again come to fore. Farmers in



Maharashtra were expecting good returns from onion exports, but the imposed duty has ensured that there will not be any export. The prices in the domestic market will crash and

farmers will incur losses," said Sandeep Jagtap, state president of Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatna.

Several parts of Maharashtra have received insufficient rain-

ONION GROWERS IN RAHURI TEHSIL OF AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT HALTED THE ONGOING AUCTION OF THE BULB IN THE WHOLESALE MARKET

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SATURDAY IMPOSED A 40 PER CENT DUTY ON THE EXPORT OF ONIONS TILL DECEMBER 31, 2023 TO INCREASE DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY AMID SIGNS OF INCREASING PRICES

fall and this will delay the arrival of fresh onions in the market, he said, accusing the government of protecting the interests of consumers and ignoring farmers.

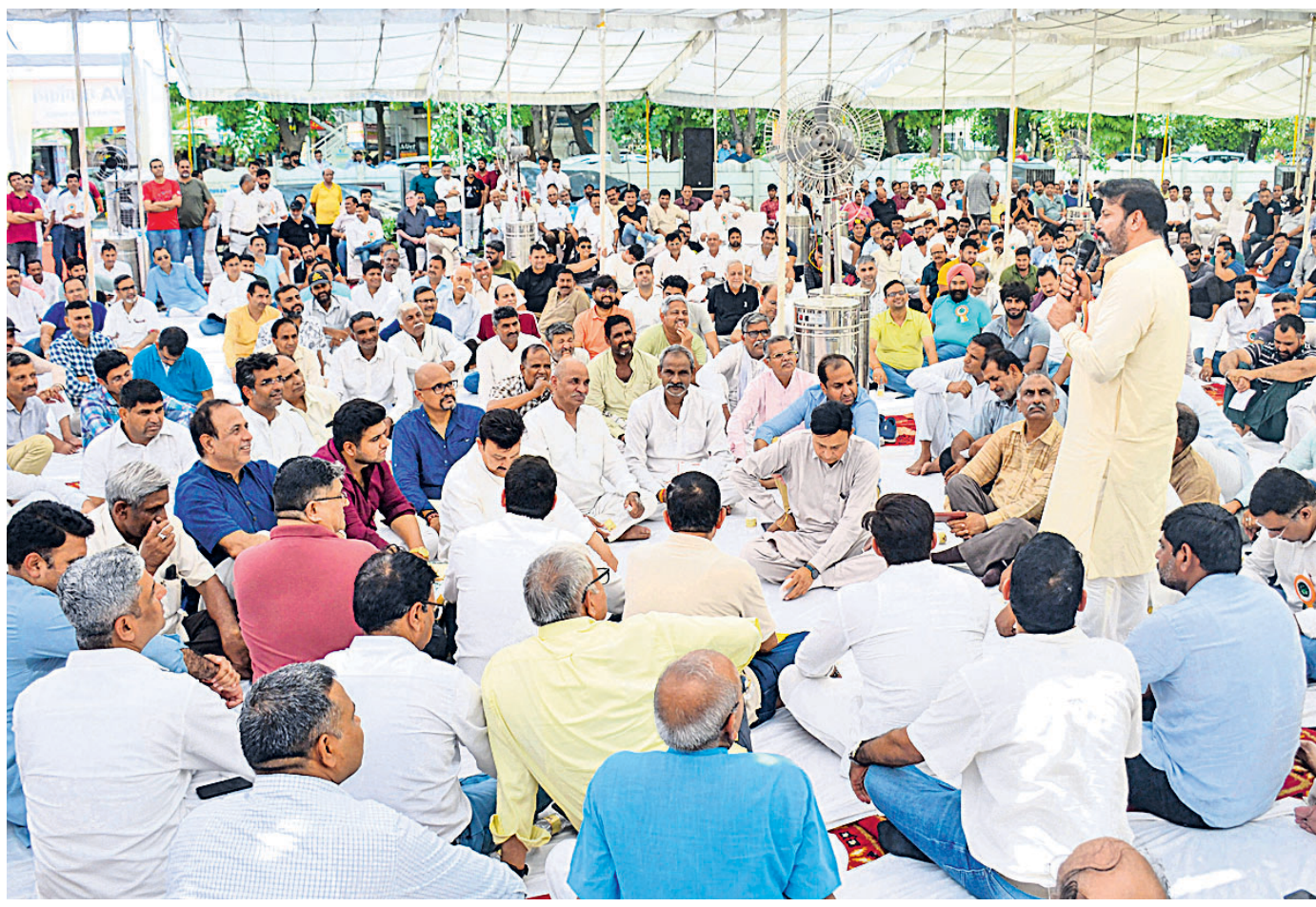
"Protests will be held in wholesale markets across the state to

mount pressure on the Union government," Jagtap said.

A group of farmers in Rahuri tehsil of Ahmednagar district halted the auction of onions in the wholesale market.

"The Centre should also pay attention to our woes because the export duty has sent a message to traders that all the available onion is going to be sold in domestic markets only. Traders have now started quoting lower prices for our produce," a farmer protesting in Rahuri said.

According to sources at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Asia's largest wholesale onion market, there was a rise of nearly 45 per cent in the prices of the kitchen staple last week.



People attend a 'RWA Mahapanchayat', in Gurugram, Haryana

PTI PHOTO

Haryana CM approves several developmental projects for Gurugram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gurugram, August 20 : Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved several key developmental projects aimed at fast-tracking the growth of Gurugram city.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the 12th Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) meeting late evening of Saturday in Gurugram.

The budget for the year 2023-24 encompasses Rs 570.06 crore for infrastructure development (including roads, water supply, sewerage, and storm water management), Rs 1151.77 crore for capital projects, with a notable allocation of Rs 300 crore for health services for the Sheelta Mata Temple project.

Additionally, Rs 36 crore has been earmarked for urban environment initiatives, and a provision of Rs 538 crore has been made for operation and maintenance.

For the annual budget, the authority will have a revenue of Rs 2043.17 crore from various heads, while the remaining Rs 531.23 crore sourced from the existing corpus fund.

Khattar also approved a proposal for a new master water supply line spanning 20.50 kilometers. With a budget of Rs 125 crore, this line will address water supply demands for various city areas and new sectors.

The 200 MLD capacity line, originating from Basai Water Treatment Plant Part II, will serve sectors including 101, 104, 108, 110, 110A, New Palam Vihar, Palam Vihar, Sector 23, and Cyber Hub, facilitating water supply for both old and new parts of the city. Similarly, for the work upgradation of the road connecting Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) from Faridabad Road to NH-48, administrative approval of Rs 109.14 crore was given for the underpass being constructed at Vatika Chowk.



Nuh gears up to host G20 meeting in Sept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 20: Haryana will be hosting the fourth meeting of the G20 Sherpa group in Nuh from September 3 to 7, an official statement said.

Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal Friday conducted a thorough review of the arrangements in the district with several senior officials, including the Additional Chief Secretary of Industries and Commerce, Health, Director General, Information, Public Relations, Language, and Culture and the Director General of Police.

Deputy Commissioners of Gurugram and Nuh districts too were present in the meeting.

Kaushal stressed the event was a matter of national pride and underscored the importance of meticulous planning and attention to detail.

"Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the G20 has been organising meetings on various subjects across the country. Gurugram has already successfully hosted three prior meetings of the G20's Anti-Corruption



Working Group, Startup 20, and discussions on crime and security related to NFT, AI, and Metaverse, showcasing its capability to host significant gatherings," the Haryana government said in its statement.

Nuh made it to headlines after a communal clash broke out there July 31, with several shops gutted and vehicles set on fire.

Six people, including two home guards and a cleric, died in the clashes that erupted there after a procession of the Vishva Hindu Parishad was attacked by mobs on July 31 and spread to Gurugram and other adjoining areas.

The Sherpa Group comprises representatives from the G20 member countries who regularly meet to coordinate preparations for the upcoming G20 Summit, scheduled to take place in the national capital next month.

Jellyfish, stingrays seen on Juhu beach

THE CIVIC BODY HAS ASKED CITIZENS NOT TO VENTURE INTO THE SEA WITHOUT CLOTHES AND WEAR GUMBOOTS ON THE BEACH, THE OFFICIAL SAID, ADDING THAT CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ADVISED AGAINST ENTERING THE WATER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 20: In light of incidents of people getting stung by jellyfish at Juhu beach here, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday issued an advisory for citizens to take precautions while venturing into the sea.

Officials from the fisheries department and senior civic officials visited the beach in the western suburbs and caution boards were placed at various locations warning people about the presence of jellyfish and stingrays, an official said.

The civic body in the advisory has asked citizens not ven-



ture into the sea without clothes and wear gumboots on the beach, the official said, adding that children have been advised against entering the water.

According to the fisheries department, jellyfish and stingrays get washed up on the beach in large numbers from August to October.

The sharp barbs of stingrays can pierce the skin, while a sting from the jellyfish can cause a

surge of electricity, a burning sensation, itching and swelling, it stated.

Experts have advised the use of saltwater to clean the injured area immediately, before consulting a doctor, the civic body stated.

Lifeguards at the beach can be called in for assistance and ambulances are stationed placed at various places, the advisory said.

Step-kids excluded from 2-child limit for panchayat members: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 20: The limit of two children set for panchayat members in Maharashtra will only include biological offspring and not stepchildren, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court ruled on Saturday.

A division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Vrushali Joshi directed for a petition filed by one Khairunisa Sheikh Chand, challenging her disqualification as the member of a gram panchayat on the ground that she has more than three children, to be heard by a single bench of the high court on merits.

Chand in her plea claimed that her husband Sheikh Chand had two sons from a previous marriage and that they now have

only one child from their marriage.

The single bench referred the matter to the division bench to clarify whether the expression 'two children' in the provisions of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act has been used in a generic sense to include stepchildren or in a restricted sense to mean only children born to the person.

The division bench in its order noted that the expression 'two children' has a direct nexus with the word member as used in the provision of the Act.

"The expression 'two children' in the context of a male member would include all his children for whose birth he is responsible, irrespective of the fact that they were born from his previous



and/or present wedlock. In the context of a female member, it would include all children whom she has given birth to, irre-

spective of the fact that they were born from her previous and/or present wedlock," the court said.

The petitioner's advocate Sukrut Sohoni argued that the expression 'two children' under the Act would mean only the biological children of the person in question and the stepchildren of the person cannot be taken into consideration for disqualification.

The high court in its order noted that a person, male or female, may be disqualified if they had given birth to child/children in an earlier wedlock and had again given birth to child/children in subsequent marriage.

In case of a male member, if he is responsible for the birth of more than two children irrespective of the number of marriages, then he would be disqualified, it added.

"Same analogy would apply to a female member when she has given birth to more than two children irrespective of the fact that the children are born from previous or present marriage," the court said in its judgment.

The court noted that the objective behind the provision was to disqualify a person, who has birthed more than two children.

"It is not the object of the said provision to discourage remarriage of a person who has more than two children from his or her previous wedlock," the court said.



INS Trikand during a visit to Iran as part of Indian Navy's operational deployment towards cooperative maritime engagement with regional countries in Bandar Abbas



Vehicles stuck in debris following a recent cloudburst at Saat Meel in Mandi



Artistes perform during 'Atham' procession at Thrippunithura in Kochi



Christian women hold a demonstration condemning the recent attack on a Christian area by an angry Muslim mob in Lahore, Pakistan



Doctors and nursing staff members pose for a photo with newborn babies at a hospital in Surat



A tangerine-themed Vande Bharat Express train before its trial run



Actor Rajinikanth offers prayers at the Hanuman Garhi temple in Ayodhya



Former Vice President Hamid Ansari and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi present the 25th Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award to Siddhartha Shastri on the birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi, at Jawahar Bhawan in New Delhi

of the day quote

You people have given enough opportunities to BJP and Congress in Madhya Pradesh. Look at our governments in Delhi and Punjab, we will fulfill all guarantees. This is Kejriwal's guarantee

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The Centre is concerned over the grave situation in rain-battered Himachal Pradesh and all efforts would be made to rehabilitate displaced persons

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

India is in the final stages of introducing a national policy to promote research and development and innovation in the pharma-medical devices sectors

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

7 pilgrims killed

Dehradun: Seven people were killed and 27 injured when a bus carrying pilgrims from Gujarat fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand Sunday. The bus with 35 people on board was returning from Gangotri when it met with the accident at Gangnani. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who is in Delhi, spoke to top officials about the accident and instructed them to carry out relief and rescue operations at a fast pace.

UAV crashes

Chitradurga (Karnataka): An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) crashed in the agriculture fields of a village in Chitradurga district of Karnataka following a technical snag Sunday. The DRDO said the technical issue is being investigated, however, there was no "collateral damage".

TTE attacked

Kozhikode (Kerala): A travelling ticket examiner (TTE) was allegedly attacked with a knife on board a moving train in Kerala Sunday by a man against whom the railway official had complained to the RPF for purportedly being drunk. The incident occurred on the West Coast Express close to Vatakara in Kozhikode district, a Railway police officer said. The accused was arrested based on the statement of the TTE, police said. The TTE claimed to have suffered an injury to the back of his head in the attack.

2 dead, 20 injured

Paderu (Andhra Pradesh): Two passengers died and 20 were injured when an APSRTC bus plunged into a valley near Paderu in Alluri Sitaramaraju district Sunday, police said. The bus, headed to Paderu from Visakhapatnam, fell off the ghat road at a place called Ammavari Padalu viewpoint, around 20 km from Paderu, a police official said.

Man murders wife, two children

Ujjain: A 45-year-old man allegedly hacked to death his wife and two children with a sword and then killed himself following a fight over their pet dog in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district Sunday, police said. The incident took place in the wee hours of Sunday at the family's house in Badnagar area, located about 50 km from the district headquarters, they said.



The government must ensure disarmament to start the talks with the warring Kuki and Meitei communities for resolving the crisis in Manipur

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

AMARNATH YATRA TO BE SUSPENDED

The annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas will remain temporarily suspended from August 23 in view of reduced pilgrim flow and track restoration works, an official spokesman said Sunday



KHARGE FORMS NEW CWC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Sunday reconstituted the party's top decision-making body - CWC - with some leaders of the G23 grouping, including Shashi Tharoor and Anand Sharma, who were critical of the party leadership in the past among the 84 members.

The all-important Congress Working Committee, formed 10 months after Kharge took charge after defeating Tharoor, includes several young faces who are below the age of 50, leaders from weaker sections and 15 women.

The new CWC has 39 regular members, 32 permanent invitees, including some in-charges of state, and 13 special invitees, including presidents of the Youth Congress, the National Students' Union of India, the Mahila Congress and the Seva Dal as ex-officio members.

Mukul Wasnik, Anand Sharma and Tharoor, who were part of the group of 23 dissident leaders who had written to then Congress president Sonia Gandhi and had raised questions on the party's leadership,

Sachin Pilot, who rebelled against the party's government in Rajasthan in 2020 and was later removed as Deputy Chief Minister, is among the new CWC members



are among the regular members of the new CWC.

Manish Tewari and Veerappa Moily, who were also part of the grouping, have been made permanent invitees to the CWC. Sachin Pilot, who rebelled against the party's government in Rajasthan in 2020 and was later removed as deputy chief minister, is also among the new CWC members. Prominent exclusions in the new CWC include ex-MP from Rajasthan Raghuveer Singh Meena, Jai Prakash Aggarwal, Dinesh Gundu Rao, H K Patil, K H Muniappa, P L Punia, Pramod

Tiwari and Raghu Sharma. Gundu Rao, Muniappa and Patil have since become ministers in the Congress government in Karnataka.

Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi and Pratibha Singh have also been included in the important panel, according to a Congress statement. Former Maharashtra chief minister Ashokrao Chavan, N Raghuvendra Reddy, Tamradhwaj Sahu, Deepa Das Munshi, Syed Naseer Hussain, Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, G A Mir, Gourav Gogoi and Jagdish Thakore are

among the new additions in the CWC as regular members.

Among the new CWC permanent invitees are Kanhaiya Kumar, Mohan Prakash, K Raju, Chandrakant Handore, Meenakshi Natarajan, Phulo Devi Netam, Sudeep Roy Burman, Damodar Raja Narasimha, Gurdeep Sappal and Sachin Rao.

Those also included as special invitees are former Union minister Pallam Raju, besides Pawan Khara, Ganesh Godiyal, Kodikkunil Suresh, Yashomati Thakur, Supriya Shrinete, Priniti Shinde, Alka Lamba and Vamshi Chand Reddy.

The new CWC, which replaces the Steering Committee that was formed as a stop-gap arrangement after Kharge became the party president on October 10 last year, has been announced as the principal opposition party prepares for a crucial round of assembly polls in the coming months and the 2024 general elections.

PM's China claim untrue: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leh, August 20: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Sunday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that not an inch of the land in Ladakh has been taken over by China is not true.

"The people of Ladakh are concerned about their grazing land 'taken over by the Chinese Army,'" Rahul Gandhi, who is on a tour of Ladakh, said after paying tributes to his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary.

"All the people (in Ladakh) say the Chinese Army has intruded and taken over our grazing land and they (people) cannot go there now. They are clearly saying this even as Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) says that not an inch of land was taken over which is not based on truth," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said he was planning to visit Ladakh during his Bharat Jodo Yatra but had to abandon the plan due to some "logistical reasons". "So I thought let me come and do a detailed tour of Ladakh. I came to Pangong and am going to visit Nubra and Kargil. The idea is to listen to what the people have to say and what their concerns are. Over here, the concern is of the (grazing) land that has been taken over by China. The people have been affected in a big way because their grazing lands have been taken over. Another concern of the people is the lack of cellular connectivity," he said.

Gandhi said ask anyone in the region, they will tell you that the grazing land has been "taken over by the Chinese Army". The Congress has been questioning the government over the border situation with China. Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

'Will ensure NEET exemption'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 20: DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Sunday assured all efforts to ensure NEET exemption for the state, as his son and cabinet minister Udhayanidhi led the party's state-wide hunger strike demanding the abolition of the test.

The DMK will not stop till Tamil Nadu gets exemption from the central qualifying test for medical courses, Stalin said, while the opposition BJP slammed the ruling party in the state for "politicising" NEET.

Udhayanidhi said the party won't stop with today's agitation and that it would even stage a protest in Delhi over the issue.



DMK Youth Wing Secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin with a newly wedded couple during DMK's day-long fast to protest against the Union government over the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, in Chennai

The CM's remarks at a wedding coincided with his party's agi-

tation seeking to do away with the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET).

Stalin also took a swipe at Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, who recently said that he would never sign in favour of the state's anti-NEET bill.

The CM said now that the matter is with the President, the Governor's job is only that of a "postman" who has to pass on to Rashtrapati Bhavan matters taken up by the state Assembly.

The ruling party's hunger strike was held throughout the state except in Madurai where the AIADMK is holding a massive state conference today. In the temple city, the NEET strike will be held on August 23.



People buy rakhis ahead of Raksha Bandhan at Sadar Bazar in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Delhi govt's WCD official booked

THE ACCUSED HAD ALLEGEDLY SEXUALLY ASSAULTED HIS FRIEND'S DAUGHTER SEVERAL TIMES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2020 AND JANUARY 2021, A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: A senior official of the Delhi government's Women and Child Development department has been booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl several times and impregnating her, police said Sunday.

The accused had allegedly sexually assaulted his friend's daughter several times between November 2020 and January 2021, a senior police officer said. Responding to the allegation against the official, the Delhi government said the accused is a Deputy Director in the state Women and Child Development (WCD) department, adding that "the sternest possible action should be taken against him" in case the official is found guilty.

"He (the accused) is a Deputy Director in the WCD Department. Since an FIR has been lodged in the alleged matter, Law should take its course. Delhi Government is sensitive in regard to such serious matters of women's safety and child abuse. If he has committed any such reprehensible act, then the sternest possible action should be taken against him," the government said in a statement.

The official's wife has also been charged in the case for giving the girl medicines to terminate the pregnancy, the police said.

The matter involving the



official and his wife came to light when the girl, who is now in Class 12, recently narrated the incident to a counsellor at a hospital where she was admitted following an anxiety attack, the police officer said.

The girl was staying with the accused and his family at their house after her father passed away on October 1, 2020. The accused used this opportunity to allegedly sexually assault her several times, the officer added. When the minor allegedly became pregnant, she informed the wife of the accused who later asked her son to get medicines for pregnancy termination and gave them to the girl, the officer said.

The girl returned home with her mother in January 2021 when she came to meet her.

She had an anxiety attack in August this year and her mother admitted her to St Stephens' hospital, where the girl narrated the whole incident during the counselling session, the officer added.

Later, the hospital informed the Burari police station here and a case was registered against the accused under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, the police said.

The girl's statement is yet to be recorded before the magistrate, the officer said, adding that an inquiry is being conducted into the matter.

Centre okays ₹200cr for flood-hit Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The Centre Sunday approved the release of ₹200 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund as advance assistance to Himachal Pradesh to help the rain-battered state undertake relief measures for affected people.

A spokesperson of the Union Home Ministry said the Centre had earlier approved the advance release of ₹360.80 crore from the central share of the State Disaster Response Fund in two instalments on July 10 and 17.

The Central government also released ₹189.27 crore of the state's past dues from the NDRF on August 7, the spokesperson said.

The home ministry has approved the release of ₹200 crore, as an advance from the National Disaster Response Fund to the government of Himachal Pradesh to help them undertake relief measures for affected people during the ongoing monsoon season, a spokesperson said.

Rare 'Tytler's leaf Warbler' bird spotted in Bihar

THE WINGED BEAUTY IS A 'THREATENED SPECIES' ON THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) LIST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 20: "Tytler's leaf Warbler", a rare bird species that migrate from higher to lower altitude in the country during winter, was spotted for the first time in Bihar, a state forest official said Sunday.

Tytler's leaf Warbler is a medium-sized bird having a comparatively long and slender bill and prominent supercilium. Such a bird was recently spotted at Sundervan in the bird ringing station in Bhagalpur district, state Additional Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden PK Gupta said.

Tytler's leaf Warbler is a "threatened bird species" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list. "During the bird monitoring activities at Sundervan in Bhagalpur, we recently spotted a warbler of the Phylloscopidae family." It is the first authentic record of the occurrence of this species in the lower elevation at an altitude of 52 metres above the mean sea level (MSL) and also in the Gangetic plains in Bihar. Therefore, we are very excited after the discovery of the rare



bird species," Gupta said. As far as available records, Tytler's leaf Warbler follows an altitudinal migration, he said. "It breeds in the western Himalayas, Himachal Pradesh

and Uttarakhand at the high altitude. In winter, it migrates to southern India, particularly in the Western Ghats and the Nilgiris," he said. Earlier, the species was oc-

asionally sighted in the Saurashtra and Morbi region of Gujarat, Panna and Melghat tiger reserves and Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary (Karnataka), the forest official said. "Collection of the species from Etawah (on April 7, 1879) and Gorakhpur (February 18, 1910) is the easternmost existing record of the species reported during return migration," the chief wildlife warden said, adding, after that, "no sighting of Tytler's leaf Warbler has been recorded" from this area.

Gorakhpur, according to the forest rules, is considered in

eastern India. Bihar has become the fourth state in the country to have a bird ringing (tagging) station wherein rings are placed on the legs of winged species to study their migration pattern, mortality, territoriality and other behaviour with the help of encrypted codes embedded in the attached tracking device, Gupta said.

"Bird ringing is a useful research instrument used to collect information on the survival, productivity and movement of migratory birds, helping us to keep an eye on their populations," the official added.

international



So far, Donald Trump remains the clear Republican frontrunner, unscathed among his Republican base amid mounting indictments

MORE EVACUATIONS

Greek authorities evacuated another five villages near the northeastern border with Turkey Sunday where a large summer wildfire that has already destroyed several homes over the weekend drew dangerously close



of the day quote

China is willing to work with Washington on reducing global warming as long as its political demands are met

HAN ZHENG | VICE PRESIDENT, CHINA

What we're trying to do is find ways we can cooperate to actually address the crisis of climate. China is critical to our being able to solve this problem.

JOHN KERRY | CLIMATE ENVOY, US

The UAE has promised to contribute \$100 million to support development projects in countries affected by irregular migration

MOHAMMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN | UAE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

18 killed as bus catches fire

Lahore: At least 18 people, including women and children, were killed and 16 others injured when a passenger bus caught fire Sunday in Pakistan's Punjab province after colliding with a pick-up van carrying a fuel tank. The bus en route to Islamabad from Karachi carried about 40 passengers when it collided with the van at Pindi Bhattian section of Faisalabad motorway, some 140 kilometres from Lahore, around 4:30 am, the police said.

11 labourers killed in blast

Peshawar: At least 11 labourers were killed and two others injured in a terrorist attack in the restive North Waziristan tribal district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan, police said Sunday. Terrorists detonated explosives near Gul Mir Kot in Shawal tehsil late Saturday night and blew up a vehicle carrying 16 labourers, Deputy Commissioner North Waziristan Rehan Gul Khattak said. As many as 11 labourers, who worked in an under-construction government building, were killed on the spot while two were critically injured, and three went missing, Khattak said.

SL rules out rice shortage

Colombo: Sri Lanka has ruled out a shortage of rice until the harvest of the next cultivation season despite the impact of dry weather on the current crop, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement Sunday. Quoting Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, the statement said that 503,000 hectares of paddy fields have been cultivated in the current season, with some of them affected by drought. The minister said there will not be a shortage of rice in the future as a successful harvest was received in the last cultivation season, Xinhua news agency reported.

Gunmen kill 23 in central Mali

Bamako (Mali): Armed gunmen killed at least 23 people and wounded 12 in an attack on a village in central Mali, officials said Sunday. Sidi Mohamed El Bechir, governor of the Bandiagara region where the attack took place, said unidentified men killed dozens of people and set fire to several homes in the village of Yarou on Friday. "The assailants stayed in the village until 7 pm and burned down part of the village, smashed stores and took away the villagers' cattle," said Amadou Lougué, president of the regional youth organisation, Sunday.

Why Russia's Luna-25 probe crashed on Moon

REUTERS

Moscow, August 20: Russia's first moonshot in nearly half a century has failed after its Luna-25 spacecraft spun out of control and smashed into the moon. Following are details about the mission and what its failure is likely to mean. LUNA-25: It was Russia's first moon mission since the Soviet Union's Luna-24 returned with samples from the moon in 1976. A Soyuz 2.1 rocket carrying the Luna-25 craft blasted off from the Vostochny cosmodrome, 3,450 miles

(5,550 km) east of Moscow, at 2:11 a.m. Moscow time August 11. The lander was boosted out of Earth's orbit toward the moon a little over an hour later. It entered the moon's orbit August 16 and was due to attempt a soft landing on Monday.

WHAT DOES FAILURE MEAN FOR RUSSIA? Failure for the prestige mission underscores the decline of Russia's space power since the glory days of Cold War competition when Moscow was the first to launch a satellite to orbit



the Earth - Sputnik 1, in 1957 - and Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to travel into space in 1961. Russia had not attempted a moon mission since Luna-24 in

1976 when Leonid Brezhnev ruled the Kremlin. Luna-25 was supposed to execute a soft landing on the south pole of the moon August 21, according to Russian space officials. Failure also underscores the pressure on Russia's \$2 trillion economy, which has so far withstood what the West casts as the most stringent sanctions ever imposed. The West says the sanctions have weakened Russia's economy, particularly the high-tech industry parts of it which often rely on imports. President Vladimir

Putin says Russia's economy is showing remarkable strength. Over the past three decades, Russia has considered various moon missions which were delayed or shelved amid the chaos of the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union and the ensuing economic and political turmoil. The failure of the 2011 Fobos-Grunt mission to one of the moons of Mars underscored the challenges facing Russia's space programme: it could not even exit the Earth's orbit and fell back to Earth, smashing into the Pacific Ocean in 2012.

Pak Prez denies signing Army act, secrets law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 20: In a dramatic turn of events, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi denied Sunday signing Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, claiming that he was shocked to know that his staff "undermined" his orders and failed to return the unsigned bills within the stipulated time.

In the statement posted on his X account, President Alvi claimed to have instructed his staff to return the bills unsigned within the stipulated time to render them ineffective.

"As God is my witness, I did not sign Official Secrets Amendment Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Amendment Bill, 2023 as I disagreed with these laws," said Alvi, who belonged to jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party before assuming the post.

The report of the bill completing the process to become law emerged as former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, also a close aide of Khan, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable last year.

There was no statement from the President's House. Addressing a press conference, Interim Law Minister Ahmad Irfan Aslam said that the bills have become laws after President Alvi failed



to exercise either of the two options given in Article 75 of the constitution.

He said that the amended Army Act was sent to the office of the president August 2 while the Secret Act was sent to his office August 8. He said the president could have recorded his observation within ten days as he did on several previous occasions.

To a question, the law minister said that he has not witnessed such a situation in the past history of the country when the president raised an objection to a law by saying that he had not signed it or it became law after he rejected it.

Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said at the same presser that the interim government has no plan to confiscate the record from the office of the president. "No action will be taken against the president; we have full respect for the president and his office," he said.

Zelenskyy vows retaliation

AGENCIES

Kyiv, August 20: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Sunday vowed stern retaliation for a Russian missile strike in the center of the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv that killed seven people and wounded almost 150 others the day before.

The governor of the Chernihiv region, Vyacheslav Chaus, said Sunday that the total number of people confirmed to have been wounded had risen to 148.

Further east, Russian forces shelled the city of Kupiansk on Sunday morning, seriously wounding a man, according to Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. A man was killed later Sunday in Russian shelling of Vovchansk, also in the Kharkiv region, according to Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands and Denmark announced they will give F-16 warplanes to Ukraine, a long-awaited announcement that Zelenskyy called an important motivation for his country's forces, embroiled in a difficult counteroffensive against Russia.

After months of entreaties from Zelenskyy for F-16s to bolster the Ukrainian air force, the US recently gave approval for the Netherlands and Denmark to provide Ukraine the American-made jets. Zelenskyy travelled to both countries Sunday to finalize the delivery deals.

At a military air base in the



DRONE ATTACKS DEEPER INSIDE RUSSIAN TERRITORY HAVE BEEN ON THE RISE SINCE A DRONE WAS DESTROYED OVER THE KREMLIN IN EARLY MAY SUCCESSFUL STRIKES HAVE EXPOSED THE VULNERABILITIES OF MOSCOW'S AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

southern city of Eindhoven, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told Zelenskyy that the Netherlands and Denmark are committing to deliver F-16 warplanes to Ukraine.

Rutte said the planes would be delivered once unspecified conditions were met.

The announcement came minutes after Rutte and Zelenskyy inspected two gray F-16 jets parked in a hangar at the base.

The US approval Friday for the Netherlands and Denmark to deliver American-made F-16s to Ukraine was seen as a major boost for Kyiv, even though the fighter jets won't have an impact any time soon on the almost 18-month war.

Meanwhile in Russia Sunday, the Defense Ministry said Sunday that its air defense sys-

tems had prevented an attack by two drones on the neighboring Belgorod region, which also borders Ukraine.

In a separate statement, Belgorod regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said that 12 airborne targets had been shot down while approaching the regional capital, also called Belgorod.

Meanwhile, Russian air defenses jammed a drone flying towards Moscow early Sunday causing it to crash. Russia's Defense Ministry called it "an attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack."

Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports briefly suspended flights, but no victims or damage were reported.

In the city of Kursk, five people were wounded when a Ukrainian drone hit a train station, regional Gov. Roman Starovoit said.

Kursk is the capital of the western region of the same name, which borders Ukraine.



A helicopter drops water on the flames as the fire advances through the forest toward the town of Pinolere in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

Kishida visits Fukushima plant

AGENCIES

Tokyo, August 20: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made a brief visit to the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant Sunday to highlight the safety of an impending release of treated radioactive wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, a divisive plan that his government wants to start soon despite protests at home and abroad.

His trip comes hours after he returned home Saturday from a summit with US and South Korean leaders at the American presidential retreat of Camp David. Before leaving Washington Friday, Kishida said it is time to make a decision on the treated water's release date, which has not been set due to the controversy surrounding the plan.



Since the government announced the release plan two years ago, it has faced strong opposition from Japanese fish-

ing organisations, which worry about further damage to the reputation of their seafood as they struggle to recover from the accident.

Groups in South Korea and China have also raised concerns, turning it into a political and diplomatic issue.

The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., say the water must be removed to make room for the plant's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks from the tanks because much of the water is still contaminated and needs further treatment.

Japan has obtained support from the International Atomic Energy Agency to improve transparency and credibility and to ensure the plan by TEPCO meets international safety standards.

Indian-American vote matters in swing states

In the looming 2024 elections, Indian-American voters are likely face a tough call with candidates from their community jumping into the electoral fray

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 20: Comprising nearly 1 per cent of all registered voters in the United States, Indian-Americans have become a potent political force, not just due to their growing numbers -- around four million -- but also because of their growing influence as well as affluence.

Often considered to be key players in the battleground or swing states, the impact of Indian-Americans was evident on the ballot box as they turned up in huge numbers to vote in the tightly-contested November 2020 presidential race.

The Republicans and the Democrats left no stone unturned to woo the community -- from introducing Indian-origin Kamala Devi Harris as running mate to walking hand-in-hand with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 'Howdy Modi' event.

During the 2020 Democratic primary, candidates across the board received substantial financial backing from Indian-Americans.

In September, Indian-Americans raised a record high of \$3.3 million for the Joe Biden campaign in one night. And over the weekend, an event for Harris was estimated to have raised at

least another \$2 million to \$3 million, a Quartz report said.

At 71 per cent, Indian-Americans reported the highest rate of voting among the Asian American communities in the 2020 race, a nine percentage point increase over 2016, according to the US Current Population Survey data.

Some 1.3 million Indian-Americans voted in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin -- the states with no clear allegiances or leanings towards either of the two major parties in the US.

"In select swing states, the Indian-American population is

larger than the margin of victory that separated Hillary Clinton and Trump in the closely contested 2016 presidential race," said Sumitra Badrinathan from the University of Pennsylvania.

The Indian-American community has historically supported the Democrats in presidential elections with exit polls from 2016 indicating that four out of five (79 per cent) Asian Americans voted for Hillary Clinton, while only 18 per cent voted for Donald Trump.

A YouGov poll found that 72 per cent of registered Indian-American voters backed Biden in 2020, 77 per cent voted for



Hillary Clinton in 2016 and 84 per cent for Barack Obama in 2012.

Results from Carnegie's 2020 Indian-American Attitudes Survey said that a large section of the community views the

Republican Party as unwelcoming.

"Indian-Americans refrain from identifying with the Republican Party due, in part, to a perception that the party is intolerant of minorities and overly influenced by Christian evangelicalism," the Carnegie study said.

While Democrat Harris leads the pack as Biden's running mate, Vivek Ramaswamy, Nikki Haley and Hirsch Vardhan Singh have thrown their hats from the Republican side. Scientist and entrepreneur Shiva Ayyadurai has announced his bid as an independent candidate.

of the day quote

Overall, the branch network would cross 2,000 by the end of three years say by March 2026. The bank is now present in 319 districts of the country. The idea is to have a presence in each district of the country

SWARUP KUMAR SAHA | MD, PUNJAB & SIND BANK

With Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech and more macro data lined up globally this week, we expect domestic as well as global markets to remain under pressure. Also, RBI would release its meeting minutes on Thursday

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RETAIL RESEARCH), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

The ICE (internal combustion engine) business margins are now 14.5 per cent. Effectively, it means that we are back to pre-Covid levels which were around 14 per cent

NIRANJAN GUPTA | CEO, HERO MOTOCORP

SHORT TAKES

Murugappa family settles dispute

Mumbai: Murugappa family, the promoters of Chennai-based diversified Murugappa Group, Sunday announced a settlement agreement among its members putting an end to the fight that arose after the death of MV Murugappan. Quoting family representatives, a statement said, "The family arrangement ensures that all the issues between the members will be settled, and they are happy that they have agreed to resolve this amicably. The terms of the family arrangement itself are confidential." The ₹74,200-crore Murugappa group, which began in the banking markets of Burma in the 1900's, currently operates 29 businesses catering to diverse markets around the world. It has a presence in 40 countries across six continents employing over 73,000 employees. Its businesses span from agriculture, engineering, and financial services to others such as tea, rubber, construction, polymer fabrics, textiles and travel solutions.

Paper, paperboard imports rise 39%

New Delhi: India's imports of paper and paperboard surged by 39 per cent at 409,000 tonne in the first quarter of 2023-24 against 294,000 tonne in the year-ago quarter, according to an industry body. In value terms, imports rose by 28 per cent to ₹3,153 crore in the first quarter of FY2023-24 compared to the year-ago period, Indian Paper Manufacturers Association said citing Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data. The surge in imports comes on the back of a 25 per cent increase in paper and paperboard imports in FY2022-23 over the previous fiscal, according to the official trade data. In FY23, paper and paperboard worth ₹12,531 crore were imported.

OVL secures 3-yr extension

New Delhi: India's flagship overseas firm ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has secured another three-year extension to explore oil and gas in a Vietnamese block in the contested waters of the South China Sea, the firm's parent ONGC said. This is the eighth extension for OVL, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The seventh extension to explore oil and gas will be till June 15, 2023.



Corporate governance should be seen as a collective and unit responsibility of all stakeholders involved in a startup
SHANTANU DESHPANDE | FOUNDER, BOMBAY SHAVING COMPANY

ESFB TO ENTER NEW SEGMENTS

Private sector Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd has plans to foray into credit cards and personal loan segments as it expects to build a consumer finance portfolio, a top official said. Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) was also investing in developing a mobile application to serve merchants and help improve their business operations



INFLATION SURGING

Veggie prices to dip; oil a concern

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TAKING STEPS TO CONTROL INFLATION, INCLUDING RELEASING WHEAT AND RICE STOCKS FROM RESERVES, PUTTING RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS OF RICE, SUGAR, AND ALLOWING IMPORT OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The government expects vegetable prices to start cooling off from next month with the advent of new crops in the market, but rising crude oil prices is a concern even though it is still within the tolerable zone of \$90 a barrel, a finance ministry official said.

The official further said that reduction in excise duty is not on cards and the government is driving infrastructure investment, and private sector capital investment is yet to gather steam.

He further said that the Centre's capital expenditure which was 28 per cent of Budget estimates at the end of June quarter, will reach 50 per cent by September end. In the 2023-24 budget, the government had hiked capital investment outlay by 33 per cent to ₹10 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

The official further said that a 6 per cent rainfall deficit is unlikely to impact kharif sowing as the agriculture sec-



Retail inflation touched a 15-month high of 7.44% in July, a spike from 4.87% in June

Wholesale price based inflation continued in the negative zone for the fourth straight month at (-)1.36%

In July, the annual retail inflation in the vegetables basket was at 37.44%, spices at 21.63%, pulses and products at 13.27%, and cereals and products at 13%

Crude oil prices currently are hovering around \$85 per barrel; no excise duty cut expected in petrol, diesel

tor is resilient.

"Flexible trade policy has been adopted to keep prices down. We must remember that global food prices are very high due to the Ukraine war and the supply of food grains has

been affected and that is a global factor from which India cannot remain isolated. We have taken measures to isolate our population from that inflation and relative to others we are in a much better position,"

Mcap of seven of top 10 firms dips by ₹80,200 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The combined market valuation of seven of the top 10 valued firms declined by ₹80,200.24 crore last week amid a weak trend in equities, with Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest laggards.

In a holiday-shortened last week, the BSE benchmark fell by 373.99 points or 0.57 per cent.

From the top 10 pack, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever and Infosys were the gainers while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, ITC, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance saw a decline in their valuation.

The market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tanked ₹29,894.45 crore to ₹12,32,240.44 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation declined by ₹19,664.06 crore to ₹12,02,728.20 crore.

The market valuation of Bajaj Finance eroded by ₹12,233.5 crore to ₹4,15,763.47 crore and that of ITC tumbled ₹8,338.45 crore to ₹5,50,821.26 crore.

Bharti Airtel's market capitalisation (mcap) fell by ₹8,081.38 crore to ₹4,78,730.70 crore and that of State Bank of India dipped ₹1,026.33 crore to ₹5,11,424.89 crore. The mcap of ICICI Bank diminished by ₹962.07 crore to ₹6,65,550.83 crore. However, Hindustan Unilever added ₹12,347.1 crore taking its market valuation to ₹6,00,250.08 crore. In the ranking of top 10 companies, Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, ITC, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Finance.

AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

FPIs infuse ₹8,400cr in equities

Before August, Indian equities witnessed an unabated net inflow for the past five months from March to July on the resilience of the Indian economy against the backdrop of an uncertain global macro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have infused close to ₹8,400 crore in Indian equities so far this month primarily due to uncertainty in the global markets, economic concerns in China, and stability of the domestic economy.

According to data with the depositories, FPIs put in a net sum of ₹8,394 crore in the Indian equities from August 1-18.

'MERA BILL MERA ADHIKAR'

Customers can soon upload GST invoice, participate in lucky draw with a cash prize of ₹10L to ₹1cr monthly/quarterly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: Individuals may soon get rewarded for uploading GST invoice on a mobile app as the government is likely to launch the long-awaited 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme soon.

Under the invoice incentivisation scheme, cash prize of ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore monthly/quarterly could be given to individu-



However, in the first week of August, FPIs took a breather and pulled out over ₹2,000 crore from equities on the back of Fitch downgrading the credit rating for the US.

"The uncertainty in the global markets and economic concerns in China again played a role in FPIs shifting their focus back toward Indian markets, which have been more resilient and stable," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

Also, better-than-expected earnings for the June quarter

FPIs invested over ₹40,000 crore each in the last three months

lent positive support to the sentiments, he added.

The last few weeks have been rare in Indian capital market history where both domestic and FPIs have bought into the Indian markets, Abhishek Banerjee, Founder and CEO, of Lotusdew Wealth & Investment Advisors, said.

Before August, Indian equities witnessed an unabated net inflow for the past five months from March to July on the resilience of the Indian economy against the backdrop of an uncertain global macro.

Moreover, FPIs invested over ₹40,000 crore each in the last three months (May, June, and July). The net inflow was ₹46,618 crore in July, ₹47,148 crore in

With the global economic mood getting challenging due to slackening Chinese demand, any weakness in global equities could trigger wild gyrations in local shares and result in FPIs' flow turning choppy going ahead

SRIKANT CHOUHAN | HEAD OF EQUITY RESEARCH (RETAIL), KOTAK SECURITIES

June, and ₹43,838 crore in May. Before March, overseas investors pulled out ₹34,626 crore collectively in January and February. Apart from equities, FPIs invested ₹4,646 crore in the debt market during the period under review.

With this, inflow in the equity market reached ₹1.31 lakh crore, while the same for debt was at over ₹25,000 crore so far this year; data with the depositories showed.

GST REWARD SCHEME ON ANVIL

als who upload invoice received from retailer or wholesaler on the app, two officials told PTI.

The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' mobile app will be available on both IOS and android platforms. The invoice uploaded on the app should have the GSTIN of the seller, invoice number, amount paid and tax amount.

An individual would be able to upload a maximum of 25 genuine invoices in a month on the

app and the invoice should have a minimum purchase value of ₹200, an official said.

Over 500 computerised lucky draws would be conducted every months where prize money could run into lakhs of rupees. Two lucky draws will be done in a quarter where the prize amount could be ₹1 crore, officials said.

The scheme is in the process of being finalised, they said, adding it could be launched as early as this month.

To curb the menace of GST evasion, the government has already made electronic invoice mandatory for B2B transactions where the annual turnover exceeds ₹5 crore.

The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme would ensure electronic invoice generation even in case of B2C customers so as to enable the buyer to be eligible to participate in the lucky draw.

The scheme is conceptualised in a way so as to incentivise citizens and consumers to ask for genuine invoices from the seller when making business to consumer (B2C) purchase of goods or services, which are under the purview of Goods and Services Tax.

This scheme is expected to serve multiple objectives of incentivising and rewarding compliant behaviour by the consumers, encouraging tax compliant businesses, boosting consumer spending, and, checking tax evasion.

FMCG in Q1: Volume & margins grow, small players make comeback

MOST OF THE LISTED FMCG ENTITIES REPORTED VOLUME-BASED GROWTH IN HOME CARE, PERSONAL CARE, BEAUTY AND FOODS PRODUCTS BUSINESS, EXCEPT THE ICE CREAM AND BEVERAGES PORTFOLIO WHICH WAS IMPACTED BY UNSEASONAL RAINS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: The FMCG industry witnessed growth in volume and expansion in gross margins in the June quarter aided by moderation in inflation which also boosted small players in select categories.

Several small players, which had earlier vacated some of the market segments during the peak of inflation, returned back and intensified the competition at the local level, forcing sev-

eral big FMCG players to go for price corrections.

As material inflation reduced from high single digits to low single digits, there has been an uptick in volumes in both urban and rural markets, indicating promising signs of recovery in demand and makers including HUL, ITC, Godrej Consumer, Dabur, Marico and Tata Consumer are increasing spends on advertising and promotions.

Moreover, FMCG players are now passing on the benefits of



lower input costs to consumers, there is a sequential reduction in price growth.

In anticipation of lower prices, FMCG companies are also now seeing trade reducing the stock levels by 1 to 3 days only, said one of the leading makers in its earnings call.

Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said: "During Q1/FY24, most of the economies witnessed

a moderation in inflation. In India too, inflation showed signs of easing, as witnessed in both CPI and WPI data. With this moderation in inflation, there has been an uptick in volumes in both urban and rural markets, indicating promising signs of recovery in demand."

Dabur reported an increase of 5 per cent in net profit to ₹464 crore in the June quarter and

Now inflation is kind of abated in our portfolio and will be investing money back into advertising for surging demand

MOHIT MALHOTRA | CEO, DABUR

total income rose to ₹3,240 crore. Bakery food company Britannia Industries reported a 35.65 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹455.45 crore and net sales were up 8.64 per cent to ₹3,969.84 crore.

HUL reported an underlying sales growth of 7 per cent and underlying volume growth of 3 per cent. Its consolidated sales were up 6.34 per cent to ₹15,240 crore in the June quarter.

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) delivered double-digit volume growth of 10 per cent in Indian business, with a

broad-based performance by Home Care and Personal Care business. Its consolidated net profit grew 19 per cent year-on-year (without exceptional item) and sales of Godrej group's FMCG arm was up 10.45 per cent at ₹3,417.86 crore.

Marico, maker of popular products like Saffola, Parachute, Livon etc reported a 15.64 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹436 crore. However, revenue from operations slipped 3.16 per cent to ₹2,477 crore in the June quarter on account of pricing drops in key domestic portfolios and currency headwinds in international markets.

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) reported a 29.67 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹358.57 crore and its revenue from operations was up 12.45 per cent to ₹3,741.21 crore.

'Plastic market to reach ₹10L-crore by fiscal 2027-28'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 20: India has the potential to emerge as a global plastic supplier and the domestic plastic market is expected to more than triple to reach ₹10 lakh crore by 2027-28, officials said Sunday.

According to the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association, the market size of plastics in India was ₹3.5 lakh crore.

Besides the growth of plastics in the domestic market, the shipment of the products overseas was also expected to reach ₹1 lakh crore from the current ₹40,000 crore.



The Indian plastics industry has proven capabilities. AIPMA has identified 553 plastic products for import substitution, totalling ₹37,500 crore worth of imports, the association's President Mayur D Shah said.

"India also has the potential to emerge as a global plastics supplier. The government and the industry are working together to further encourage growth and create a sustainable environment for the Indian plastics industry to become the global sourcing hub," Shah said.

AIPMA Governing Council Chairman Arvind Mehta said: "The Indian plastic industry is poised for rapid growth. The size of the plastic industry is projected to grow from ₹3.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 to ₹10 lakh crore in 2027-28."

"The exports of plastic products are expected to grow from ₹40,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore, reflecting the global acceptance of Indian products. This is an excellent opportunity for the Indian industry and we must make the most of it," he said in a press release.

Industry officials were here to take part in the fifth edition of the technology conference organised by AIPMA.

"We are also confident that the Indian plastic manufacturing industry will play a vital role in helping the country to become a \$5 trillion economy," Shah said.

Spanish Armada sinks England

SPAIN WIN MAIDEN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL WORLD CUP AS ENGLISH EVES FALTER AT FINAL HURDLE

AGENCIES

Sydney, August 20: Spain won the FIFA Women's World Cup for the first time in their history with skipper Olga Carmona sweeping in the only goal for a well-deserved 1-0 victory over England in the final played here Sunday.

In front of a crowd of nearly 76,000 at Stadium Australia here, Spain were the more accomplished side and had more chances, including missing a second half penalty. Spain's triumph is vindication for Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, which stuck with the coach even after 15 players last year, said they no longer wanted to represent their country under him.

Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament began in 1991. They join outgoing champions the United States, and past winners Germany, Norway and Japan.

In front of Spain's Queen Letizia, defender Carmona scored what turned out to be the winner, rampaging from left-back to thrash the ball in low and hard on 29 minutes.

Wiegman had resisted the temptation to recall Chelsea attacker Lauren James after her two-match ban and kept faith with the team that beat co-hosts Australia 3-1 in the semifinals.

Playing in their blue second kit, England had the first sniff of a chance in the fifth minute but Lauren Hemp shot weakly at goalkeeper Cata Coll.

There was little to choose between them in the opening exchanges before both teams had golden opportunities on the quarter-hour mark.

First, Manchester City for-



MOMENT OF ECSTASY: (Left) Olga Carmona celebrates after her goal; Spanish footballers pose with the World Cup trophy after winning the final against England at Sydney, Sunday

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Golden gloves	Best goalkeeper	Mary Earps (England)
Golden Ball	Best player	Aitana Bonmati (Spain)
Golden boot	Top Scorer	Hinata Miyazawa (Japan)
Most promising youngster		Salma Paralluelo (Spain)

ward Hemp struck the bar with a curler that had Coll well beaten. Spain went up the other end and should have scored but Salma Paralluelo - in for Alexia Putellas - missed the ball in the six-yard box.

Hemp then had another tame effort saved in the 24th minute. Five minutes later Spain, who had never won a knockout game at the Women's World Cup until this tournament and had lost 0-4 to Japan in the group phase,

were ahead.

Mariona Caldentey slid in an inch-perfect pass for Carmona, who came flying unmarked down the left before lashing the ball into the bottom corner.

England looked uncharacteristically rattled and the 19-year-old Barcelona attacker Paralluelo, who was a constant threat, shaved the post with the last kick of the half.

Wiegman made a double change at the break. James and Chloe Kelly replaced Rachel Daly and Alessia Russo as Wiegman switched from a back-five to a flat

back-four.

But it was Spain who nearly doubled their lead almost straight after half time, Caldentey dinking inside and forcing Mary Earps to turn the ball around the post.

With 20 minutes left, Spain were awarded a penalty when VAR was called into action and, after a long review, Keira Walsh was judged to have handled the ball inside the box. Jennifer Hermoso stepped up but her penalty was weak and Earps saved comfortably to keep England just about alive.

Satwik, Chirag among top medal contenders

BWF World Championship starts Monday with HS Prannoy leading the charge in men's singles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, August 20: The in-form duo of HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will be at the forefront of India's medal hunt at the BWF World Championships beginning here Monday. All eyes will also be on Satwiksaraj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the country's best doubles pair. Currently the duo of Satwik and Chirag are ranked second in the world. They will certainly aim to better the colour of the bronze that they claimed in the last edition.

India have won 13 medals, including one gold, four silver and eight bronze medals since 1977 when the tournament first started before turning into a biennial event from 1983 to 2005. It has been an annual event, with the exception of the Olympic year, ever since.

While the legendary Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a medal - a bronze - at the World Championships in 1983, the country's shuttlers, led by PV Sindhu, have managed to win at least one medal since 2011.

One player who has been lurk-

- PV Sindhu has won 5 medals, the maximum by an Indian
- Indian shuttlers have won 13 medals so far in the competition
- Prakash Padukone was the 1st Indian to win a medal at the World Championships

ing around the podium in the last few editions is Prannoy. He finished at the quarterfinal stage in 2021 and 2022 and would be a favourite this time to win a medal.

With a Malaysia Masters win and a final finish at Australian Open, Prannoy is looking in good shape to tick another box when he begins his campaign against Finland's Kalle Koljonen, ranked 56th in the world.

However, the shoulders which will carry the load of expectations most are of Satwik and Chirag, given their sensational show with title-winning runs at Indonesia Open, Asia Championships, Swiss Open and Korea Open in 2023. The second seeds, who have received a bye in the first round, is expected to go deep in the draw.



Sheoran seals Olympics spot

Baku (Azerbaijan): India's Akhil Sheoran secured the country's fifth Paris Olympics quota in shooting after winning the bronze medal in men's rifle 3-position competition at the ISSF World Championships here Sunday. Sheoran aggregated 450.0 in the eight-man final to finish third. He was placed sixth in the qualifications with an aggregate score of 585. Austria's Alexander Schmiril won the gold medal in the event with a score of 462.6. The other Indians who have sealed Olympic spots so far are Bhowneesh Mendiiratta (men's trap), reigning World Champion Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil (men's 10m air rifle), Swapnil Kusale (men's 50m rifle 3 positions) and Mehuli Ghosh (women's 10m air rifle). Meanwhile the Indian women's team won a gold in the pistol event.

Gold for Anahat

Dalian (China): India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships which ended here Sunday. The 15-year-old Anahat defeated Hong Kong's Ena Kwong 3-1 in the final. Anahat had beaten Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

Hockey colts lose

Düsseldorf: Sudeep Chirmako's twin strike was not enough as the Indian junior men's hockey team lost 2-3 to Germany in the 4 Nations tournament here. Chirmako (seventh, 60th) scored a brace for India, while Michel Struthoff (41st), Ben Hasbach (53rd) and Florian Sperling (55th) were on target for Germany. India had grabbed an early lead, but it was Germany who dominated possession and their efforts proved fruitful in the third and fourth quarters.

Messimagic rules

Nashville: Lionel Messi scored early in regulation and converted the first shot in penalty kicks as Inter Miami beat Nashville SC 10-9 on penalties in the Leagues Cup final here Saturday. Messi scored for the 10th time in seven games since joining Inter Miami, scoring in the 23rd minute after dribbling past a couple of defenders. After the match ended with a 1-1 scoreline after extra time, Messi converted the first penalty kick for his team. Earlier in the 71st minute he was unlucky not to score as his shot hit the post. It is due to Messi's efforts that Inter Miami are now making a mark in Major League Soccer in the US.

Disastrous show by Indian athletes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, August 20: Indian athletes' disappointing show in the World Championships continued on the second day with Santhosh Kumar Tamilarnsan and Sarvesh Anil Kushare crashing out in the 400m hurdles heat race and high jump qualification round respectively here Sunday. Tamilarnsan finished seventh in Heat No 3 with a time of 50.46 seconds and failed to make it to the semifinals. The top four finishers in each of the five heats, and four other fastest runners qualified for the semifinals.

Kushare failed to clear 2.25m in three attempts and finished 11th in qualification round Group B and 20th overall. Those who cleared 2.30m or at least 12 best performers from qualification round Group A and Group B together qualified for the final round.

India had a disastrous day in office Saturday with national record holder 3000m steeple-chaser Avinash Sable failing to qualify for the final round after finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat race.

Three Indians brought up the rear in the men's 20km race walk final while young Shailli Singh

Ryan beats blood clots to retain title

Budapest: So, Ryan Crouser didn't set a new world record. This win felt even better than that. Just before the American shot-putter was scheduled to leave for the World Athletics Championships here, Crouser was diagnosed with two blood clots in his lower leg. The doctors told him it was safe to fly and it was up to him and his family whether to compete. He showed up and defended his world title Saturday night with a championship-record throw of 23.51 metres using a new technique he invented which has been dubbed the 'Crouser Slide'.

also failed to make it to the women's long jump final on a forgettable opening day for the country's athletes.

Ajay Kumar Saroj ran his personal best of 3 minutes 38.24 seconds in men's 1500m heats but that was not enough to qualify for the semifinals, while none of the three Indians in the men's triple jump - Praveen Chithravel, Eldhose Paul and Abdulla Aboobacker - made it to the final round. At least two of the three were expected to progress.

India win T20I series against Ireland

AGENCIES

Dublin, August 20: India beat Ireland by 33 runs to win the second T20 International (T20I) here and take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Batting first, India posted a commendable 185 for the loss of five wickets, riding on some fine knocks by vice-captain Ruturaj Gaikwad (58, 43b, 6x4, 1x6), Sanju Samson (40, 26b, 5x4, 1x6) and Rinku Singh (38, 21b, 2x4, 3x6).

The Indian bowlers then restricted Ireland to 152 for the loss of eight wickets. Skipper Jasprit Bumrah (2/15), pacer Prasidh Krishna (2/29) and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (2/37) shared six wickets among themselves while left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh (1/29) picked up one wicket. Andy Balbirnie (72, 51b, 5x4, 4x6) was the lone Irish batter to offer any resistance to the Indian bowlers. By dismissing him, Arshdeep reached the milestone of 50 wickets in T20 internationals.

The match was as good as over when Ireland were reduced to 28 for three in the sixth over of their innings. Balbirnie tried to take the battle to the Indian bowlers, but lacked support from the other end as wickets fell at regular intervals. During the course of the Ireland innings, Bumrah probably became the only bowler to bowl a maiden in the 20th over.



Ruturaj Gaikwad hits out during his knock against Ireland, Sunday

The takeaway for India from the series against an opponent like Ireland is the return to fitness and form of both Bumrah and Krishna. Both bowled at full pace and hurried the opposition batters quite consistently. Bumrah's return certainly bodes well for Indian cricket with the Asia Cup and the 50 overs World Cup just round the corner.

Earlier when India batted, Yashasvi Jaiswal (18) and Tilak Verma (1) fell cheaply. The Indian innings needed some solidity

3 Odia players in 39 probables for Asiad hockey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 20: Three Odia players have found a place in the 39-member core probables announced Sunday by Hockey India for the Hangzhou Asian Games. They are all defenders namely Amit Rohidas, Dipsan Turkey and Nilam Sanjeev Xess. The preparatory camp for the core probables will start Monday, announced HI in a release. The Asian Games champions will automatically qualify for the Paris Olympics next year.

The Asian Games is scheduled to be held from September 23 to October 8. The Indian men's team, who lifted the Asian Champions Trophy title for a record fourth time in Chennai earlier this month, will begin their campaign against Uzbekistan, September 24.

"Over the past few months, we have shown that we are growing as a team and learning constantly," India chief coach Craig Fulton said in the release. "The camp is important for us as we get ready for Hangzhou Asian Games which could be our road to securing a spot for the Paris Olympics 2024. In the Asian Champions Trophy, we played really good hockey and remained unbeaten," he added.

Karnataka take team honours

4 new national records created on concluding day of swimming meet in Odisha capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 20: Karnataka retained the overall championship team title finishing with 50 gold, 47 silver and 27 bronze medals (119 in total) in the 39th Sub-junior 49th Junior national Aquatic Championships which concluded Sunday at the Aquatic Centre inside the Kalinga Sports Complex here. In second place were Maharashtra with 54 medals (11 gold, 24 silver and 19 bronze) while Tamil Nadu occupied the third spot in team rankings with 37 medals (10 gold, 9 silver and 18 bronze).

Vritti Agarwal, Tanishi Gupta and Sanidhi Mukherjee were adjudged best winners in their respective categories for girls



Karnataka swimmers and support staff pose with dignitaries at the Aquatic Centre inside the Kalinga Sports Complex

while in the boys' segment the honours went to Yug Chelani, Ishaan Mehera and Abdul Hafiz.

The final day's proceedings saw four new national records being created. Palak Joshi of Maharashtra created a new national record in the 200m backstroke for Group I girls with a time of 2:21.38. In another record-breaking performance, Vedanta V Madhir of Karnataka clocked 2:11.74 seconds to erase the pre-

vious record of 2:11.97 seconds held by Aaryan Bhosale in 200m backstroke for Group II boys.

In the Group II girls' 50 metres butterfly competition Tanishi of Karnataka edged out state-mate Dhinidhi Desinghu clocking a time of 28.52 seconds. Dhinidhi who finished second in the event clocked 28.71 seconds. Incidentally both broke the national record of 28.86 seconds set earlier in the day by Tanishi.

Novak, Alcaraz in summit clash

AGENCIES

Cincinnati, August 20: Carlos Alcaraz saved a match point Saturday on the way to a three-set victory over Hubert Hurkacz as he lined up title clash with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Cincinnati Masters tennis tournament here.

World No. 1 Alcaraz held on for a 2-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 victory over Hurkacz, rallying to beat the big-serving Pole for the second time in as many weeks. World No. 2 Djokovic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 to reach the final, which will be a repeat of last month's epic Wimbledon final.

"I played a very poor game, but I bounced back and sealed the deal in the 12th game of the second set," Djokovic said. "I could have done some things better, but I'm pretty happy about winning in straight sets," he added.

City, Spurs register comfortable triumphs

AGENCIES

London, August 20: Tottenham showed there is life after Harry Kane with a 2-0 win over Manchester United Saturday as Manchester City beat potential Premier League title challengers Newcastle 1-0.

Spurs were playing for the first time at home since record goalscorer Kane departed for Bayern Munich. However, in Ange Postecoglou's first match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the home side showed promising signs of a new era as Pape Sarr's strike and Lisandro Martinez's own goal continued United's sluggish start to the season.

Many believed Newcastle would never get a better chance for their first league win away to City since 2000. Pep Guardiola was unhappy the champions



Julian Alvarez had been forced to play just three days after winning the UEFA Super Cup over Sevilla in baking conditions in Athens. City were also without Kevin De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and John Stones, but were still far too good for the Magpies.

It took one moment of magic for Guardiola's men to take all three points, though, when Julian Alvarez fired into the top corner on 31 minutes.

Erling Haaland missed a hat-trick of chances to add to the lead, but City were rarely troubled defensively.