Actor Tamannaah Bhatia says strength doesn't take away femininity, rather it becomes an asset for women LEISURE P2

TAMANNAAH'S STANDPOINT



18 BODIES FOUND

Greek firefighters find 18 bodies in an area of northeastern Greece ravaged by a major



LAKSHYA ADVANCES

Lakshya Sen through to the third round of World Championships with a straight-game win over Jeon Hyeok Jin

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 143 | www.orissapost.com

Govt losing revenue due to GST: Debroy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 22: Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy Tuesday said the government was losing revenue due to the GST, which should be revenue neutral with a single

Speaking at an event organised by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce here, he however said that GST has led to a lot of simplification.

"The ideal GST is one that has a single rate, and it was meant to be revenue neutral. When it was introduced, there were some calculations by the Ministry of Finance then that said, in order to be revenue neutral, the average GST rate must be at least 17 per cent. The average rate now is 11.4 per cent. So because of GST, the government is losing revenue," the eminent economist said

Debroy said the public as well as members of the GST Council want the 28 per cent tax rate to come down, but "no one wants the 0 per cent and 3 per cent tax rates to go up. That way, we will never have a simplified GST," he said at the 'Special Session on Resilient and Self-Sufficient India'.

CM's nod to 3 bridges in Malkangiri district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has sanctioned ₹101 crore for construction of three bridges to fast-track development activities in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, benefiting 37,000 people in the region. The three bridges will be constructed in tribal-dominated Chitrakonda block in the district, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. Patnaik had earlier launched

'Setu Yojana' for socio-economic transformation and upliftment for Swabhiman Anchal, formerly known as the hotbed of Maoists. The bridges will be constructed over Khaliagarh canal (from Yantri to Dhakpadar road), over Kumudaguda river (from Ghanbedha to Kodigandhi road) and over Machhkund river connecting Biseguda to Yantri.



How come no news channel has reported that Praggna learnt all his moves from our popular leader?

wildfire

INTERNATIONAL P10

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23 | 2023

DOG DAY AFTERNOON: A dog bathes in a fountain in Rome, Tuesday. Italy is facing a heatwave with temperatures in the capital as high as 37° Celsius (98 Farenheit) AP/PTI PHOTO

WORLD CUP CHESS FINAL Praggnanandhaa holds Carlsen for a

draw in Rd 1 match

AGENCIES

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 22: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa held his own against World No1 Magnus Carlsen to secure a draw in the first classical game of the final of the FIDE World Cup Chess here Tuesday.

The 18-year-old Indian GM held his own against a fancied and higher-rated opponent and forced a stalemate in 35 moves playing white pieces.

In the middle of a major time crunch, Praggnanandhaa was able to hold Carlsen for a draw in an objectively equal position with white pieces. The Indian played a solid game and agreed to a draw on move 35.

"I don't think I was in any trouble at all," Praggnanandhaa said after the game.

However Carlsen will have the advantage of playing white in the second game of the twomatch classical series Wednesday.

Praggnanandhaa had earlier stormed into the final by shocking world No.3 Fabiano Caruana

The Indian teenager became only the second player from the country to reach the final of the world cup after the legendary Viswanathan Anand and qualified for the Candidates tourna-

17 minutes of terror

Chandrayaan-3 set to script history with soft-landing on lunar surface today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 22: The historic scheduled touchdown of ISRO's ambitious third Moon mission Chandrayaan-3's lander module near the south polar region of the Moon Wednesday will be watched with bated breath, even as the critical process of soft-landing has been dubbed by many, including ISRO officials, as '17 minutes of terror'.

With this, India has set its eve to become the first country to reach the uncharted south pole of Earth's only natural satellite. The LM comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) is scheduled to make a touchdown on the lunar surface at 6:04 pm Wednesday.

If the Chandrayaan-3 mission succeeds in making a touchdown on moon and in landing a robotic lunar rover in ISRO's second attempt in four years, India will become the fourth country to master the technology of soft-landing on the lunar surface after the US, China and the erstwhile Soviet Union.

SUNITA WILLIAMS EXCITED

With the highly anticipated landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon scheduled Wednesday, Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams has expressed her excitement and anticipation for the event. In a statement shared by National Geographic India, she emphasised the importance of lunar exploration, not only for the knowledge it promises to unveil but also for the potential it holds for sustainable living beyond our planet. "Landing on the Moon will provide us with invaluable insights. I am truly thrilled that India is at the forefront of space exploration and the pursuit of sustainable living on the Moon. These are truly exciting times," Williams said.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandravaan-2 and its objectives are to demonstrate safe and soft-landing on the lunar surface, roving on the Moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

Chandrayaan-2 had failed in its lunar phase when its lander 'Vikram' crashed into the surface of the Moon following anomalies in the braking system in the lander while attempting a touchdown September 7, 2019. Chandrayaan's maiden mission was in 2008.

The ₹600 crore Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched July 14 onboard Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) rocket, for a 41-day

voyage to reach near the lunar south pole. The soft-landing is being attempted days after Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the Moon after spinning out of control.

After the second and final deboosting operation August 20, the LM is placed in a 25 km x 134 km orbit around the Moon.

The module would undergo internal checks and await the sunrise at the designated landing site, ISRO has said, adding that the powered descent - to achieve soft-landing on the Moon's surface - is expected to be initiated at around 5:45 pm

Wednesday. The space agency said the Mission Operations Complex (MOX), located at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) here, is buzzing with energy and excitement.

"The mission is on schedule. Systems are undergoing regular checks. Smooth sailing is continuing," ISRO said in an update this afternoon, adding that the live telecast of the landing operations at MOX/ISTRAC begins at 5:20 pm Wednesday.

ISRO's Space Applications Centre Director Nilesh Desai said, "If any health parameter (of the lander module) is found abnormal on August 23, then we will delay the landing by four days to August 27.

The critical process of soft-landing has been dubbed by many including ISRO officials as "17 minutes of terror", with the entire process being autonomous when the lander has to fire its engines at the right times and altitudes, use the right amount of fuel, and scan the lunar surface for any obstacles or hills or craters before finally touching down.

DIG shunted after wife 'tortures' home guard

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), North –Central range, Brijesh Kumar Rai has been shunted to the state police headquarters (HQ) in Cuttack following allegations of harassment and torture levelled against the senior IPS officer's wife by a woman home guard who lost both her legs in a suicide bid.

The state Home department Tuesday initiated the action against Rai, who was also the Principal in-charge at the Police Training College (PTC), Angul, with immediate effect after the incident came to light.

Sources said the home guard Sairidri Sahoo - lives at Ranigoda in Angul district along with her family. She has reportedly been working as a home guard in Angul district for the past 19 years. Sahoo was deployed at the residence of Rai for the past seven months.

In a letter to the DG Home Guards August 13, Sahoo alleged that she was made to do house-

hold chores by the senior IPS officer's wife who allegedly tortured her regularly even over slightest of mistakes. Rai's wife threatened to dismiss Sairidri from her job whenever she protested

Matters became worse August 4 when Rai's wife allegedly kicked Sairidri out of the DIG's residence and even threatened to oust her from job. A dejected Sairidri later tried to end her life by sleeping on the railway tracks. Though she had a providential escape, she lost both her legs in the process. Meanwhile, taking suo motu

cognizance of media reports, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), asking the latter to initiate an inquiry into the matter and submit a report by September 15.

Rights activist Jayant Kumar Dash has also filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), demanding legal action against the senior IPS officer and his wife and compensation of ₹30 lakh to the victim.

Historic India Club in London announces closure

MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION SENSEX **65220.03** 👚 3.94 19396.50 2.90 DOLLAR 83.00 ₹0.31 EURO 90,40 **1** ₹109 GOLD

WEATHER moderate

SILVER ₹ 71,965

■ *The club has its roots in* the India League which campaigned for the country's independence in Britain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 22: The India Club in London, with its early roots in the Indian independence movement as a hub for nationalists including Krishna Menon, will shut down next month after losing a protracted battle against its closure.

The historic meeting venue and eatery, which had won its battle to prevent the building in the heart of London's Strand from demolition a few years ago, was served a notice by the landlords to make way for a more modernised hotel.

Proprietors Yadgar Marker

and his daughter Phiroza launched a "Save India Club" appeal as they fought to keep it going but now announced its impending closure.

'It is with a very heavy heart that we announce the closure of the India Club, with our last day open to the public on September 17," they said.

The India Club has its roots in the India League, which campaigned for Indian independence in Britain, with its founding members including Krishna Menon – who went on to become first Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

As well as housing one of the UK's early Indian restaurants, the Club quickly transformed into a hub for a rapidly growing British South Asian community in the aftermath of Indian independence and Partition.



Club since childhood "Menon intended the India Club to be a place where young Indian professionals living on a shoestring could afford to eat, discuss politics, and plan their

been helping out her father at the



at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), when she worked on the exhibition 'A Home

Away from Away: The India

Club' in 2019, curated by the

Commission since 1946, is located

UK's conservation charity National Trust. The Club, which has functioned as an Indian restaurant on the Strand near the Indian High

on the first floor of the 26-room The India Club, which for

decades has served popular Indian dishes like butter chicken and masala dosas has long played an important role in serving the Asian community in London.

The freeholder of the building, Marston Properties, had earlier put in an application with Westminster City Council for a "partial demolition" to create a new hotel. The application was

unanimously turned down by the Council in August 2018, noting the venue's importance as a cultural institution in the heart of London, Senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor took to social media to lament the closure announcement, given his journalist father Chandran Tharoor's connection with the historic venue.

"As the son of one of its founders. I lament the passing of an institution that served so many Indians (and not only Indians) for nearly three-quarters of a century.

"For many students, journal- 🔫 ists and travellers, it was a home away from home, offering simple and good quality Indian food at affordable prices as well as a convivial atmosphere to meet and maintain friendships," heposted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.



leisure

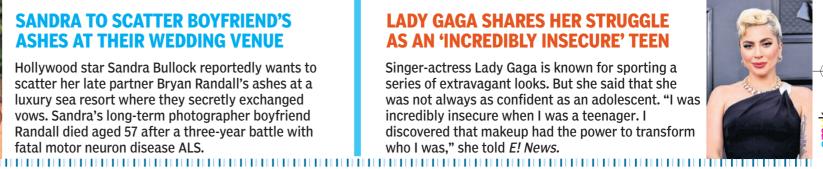


SANDRA TO SCATTER BOYFRIEND'S ASHES AT THEIR WEDDING VENUE

Hollywood star Sandra Bullock reportedly wants to scatter her late partner Bryan Randall's ashes at a luxury sea resort where they secretly exchanged vows. Sandra's long-term photographer boyfriend Randall died aged 57 after a three-year battle with fatal motor neuron disease ALS.

LADY GAGA SHARES HER STRUGGLE **AS AN 'INCREDIBLY INSECURE' TEEN**

Singer-actress Lady Gaga is known for sporting a series of extravagant looks. But she said that she was not always as confident as an adolescent. "I was incredibly insecure when I was a teenager. I discovered that makeup had the power to transform who I was," she told E! News.



GaneshaSpeaks.com FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

You spend happy times with your loved ones today. Ganesha suggests you learn to play some musical instrument as it is a good way to express emotions Besides, it gives you a novel method to attract new people. Do it promptly before the mood changes

TAURUS

This day you are likely be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesha sees you losing touch with reality and making errors in judgment, in your assessment of facts. You will, by sheer force of your tenacity and determination ensure that things work out in the end. In spite of an initial lack of focus, you will be able to sort out your affairs and find that everything turns out in your favour.

You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted. An auspicious and joy-filled day awaits, says Ganesha

CANCER

You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesha. you will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will glad den you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you

Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may humr into you today. You will be in a happy

VIRGO

Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imag nation, innovation and motivation to fur ther your enterprise, advises Ganesha. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesha

Ganesha says you will be appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor. You will spend most of your time looking after your external beauty. Due to this you will not be able to pay attention to any thing else other than your looks.

SCORPIO

Despite a secured job and a harmonious home environment, you are still looking for something else. Long-term, financial security keeps bothering you. And your worries are solved to some extent as unexpected monetary gains are on cards today, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesha. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business vield profits.

CAPRICORN

Celebrations are in the offing and all the near and dear ones are invited to the party. Today, you will enjoy yourself to the fullest, feels Ganesha. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespec tive of how hard you have worked to achieve them. Realty seems a good investment option for you.

AQUARIUS

If the Almighty loads you with pain, He will also bless you with pleasure, assures Ganesha. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able finish them off one by one. It will drain you out, so later on the day take a hot water bath, sit back and relax, says Ganesha.

PISCES

You are not by nature ill-tempered or jealous. However, you will need to be on guard against being both, today. Someone may try to sully your image or slander your name today. However, the best way to deal with provocation is not to loose your temper and to continue as usual, for things will take care of themselves soon enough, says Ganesha.

Elnaaz's take on marriage

Mumbai:Actress Elnaaz Norouzi, who recently won hearts with her performance in Made in *Heaven 2*, says that she is quite a romantic person in real life. Although she initially didn't want to get married, she has had a change of heart over the years. Asked about her take

on marriages, the actress said, "If you had asked me this a couple of years back, I would be like, 'No, I don't want to get married!' Now, I think with the years, my thoughts have changed a lot. I am quite a romantic person and I think it's quite rare to

added, "I

find romantic of me. Someone days. I want who I can talk to to get marand discuss ried for things with. sure. She fur-

think I would definitely want an Indian wedding and an Iranian wedding. I want a destination wedding as well. I want it big. Marriages are very special and hopefully you just do that once in your life and hence it should be really big. I have my family members living in Europe, Iran, America and in India. I have so many people so I just want it

to be like a big affair." On her ideal man Elnaaz stated, "An ideal man for me is someone who is emotionally available and who I can depend on. No matter what happens, he's there for me. He can take care Mumbai: After 22 years, cherishing this moment Sunny Deol's recent release *Gadar 2* has created ture projects.

the same craze and received an overwhelming response from the audience like the original blockbuster film. The film has stormed the box office by setting new records. The actor who is currently

shared his plans for fu-

Post the screening of his film in London, Sunny Deol told, "I have not still planned anything as to what I'm going to be doing next, hopefully, because I really want to cherish the moment and I want to

take my step properly, one step at a time." He added, "I want to

do cinema which is what I've seen now, how people are wanting it and they want this kind of larger than life film and a film with all the values to it, which most of our cinema has not been

doing for a long time. So, I just hope I get some more subjects that can light up

the silver screen. On the streets of London, Sunny Deol made people dance to the beats of dhol as he broke out into the signature steps from Gadar 2.



'Strength does not take away femininity'

Tamannaah Bhatia's character Anya in investigative thriller *Aakhri Sach* is a perfect balance of physical, mental, and emotionally strong qualities, while still embracing and

expressing

femininity.

strength and competence in her profession, vet she also embraces her emotions and vulnerability.

Talking about the same, Tamannaah said: "A woman being strong doesn't make her androgynous. Strength does not take away femininity, it is an other asset of femininity. Women have always been very instinctive, that's an innate nature of women, we always have an intuition for everything.'

When we can marry our skills with our intuition, there's nothing more powerful than that and that is what Anya essentially embodies," she

deaths, an investigating officer and various theories, Aakhri Sach is inspired by true events.

'Aakhri Sach' takes you on an emotional journey with a talented ensemble of Tamannaah, Abhishek Banerjee, Shivin Narang, Danish Iqbal, Nishu Dikshit, Kriti Vii and Sanjeev Chopra, Pratik Sehajpal, will be seen in a cameo

Produced by Nirvikar Films, directed by Robbie Grewal, and written by Saurav Dev, Aakhri Sach will stream from August 25,

on Disney+ Hotstar.

Nushrratt exceeds her own expectations

to essay the role of Jyoti in Akelli, says she never knew she could do so much acting or different roles.

off, she did not know she could do so much. The actress said: "When I started I did not know I could do so much acting. I never knew I could do dif-

CROSSWORD

things only if required. "Awaz change karun, chaal badlun, look

"But karte karte and enjoy karte I have just



 $\label{thm:mumba:mumba:mumba:} Mumbai: Actress \, Nushrratt \, Bharuccha, who is now gearing \, up$

In a conversation, the *Dream Girl* actress spoke about playing such roles and making a mark with them. But when she started

ferent roles. I started with what was given to me, I read it and tried to have fun with it and do it in a different way." Nushrratt said that in order to make her characters stand out she tries different

change karun to add that little bit of nuance to the quirk if it is needed. If it's not needed I am happy to play a normal girl."

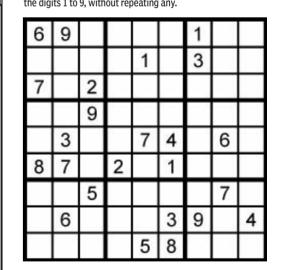
explored a wider world of films and characters which I had not thought of. It has been my discovery that it just happened," she shared. In Akelli, set to release August 25, Nushrratt plays an ordinary Indian girl trapped in a combat zone. AGENCIES

FUN

DOST

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.



CALVIN AND HOBBES

PEANUTS

YOU WANT ME TO SIGN YOUR



NO, I DON'T WANT

STUPID CAST !

ANYONE TO SIGN MY

FIVE YEARS UNTIL RETIREMENT

I COULD WRITE

THE BICENTENNIAL

SOMETHING ON IT ABOUT

STUPENDOUS MAN'S STUPENDOU CUNNING TRAP! ZOUNDS T'S STUPENDOUS MAN'S FIENDIS NEMESIS, THE CRAB TEACHER COMING TO FINISH HIM OFF.

IF I KNEW FOR

CERTAIN THAT I HAD

RABIES, I'D BITE HER!



BREVITY



Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction con

Acr	<u>oss</u>
7	Brave
8	It works like a

- charm
- 9 Duet plus one 10 Meat
- seasoning 11 Decathlon
- event 13 Secret supply 15 Panoramic
- <u>Down</u>
- 1 Become
- tiresome

17 Light fluffy egg

20 Benchmark

in pain

24 Chewy candy

21 Sheltered spot

23 Squirm, usually

16 Beliefs 18 An act of kindness

4 Quagmire

6 Retaliation

12 High fliers

14 Excuse and

overlook

5 Mountain peak

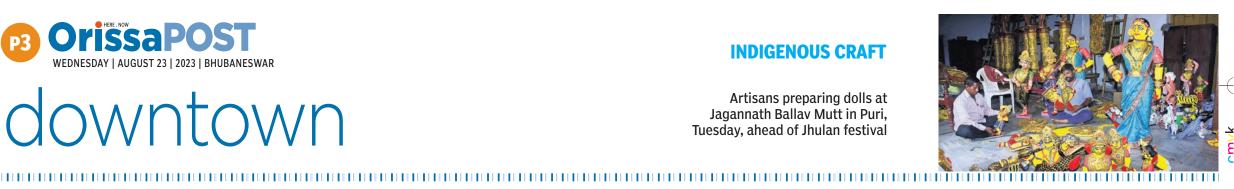
- 19 Not now 2 Prairie wolf 22 Spring
- CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

HARPOON CROSSWOR R M B S A F K CHEDULES ADIO 1 4 5 2

SUDOKU

SOLUTIONS

4 2 7 3 6 5 9 1 8 9 1 2 6 4 2 6 7 4 1 9 4 1 6 9 8 5 7 3 2 1 4 9 2 3 8 6 7 5 6 9 4 5 7 3 1 2 8



downtown



MAKING A POINT: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy addresses students of Shailabala Women's Autonomous College in Cuttack, Tuesday, before commencement of a debate competition on 'Media, Democracy and Youth' ahead of completion of 50 years of the premier Odia daily (RAJKISHORE MOHANTY)

2 Saradha execs get 5-yr jail term

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The designated court under Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Act, 2011 in Balasore convicted two executives of Saradha Realty India Limited and sentenced them to undergo five years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) over multicrore rupees chit fund scam, Tuesday.

Special Judge Biswajit Das also slapped a penalty of $\stackrel{>}{\sim} 2.4$ lakh on each of the convicts -Bichitrananda Das and Basudev Samal, the state coordinator and Balasore branch manager of Saradha Realty India Limited respectively—after holding them guilty under Sections 467, 468, 420, 406 and 120B of the IPC, Section 4, 5 and 6 of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act and Section 6 of the OPID Act. Failure to pay the penalty would entail additional three months jail term,

PONZI SCAM



Saradha Realty India **Limited has** illegally collected ₹4.16 crore from as many as Odisha promising high returns during company neither gave any dividends nor

the court ordered.

With its branch in Balasore, Saradha Realty India Limited has illegally collected ₹4.16 crore from as many as 2,735 depositors in Odisha promising high returns during 2010-2013. However, in the subsequent stage, the company neither gave any dividends nor returned their principal amounts.

The multi-level marketing

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

2,735 depositors in 2010-2013. However, the returned their principal

company siphoned investments from the gullible people through different schemes including Saradha Rreality and Saradha Tours and Travels. The duo was arrested by police following complaints in April 2013. The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch subsequently investigated the case, special public prosecutor Pranab

Freedom fighter Makar Das no more

Bhubaneswar: Veteran freedom fighter Makar Charan Das died at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack Tuesday at the age of 99, family sources said. Das was admitted to SCB for agerelated illness. He breathed his last at 6:40am while undergoing treatment, they said. Hailing from Kendrapara district, Das joined the freedom movement against the British empire and was jailed. Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and many others expressed grief over the demise of Das and offered condolence to the bereaved family.

Khandagiribari area. The IIC of

Belaguntha police limits of Ganjam district. "On August 15, we got information that an elderly woman has been murdered in

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22:

Commissionerate Police Tuesday

arrested a woman for killing her mother-in-law by slitting her

throat with a sharp weapon at

their Khandagiribari residence

under Bharatpur police limits

here August 15. The accused was

identified as Baisakhi Palei, 24,

of Indragarh village in

Khandagiri police station along with other staffers rushed to the spot and called the scientific team for examination. The police identified the deceased as Mada Palei of Indragarh village under Belaguntha police limits in Ganjam district. We also came to know that the deceased was a widow and had two sons - Rabi and Mantu. Elder son Rabi had tied knot with Baisakhi, a native of the same village. Later, police along with the scientific team found that the elderly woman was lying on her bed with her throat slit. We noticed blood stains at some places on the

wall while attempts were made

Accused Baisakhi killed her mother-in-law as the latter was suspecting her to be indulging in extramarital affairs with some youths

to wipe out stains on the floor which the scientific team confirmed," said a senior police official Tuesday.

In the evening of August 15, Baisakhi had left her five-yearold daughter at the tutor's residence despite his refusal. Later, she told some of her neighbours that some miscreants stalked her suspiciously.

Meanwhile, the deceased's younger son Mantu stepped out for some work around 7pm. Taking advantage of the situation, Baisakhi went inside the room and killed her mother-inlaw with a knife. After a while, Mantu and his nephew Deepak returned from the market and found Mada murdered.

The neighbours told the police that Baisakhi was lying on the ground pretending to be unconscious. She was rushed to AIIMS for treatment in an auto-

Police later started investigation by registering a case (354/23) on the basis of a complaint lodged by the deceased's sister. "After inspection of the crime scene, we confirmed that no outsider had entered the house. When we asked Baisakhi, she lied that two masked miscreants entered the room and one strangulated her with a stole and she lost her sense. Doctors, however, denied finding any strangulation mark on Baisakhi's neck and confirmed that she had not lost her senses during admission," added the senior official.

On the fateful day, Baisakhi lodged a false report before Belaguntha police that a thief had fled after brutally assaulting her mother-in-law.

"We found that this time also Baisakhi and the deceased were alone in the house August 15. We collected all the facts and circumstantial evidence of the past and current incidents and started sustained interrogation of Baisakhi who confessed that she wanted to eliminate her motherin-law as the latter was suspecting her to be indulging in extramarital affairs with some youths of her village," he added.

BMC waives charges on lifting of green garbage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: In an attempt to involve citizens in keeping the Capital city clean and encourage use of `SAFABhubaneswar App', the Municipal Bhubaneswar Corporation (BMC) has waived the charges levied on lifting of green garbage and construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

The decision was taken keeping in view the volume of green garbage produced during rainy season and to prevent obstructions in drains due to roadside dumping

The facility can be available through 'SAFA Bhubaneswar App' being used for several municipal services. This will keep a record of citizens' pro-activeness for making their City clean, said BMC sources. Other than these, paid services through the app remain unchanged.

The contracts committee of BMC in presence of Mayor Sulochana Das and Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange has discussed different project activities. Prioritising the sanitation need of the communities in the season, the civic authorities have engaged



The civic authorities have engaged 12 to 15 vehicles in each zone for lifting of extra garbage and construction as well as demolition waste

12 to 15 vehicles in each zone for lifting of extra garbage and C&D waste, said the commissioner.

This apart, two excavators have been provided to cater to emergencies. Citizens have to utilise SAFA Bhubaneswar App' for the required services. On certain observations, the house discussed the urgent lifting of extra garbage piled up at some places.

On the other hand, the fines for repeated and gross insanitation behaviour will be collected through POS machine only.



A leading Agrochemical Manufacturing and Exporting Company with its Flagship product & Brand Leader BOOM FLOWER (New Generation Plant Growth Regulator & Now CIB/Govt. Approved) and also dealing with quality Biostimulants, Biological Pesticides & Bio Fertilizers having branches all over India are recruiting the following positions in their marketing expansion

SALES OFFICERS

BHADRAK, BHARAMPUR, JAJPUR, JAIPUR, BHAWANI PATNA, BERGER, Qualification: Minimum 2-3 Years experience in Agriculture Business Sales for specifically in H.O. location with B.Sc (Agri)/Diploma or equivalent.

Competitive Salary and Attractive Incentive and Additional Perks



DEVI CROPSCIENCE PVT LTD Corporate Office: 'Devi House', 281-4, Sivagangai Main Road Gomathipuram, Madurai-625020, Tamilnadu Branch Office: No.540/2726, Gosala Road, Nayabazar,

krout@devicropscience.com | WhatsApp No.-8327707879 / 8986192352

Madhupatna, Cuttack - 753004, Odisha

DA CASE

Via files chargesheet against Pathak, son

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The Vigilance Directorate Tuesday filed a 5,000-page chargesheet against former Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash Pathak before a special court here for possession of disproportionate assets (DA) worth over ₹14.25 crore.

The Vigilance officials filed

the chargesheet after receipt of sanction of prosecution from the Centre against the fatherson duo. Abhay, the then Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Plan, Program and Afforestation), Odisha, was arrested along with his son following registration of a DA case against him in November 2020. After investigation, Abhay was found in possession of assets disproportionate to the tune of ₹14,25,46,901. Over ₹10 crore of cash deposits and transfers of around ₹5 crore in different bank accounts of Abhay and his son were found.

Clerical employees at greater risk from AI: ILO study

enerative artificial intelligence (AI) is more likely to augment than destroy jobs by automating some tasks rather than taking over a role entirely, according to a study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). However, certain clerical jobs may never emerge in lowerincome countries

Most jobs and industries are only partly exposed to automation and are more likely to be complemented rather than substituted by the latest wave of Generative AI, such as ChatGPT, the findings showed.

Therefore, the greatest impact of this technology is likely to not be job destruction but rather the potential changes to the quality of jobs, notably work intensity and autonomy.

'The outcomes of the technological transition are not predetermined. It is humans that are behind the decision to incorporate such technologies and it is humans that need to guide the transition process," the authors noted.

Clerical work was found to be the category with the greatest



Most jobs and industries are only partly exposed to automation and are more likely to be complemented rather than substituted by the latest wave of Generative AI, such as ChatGPT Clerical work was found to be the category with the greatest technological exposure, with nearly a quarter of tasks considered highly exposed compared to other categories like managers, professionals and technicians

5.5 per cent of total employment in high-income countries is potentially exposed to the automation, whereas in low-income countries, the risk of automation concerns only some 0.4 per cent of employment

technological exposure, with nearly a quarter of tasks considered highly exposed and more than half of tasks having medium-level exposure. In other occupational groups - including managers, professionals and technicians - only a small share of tasks was found to be highly exposed, while about a quarter had medium exposure levels, the study by the UN body found.

The study found that 5.5 per cent of total employment in high-

income countries is potentially exposed to the automating effects of the technology, whereas in lowincome countries, the risk of automation concerns only some 0.4

per cent of employment. On the other hand, the potential for augmentation is nearly equal across countries, suggesting that with the right policies in place, this new wave of technological transformation could offer important benefits for developing countries. "The potential effects of Generative AI are likely to differ significantly for men and women," the study said, with more than twice the share of female employment potentially affected by automation.

This is due to women's over-representation in clerical work, especially in high and middle-income countries.

'Since clerical jobs have traditionally been an important source of female employment as countries develop economically, one result of Generative AI could be that certain clerical jobs may never emerge in lower-income countries," the ILO study emphasised.



5T Secy reviews devpt projects in Khurda dist



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Khurda district Tuesday to review the progress of various development projects and receive people's grievances for redressal.

He reviewed the progress of Mega Piped Water Supply Projects being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 922 crore in Begunia, Bolagarh, Tangi, Khurda, Banpur and Chilika blocks. The projects will be operationalized in phases starting January 2024. Pandian directed

the officials concerned to ensure good quality work and timely completion.

Further, he reviewed the progress of 'Integrated Development Plan' of Ugratara Shakti Pitha temple at Tangi and development of Maa Bhagabati temple in Banpur which are going to be built at an estimated cost of 19 crore each. And among other projects, he reviewed the progress of construction of fish landing centre, being built at an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore at Kalupadaghat in Tangi and

Sorana in Chilika, construction of a new CHC in Banpur and construction of Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, being built at an estimated cost of Rs 12 crore at Banpur and Balugaon. These projects would be completed in phases from this month onwards.

Reviewing the progress in water supply projects, being constructed at a cost of Rs 16 crore in Balugaon NAC and Banpur NAC, he said that these projects would solve water supply issues in both the NACs.

Pandian informed the people that Rs 58 crore has been sanctioned for construction of the Nirakarpur fly over bridge (FOB) in Tangi and work will commence for a new 132/33 KV grid substation at Bolgarh with a cost of Rs 52 crore. Soon, this grid substation would mitigate the low voltage issue in Bolgarh and Begunia blocks, he said.

During the visit, the 5T Secretary also participated in public grievance meetings at Begunia, Khurda and Banpur. He assured the locals that their grievances will be addressed soon.

Additionally, in Khurda, he discussed land patta settlement issues with the Collector conveying to him the grievances highlighted by some petitioners.



EVICTION DRIVE: An excavator deployed by BDA razing down illegal constructions at Pokhariput in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

'Odisha offers outstanding opportunities to investors'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 22: The industrial policy drawn up in 2022 offers outstanding opportunities to investors to start operations in Odisha which is recognised as 'one of the most business-conducive' states in the country, an official said

Speaking at a session organised by the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India here, the Odisha government's industries department princi-

pal secretary Hemant Sharma said the policy of 2022 focuses on transforming Odisha into a "modern and advanced industrial state by offering outstanding opportunities" for sustainable business growth and fostering socio-economic development of the people.

Sharma, also the chairman of Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, said the mission of the state is to "maximise eco-

its natural and human resources aided by modern technology".

nomic potential by leveraging

EEPC India Cuttack chapter convenor Pawan Sureka said Odisha is the "fourth largest state in the country in terms of engineering exports with USD 7.8 billion worth of shipments in 2022-23"

Engineering exports contribute nearly 70 per cent of total shipments from the state.

Within the engineering space, ancillary and downstream in the metal sector, value-added

Cyclist on a mission meets Agri Min

products based on rare earth minerals, speciality steel products, shipbuilding, ship-repair and construction of other mechanised floating vessels are the major segments identified by the state government for in-

dustrial development.

Rich mineral resources, adequate fresh water, low-cost labour, availability of skilled workforce and proactive policy framework for developing key economic sectors have drawn the attention of in-

40 Odisha students meet President

New Delhi: As many as 40 students of Eklavva Model Residential School from Odisha visited Rashtrapati Bhavan and met President Droupadi Murmu here. The students visited the President House in the morning. Two students from Mayurbhani also gave three gifts to the President. The President discussed with the students about their studies and wished them a bright future. At least 17 students were from Bolangir district and others were from districts like Raigada. Kandhmal, Malkangiri, Nabrangpur and Jajpur. Significantly, around 500 students from six states visited Rashtrapati Bhavan and attended a conference as part of an educational tour organised by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs & NESTS

CLASSIFIED

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Angul, I, Manjubala Mishra, W/o-Upendra Mishra of Naraharipur, Po-Paikpurunakote, Ps-Kantabania, Dhenk-anal-759121, at present Banarpal, Angul, state that I am the owner of Khata vide ROR No-104/1021, plot No-150/380 area Ac.0.04 dec. (Homestead under mouza-Kathagada-226 under Dhenkanal Tahasil. The said plot had purchased by me through registered sale deed bearing No-10501803608/dt.22.11.18 from middle side out of total area Ac.0.339 dec. vide plot bearing No-150 under Khata No-104/997 from Ranjan Kumar Rath, S/o- Late Sudarshan Rath of Deulsahi, Dhenkanal Town. I have lost the original above mentioned Sale Deed vide No-10501803608/18 on dt.14.08.2023 while travelling from my house to Banarpal Tahasil market area for photocopy purpose. I have never mortgaged or not avail any loan against this

property.

BPUT holds 3-day workshop on NBA

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) organised a three-day workshop on National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for all the technical universities, colleges to participate from August 22 to 24 at College of IT and Management Education (CIME), in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Pritaranjan Gharai inaugurated the workshop. More than 150 faculty members from affiliating and constituent colleges of BPUT including other technical institutions of Odisha participated in the workshop. BPUT vice chancellor Amiya Kumar Rath took a note of accrediting as much as colleges of Odisha in next five years.

On the occasion, BPUT Registrar Nishi Poonam Minz, and National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chennai Director, Usha Natesan signed an MoU to cooperate and share information with each other to make the most of each other's specialized skills, knowledge and industry partners for their mutual benefit.

They want to establish a framework for collaboration to enable them to work together to achieve academic and education co-operation to support specific co operation in the development and delivery of agreed training, academic and research programme.

The MoU sets out the initial

level of cooperation and collaboration between the parties and how they intend to develop a closer understanding and relationship between one another in the development and delivery of potential future agreed practice-led research and education programs.

Charai emphasized to enhance

Gharai emphasised to enhance the technical colleges of Odisha with all modern facilities and accreditation of all the institutes in coming 10 years.

Skill Development & Technical Education Principal Secretary Usha Padhee assured government in this regard.

Registration for paddy procurement extended



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department Tuesday extended last date for submission of application form till August 25 for registration for procurement of paddy (Kharif Crop). Similarly, the last date of digitization of forms by cooperative societies has also been extended till August 31.

In a letter, department special secretary Rajendra Mishra requested the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and collectors to circulate this message among concerned primary agricultural credit societies (PACS)/large area multipurpose cooperative society (LAMPCS)/women self help groups (WSHGs) through field functionaries for convenience of formers

ience of farmers.

He also instructed that the comprehensive farmers list for procurement of paddy should be ready by September 30.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 22: On a mission to unite people on soil conservation, Mohit Niranjan, a cyclist from Uttar Pradesh, Tuesday reached the Capital and met Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee who felicitated him for the initiative.

Swain said that soil safety is important for safety of the environment and everyone must be cautious and alert about it to ensure that future of the country is safe. Padhee congratulated Niranjan saying he hopes that his initiative will motivate others to save the soil.

The Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) gave him millet-based products on the occasion.

Notably, Niranajan started his journey November 16, 2022 from Lalitpur of UP and has so far covered more than 7,000 kilometers. His goal is to visit all the states of the country and cover a distance of 30,000 km before March 2025.

Mohit said that he has been covering 60-80 km daily and meeting people from various sections to fuel his slogan forward. Raised

in a conventional family, with his father being a farmer and mother an Asha worker, he came across his father's struggles in farming. Moved by his problems, Mohit wanted to do some-

thing for the farmers' community. "I will visit some schools in City to make the students and the youth aware about soil safety and will visit Puri next and after that Ranchi and Kolkata to continue my journey," Mohit said.

Born in a farmer's family, Niranjan has been contacting farmers during his journey regarding the deteriorating quality of soil and motivating them

to save soil.

He believes that the decreasing fertility of the soil is creating problems for humanity at large. Through cycling, he is bringing awareness to the importance of soil conservation.

He was inspired by Sadhguru of Isha Foundation who undertook a 100-day 'Save Soil' journey in March 2022 across 27 nations covering 30,000 km to raise awareness about soil degradation and advocate for bringing organic matter back to agricultural

1bn people globally to have osteoarthritis by 2050: Lancet

Osteoarthritis most commonly affects the knees and the hips, with women being more vulnerable to the condition than men in 2050

y 2050, nearly one billion people globally are projected to be living with osteoarthritis, which affects joints, according to new research published in The Lancet Rheumatology journal.

Currently, 15 per cent of the world's population aged 30 years or above experience osteoarthritis, the study found after analysing 30 years of osteoarthritis data (1990-2020) from more than 200 countries.

more than 200 countries. In 2020, 595 million people were found to be affected by osteoarthritis, a 132 per cent increase from 256 million people in 1990, the study led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Washington, US, as part of the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021 said.

The study attributed the rapid increase in the osteoarthritis cases mainly to aging, population growth and obesity.

"With the key drivers of peo-

"With the key drivers of people living longer and a growing world population, we need to anticipate stress on health systems in most countries," said Jaimie Steinmetz, the study's corresponding author and lead research scientist at IHME.

Obesity or high body mass index (BMI) was an important risk factor for osteoarthritis, the study results showed, and



that it played a greater role over time as rates of obesity had increased.

In 1990, the first year of the study, obesity was found to be responsible for 16 per cent of the disability due to osteoarthritis, which had risen to 20 per cent in

the year 2020.

The global osteoarthritis burden could be reduced by an estimated 20 per cent, if obesity was

effectively addressed in the pop-

ulation, the study said.
"The role that physical inactivity plays in obesity and pain associated with osteoarthritis can have opposite and unintended negative cycles.

"For example, being physically active can prevent injuries earlier in life and can even be beneficial for someone with joint pain. It's counterintuitive, but

having joint pain doesn't mean we should remain sedentary," said Liane Ong, lead research scientist at IHME, who supervised and co-authoured the study.

Osteoarthritis was found to most commonly affect the knees and the hips, which the study projects to also be the most affected by 2050.

Women more than men are expected to grapple with this condition, the study said. In 2020, 61 per cent of osteoarthritis cases were in women versus 39 per cent in men. There is a combination of possible reasons behind this gender difference.

"The reasons for gender difference.
"The reasons for gender differences in osteoarthritis prevalence are being investigated, but researchers believe that genetics, hormonal factors, and anatomical differences play a

role," said Jacek Kopek, the study's senior author and professor in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia,

Canada.

With no effective cure for osteoarthritis right now, prevention and early intervention strategies required critical focus, including making expensive, effective treatments like joint replacements more affordable in low- and middle-income countries, the authors said.

Health care systems and governments have an opportunity to engage and participate in identifying vulnerable populations, addressing drivers of obesity, and developing management strategies to prevent or slow down the progression of osteoarthritis, they said.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-Spider Web-Spid

OrissaPOST

Building racket busted, 5 held

Sambalpur, August 22: The district police here Tuesday busted a fake racket running in the name of Sambalpur Development Authority (SDA). Five people were arrested on charges of issuing forged building plan approval letters on behalf of the SDA. The accused were identified as assistant clerk of SDA, Lakshminarayan Samal alias Bulu, the mastermind of the racket, Sudhansu Kishore Pati of Jhaduapada, Ajay Kumar Behera of Kainsir under Ainthapali police limits, Bikash Jagat of Badmal village under

Charmal police limits and Damodar Tripathy, a priest and resident of Kulutkani under Dhanupali police limits.

Police also seized ₹3,31,97,227 crore from the bank accounts of the accused, two cars, one motorcycle, computers, land pattas (RoR), stamp papers and documents of houses and plots. Keeping the planning officer Bandita Mohapatra in the dark, the accused used to forge her signature, use seals and fake letterheads and give approval for construction of buildings and bank loans to the applicants.

This was stated Tuesday by SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo at a



district police headquarters here. Police started a probe into the matter after Mohapatra smelled a rat and lodged a complaint August 18 at Khetrajpur police station. Police said that the accused were issuing forged approval

press conference held at the the

plans to the applicants in exchange of kickbacks ranging from ₹1,00,000 to ₹4,00,000. During investigation police found that the accused had defrauded a person of ₹21 lakh. Police said that most of the amounts were deposited in the bank account of the priest and added that 54 persons had fallen prey to this racket.

The SP said that it is a case of organised crime and cases have been registered for forgery and cheating after the arrest of the five accused. The accused were not only cheating people but also causing revenue loss to the government. The culprits used to purchase plots at various places and construct luxurious buildings and then sell those at



MOCK DRILL: Students of Radhamadhab High School at Paikasahi village under Thakurgad police limits in Angul district learn fire fighting skills under the

Tiger spotted near Andhra-Odisha border, people panic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, August 22: Panic gripped people living in bordering villages of Rayagada and Gajapati districts with Andhra Pradesh after a video of a Royal Bengal tiger went viral Tuesday. Sources said that the forest where the tiger has been spotted is the Bhamini range in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Since the video of the tiger went viral, officials of the Forest department of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have been on high alert. They are constantly patrolling the forests near the border areas to find out the exact location of the tiger.



Officials of the Forest department informed Tuesday the tiger was seen inside a forest at Gunupur in Rayagada district a couple of days back. However, since then the animal has crossed into Andhra pradesh. Officials of the Andhra government, said Tuesday that some tiger pug marks have been spotted in the Bhamini and Kotturu forest ranges. Residents of villages leaving in the border areas of the two states have been asked to remain alert and stay inside after sunset. They have also been asked to keep their pets in safe enclosures and to inform Forest department officials if they spot the big cat.

Woman dies during ritual inside temple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ghatagaon, August 22: A woman devotee collapsed and died Tuesday while watchmous Maa Tarini temple here in Keonjhar district. The deceased was identified as Saraswati Behera, 78, a resident of Patia locality in Bhubaneswar. Officials informed that the deceased accompanied by her daughter and grandchildren arrived at the temple and offered 108 pieces of coconuts to the deity as her wishes were fulfilled. She was standing in front of the idol with her granddaughter Shibani watching 'Arati' when she suddenly collapsed and became unconscious. Saraswati's family members and temple staff rushed her to Ghatagaon hospital where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival. Due to Saraswati's demise rituals at the temple were stopped for some time. Rituals resumed and devotees were allowed inside the temple only after the priests consecrated the premises.

4 bike lifters arrested in Keonjhar dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, August 22: Jhumpura police arrested Monday four members of a bike lifting gang after raiding different places in Keonjhar district. The raids were conducted after a complaint of a bike theft was lodged at the police station. Police have also recovered the stolen two-wheeler from the possession of the accused. The bike was stolen from a locality under Turumunga police limits.



The accused were identified as Anup Rajak (24) of Jhumpura New Bus Terminus Colony, Chandan Kumar Naik aka Pakulu (26) of Jhumpura Block Colony, Chaitu Naik (19) of Rengalabeda village under Sadar police limits and Sanjib Rajak (24) belonging to Sakchi locality of Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, Jhumpura PS IIC, Sambari Hansdah informed Tuesday.

Police also informed that the four accused are historysheeters and have many cases of theft pending against them. A case (No 102/2023) has been registered against the accused and all were produced in court Tuesday Police are also probing to find out about the involve ment of others with those arrested. They added that the four were involved in 10 cases of stealing bikes.

ciate arrived at the spot.

They caught the snake

which was approximately

"This is a rare species of

snake found in Rourkela. I

have caught many poison-

ous and non-poisonous

snakes in and around this

city. However, banded kraits

are rarely seen here," in-

four feet long.

Daringbadi ghat road turns risky for users

INCESSANT RAINFALL MAKING AREA PRONE TO LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, August 22: Frequent fear of landslides due to incessant rainfall here in Kandhamal district has turned commuting on the ghat road here a risky proposition, sources said Tuesday.

Daringbadi is a picturesque hill station in Kandhamal district. It is the favourite destination for tourists and is popularly known as 'Kashmir of Odisha'

However, continuous rainfall for the past few weeks have created panic in the minds of the residents in Sriniketa locality in this block. The ghat road has become unfit for commuting with crater-size potholes and uneven surfaces at many places. Residents of this town are apprehensive that incessant rainfall may lead to landslides resulting in loss of lives and properties. Earlier also landslides and floods had taken place on some areas of ghat road.

Earlier this month and also in July several pine trees got uprooted due to the loose soil softened by rain and blocked different parts of the ghat road.

Residents also pointed out that many of the other trees are on the verge of getting uprooted. The fear among them is palpable as many have stopped using the ghat road. They are now using alternative but lengthy

routes for commuting from one place to another

Locals blamed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the current predicament. They informed that the guard walls on the side of the ghat road have not been constructed in a proper manner. Hence there is always the looming fear of landslides and overflow of water.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Satish Kumar Dharua, Baliguda sub-division said discussions have been held with the NHAI officials to protect the pine trees and conservation of soil on hills on both sides of the ghat road on the National Highway. The ACF said that protection of pine trees is very important as they are prime attraction for tourists.

Meanwhile, expansion of the PWD road connecting Daringbadi with Brahmanigaon is currently on. The criss-cross road from Pangali to Daringbadi has been widened but the road which leads to the hill top has developed craters

Residents, commuters and tourists pointed out that unless proper repair work is carried out, landslides may occur anytime. Junior engineer Pradip Swain said that the repair work will be completed soon and guard walls will be constructed to free the area of dangers of landslide.



Snake menace growing in Steel City

Bandh over district status affects life in Kantabanji

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, August 22: Normal life was disrupted Tuesday here in Bolangir district following a dawn-to-dusk bandh called by the Kantabanji Zilla Sangharsha Samiti. All government, private offices, business establishment and educational institutions remained closed while vehicles staved off the road during the period. The committee has been demanding a separate district status for Kantabanji for quite some time now.

Members of the samiti staged agitations at various major thoroughfares in the town. They demanded a sepa-

rate district comprising Kantabanji NAC area, and the areas under Turekela, Bangomunda and Muribahal blocks. The protestors alleged that the Odisha government is yet to accord revenue district status to Kantabanji despite it fulfilling all the criteria.

felt in Turekela, Bongomunda, Muribahal, Belapada and Khaprakhol blocks as well as in Kantabanji NAC from early Tuesday morning. With various other organisations extending their support to the bandh, the shutdown was total. Vehicular movement came to a grinding halt with hundreds of vehicles being parked on both

The impact of the bandh was

sides of various roads. The residents also stayed indoors and did not come out during the period. Emergency services were however, allowed to function.

Leaders of the BJD. BJP and Congress and other political outfits as well as workers of various socials and voluntary outfits joined the agitation. Prominent among them, were Kantabanji MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, BJD's MLA candidate in the last election Ajay Dash and BJP's city unit president Bedavyas Nag. Later, the protestors converged at Indira Square in the town and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister to the tehsildar Amrutlal Behera.

Indian Overseas Bank Regional Office, VOS Campus, 2nd Floor, Vijoy Bhavan, Engg. School Road, Berhampur - 760010

Bank proposes to sell the following Four Wheeler Vehicle in "As is where is condition" to General pub including our Banks Staff & Ex-Staffs.

SI. No.	Make	Model	Registration Number		Reserve Floor Price without GS
1.	Maruti Suzuki Swift Dzire VXI	2013	OD-07-C-3123	31.08.2013	Rs.1,42,500/-

Inspection of Vehicle and documents- 23.08.2023 to 12.09.2023 from 14.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs Date of opening of sealed covers- 13.09.2023 at 16.00hrs

Interested Members shall send their applications in the Bank's format (enclosed), in sealed cover to Chief Manager,IOB,General Administration Department,Regional Office,Berhampur along with EMD amount of Rs.5000/- for public and Rs.3000/- for IOB Staff/Ex- Staff & Application Fees of Rs.500/- (For Public only) by way of Demand Draft payable at Berhampur, favoring "IOB General Administration Department". Prescribed Application form, General Guidelines & Bank's Terms & Conditions can be downloaded from our website https://www.iob.in/tender.aspx or Application form can be obtained in person from above mentioned address on all working days between 10.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs. from 23.08.2023 to 12.09.2023. Application forms without application Fee and EMD shall be rejected. Bank reserves the right to accept/reject all/any tender without assigning reason thereof. If any changes in our tender process you may visit our website www.iob.in under tender page time to time.

Place: Berhampur, Date: 22.08.2023

Senior Regional Manager



MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, INDIRECT TAXES & NARCOTICS FARIDABAD

ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE FOR CUSTOMS BROKERS EXAMINATION, 2024

August, 2023

- 1. Applications are invited from Indian citizens to appear in the online written examination for issuance of license to act as a Customs Broker under Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations (CBLR), 2018, as amended. A copy of the regulations is available at www.cbic.gov.in and www.nacin.gov.in.
- 2. Complete application is to be submitted in person or by Registered/ Speed Post in Form-A (available in the CBLR, 2018) along with two passport size photos and self attested documents on citizenship (Aadhaar/ Passport/ Voter Card), educational qualification, financial viability, mobile number, e-mail id and other requirements along with the prescribed fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only) to the Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Customs/ Commissioner of Customs (Prev), having jurisdiction over the area where the applicant intends to carry on his business from 18.10.2023 to 17.11.2023 up to 06:00 PM. Applications sent by post, in case received after the last date shall not be
- Before submitting the application, applicant should ensure the completeness of the application. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected.
- 4. Syllabus of written examination will be as per regulation 6(7) of CBLR, 2018.
- Names of applicants found eligible to appear in examination will be displayed on the notice board and/or website of the respective Commissionerate latest by 08.12.2023.
- 6. Information regarding roll number, admit card and examination venue will be made available on the website of CBIC and NACIN under the icon/tab <GSTP/CBLR Exam>. A link to download the admit card will also be provided therein. Admit cards shall also be sent by email to eligible applicants 12 days in advance before the date of examination. The written examination shall be held in the Month of March-2024.
- The candidates have the option to answer either in Hindi or in English.
- Successful candidates will be called for an oral examination for which separate communication will be sent
- In case declarations and information submitted by the applicant are found to be incorrect, the application shall be rejected or license, (if issued) shall be cancelled.
- 10. For any query regarding eligibility and process of application, please refer to the $\frac{8}{11}$ regulations available at the websites (<u>www.cbic.gov.in</u> and <u>www.nacin.gov.in</u>) or contact the nearest Customs Commissionerate. A helpline will be made operational by this office at e-mail id. cblre.helpline@gmail.com from the (date of start of submission of application) till the date of exam.

Director General NACIN, Faridabad



formed Kuna. He stated that

ground for snakes. Rourkela and its nearby vicinities have a very thick The presence of the Durgapur hill range which divides the city is also a breeding spot for snakes. The snakes are visible pythons, different species of cobras and rat snakes are frequently found at vari-

snakes killed by speeding cars on roads are a regular occurrence in this town. ways in panic. "I have taken a house on rent in Koelnagar because I found 15 poisonous snakes around

my quarter in Sector-18. I was forced to vacate it and take a house on rent," informed an RSP employee. A scribe, who was staying in an RSP quarter in Sector-21, shifted to Sector-VI because in one single year he found 20 reptiles around his home. "I had no alternative but NIT-Rourkela.



staying in a slum close to



the thick foliage around this town is a breeding

mainly during the summer cover of flora and fauna. and monsoons. Rock

ularly conduct public awareous locations of this town. Due to the presence of venomous snakes, many residents living in various sectors of this city are al

This year, the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) has treated 26 snakebite cases. Some of the cases were serious and the victims had to be kept in ICU. The Rourkela Government Hospital, on the other hand has treated 69 snakebite victims so far. One death has also been reported due to snakebite with the person

to shift due to safety rea-

Various organisations reg-

ness cam-

paigns to

prevent the

killing of

snakes.

However.



This world is a vast unbroken totality, a deep solidarity ioins its contrary powers.



China In Soup

fter the forecast that China was poised to emerge as the number one economy in the world surging ahead of the US much earlier Lthan projected before, here comes the bad news that it is hit by economic slowdown. China has long been regarded as the engine of global growth. But, the recent developments have alarmed international leaders and investors who are now reluctant to pump their money in China fearing an economic fiasco. In fact, for the first time in decades, the world's second largest economy is itself in distress and the ripples are being felt across the globe.

Among many factors the worsening property crisis is being identified as the main cause for the downslide. The Chinese economy overcame significant challenges in the past, but the current economic situation has put its 40-year-long successful growth model under a question mark. A complete collapse of its property sector is diagnosed to be the main culprit as it accounts for about 25 per cent of its economy.

This has come as a shock since during the COVID-19 pandemic China alone reported to be the best performing economy in the world with every other country hard hit by poor growth due to lockdowns and restrictions for fighting the pandemic. This even led to speculation whether China had engineered the pandemic from its labs in Wuhan to cripple the economy of its rivals and position itself to become the largest economy in the world in the next few years. But, after a rapid spurt of activity earlier this year following the lifting of COVID lockdowns, growth is stalling, consumer prices are falling, a real estate crisis is deepening and exports are in a slump. Unemployment among youth has become so bad that the government, just like in India, has stopped publishing verifiable data. Making matters worse, a major homebuilder and a prominent investment company have missed payments to their investors in recent weeks, triggering fears that the steadily declining housing market could further enhance risks to financial stability. In fact, several major investment banks have now pegged their forecasts of China's economic growth to below 5 per cent. This means China might significantly miss its official growth target of around 5.5 per cent. This is certainly not good news for President Xi Jinping who has tightened his grip on the Chinese Communist Party and the government. His ruthlessness in eliminating his foes and silencing criticism are believed to have been causing resentment among the country's population.

Another major concern for China is debt incurred by local govern ments. The model followed for the past four decades was urbanisation on a large scale. This has eventually resulted in huge debt which has soared largely due to a sharp drop in land sale revenues because of the property slump, as well as the lingering impact of the cost of imposing pandemic lockdowns.

The severe fiscal stress seen at local levels not only poses great risks to Chinese banks, but also reduces the government's ability to stimulate growth and expand public services. The measures taken by Beijing to reverse the situation and boost the economy seem to be nothing more than mere fire fighting.

China's population crisis and strained relations with key trading partners, including the USA and Europe, are other impediments to its growth. The country's total fertility rate, the average number of babies a woman will have over her lifetime, dropped to a record low of 1.09 last year from 1.30 just two years before, according to a recent report by state-owned Jiemian.com. That means China's fertility rate is now even lower than Japan's, a country long known for its aging society. Earlier this year, China released data that showed its population started shrinking. China's aging demographics present significant challenges to its economic growth potential as the number of able bodied workers has declined, according to expert observers.

China is known for fudging statistics or not revealing correct figures about its economy. This will, of course, not help the country. The youth unemployment rate has been suspended from the monthly economic data release, having reached a record 21.3 per cent in June. This suggests not only that July was grimmer, but that improvement is not ex-

Obfuscation of data and facts has never helped any society and it will not help China tide over its difficulties either. The China of today is a great example of how totalitarian regimes can never usher in prosperity for the people.

WISDOM CORNER

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life PAULO COELHO

WORDS**WORTH**

■ Moot point

oot point is one of those phrases that once had a firm and wellunderstood meaning, but no longer does. It was just as you say: a matter that was uncertain or undecided, so open to debate. It comes from the same source as meet and originally had the same meaning. In England in medieval times it referred specifically to an assembly of people, in particular one that had some sort of judicial function, and was often spelled mot or mote. So you find references to the witenagemot (the assembly of the witan, the national council of Anglo-Saxon times), hundred-mote (where a hundred was an Anglo-Saxon administrative area, part of a county or shire), and many others. So something that was mooted was put up for discussion and decision at a meeting - by definition something not yet decided. The confusion over the meaning of moot point is modern. It is a misunderstanding of another sense of moot for a discussion forum in which hypothetical cases are argued by law students for practice. Since there is no practical outcome of these sessions, and the cases are invented anyway, people seem to have assumed that a moot point means one of no importance. So we've seen a curious shift in which the sense of "open to debate" has become "not worth debating". The mute spelling is a development that has come about because moot is now a fossil word, usually encountered only in this phrase; there is an understandable tendency to convert the unknown into the known, and mute seems to fit the new meaning rather better. But it's wrong.

GENERAL & SOLDIER

Anew soldier was on sentry duty at the main gate. His orders were clear. No car was to enter unless it had a special sticker on the windshield. A big army car came up with a general seated in the back. The sentry said, "Halt, who goes there?" The chauffeur, a corporal, says, "General Wheeler."

"I'm sorry, I can't let you through. You've got to have a sticker on the



The sentry said, "Hold it! You really can't come through. I have orders to shoot if you try driving in

without a sticker.' The general repeated, "I'm telling you,

son, drive on!" The sentry walked up to the rear window and said, "General, I'm new at this. Do I shoot you or the driver?"

FOCUS AGRICULTURE

TALES OF SHACKLES



Ajit Ranade

ONION PRICES CAN BRING POLITICIANS TO TEARS, AND GOVERNMENTS HAVE FALLEN ON THIS BULB'S **ERRATIC PRICE RISE**

The central government announced that it will procure an additional two lakh tonnes of onions this year. This will take the buffer stock target this year, to five lakh tonnes, from the earlier target of three lakh tonnes. Most significantly, this announcement came one day after the imposition of 40% export duty. So, in plain words, the government increased local supply by effectively curtailing exports, which causes prices to crash, and then mopped up cheaper onions to increase its buffer stock. Does this smack of interfering with the market mechanism? Does this not appear to be arm-twisting onion farmers to selling onions at a lower price to the government? Is it not an abuse of dominance? Even a stalwart, former agriculture minister criticised the export tax since it will definitely harm farmers. That minister hails from a state which supplies one third of the country's onions. Farmers are already agitating against the export tax, but to no avail.

But farmers have been used to such arbitrary interventions in the market mechanism for agricultural products. This week's onion inflation rate is 19% and that is worrisome for the government. Never mind that onions consume only a fraction of the household budget. But onion prices can bring politicians to tears, and governments have fallen on this bulb's erratic price rise. Remember the farm laws that were proposed in Parliament in September 2020? One of the three laws proposed complete decontrol of prices, and removal of stocking limits. Also, the deregulation of arbitrary bans on exports or imports. That very week, when farm laws were tabled, several trucks heading to Bangladesh were stopped at the border. Because they were carrying export cargoes of onions, and God forbid that farmers profit from the rise in onion prices. These actions like stopping exports



The farmer has always been at the receiving end when it comes to anti-profit measures like export bans on agricultural products

on one hand, and on the other hand seeking to deregulate agricultural markets give mixed and dishonest signals.

Perhaps the present export tax on onions is a preventive measure, especially since we have been singed badly by highly inflated tomato prices. The National Cooperatives Consumer Federation of India (NCCF) and National Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) have already procured more than 1.5 million tonnes of tomatoes in their buffer stock. They are selling them at subsidised rates, since prices had soared to ₹200 a kilo. Where are these subsidies paid from? India has also imported unspecified amounts of tomatoes from Nepal, and maybe other countries too, in order to douse the fire of inflation. Retail inflation is running at 7.5%, far above the 6% tolerance limit of the RBI. So, tomatoes are among the chief villains causing inflation. Vegetable price inflation is however seasonal and notoriously fickle. But it hogs disproportionate media attention.

In July India banned the export of non-basmati white rice and also broken rice. Together these account for 45% of all rice exports. This upset many of our trading partners, and maked India look like an unreliable

supplier. There are some countries in Africa and Asia whose import dependence for rice from India can jeopardise their food security. Was the government concerned about food security? Apparently not. What then could be the reason for banning exports? Prima facie it seems to be about serving the interest of ethanol makers. An estimated 3 million out of 5 to 6 million tonnes of broken rice go to make ethanol. So, the export ban increases that availability for car engines, but this is at the cost of the rice farmer's profits. Rice prices internationally are at a decadal high and it is a good opportunity to make a handsome profit. But the farmer has always been at the receiving end when it comes to anti-profit measures like export bans on agricultural products.

These recent stories of policy action on tomatoes, onions or rice illustrate why reforms in agriculture are very hard and remain unfinished. Firstly, there is an inherent urban bias, which means that policies give higher priority to the welfare of urban consumers (low food inflation) rather than the farmers' interest. So, farm policies which reform markets and deregulate in favour of the farmer, can always arbitrarily be reversed or curtailed. Secondly, in order to compensate the farmers' loss

caused by price controls, input subsidies continue, such as free water and electricity, cheap fertiliser, or no income tax on agricultural income. This causes enormous and avoidable fiscal stress. Thirdly, there is no exploration of market mechanisms such as forward markets to substitute the heavy hand of the state. Forward markets are seen as speculation and are al leged to cause volatility of prices. This is an unproven hypothesis. Hence the government continues to depend on heavy interference in the market via procurement, storage and trade of agricultural commodities. In doing so it does not hesitate to use anti-competitive monopoly behaviour. Who will take the government to court for antiabuse of competitive, dominance?

Agriculture thus remains shackled by price control, stocking limits, arbitrary import and export bans, and frequently changing policies. Even though technically it is a state subject there is plenty of interference from the Centre, besides the states. The farmer then is coddled with heavy and distorting subsidies. The subsidies not only cause fiscal problems via loan waivers, non-performing assets or fiscal deficits, but also environmental crises. Witness the soil degradation and salinity in Punjab due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers which are heavily subsidised. To top it all, half the farmers do not get the subsidies, since either they are landless or tenants, and thus not tied to the land that they till. The webs we weave in agricultural policy have entangled us from which unshackling has become very difficult. We need massive reforms to make markets function better, much less intrusion of the state and more freedom to the farmer to participate in the market process and profit from it.

> The writer is a noted economist.

IN JEST THIS

One kiss is not like the other



Melvin Durai

IN SPAIN, WOMEN **KISS BOTH MEN** AND WOMEN, **WHILE MEN USUALLY KISS ONLY WOMEN**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

TO THE EDITOR

columns (between 750-1250

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

pain beat England 1-0 in the final of the Women's World Cup, winning the championship for the first time and sparking celebrations throughout the country. Spaniards expressed their joy in many ways. They laughed, they cried, they hugged, and they kissed.

But one of the kisses was not like the others.

It was a kiss that Luis Rubiales, president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), planted on the lips of Jennifer Hermoso, a player on the Spanish

Yes, he kissed a player on her lips, while congratulating her on the podium after she received her gold medal.

I'm sure you are bursting with questions, so I'm going to answer them right here. **Question:** Did Rubiales kiss

the other players too? Answer: Yes, he kissed the others on their cheeks, but he gave

a lip-to-lip kiss to Hermoso.

Q: How do I get a job like that? **A:** You apply to the Royal Spanish Football Federation. Make sure that your résumé includes all your kissing experience.

Q: Do I need to learn Spanish? A: Just a few phrases of Spanish, such as "Tienes buenas habilidades futbolísticas" (you have good football skills) and "Fue un placer besarte" (it

was my pleasure to kiss you). Q: Would I be expected to kiss the male players too?

A: No, that would be sexist. Q: So it would be sexist to kiss the male players, but not sexist to kiss the female players?

A: Sexism is defined as "discrimination or devaluation based on a person's sex or gender." If you kissed the male players, you would be devaluing the women. They wouldn't feel special any-

Q: Do women feel special when they're kissed?

A: It depends on their relationship with the kisser. In many parts of Europe, cheek kissing or air kissing is a common greeting among friends and acquaintances. In Spain, women kiss both men and women, while men usually kiss only women. For a man to kiss another man, they have to be really close.

Q: If they're not really close, they can blow kisses at each other, right?

A:Yes, a blown kiss (or flying kiss) is usually done from a distance. You kiss your fingertips and blow them in the direction of the recipient. It's a great way for a performer to show affection to an audience.

Q: Is air kissing the opposite of ground kissing? Many tennis fans in Spain kiss the ground that Rafael Nadal walks on.

A: No, an air kiss is a pretend kiss. You purse your lips and make a kissing sound, but don't make contact with your lips.

Q: So an air kiss is a contactless kiss, perfect for this era of COVID?

A:Yes, but an air kiss may involve cheek-to-cheek contact.

Q: If cheek kissing is a common greeting among acquaintances in Spain, then Luis Rubiales was just following tradition, right?

A: Yes, it was acceptable for him to kiss the players on their cheeks, considering the joy of the moment. But he kissed Hermoso on her lips.

Q: Did he apologize for kissing her more so?

A: Yes, he gave an iffyapology. He said that the kiss was "spontaneous" and "natural," but "if there are people who have felt offended, I have to say I'm sorry." Q: How did Hermoso feel about

A: It's not very clear how she

felt. All she said was: "Hey, I didn't like it. eh." Q: If Rubiales doesn't lose his

job over this, would it be okay if I kissed a Spanish player on the

A: Yes, it would be okay for you to kiss a Spanish player, as long as you pick a retired player named Luis Rubiales. Everyone who meets him should try to kiss him on his lips. If he complains, tell him that you just want to celebrate Spain's World

BRICS & Africa

Sir, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi departs to visit South Africa and Greece. Modi will attend the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, which will be conducted from the 22nd to the 24th of August. This is the first time since 2019 that BRICS Summit will be organised on physical mode. This year's theme for the Summit is BRICS and Africa. BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The member states almost contribute 40 per cent of the global population and 26 per cent of the global economy. This year's Summit will be focused on the expansion of this multi-lateral institution, climate change, skill development by cooperation, sustainable development, and reforms in multilateral institutions. This grouping is vital for the Global South and the developing world and therefore, India's role becomes more critical as India seeks to become the voice of the Global South. The BRICS grouping is often seen as anti-West and that is why India as a strong partner of the Western countries has to make sure that this grouping does not agree on anything against the West. The BRICS Summit can set up the tone for the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi weeks later.

Deba Prasad Nayak, KENDRAPARA

Leap of faith

Sir, One of the most under-stated aspects of UPI proliferation in India was to convince a vegetable seller, rickshaw puller or road-side vendor in 2016, someone with not the highest levels of economic awareness or technological literacy, that you will tap some buttons on a phone, and he will receive money in an imaginary online wallet, instead of cash. That was an astonishing leap of faith for someone who previously never had access to a smartphones, internet or even a bank account. Think of the first time you ever bought something online in the 2000s, and how wary you were. Will I receive the goods? What if it is a scam? What if my money is lost? Indians, especially the poor, are not given enough credit for being so open to adopting new technology, at times, even in a language completely alien to them. Salute to the spirit of Indians that they took so naturally to UPI, as a fish to water.

Cup title.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



TWOSTATES





WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

TN Guv stokes fresh controversy 21 HP dams violated safety norms

The Governor, a former high-ranking police official himself, has returned the file on appointing former state Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, who retired in June this year, as the chairman of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC), which has 14 other members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 22: Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, not on good terms with the ruling DMK on several issues, including his opposition to scrapping NEET, appeared to stoke a fresh controversy by returning the file on the state's nominee for the TNPSC chairman post.

Also, Ravi, a champion of the Centre's new education policy (NEP) informed the state vice chancellors that they were not under any obligation to follow the common syllabus on education framed by the Tamil Nadu gov-

The Governor, a former highranking police official himself, has returned the file on ap-



pointing former state Director General of Police (DGP) C Sylendra Babu, who retired in June this year, as the chairman of Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC), which has 14 other members. An official at the secretariat confirmed that the Governor had returned this file on Monday

The term for TNPSC chairman is 6 years. The source said the Governor returned the file asking for particulars on the appointment of the chairman and other members of the commission. The Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education (TANSCHE) has released a model syllabus for 301 undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, and asked the universities to follow about 75 per cent common syllabus. They were given the autonomy to follow 25 per cent of the content based on regional needs.

"The higher educational institutions are under no obligation to follow the common syllabus prepared by the TANSCHE," the Governor said in a communication to the Vice-Chancellors of universities in

In a letter addressed to the state vice chancellors, Ravi said the University Grants Commission (UGC) had made it clear that it is the university/autonomous college that shall design the course/ programme of study and syllabus in accordance with the regulations, framework, guidelines, etc., issued by the UGC from time to time.

"This puts to rest any doubt or ambiguity regarding the common syllabus," the Governor said. He said the vicechancellors, principals of col-

leges and management of autonomous institutions had already raised concerns over the state government pushing for adoption of common syllabus designed by TANSCHE, before the UGC, saying education is in the union list and hence beyond the competence of the state government.

"Their concerns broadly are se vere erosion of their academic freedom, the common syllabus will severely compromise the quality of education as these are far below and behind the current syllabus being followed by them," Ravi said.

Also, the varsities felt that the state's move could drive them out of the national institutional ranking framework that promotes healthy competitions towards better performances and determines their overall India rankings, Ravi said.

In another communication to the state government, the Governor cleared the decks for appointing the chairman and four members of the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority constituted under the TN Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games

As per this, retired IAS officer Md Nasimuddin was appointed as chairman while retired IPS official M C Sarangan, retired professor C Chellappan, retired clinical psychologist O Raveendran, and Vijay Karunakaran, founder and CEO In-Gage Group were appointed as members.

Shimla, August 22: The Himachal Pradesh government has found that 21 out of the 23 dams in the state have violated safety norms, and said it will take action against their man-

Officials said the lack of monitoring by government agencies is also being blamed for the violations. "As many as 21 dams have not adhered to the safety norms and legal action will be taken against them," Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena said, adding that officers have been directed to prepare a detailed report on the damage caused due to the negligence of the dam authorities.

The officials said the HP State Electricity Board-operated Larji hydropower project in Mandi and Jateon in Sirmaur, and the HP Power Corporation-run Sawra Kuddu project in Shimla and Sainj in Kullu are among the violators.

There are 23 hydel projects with a total capacity of 9,203 megawatts (MW) in Himachal run by agencies like the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) and the Independent Power Producers (IPP). Six more projects of 1,916 MW capacity are under construction.

The officials said only the Kol Dam in Bilaspur and the Karcham Wangtoo project in Kinnaur adhered to the water release guidelines. Strengthening of the early warning system was stressed



Sainj in Kullu are among the violators

after 24 students from Andhra Pradesh were washed away as water from the Larji Dam was discharged without prior warning in 2014, Saxena said.

The flooding in low-lying areas in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh has been attributed to the release of water from the Pong, Pandoh and Malana dams, the officials added.

Chairing a meeting on Friday on safety issues regarding the discharge of water, Saxena maintained that responsibility must also be fixed for the failure of the dam authorities in complying with the relevant provisions of the Dam Safety Act (DSA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) guidelines

"The time for persuasion and

dialogues was over and we should not shy away from taking stringent action against the defaulters," he said in a statement then. The chief secretary stated that the recent crisis in the state downstream of the reservoirs can be attributed towards the failure of the dam safety check, which was either neglected or was not done as per the standard guidelines of the DSA.

He said that there are relevant provisions under the DSA, like setting up of early warning systems, water release guidelines, setting up of control rooms, reservoir maintenance. emergency action plan and better communication between dam sites and powerhouse which must be implemented on the ground.

'Arikomban' healthy: TN forest department



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 22: Tamil Nadu that the rogue elephant, 'Arikomban', that was captured from Cumbum town and relocated to Tirunelveli forest, is healthy.

The forest department in a statement said that the animal had acclimatised with the new conditions and was taking enough food and water.

When 'Arikomban' was in Chinnakanal forest in Idukki district of Kerala, the pachyderm used to raid several homes and ration shops in the area for rice. The wild elephant used to destroy shops and homes and is alleged to have killed a few people.

After several complaints were raised against the wild elephant, the Kerala forest department decided to capture the elephant and convert it into a 'Kumki' elephant. However, the Kerala High Court ordered to capture the elephant and to release in deep forest so that it don't create a menace.

The elephant was captured after firing several tranquilisers on it by the elite team of Kerala forest officials led by Dr Arun Zakariah, the veterinarian who is credited with capturing several wild elephants. The elephant was captured from Chinnakanal on April 29, and later released to the Periyar National Park.

Unique IDs for Jallikattu bulls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 22: The Stalin government is working to give the Jallikattu bulls unique IDs. Every year around 16,000 to

19,000 bulls participate in the Jallikattu and bull racing that is conducted across 20 districts of Now the Tamil Nadu govern-

ment is exploring to provide unique ids to the bulls using nose prints of the bull and to create a comprehensive data bank of bulls. The state government is try-

ing to streamline the traditional sport and to bring the whole Jallikattu and Bull racing tournaments in a single platform so that there is an organized set up for the sport. The Tamil Nadu e-governance

agency will join hands with the Tamil Nadu Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences to build a new portal that will have all the information regarding Jallikattu bulls across the state.

The state government, according to sources, does not have specific details of the number of Jallikattu bulls in the state and the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry department will establish a dedicated platform to track the well being and en-



the traditional sport and to bring the whole Jallikattu and Bull racing tournaments in a single platform so that there is an organised set up for the sport

gagement of the hulls

The Government of Tamil Nadu conducts Jallikattu events in Alanganallur, Palamedu and Avaniyapuram Jallikattu events from January 14 to 17.

However, several sports enthusiasts and bull sport lovers organize such events in small villages and towns across the state from January to May 31.

This is after taking permission from the respective disrict administrations that include police, revenue and health departments.

The new portal will help reduce the time required for granting approval for the Jallikattu tournaments that are held in several villages and mofussil towns in Tamil Nadu.

The health condition of the bulls and their specifics will be uploaded in the portal. It may be recalled that there were strong protests in the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu against the delay in granting approval for the Jallikattu tournament.

photo exhibition by government school students and another organised by The Hindu group at the heritage Ripon Building here. The Madras Day event commemorates the founding of the coastal city on August 22, 1639, when a portion of land was acquired by the British East India Company from the Nayak ruler Damarla Chennapa Nayaka, to establish the town and Fort St. George. A group of heritage buffs initiated the Madras Day celebration in 2004 and since then it has been an annual affair. The state capital came to be known by its present name in 1996. The Chief Minister, who went around the exhibits showcasing the old Chennai and other aspects of the ancient city, interacted with the students. The Greater Chennai Corporation too organised the event. "Honoured to unveil three remarkable works by @The_Hindu on this #ChennaiDay," the Chief Minister said in his social media post

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com Bid Identification No. CE-DPI&R-16/2023-24 The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governo of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned

Nature of Work

No. of Work

Tender Paper Cost

Class of Contractor

Available of bid document in the website

Rs.10,000.00 A Class/Special Class/Super Class From 10.00 A.M. of 29.08.2023

to 5.30 P.M. of 15.09.2023 Dt.16.09.2023 at 11.30 A.M. Date of opening of Bid The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further

Road works

6 Nos.

details can be seen from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be see Sd./- Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C

OIPR-34111/11/0030/2324



OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI E-mail: purim.hud@nic.in **NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Identification No. P.M. 1/2023-24 Notice No: 7770 Dated: 19.08.23

1. Type of Work: Civil Work. 2. Total No. of works: 39 nos. of Individual Works. 3. Estimate Cost: Rs.240332/- to Rs. 3372313/-, 4. Period of completion: 45 to 60 Days, 5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the Portal:- from 03 P.M of 23.08.2023 to 05 P.M of 05.09.2023, 6. Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal: up to 05 P.M. of 05.09.2023, 7. Date of Opening of bid: 11 A.M. of dtd 07.09.2023, 8. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri. Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Sd./- Executive Officer,

OIPR-13159/11/0026/2324

Puri Municipality, Puri

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD

Rupali Square, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha Tel No.2542475, 2542617, FAX-2544828. Email: admin@tdccodisha.org E-Auction Notification No. 1264 Date:22.08.2023

E-Auction for Sale of Seeded Tamarind, De-Seeded Tamarind, Seeded Harida & Sal Seeds 2023 Crop procured under MSP Scheme

No. CAD-1791:- TDCCOL, Bhubaneswar is commencing sale of above items procured under MSP Scheme stored in different cold storages/ godowns in Odisha through e-auction platform of MSTC Ltd. (E RaKAM), eNivida portal, BSE - e-Agriculture Markets (BEaM), NCDEX e-Market Ltd (NeML) & C1 India service provider. The e-Auction will be held on 13.09.2023 (Seeded Tamarind, De-Seeded Tamarind, Seeded Harida) & 14.09.2023 (Sal Seeds). The detail tender call notice car be downloaded from website of TDCCOL i.e. www.tdccorissa.org. Any changes/modification in the e-Auction documents will be posted in

OIPR-26005/11/0007/2324

Sd./- Managing Director

Scary scenes of mountains rolling down -- a wake-up call

Climate experts say flooding and landslides are common during monsoon but the climate crisis is making the rains stronger and more erratic. It is an urgent signal to act on the climate crisis and to think of a long-term infrastructure plan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, August 22: Scary scenes of mountains rolling down, dams flooded, rivers gobbling up road networks, sweeping away hutments, villages submerged and thousands of people stranded in low-lying area have been coming out from the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh after relentless monsoon fury -- an unprecedented phenomenon and a wake-up call too.

Climate experts say flooding and landslides are common during monsoon but the climate crisis is making the rains stronger and more erratic. It is an urgent signal to act on the climate crisis and to think of a long-term infrastructure plan.

The ferocious Beas ate up a large part of a highway running parallel to the riverbank and washed away at least nine bridges in Mandi and Kullu regions,

snapping even pedestrian movement. The Chandigarh-Shimla national highway has remained blocked for several days owing to frequent landslides in Chakki Mor on the Parwanoo-Dharampur section.

As per government records, 126people have lost their lives due to landslides and flash floods since July 26, the onset of monsoon, vital for agriculture and the livelihoods of millions. Thirty eight people are missing. The state has seen 113 landslides and 58 cloudbursts. The damage to roads has been extensive in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts. For the first time, the bottom of the century-old Shimla-Kalka railway line was swept away in the landslide near Shimla and is

hanging in the air. "Our hometown is crumbling, a place where one grew up, walked to school and loved the mist and beauty of clouds. The



up in Shimla that served as the summer capital of British India between 1864 and 1939. As the state has been reeling

under the relentless onslaught of nature's fury, a landslide in the Summer Hill area of Shimla on August 14 led to the smashing of a temple that was crowded with devotees, raising fears that the death toll could rise. Fourteen bodies have been pulled out of the rubble as rescue work is still on.

On the same day, a cloudburst in Solan district claimed seven lives. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, who demands more au-

tomatic weather stations, has said that it will definitely take a vear to restore the state due to the colossal damage estimated at around Rs 10,000 crore.

He said a 157 per cent surge in rainfall was recorded in the state in 48 hours, the most rain in decades. Presiding over a meeting here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said the main cause of the cracks on the roads is lack of proper drainage and crossdrainage systems.

"Henceforth, new road construction sans a proper drainage system will not be approved or passed," he said, adding this could only be ensured by quality work at the time of construction. Last month also the state saw heavy monsoon showers on July 8 and 9, leaving a

The heavy loss of life caused by such calamities can be mainly attributed to the increasing human activity, particularly along the rivers and water channels. Even the state's cold desert Lahaul-Spiti, the rain-shadow zone, had to face a deluge last month.

Climate scientists say in re-

trail of widespread destruction.

cent years flash floods have intensified as the mountains are getting older and they contribute to more silt and sand The haphazard dumping of muck and debris along streams and rivers that disturbs their natural course often multiplies hazardous landslide chain reactions downstream. Also debris from blasting and construction of hydropower projects and national highway projects is dumped on slopes, damaging the vegetation too. Advocating sustainable devel opment, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the state High Court have time and again rapped the state authorities over their lack of response to the growing unauthorized constructions across the state, especially in the capital.



PHOTO POST





A man in Ahmedabad painted in the Indian Tricolour holds the national flag near Atal Bridge ahead of Chandrayaan-3's soft-landing on Moon's surface



A man along with two kids rides a scooty during rainfall in Hyderabad, Telangana



Russian servicemen, volunteers and cadets hold about 2,100 square meter (about 22,600 square feet) Russian national flag to mark the Russia's National Flag Day at the World War II museum on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow, Russia



In this photo released by Australian Department of Defence via Australian Embassy in the Philippines, Australian Army soldiers from the 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery during a bilateral air assault exercise in Rizal, Palawan province, Philippines



This image provided from Cyprus' Joint rescue Coordination Center shows Cyprus' rescue team helping migrants from a boat in the sea near the eastern coastal resort of Protaras, on the east side of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus



Visitors at the Taj Mahal amid rainfall in Agra, Uttar Pradesh



Health workers take part in a protest rally at Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Chhattisgarh

PTI /AP PHOTOS



national



The PM speaks of taking along everybody, but targets opposition-ruled states. Even the smallest of incidents like an ant bite is being probed by the **ED and CBI**

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SEVERAL FARMERS DETAINED IN AMBALA

Several farmers were taken into custody in Haryana's Ambala Tuesday when they were heading towards Chandigarh for a protest to seek compensation for losses caused by floods, officials said. The farmers were taken into custody at Shambhu border and later taken to a police station in buses





A total of 533 mohalla clinics are functional in Delhi at present, 512 of these operate in morning shift while 21 are

functional in evening shift

ARVIND KEJRIWAL DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Those who keep on saving Article 370 was temporary forget that it is written there that it can only be abrogated when the President of India gets an approval from the constituent assembly of J-K and not the assembly or the governor

M Y TARIGAMI CPI(M) LEADER

procurement

centres set up in Ahmednagar same. It would offer some relief to the onion growers in the state

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS MAHARASHTRA DY CM

SHORT TAKES

Hyd: Teenage girl gangraped

Hyderabad: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men at her house here triggering protests on Tuesday demanding stern punishment for the accused while Governor Tamilisai Soundararajar sought a detailed report from top officials, including state Chief Secretary, within 48 hours. The girl in her complaint lodged with Meerpet police station named three persons for sexually assaulting her at her residence Monday, police said today. Based on her complaint, a case was registered and teams were formed to nab the accused, a senior police official said adding that the girl was sent to a hospital for medical examination.

Public holiday in Delhi from Sep 8-10

New Delhi: All private and 8-10 while banks and commercial establishments, including markets, in the New Delhi district will be shut during these three days. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal approved a proposal in this regard in view of the G20 Summit in the national capital. According to the approved proposal, all schools and colleges will remain closed during these three days.

Bypoll to vacant RS seat from UP Sept 15

New Delhi: Bypoll to a Rajya Sabha seat from Uttar Pradesh vacated following the death of a sitting member will be held September 15, the Election Commission said Tuesday, Hardwar Dubey (BJP) had passed away June 26. His term as a Raiya Sabha member was to otherwise end in November, 2026.

EC to visit Ch'garh

New Delhi: As it gears up to hold assembly polls in five states, the Election Commission is likely to visit Chhattisgarh for two days beginning August 24, sources said Tuesday. The Commission, led by Chief **Election Commissioner Rajiv** Kumar, is likely to visit Mizoram next, most likely at the end of this month, they said.

Prakash Raj in trouble

Bangalore: Hindu organisations have filed a police complaint against actor and activist Prakash Raj in Bagalkot district of Karnataka for his objectionable tweet Chandrayaan-3. The actor had shared a cartoon post of a man serving tea in his vest and lungi and stated "Breaking news: first picture coming from the Moon by Vikram Lander. Wow, just asking" he mentioned

DELHI MINOR RAPE CASE Maliwal writes to Shah

In a letter to Shah, she also urged the Home Minister to order an inquiry into the delay in arresting the accused and to shift the girl to AIIMS for better treatment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. August 22: DCW chief Swati Maliwal Tuesday requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to direct the Delhi Police to allow her meeting with the minor girl allegedly raped by a senior Delhi government official.

In a letter to Shah, she also urged the Home Minister to order an inquiry into the delay in arresting the accused and to shift the girl to AIIMS for better treatment

Premoday Khakha -- a deputy director in the city government's women and child development department -- allegedly raped the girl several times between November 2020 and January 2021, according to the Delhi Police. His wife allegedly gave the girl medicine to terminate her pregnancy.

Khakha and his wife Seema Rani were arrested Monday.

Maliwal, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson, said that while the police and the hospital authorities prevented her from meeting the girl and her mother, they allowed the meet with the girl

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson to interact with the mother

"It is extremely unfortunate that even though I waited for over 24 hours outside the hospital and even slept there, the Delhi Police and the hospital authorities disallowed my meeting with the survivor or her family. Despite my repeated requests, I was not allowed to meet with the survivor or her family, which is an illegal act, both by the Delhi Police and the private hospital (sic)," the letter read.

Maliwal also demanded that the survivor be urgently shifted to AIIMS for better treatment

Maliwal, who began her dharna Monday morning, left the hospital Tuesday afternoon after failing to meet the survivor.

A police official said the girl's mother did not want to meet anyone since her daughter is still under observation.

In a post on X, Maliwal said in Hindi, "Had I not come to meet the girl, they would have said that I didn't bother to see her. Now, when I am here, they are saving it's a drama. Politics has fallen to such levels that politicians cannot speak the truth.' Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday ordered the chief secretary to suspend the accused officer.

According to the order, during the suspension period, the officer is not permitted to leave the department headquarters without obtaining prior permission.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said Rani was produced before a court Monday and sent to judicial custody while Khakha will be produced in the court

DEFENCE ESPIONAGE CASE CBI arrests Canadian resident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The CBI has arrested a Canada-based businessman in connection with a defence espionage case in which a journalist and a former Navy commander were held in May, officials said Tuesday.

Rahul Gangal, the businessman who had taken Permanent Residency in Canada in 2019 and also worked in a multi-national corporation, was arrested after he arrived here Monday, they said.

The probe agency received information about Gangal's arrival and located his place of stay in Delhi. He was arrested from there, a CBI spokesperson said. According to officials, a special court has sent the accused to CBI custody for four days.

The agency had earlier arrested freelance journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navv commander Ashish Pathak for allegedly collecting sensitive information on defence matters and passing them on to foreign intelligence agencies.

The CBI was on the trail of suspects based in India and abroad since the arrest of Pathak and Raghuvanshi, officials said.

In its charge sheet filed before a special court here last month, the CBI accused Raghuvanshi and Pathak of violating the Official Secrets Act and related offences, the officials said.

Raghuvanshi and Pathak were arrested May 16. "It was alleged that the accused (Raghuvanshi) and his associate (Pathak) who is presently working with a (private) firm, were in possession of classified secret document related to Indian defence establishments," a CBI spokesperson had said after registration of the case.

The CBI took over the probe from the Delhi Police's Special Cell, which was tracking Raghuvanshi since September last year when it registered an FIR against him.



Canadian national Rahul Gangal was allegedly getting sensitive documents pertaining to the defence and armed forces from arrested journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi

Raghuvanshi was allegedly collecting sensitive information and minute details about the progress of various DRDO projects, the CBI alleged. He was also collecting details

of future procurement plans of Indian armed forces which could have adversely affected the country's strategic preparedness, the agency alleged. The CBI has alleged that

Raghuvanshi had collected information about classified communication information related to national security, besides details of strategic and diplomatic talks of India with friendly countries.

This information, if brought out, could have spoilt India's bilateral relations with these countries, they said. According to the CBI, scrutiny

of the seized digital devices revealed that the journalist was allegedly gathering classified information about India's defence procurement from various sources and was in touch with several foreign entities, agents and persons. The accused had entered into agreements with multiple foreign entities for information sharing.

Dholpur-Karauli tiger reserve in Raj approved



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jaipur, August 22: India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts Tuesday with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal in this regard.

This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore. Sariska, Mukundra Hills and Ramgarh Vishdhari. "Giant leap for wildlife conservation in Rajasthan, Happy to announce that the state has got yet another Tiger Reserve."The Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve has been accorded the final approval by @ntca_india. Let's pledge to safeguard this precious ecosystem and its majestic tigers," Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yaday wrote on the X.

Meanwhile, in-principle approval has been granted to declare Kumbhalgarh in Rajasthan as a Tiger Reserve. "Glad to share that in-principle approval has been granted to declare Kumbhalgarh as a Tiger Reserve! This significant step towards wildlife conservation promises a brighter future for tigers and biodiversity in Rajasthan," Yadav

said in another post on X. The move will boost employment opportunities for the people of the region through ecotourism, he added. The NTCA approved the proposal on August 4 and in-principle approval was cleared by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

No Constitutional provision excludes its applicability in J&K: Apex court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 22: The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday said that there are no provisions in the Indian Constitution which exclude its applicability to Jammu and Kashmir.

It observed that 'J&K is an integral part of India and surely the jurisdiction of every democratically elected institution in India is not excluded in its application and has to be dealt with a provision of the Constitution'. Senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi contended that

"the basic theme of Kashmir is entirely different in terms of accession to the Dominion of India and it did not merge like other states". During the hearing, it was argued that asymmetrical federalism provides for protection against majoritarianism, adding that the Constitution itself is also anti-majoritarianism. Senior advocate CU Singh, questioned the J&K Reorganisation Act, which downgraded the state into two Union Territories (UTs), arguing that to convert a state into LIT a Constitutional amendment is needed under Article 368 which needs special majority and rat-

ification by two-thirds of states. He said that if states are allowed to be converted into UTs. basic structure is also wiped out. When the Constitution Bench was about to rise for the day, it said that the petitioners must realise that the bench is reaching a level of "mental saturation", and it would like to hear Centre's response to their con-

CJI DY Chandrachud clarified that remaining advocates will get limited time, like 10 minutes. petitioners should close their ar-(Wednesday) afternoon.

HOPE FOR THE BEST: Students of Everwin School with their faces painted with Moon celebrate the pre-soft landing of Chandrayaan- 3, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu PTI PHOTO

HC upholds man's acquittal in case of raping minor wife

Under the exception given in Section 375 (rape) of the *IPC*, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, the wife not being under 15 years, is not rape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The Delhi High Court has refused to entertain the State's appeal against a man's acquittal in a case of raping his 15-year-old wife, saying his physical relationship with her cannot be termed as rape. The high court upheld a trial court's judgement which had declared the Muslim man not guilty of raping his second wife, saying he has been rightly acquitted.

'The additional sessions judge had rightly observed that in view of the testimony of the child that she got married to the respondent (man) in the month of December, 2014 and only thereafter did they have physical relationship, no offence under Section 6 read with Section 5(1) of POCSO Act was made out and the respondent was rightly acquitted," a bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna said.

The high court said there was no ground for grant of leave to appeal against the trial court's



verdict and dismissed an application filed by the police.

"We find that since the child victim was the wife who was almost fifteen years of age, the physical relationship of the respondent with the victim, cannot be termed as rape. The respondent has been rightly ac-

quitted," the bench said. Under the exception given in Section 375 (rape) of the IPC, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, the wife not

being under 15 years, is not rape. According to the prosecution, a rape case was lodged against the man in 2015 on the complaint of the girl's mother after finding out that her minor daughter was pregnant. The girl, in her testimony before the trial court, submitted that the man who was her brother-in-law had married her in December 2014 after which he established physical relations with her with her consent and she became pregnant. She said the fact that she had got married to the man was not known to her mother, who lodged a complaint with the police on discovering that she was pregnant.

EC to designate Sachin Tendulkar as 'national icon'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar will Wednesday be designated as a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process. A memorandum of under-

standing will be signed between Tendulkar and the poll panel here Wednesday. As part of the three-year agreement, Tendulkar will spread voter awareness. 'This collaboration would

mark a significant step towards leveraging Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in general elections (to Lok Sabha), 2024," the EC said in a statement. Through the partnership, the

EC seeks to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy towards voting. The EC has been associating itself with renowned Indians from various fields by designating them as its "national icons" to motivate voters for participation in the electoral process.

Last year, the commission had recognised actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, stalwarts such as MS Dhoni, Aamir Khan and Mary Kom had been the EC's national icons.



international



In recent years the administrative and economic discipline of the Kim Tok **Hun Cabinet has got out of order** more seriously and, consequently, the idlers are spoiling all the state economic work with the irresponsible work manner KIM JONG UN NORTH KOREAN LEADER

IMRAN GETS NEW WASHROOM

A new washroom with a five-feet high wall with a door has been constructed at the Attock jail cell of Imran Khan after the former Pakistan Prime Minister complained to the court about the poor living conditions and lack of privacy, a senior Punjab government prison official said Tuesday



by Greek Cypriots towards the Greek population in Pyla was never subjected

condemnation by the United Nations HAKAN FIDAN TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

I repeated that Serbia respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine, unlike some who respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, but not Serbia



regular flight plan of North Korean Air Koryo Pyongyang-Beijing-Pyongyang and other passenger routes in accordance with the procedures

WANG WENBIN CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

PM Modi arrives in South Africa

Johannesburg: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said he was looking forward to the deliberations and meetings with world leaders during the 15th BRICS Summit as he was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in South Africa. Modi, who arrived here on a three-day official visit, was received by South Africa's **Deputy President Paul** Mashatile at Waterkloof Air Force Base, where he was given a ceremonial guard of honour.

African Union suspends Niger

Niamey (Niger): The African Union Tuesday suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities "until the effective restoration of constitutional order" following last month's coup. The council of the 55-nation bloc made the decision after mutinous soldiers overthrew Niger's democratically elected president läst month and quickly entrenched themselves in power, rebuffing most dialogue efforts.

11 killed in blast

Beijing: Authorities say 11 people have been killed in a coal mine explosion in northern China, in a reminder of the country's continued dependence on the energy source. The blast occurred late Monday on the outskirts of the historic city of Yan'an in mountainous Shaanxi province, where mining has long been a key driver of the local economy. A total of 90 miners were in the shaft at the time of the explosion, which is still under investigation.

US court stays Rana extradition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 22: Overriding the Biden administration's appeal, a US court has ordered a stay on the extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana, to India where he is facing a trial for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Rana, 62, has appealed before the Ninth Circuit Court against the order by a US District Court in the Central District of California that denied the writ of habeas corpus. District Judge Dale S. Fischer of the US District Court in Central California in his latest order said that Rana's "ex parte application" seeking a stay on his extradition is granted.

The extradition of Rana to India is stayed pending the conclusion of his appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit," Judge Fischer said in the order issued on August 18. In doing so the iudge overrode the government's recommendations that there should be no stay on Rana's ex-

Rana faces charges for his role in the Mumbai attacks and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the



different jurists could the Court does not find that Rana come to different BEFORE THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT AGAINST THE ORDER BY A US "has made a conclusions. DISTRICT COURT IN THE CENTRAL
DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA THAT DENIED THE showing that he is likely to the merits" TERRORIST DAVID COLEMAN HEADLEY
ONE OF THE MAIN CONSPIRATORS
OF THE 26/11 MUMBAI
OUT ATTACKS fac otherwise

would have ruled in his favour in the first instance – he has certainly raised serious legal questions going to the merits, the judge wrote.

The proper meaning of "offence" in Article 6(1) of the exprocess has not been rushed so far. Otherwise, the public interest, if anything, favours Rana," the judge wrote.

The public has a strong interest in the proper interpretation of extradition treaties, particularly in the interpretation of provisions that provide important individual protections like the one at issue here. Further, there is a strong public interest in definitive, binding interpretations of treaties. District courts cannot provide those rulings; courts of appeals can," the judge wrote, throwing the legal battle to the Ninth Circuit Court now.

The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has asked Rana to submit his argument before October 10 and the US Government has been asked to submit its response by November 8. Judge Fischer wrote that Rana has shown that he is likely to suffer significant irreparable harm absent a stay.

He will be extradited to India for a trial on serious crimes with no hope for a review of his arguments or hope for his return to the United States. The government admits this, but then argues that because "this claimed irreparable harm applies categorically to any fugitive who seeks a stay of extradition pending appeal," it does not count, the



In this photo released by the Iranian Presidency Office, President Ebrahim Raisi, attends a ceremony to deliver the domestically built missiles to the

Five rescued from Rescuers discover 18 bodies in Greece hanging cable car

strong

succeed

the Court

on

Peshawar/Islamabad, August 22: Rescuers in Pakistan pulled five of seven children to safety after they became stranded with their teacher in a cable car high over a ravine, but a helicopter rescue operation was called off as night fell, media and a security source said.

Flood lights were installed and a ground-based rescue operation was continuing more than 12 hours after their cable car snagged, leaving it hanging at an angle, a security source said.

The source added that cable crossing experts had been sent by the military to the remote area north of Islamabad and were trying to rescue the children one by one by transferring them on to a small platform along the cable.

"Three more children have been rescued in Pakistan army's rescue operation," the military said after the helicopter had been withdrawn. "Five children have been rescued so far. Operation is continuing."

A video shared by a rescue agency official showed more than a dozen rescuers and locals lined up near the edge of the dark ravine, pulling on a cable until a boy attached to it by a harness reached the hillside safely to cries of "God is great".

Residents said community members from surrounding areas who had experience rescuing



'It is a slow and risky operation. One person needs to tie himself with a rope and he will

go in a small chairlift and rescue them one by one," said Abdul Nasir Khan, a resident. One of the cable lines carrying the car snapped at around 7 a.m. (0200 GMT) as the students

were travelling to school in a remote mountainous area in Battagram, about 200 km (125 miles) north of Islamabad, officials said.

people this way had also arrived

Two children were rescued by helicopter, one by one, district official Shah Fahad and the military's media said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexandroupolis (Greece), August 22: Firefighters found the bodies of 18 people while scouring the area of a major wildfire in northeastern Greece burning out of control for a fourth day Tuesday. Authorities were examining whether the group might have been migrants who entered the country through the nearby border with Turkey.

Rana's position

colourable

and could

very well be

found to be

correct on ap-

peal," the judge

'The final two

noted

the Government is the op-

posing party." There is value in

compliance with India's extra-

dition request, but Rana's ex-

tradition proceedings have been

going on for more than three

factors "merge when

is certainly

The discovery in the Avanta area of the city of Alexandroupolis came as hundreds of firefighters battled dozens of wildfires breaking out across the country, fanned by gale-force winds. On Monday, two people died and two firefighters were injured in separate fires in northern and central Greece



Alexandroupolis

ot, dry and windy

conditions have

seen dozens of

across Greece,

with the most

fourth day and

wildfires break out

severe entering its

encroaching on the

northeastern port

With their hot, dry summers, southern European countries are particularly prone to wildfires.

Another major blaze was burning across Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands for a week, although no injuries or damage to homes was reported.

European Union officials have blamed climate change for the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in Europe, noting that 2022 was the

second-worst year for wildfire damage on record after 2017.

In Greece, police activated the country's Disaster Victim Identification Team to identify the 18 bodies, which were found near a shack in the Avanta area, Ioannis Artopios, a spokesman for the fire department, said in a televised statement.

"Given that there have been no reports of a missing person or missing residents from the surrounding areas, the possibility is being investigated that these are people who had entered the country illegally," Artopios said.

Alexandroupolis lies near the country's border with Turkey, along a route often taken by people fleeing poverty and conflict in the Middle East, Asia and Africa and seeking to enter the European Union

Japan to release Fukushima water from Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokvo. August 22: Japan will start releasing treated and diluted radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean as early as Thursday — a controversial step that the government says is essential for the decades of work needed to shut down the facility that had reactor meltdowns 12 years ago.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida gave the final go-ahead Tuesday at a meeting of Cabinet ministers involved in the plan and instructed the operator, Tokyo Electric Power



Company Holdings, to be ready to start the coastal release Thursday if weather and sea conditions permit.

Kishida said at the meeting that the release of the water is essential for the progress of the plant decommissioning and Fukushima prefecture's recovery

from the March 11, 2011, disaster. He said the government has

done everything for now to ensure the plan's safety, protect the reputation of Japan's fishing industry and clearly explain the scientific basis to gain understanding in and outside the country. He pledged that the government will continue those efforts until the end of the release and decommissioning, which will take decades.

"The government will take responsibility until the disposal of ALPS-treated water is completed, even if it takes several decades," Kishida said.

REUTERS Bangkok, August 22: Thai

Srettha elected PM

property mogul Srettha Thavisin was elected Prime Minister after a decisive win in a parliamentary vote Tuesday as his party's fugitive figurehead Thaksin Shinawatra made a historic homecoming after years in exile

and was taken straight to jail. The victory by 60-year-old Srettha paves the way for a new coalition government, ending weeks of uncertainty and stalemate in parliament after an election 100 days ago that threatened to weaken the political clout of the country's powerful military.

Srettha, who was thrust into the spotlight just a few months ago by the populist heavyweight Pheu Thai, won the support from two thirds of parliament in a vote that followed hours of hysteria in Thailand over the longawaited return of Thaksin from

self-imposed exile.

"I will perform my duties to the best of my ability. I will work tirelessly to improve the livelihood of all Thais," Srettha said at Pheu Thai's headquarters, his voice drowned out by supporters chanting "Srettha, Srettha". Thaksin received a rapturous reception after he arrived on his jet at a Bangkok airport early on Tuesday, where he briefly met Pheu Thai lawmakers before being escorted by police to the Supreme Court then to a prison to serve a sentence of eight years for abuse of power and conflicts of interest.



India's boom, Russia's crunch: Money shaping a new space race gramme until 2021, when it said are building lunar landers that

Bangalore/Washington, August 22: The space race India aims to win this week by landing first on the moon's South Pole is about science, the politics of national prestige and a new frontier:

India's Chandrayaan-3 is heading for a landing on the lunar South Pole on Wednesday. If it succeeds, analysts and executives expect an immediate boost for the South Asian nation's nascent space industry. Russia's Luna-25, which launched less than two weeks ago, had been on track to get there first – before the lander crashed from orbit, possibly taking with it the funding for a successor mission, analysts say.

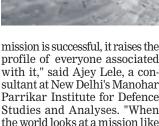
The seemingly sudden competition to get to a previously unexplored region of the moon recalls the space race of the 1960s, when the United States and the Soviet Union competed.

But now space is a business, and the moon's South Pole is a prize because of the water ice there that planners expect could support a future lunar colony, mining operations and eventual missions to Mars.

With a push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has privatised space launches and is looking to open the sector to foreign investment as it targets a five-fold increase in its share of the global launch market within the next decade.

If Chandrayaan-3 succeeds, analysts expect India's space sector to capitalise on a reputation for cost-competitive engineering. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had a budget of around just \$74 million for the mission.

NASA, by comparison, is on track to spend roughly \$93 billion on its Artemis moon programme through 2025, the U.S. space agency's inspector general has estimated. "The moment this



Clardeno Bruno

profile of everyone associated with it," said Ajey Lele, a consultant at New Delhi's Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. "When the world looks at a mission like this, they aren't looking at ISRO in isolation.

RUSSIA'S CRUNCH

Despite Western sanctions over its war in Ukraine and increasing isolation. Russia managed to launch a moonshot. But some experts doubt its ability

to fund a successor to Luna-25. Russia has not disclosed what it spent on the mission.

Harkbeld J

"Expenses for space exploration are systematically reduced from year to year," said Vadim Lukashevich, an independent space expert and author based in Moscow. Russia's budget prioritisation of the war in Ukraine makes a repeat of Luna-25 "extremely unlikely", he added.

Russia had been considering a role in NASA's Artemis pro-

it would partner instead on China's moon programme. Few details of that effort have been disclosed

China made the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon in 2019 and has more missions planned. Space research firm Euroconsult estimates China spent \$12 billion on its space programme in 2022.

NASA'S PLAYBOOK

But by opening to private money, NASA has provided the playbook India is following, officials there have said.

Elon Musk's SpaceX, for example, is developing the Starship rocket for its satellite launch business as well as to ferry NASA astronauts to the moon's surface under a \$3-billion contract Beyond that contract, SpaceX will spend roughly \$2 billion on Starship this year, Musk has

U.S. space firms Astrobotic and Intuitive Machines (LUNR.O) are expected to launch to the moon's South Pole by year's end. or in 2024. And companies such as Axiom Space and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin are developing privately funded successors to the International Space Station. On Monday, Axiom said it raised \$350 million from Saudi and

South Korean investors. Space remains risky. India's last attempt to land failed in 2019, the same year an Israeli startup failed at what would have been the first privately funded moon landing. Japanese startup ispace (9348.T) had a

failed landing attempt this year. "Landing on the moon is hard, as we're seeing," said Bethany Ehlmann, a professor at California Institute of Technology, who is working with NASA on a 2024 mission to map the lunar South Pole and its water ice. "For the past few years, the moon seems to be eating spacecraft.

business



How gen AI will impact jobs in India is still very implementation of Gen AI will happen... We believe it's more a tool for augmentation than replacement

SANGEETA GUPTA NASSCOM SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

HIRING ACTIVITIES RISE IN APRIL-AUGUST: REPORT

Hiring activities increased 23 per cent in the April-August period compared to the year-ago period in various sectors, including retail and telecom, business services provider Quess Corp said in its staffing report, Tuesday.





Our focus is to generative Al's disruptive potential our key alliances by

targeted industry solutions that help clients realise sustainable business outcomes and achieve real

NITIN MITTAL DELOITTE GLOBAL CONSULTING

EMERGING MARKETS LEADER

We announced that we want to be net carbon neutral by 2030. So, coming from a car manufacturer, which is more sporty-

oriented, it was interesting to hear (that). By 2025, 50 per cent of our cars will be electrified, and by 2030, we expect close to 80 per cent of our cars to be fully battery electrified

DETLEV VON PLATEN | PORSCHE AG EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER



of acquisition (for a buyer) becomes competitive

VENKATRAM MAMILLAPALLE CEO AND MD, RENAULT INDIA OPERATIONS

SHORT TAKES

Vedanta seeks \$9.5 for Raj gas

New Delhi: Billionaire Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd is seeking a minimum of USD 9.5 for the natural gas it produces from its Rajasthan block, according to a tender floated by the firm for the sale of the fuel. Vedanta sought bids from users for 0.6 million standard cubic meters per day of gas it plans to produce from the RJ-ON-90/1 block in the Barmer basin of Rajasthan in three months beginning October 1. Gas extracted from below ground is used to produce electricity, make fertilizer, turned into CNG to fire automobiles, or piped to household kitchens for cooking purposes. In the tender, Vedanta asked users to quote a variable 'P' that they are willing to pay over and above 14.5 per cent of Brent crude oil price.

LIC acquires 6.66% stake in Jio Financial

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Tuesday said it has acquired 6.66 per cent stake in Jio Financial Services, the demerged nonbanking financial services unit of the Mukesh Amhani-led Reliance group. ". Corporation has acquired 6.660 per cent shareholding in 'lio Financial Services Ltd' through demerger action by 'Reliance Industries Ltd'," LIC said in a regulatory filing. Jio Financial Services listed on the stock exchanges August 21. The market capitalisation of the financial services company stood at close to ₹1.60 lakh crore. The LIC further said that the cost of acquisition of Jio Financial Services is 4.68 per cent of the pre-demerged cost of Reliance Industries.

Honda to hike car prices from Sept

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Tuesday said it plans to increase vehicle prices from next month in order to partially offset the impact of rising input costs. The automaker currently sells two models -- City and Amaze in the domestic market. "We have been trying to absorb accumulated cost pressures as much as possible. We will carry out a price revision on City and Amaze from September to partially offset the impact of increasing input costs, Honda Cars India Vice President (Sales and Marketing) Kunal Behl told PTI. The company is currently deciding on the quantum of the price increase, he added.

Inflation warrants greater vigil: FinMin

THE ABNORMAL INCREASE IN PRICES OF CERTAIN ITEMS LED TO HIGH FOOD INFLATION IN JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: The finance ministry Tuesday said price pressure on food items is expected to be transitory, with tomato prices seeing a decline, but the government and RBI need to step up vigil to deal with elevated inflationary pressure.

Enhanced provision for capital expenditure by the government in the current fiscal is now leading to crowding in of private investment, and domestic consumption and investment demand would continue to drive growth going forward, said the ministry's Monthly Economic Review for July.

The consumer price index based retail inflation spiked to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July 2023, with specific food commodities mainly driving the increase. Core inflation, however, staved at a 39-month low of 4.9 per cent.

The government has already

taken preemptive measures to re-

strain food inflation which, along with the arrival of fresh stock, is likely to subside price pressure in the market soon... The price pressure in food items is expected to be transitory," the report said, adding, global uncertainty and domestic disruptions may keep inflationary pressures elevated for the coming months, warranting greater vigilance by the government and the RBI.

Though food inflation in July

is perhaps the third highest since the new CPI series began in 2014, only 48 per cent of food items have inflation of above 6 per cent, and this includes 14 food items with inflation in double digits, it said. Items like tomato. green chilli, ginger and garlic witnessed inflation of more than 50 per cent. Hence, the abnormal increase in prices of certain specific items led to high food inflation in July 2023.

"Tomato prices are likely to de-

cline with the arrival of fresh stocks by the end of August or early September. Further, enhanced imports of tur dal are expected to moderate pulses inflation. These factors, along with the recent government efforts, can soon materialise moderation in food inflation in the coming months," the ministry said.

Going forward, while domestic consumption and investment demand are expected to continue driving growth, global and regional uncertainties and domestic disruptions may keep inflationary pressures elevated for the coming months, warranting greater vigilance by the government and the RBI, it added.

Russia's decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain deal, along with dry conditions in major wheat-growing areas, caused the price spike in cereals. While domestic factors like white fly disease and uneven monsoon distribution exerted pressure on vegetable prices in India, it added.

India's own safety ratings for cars to start Oct 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: Union minister Nitin Gadkari Tuesday launched the country's first crash testing programme Bharat NCAP aimed at improving road safety standards of motor vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes.

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is India's own crash testing programme and is cheaper than tests conducted abroad, Gadkari said, adding that the star ratings will help buyers understand the quality of the product and make an informed purchase de-

Bharat NCAP will be implemented from October 1, 2023.

"Bharat NCAP is India's own crash testing programme. This is a very important programme....The cost of testing from abroad is ₹2.5 crore and in India (under) Bharat NCAP it comes to ₹60 lakh. So there can be a good market...," the Road Transport and Highways Minister said.

Under the programme, car



Bharat NCAP is India's own crash testing programme. This is a very important programme....The cost of testing from abroad is ₹2.5 crore and in India (under) Bharat NCAP it comes to ₹60 lakh. So there can be a good market...

NITIN GADKARI | ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS MINISTER

manufacturers can voluntarily offer their vehicles tested as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197, and based on the performance of the car in the tests, the vehicle will be awarded star ratings on a scale of 0-5, for adult occupants (AOP) and child occupants (COP).

The market today is not cost but quality-centric, he said.

GDP growth to be higher than RBI's estimate of 8% for Q1: Economists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 22: The country's real GDP growth in the first quarter will be better than the Reserve Bank's estimate of 8 per cent, economists said Tuesday.

Economists at the country's largest lender SBI pegged the growth at 8.3 per cent while domestic rating agency Icra estimated it to come even higher at 8.5 per cent. The RBI, which expects the

GDP to grow at 6.5 per cent in

FY24, has estimated a growth

of 8 per cent in the April-June period. Official data on growth will be released later this month. In the preceding March quarter, the real GDP had grown at 6.1 per

cent as compared to the yearago period. Both SBI and Icra credited capital expenditure by the Centre

of faster economic growth. The rating agency also said that the lower base - the GDP had contracted by nearly a fourth in the first quarter of FY21 -as a helping factor.

A note by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at SBI, said the largest lender has tracked 30 high frequency indicators to come at the estimate of 8.3 per

"There has been a surge in capital expenditure in Q1, with the central government spending 27.8 per cent of budgeted, while states at 12.7 per cent of budgeted," the note said.

Gen AI won't destroy many jobs: ILO study

CERTAIN CLERICAL JOBS MAY NEVER EMERGE IN LOWER-INCOME COUNTRIES, THE STUDY FINDS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, August 22: Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is more likely to augment than destroy jobs by automating some tasks rather than taking over a role entirely, according to a study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). However, certain clerical jobs may never emerge in lower-income coun-

Most jobs and industries are only partly exposed to automation and are more likely to be complemented rather than substituted by the latest wave of Generative AI, such as chatGPT, the findings showed.

Therefore, the greatest impact of this technology is likely to not be job destruction but rather the potential changes to the quality of jobs, notably work intensity and autonomy.

'The outcomes of the technological transition are not predetermined. It is humans that are behind the decision to incorporate such technologies and it is humans that need to guide the transition process," the authors Clerical work was found to be

the category with the greatest technological exposure, with nearly a quarter of tasks considered highly exposed and more than half of tasks having medium-level exposure.

In other occupational groups - including managers, professionals and technicians - only a



small share of tasks was found to be highly exposed, while about a quarter had medium exposure levels, the study by the UN body found.

The study found that 5.5 per cent of total employment in highincome countries is potentially exposed to the automating effects of the technology, whereas in low-income countries, the risk of automation concerns only some 0.4 per cent of employment.

On the other hand, the potential for augmentation is nearly equal across countries, sug gesting that with the right policies in place, this new wave of technological transformation could offer important benefits for developing countries

"The potential effects of Generative AI are likely to differ significantly for men and women," the study said, with more than twice the share of female employment potentially affected by automation.

This is due to women's overrepresentation in clerical work, especially in high and middle-income countries.

Blue-chip stocks end flat, mid-caps at record high

IT companies, which earn a significant share of their revenue from the US, lost 0.11% on worries about higher-for-longer interest rates in the world's largest economy

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 22: Blue-chip shares were little changed Tuesday due to persistent concerns over US interest rates and China's economic health, although the mid-cap index rallied to a fresh record on brighter domestic prospects.

The Nifty 50 and S&P BSE Sensex eked out a 0.01% gain each to end at 19.396.45 and 65,220.03, respectively, as a slide in heavyweight IT and financials stocks offset gains in other

"It is time to be prudent, to be in the wait-and-watch mode or book profits, rather than going all out to buy," said Umesh Mehta, chief investment officer at Samco Mutual Fund. "The risk-reward is not

favourable in the near term for equity investors, not only in India but across the world." Nonetheless, the more do-

mestically oriented Nifty mid-cap index added 1.10% and hit a fresh record high, while the small-cap index jumped 0.81%.

They have jumped roughly 22% so far this year, while the



blue-chips have gained about

"In the next few months, the Nifty might remain in a broad range of 19.000-20.000, but midcaps and small-caps could continue to outperform, given their earnings visibility," said Gaurav Dua, senior vice president, head of capital market strategy at

Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Five of the 13 main sectors declined. IT companies, which earn a significant share of their revenue from the US, lost 0.11% on worries about higher-forlonger interest rates in the world's largest economy.

Reliance was flat, although its newly spun-off Jio Financial Services fell 5% again, which could see it retain its blue-chip index membership for a little longer. Index heavyweight Adani Enterprises rose 2.21%. In fact. most Adani group stocks gained between 1% and 7%, extending their rally since GQG Partners boosted its stake in Adani Ports

Europe's sweeping rules for Big Tech about to kick in

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 22: Google, Facebook, TikTok and other Big Tech companies operating in Europe are facing one of the most far-reaching efforts to clean up what people encounter on-

The first phase of the European Union's groundbreaking new digital rules will take effect this week. The Digital Services Act is part of a suite of tech-focused regulations crafted by the 27-nation bloc — long a global leader in cracking down on tech giants.

The DSA, which the biggest platforms must start following Friday, is designed to keep users safe online and stop the spread of harmful content that's either illegal or violates a platform's terms of service, such as promotion of genocide or anorexia. It also looks to protect Europeans' fundamental rights like privacy and free speech.

Some online platforms, which could face billions in fines if they don't comply, have already started making changes. Here's a look at what's happening this week: WHICH PLATFORMS ARE AFFECTED?

So far, 19. They include eight social media platforms: Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest and Snapchat.

There are five online marketplaces: Amazon, Booking.Com, China's Alibaba AliExpress and Germany's

 $Mobile\,app\,stores\,Google\,Play$ and Apple's App Store are subject, as are Google's Search and Microsoft's Bing search engine. Google Maps and Wikipedia round out the list.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER **ONLINE COMPANIES?**

The EU's list is based on numbers submitted by the platforms. Those with 45 million or more users — or 10 per cent of the EU's population — will face the DSA's highest level of regula-

Brussels insiders, however, have pointed to some notable omissions from the EU's list,



like eBay, Airbnb, Netflix and even PornHub. The list isn't definitive, and it's possible other platforms may be added later on. Any business providing dig-WHAT'S CHANGING? ital services to Europeans will eventually have to comply with the DSA. They will face fewer obligations than the biggest platto flag illegal online content and

forms, however, and have an-

other six months before they

must fall in line.

Citing uncertainty over the new rules, Facebook and Instagram parent Meta Platforms has held off launching its Twitter rival. Threads, in the EU

out new ways for European users

Platforms have started rolling

dodgy products, which compa-

nies will be obligated to take

down quickly and objectively.

The DSA "will have a significant impact on the experiences Europeans have when they open their phones or fire up their laptops," Nick Clegg, Meta's president for global affairs, said in a blog post.

Meta's existing tools to report illegal or rule-breaking content will be easier to access, Clegg said. Amazon opened a new channel for reporting suspected illegal products and is providing more information about thirdparty merchants.

TikTok gave users an "additional reporting option" for content, including advertising, that they believe is illegal. Categories such as hate speech and harassment, suicide and self-harm, misinformation or frauds and scams, will help them pinpoint

the problem. Then, a "new dedicated team of moderators and legal specialists" will determine whether flagged content either violates its policies or is unlawful and should be taken down, according to the app from Chinese parent company ByteDance.

TikTok says the reason for a takedown will explained to the person who posted the material and the one who flagged it, and decisions can be appealed.

IS THERE PUSHBACK?

last week.

Zalando, a German online fashion retailer, has filed a legal challenge over its inclusion on the DSA's list of the largest online platforms, arguing that it's being treated unfairly.

Nevertheless, Zalando is launching content flagging systems for its website even though there's little risk of illegal material showing up among its highly curated collection of

clothes, bags and shoes. The company has supported the DSA, said Aurelie Caulier, Zalando's head of public affairs for the EU

"It will bring loads of positive 🗦 changes" for consumers, she said. But "generally, Zalando doesn't have systemic risk (that other platforms pose). So that's why we don't think we fit in that category."

Amazon has filed a similar case with a top EU court.

Time to test bench strength GAVASKAR SLAMS SELECTION CRITICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dublin, August 22: Jasprit Bumrah will have to balance between adding miles to his legs and checking his team's benchstrength as India aim to complete a comfortable clean-sweep against Ireland in the threematch T20 series here Wednesday.

The Indian skipper for the series has looked comfortable in the eight overs across two matches but will need to take an informed call if he intends to play a third consecutive game on the bounce in five days even though it is a T20 affair.

The more Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna bowl, the fitter they will get, better the rhythm will be and greater the pace in their deliveries – ingredients that are a must to cook a perfect recipe to trouble Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup and the marquee World Cup.

However, the skipper along with stand-in head coach Sitanshu Kotak will also have to keep in mind that there is an Asian Games to be played and some of the reserve bench players might just be undercooked.

The inconsequential third game gives this think-tank a chance to check out players like Avesh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed, who haven't yet got a game in the series.

In fact, Avesh, who was also with the team during the West Indies T20 series has been benched for seven straight matches and if he is again kept on the sidelines, he will go into Asian Games without any game time, which might be detrimental for both him and the team.

It is unlikely that there will be any change in the batting order unless the team management decides to rest Sanju Samson and try out Jitesh before Asian Games.

However Samson, who is a senior player in this set-up, might not want to sit out as his place in the World Cup squad is far from assured and he would like to carry on from where he left in the second game when he scored 40 off 26 balls.

Arshdeep Singh has got a long rope and his has been a mixed



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



MATCH SCHEDULE

India vs Ireland 3rd T20 International Time: 7:30 pm

Telecast: Sports 18 Stream: Jio Cinema

bag so far after he failed to show consistency in nailing the yorkers during the death overs in the past seven T20 games.

Avesh with his pace or Mukesh Kumar with subtle variations could be tried out at Malahide, which has been a reasonably okay strip for willow wielders although it does get slower towards the end.

With Rinku Singh announcing his arrival on international stage with a 21-ball-38 in the second game, India's T20 squad seems like getting that second finisher after Suryakumar Yadav in shortest format.

The likes of Rinku, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad would like to stamp their authority as this will be the last bilateral T20 series before the next one against Australia which will be held in the month of November.

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

Omission of Ashwin, Chahal raises eyebrows ing back from long injury lavoffs. "More or less it is the same team which we were all thinking about. The only concern is their fitness because both the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 22: India should have included Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal as spinners for the Asia Cup in the leadup to the World Cup, feel former players Madan Lal and Karsan Ghavri.

While Kuldeep Yadav was picked as the frontline spinner for the Asia Cup, the other spin options in the squad are allrounders Ravindra Jadeja and

Axar Patel. "Australia have played Kuldeep Yadav very well. Yuzvendra Chahal should have got a chance. He is a matchwinning bowler," Lal told PTI on the sidelines of Ceat Cricket Rating Award here Monday night.

"Ashwin is someone who has taken 500-600 wickets... He knows how to take wickets. We

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: An annoved Sunil Gavaskar pleaded with those questioning the Indian team selection for the upcoming Asia Cup and asserted that this 17-man squad should form the nucleus of the 15-member World Cup side.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal was a notable omission from the squad, leaving India with only one wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja are the other spin bowling options in the squad that was named Monday.

Few also wondered why senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who is also a very useful batter lower down the order, was not picked in the side.

"Yes, there are a few players who will believe that they are lucky. But the team is selected. So don't talk about Ashwin. Stop

Ghavri said India should

have picked Yashasvi Jaiswal

instead of Tilak Varma.

Yashasvi did very well in the

West Indies. He's in good form

and given the way he has been

performing, he should have

been in the Asia Cup team. He

has a bright future with Team

India," he said. "Everybody is

rating Varma very highly, but

where is the performance? I

hope he does well," he added.



don't watch the matches but stop saying that he should have been picked or another should be there, this is a wrong mindset,' Gavaskar told 'Aaj Tak'.

Both Jadeja and Axar have also proved their batting abilities across formats and will add depth to India's line-up.

KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer were also named in the team for the tournament beginning August 31 while highly-rated young batter Tilak Varma earned a maiden call-up to the one-day format.

Gavaskar believed the team selection was fair and expressed optimism ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup. "Yes, absolutely (this team can win the World Cup). Who else would you have picked? I don't think any player can claim that there has been an injustice to him. The experienced and in-form players have been selected in the 17member Asia Cup squad," Gavaskar said.

Gavaskar also backed the decision to pick Rahul, who has developed a new niggle and might not be available for the first match of the continental tournament against Pakistan September 2.

'Let's see what his injury is like. Winning the Asia Cup is important but the goal is the World Cup. So if the team management wants KL Rahul in the World Cup squad then I think it's right that they have selected him for Asia Cup despite a niggle.

"As far as India are concerned, there are 11 days to go. That's enough time to recover from a niggle. And there are more matches as well, right till the middle of September. I think it will be fair to give KL_ Rahul (a chance) after all that he has done for India in the past, to give him the opportunity to recover," Gavaskar said.

10-man Arsenal edge

past Crystal Palace 1-0

did not play him in the WTC final, the team management knows better," added the 1983 World Cup winner. Ghavri backed Ashwin for the upcoming World Cup, saying he will be vital in Indian conditions. "What is Ashwin supposed to prove after taking 712 international wickets? He has not been treated well despite being a senior player," Ghavri said. "Ashwin is a quality player and he should have been selected for the Asia Cup. He will be a key bowler in the ODI World Cup on Indian pitches,' he said. Lal questioned the fitness of the players such as KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, who are com-

Asia Cup and the World Cup are

big events and level of fitness

then you are not mentally fit ei-

ther — injuries always worry

you. Hope the selectors have

taken care of that.'

'If you are not fit physically

is very important," he said.

SHORT TAKES

holder 100m hurdler Jvothi Yarraii

Yarraji disappoints **BUDAPEST:** National record

failed to qualify for the semifinals of the World Athletics Championships as she finished seventh in her heat in yet another disappointing performance for India here Tuesday. The 23-yearold Yarraji clocked a below-par 13.05 seconds to finish seventh in heat number four and 29th overall. The first four finishers in each of the five heats and the four other fastest athletes (24 in total) qualified for the semifinals.

Honey, Rahul shine

The last semifinals qualifier

clocked 12.92s.

DUBAI: Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjiya clinched gold and silver respectively in the junior men's 72kg category at the World Para Powerlifting Championships here Tuesday. Dabas lifted a best total of 135kg while Jograjiya had his best total lift of 132kg. India is fielding 21 athletes in the 9-day championship.

Sen, Prannoy through, Sindhu bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, August 22: Former champion PV Sindhu's wretched run continued as she bowed out of the World Championships, but HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen produced commanding performances to enter the third round in men's singles, here Tuesday.

The most successful Indian at World Championships with five medals, Sindhu lacked any sting in her attack and went down tamely 14-21, 14-21 to old nemesis Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, a 2017 gold medallist and silver winner in 2019. It is the first time in her career that Sindhu, seeded 16th, has failed to reach the quarterfinals at the prestigious tournament.

In men's singles, World No.9 Prannoy produced a masterclass as he tamed Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 21-9, 21-14 to set up a clash with 2021 champion, Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Earlier, Sen, a bronze medallist



at the 2021 edition, prevailed 21-11, 21-12 over the World No.51 Korean Jeon Hyeok Jin. The Indian, thus, settled his score against the Korean, who had defeated him in their

only meeting at the Asia Team Championship in 2022.

The 11th seeded Indian is likely to face third seeded Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand in the next round. Sen has a 4-5 headto-head count against Vitidsarn, whom he had defeated on way to Canada Open Super 500 title.

Sen was alert and took the initiatives during the rallies, showing his retrieval skills, speed and shot selection to dominate the proceedings. Sen entered the interval with 11-6 lead and kept things under a firm grip even after resumption to quickly move to 18-11 before sealing the first game with three straight points.

In the second game, Sen opened up a 4-1 lead before making it 11-5 at the break. He continued to construct his points and got behind the shuttle early to produce clean winners to grab eight match points and converted it in his second attempt.

In women's singles, Sindhu and Okuhara, best known for their marathon 110-minute-long 2017 Worlds final in Glasgow, have always produced engaging contests but the second round match at the Royal Arena turned out to be a lopsided contest.

Odegaard, the captain. Arsenal is keeping pace with likely title rival Manchester City, the defending champion, by earning back-to-back wins. The first 2-1 at home to Nottingham $Forest-didn't\ come\ easy,\ either.$

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 22: Arsenal

relied on Martin Odegaard's

54th-minute penalty and an ob-

durate defensive effort when

down to 10 men late on to se-

cure a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace

in the English Premier League.

off in the 67th minute after col-

lecting a second yellow card

Monday, forcing Arsenal to re-

treat to preserve its second

straight victory to open the cam-

In the end, a penalty sepa-

rated the teams, with Odegaard

sending Sam Johnstone the

wrong way from the spot after the

Palace goalkeeper brought down

Eddie Nketiah following a quickly

taken free kick. Bukayo Saka

usually takes Arsenal's spot

kicks but he handed the ball to

Takehiro Tomiyasu was sent

Palace offered little attacking threat until Tomiyasu, who was yellow-carded in the 60th for taking too long at a throw-in, was adjudged to have pulled the jersey of Jordan Ayew after the Palace forward spun round to chase a ball over the top.

The second booking looked harsh and Tomiyasu appeared stunned by the decision as he became the fifth player in the second round of Premier League games to be sent off. Match officials are clamping down on time-wasting, especially, this season, explaining why Tomiyasu got his first yellow.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta withdrew a raft of attackers in the final 20 minutes and replaced them with defenders to protect the lead. Center backs William Saliba and substitute Gabriel, in particular, were impressive in helping Arsenal see the game out.

In the first half, Nketiah wasted two great chances when played through first by Saka and then by Rice. His first attempt hit the post and his second was poked over the crossbar.

Chess great Kasparov hails Praggnanandhaa, mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 22: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's incredible run in the Chess World Cup has reminded the legendary Garry Kasparov of his time as the king of 64 squares.

Impressed with the teen sensation's win over World No.3 Fabiano Caruana here on Monday, the former World Champion Kasparov took to Twitter, formerly X, to laud the 18-year-old's feats and his mother's efforts.

"Congrats to @rpragchess -

and to his mother. As someone whose proud mama accompanied me to every event, it's a special kind of support! The Chennai Indian defeated two New York cowboys! He has been very tenacious in difficult positions," Kasparov tweeted.

Continuing his dream run, Praggnanandhaa Monday stunned Caruana 3.5-2.5 via the tie-break in the semifinals to set up a summit clash with world number one and five-time world champion



Magnus Carlsen of Norway at

the FIDE's premier event. Praggnanandhaa defeated Caruana after four rapid tiebreak games and thereafter stormed into the final of the showpiece. After the two-game classical series ended 1-1, the Indian prodigy outlasted the highly-rated American GM in a battle of wits in a nerve-wracking tie-breaker.

Praggnanandhaa also became the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand – also a five-time World Champion -in 2002 to make it to the final of the FIDE World Cup.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159