

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*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
You spend happy times with your loved ones today. Ganesh 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 to be prone to daydreaming and fantasizing. Ganesh suggests you lose 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.

GEMINI
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 Ganesh.

CANCER
You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesh. You will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

LEO
Long forgotten relationships may be renewed today. Old acquaintances, room partners, hostel mates and the like may bump into you today. You will be in a happy mood as a result. Marital life will be blissful, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Business acumen is natural to you. Your management skills are immaculate. Move with imagination, innovation and motivation to further your enterprise, advises Ganesh. Feel free to express and exercise your sense of judgement, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be more aware about your beauty and outward 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 anything 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 Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is likely to scale new heights, says Ganesh. You need to build up your confidence and move ahead with zest and enthusiasm. Rake in the moolah as the business yield 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 Ganesh. You will get the desired profits in the business irrespective 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 Ganesh. You will begin the day with a long list of things to be done, but luckily you will be able to 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 Ganesh.

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 lose your temper and to continue as usual, for things will take care of themselves soon enough, says Ganesh.

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 find romantic people nowadays. I want to get married for sure."

She further added, "I 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 of me. Someone who I can talk to and discuss things with."



Sunny reveals plans post *Gadar 2* success

Mumbai: After 22 years, Sunny Deol's recent release *Gadar 2* has created 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

cherishing this moment shared his plans for future projects.

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'

New Delhi: Actress 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.

As a cop, she displays strength and competence in her profession, yet 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 another 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 added.

One night, one family, multiple 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 Vij and Sanjeev Chopra. Pratik Sehajpal, will be seen in a cameo role.

Produced by Nirvikar Films, directed by Robbie Grewal, and written by Saurav Dey, *Aakhri Sach* will stream from August 25, on Disney+ Hotstar.



Nushratt exceeds her own expectations

Mumbai: Actress Nushratt Bharucha, who is now gearing up to essay the role of Jyoti in *Akelli*, says she never knew she could do so much acting or different roles.

In a conversation, the *Dream Girl* actress spoke about playing such roles and making a mark with them. But when she started 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 started with what was given to me, I read it and tried to have fun with it and do it in a different way."

Nushratt said that in order to make her characters stand out she tries different things only if required.

"*Awaz change karun, chaal badlun, look 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."

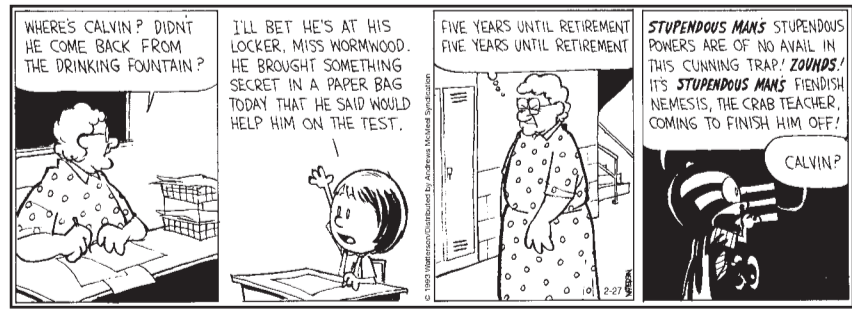
"*But karte karte and enjoy karte* I have just explored a wider world of films and characters which I had not thought of. It has been my discovery that it just happened," she shared. In *Akelli*, set to release August 25, Nushratt plays an ordinary Indian girl trapped in a combat zone.



PEANUTS



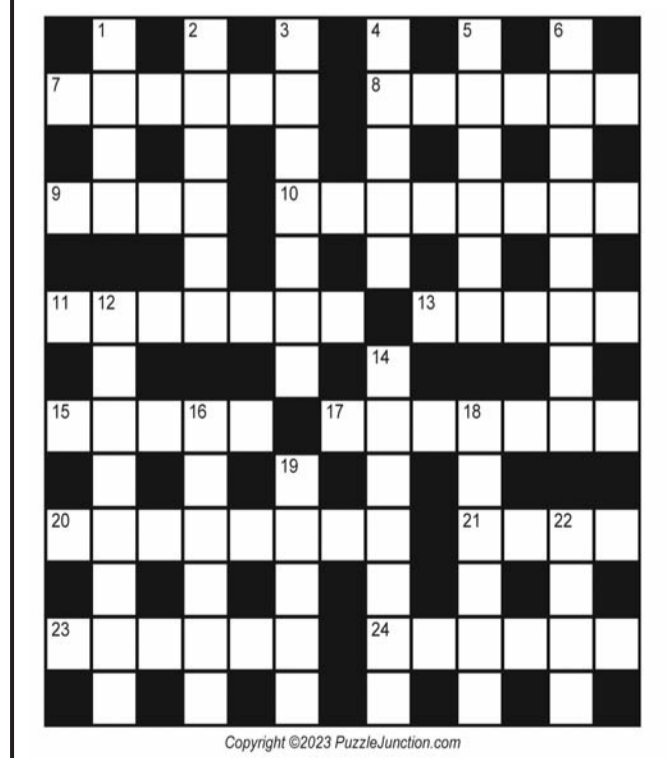
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



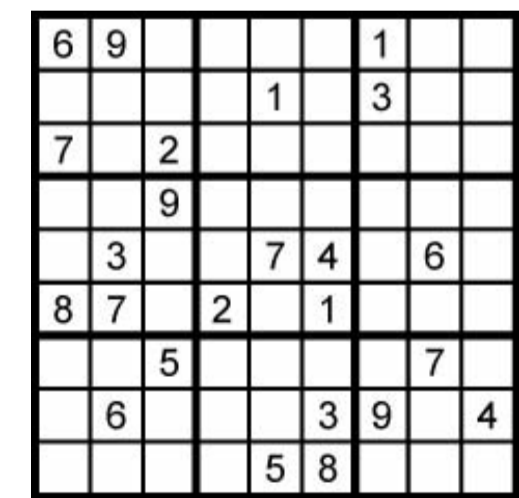
FUN post CROSSWORD



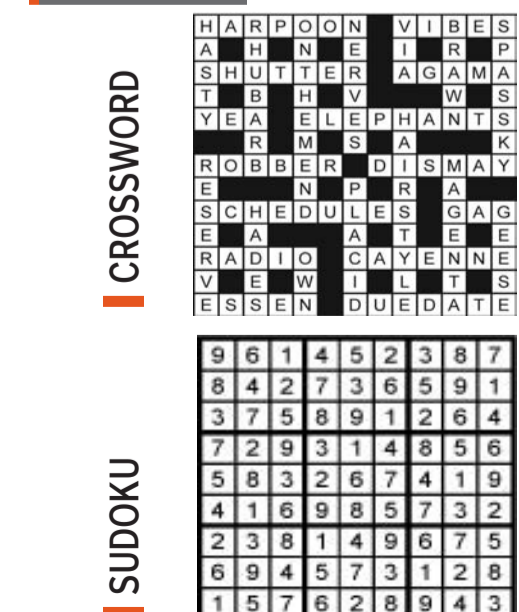
- Across**
- 7 Brave
 - 8 It works like a charm
 - 9 Duet plus one
 - 10 Meat seasoning
 - 11 Decathlon event
 - 13 Secret supply
 - 15 Panoramic view
 - 17 Light fluffy egg dish
 - 20 Benchmark
 - 21 Sheltered spot
 - 23 Squirm, usually in pain
 - 24 Chewy candy
 - Down**
 - 1 Become tiresome
 - 2 Prairie wolf
 - 3 Biting
 - 4 Quagmire
 - 5 Mountain peak
 - 6 Retaliation
 - 12 High fliers
 - 14 Excuse and overlook
 - 16 Beliefs
 - 18 An act of kindness
 - 19 Not now
 - 22 Spring

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

INDIGENOUS CRAFT

Artisans preparing dolls at Jagannath Ballav Mutt in Puri, Tuesday, ahead of Jhulan festival



Woman nabbed for killing mom-in-law

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

AIIMS for treatment in an auto-rickshaw. 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 strangled 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 mother-in-law as the latter was suspecting her to be indulging in extramarital affairs with some youths of her village," he added.



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 multi-crore rupees chit fund scam, Tuesday. Special Judge Biswajit Das also slapped a penalty of ₹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 2,735 depositors in Odisha promising high returns during 2010-2013. However, the company neither gave any dividends nor returned their principal

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

company siphoned investments from the gullible people through different schemes including Saradha Realty 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 Panda said.

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 age-related 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.

BMC waives charges on lifting of green garbage

POST NEWS NETWORK

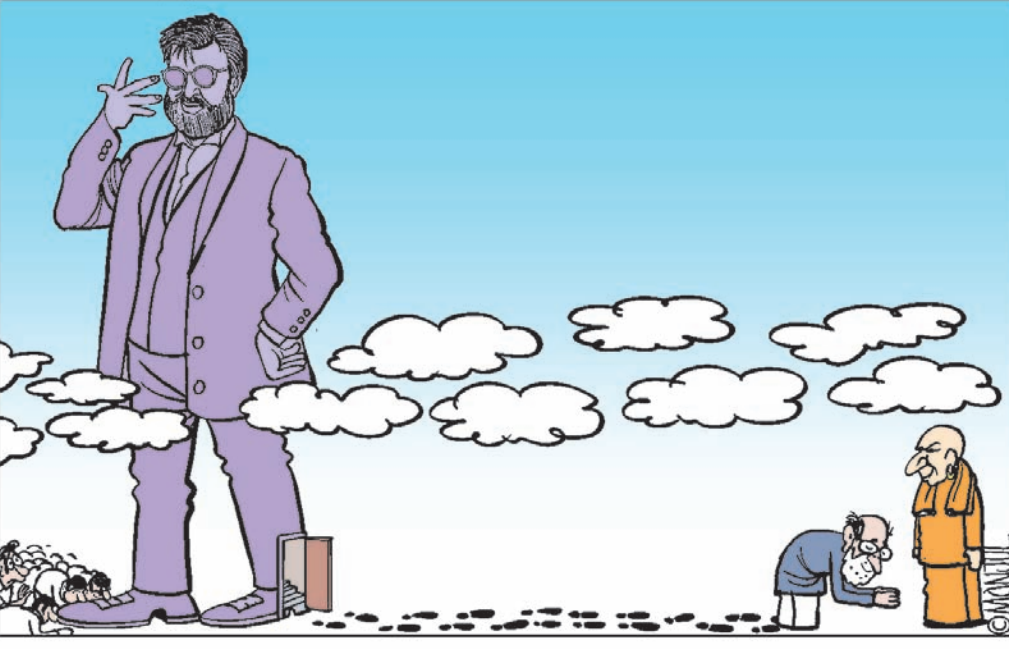
Bhubaneswar, August 22: In an attempt to involve citizens in keeping the Capital city clean and encourage use of 'SAFA Bhubaneswar App', the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has waived the charges levied on lifting of green garbage and construction and demolition (C&D) waste. The decision was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

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



DA CASE

Vig 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 father-son 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

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 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. Thereafter, 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 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-

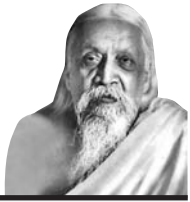
income countries is potentially exposed to the automating effects of the technology, whereas in low-income countries, the risk of automation concerns only some 0.4 per cent of employment. On the other hand, the potential for augmentation is nearly equal across countries, suggesting that with the right 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.

Advertisement for BOOM FLOWER Nitrobenzene 20% EW, featuring product images and contact information for Devi CropScience Pvt Ltd.

Advertisement for Ramba Palace, Odisha's Heritage Jewel, featuring a 'We Are Hiring!' notice with a list of job positions and contact details.

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

SRI AUROBINDO



China In Soup

After the forecast that China was poised to emerge as the number one economy in the world surging ahead of the US much earlier than 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.

Among many factors the worsening property crisis is being identified as the main cause for the downside. 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.

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.

Another major concern for China is debt incurred by local governments. 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.

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.

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 forever. MAHATMA GANDHI
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 interesting. PAULO COELHO

WORDSWORTH

Moot point

Moot point is one of those phrases that once had a firm and well-understood 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.

GENERAL & SOLDIER

A new 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

windshield." The general said, "Drive on!" 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?"



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

FOCUS AGRICULTURE

TALES OF SHACKLES



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

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.

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.

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.

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.

The writer is a noted economist. @THEBILLIONPRESS

IN JEST THIS

One kiss is not like the other

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

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.

Spanish Football Federation. Make sure that your resume includes all your kissing experience. Q: Do I need to learn Spanish? A: Just a few phrases of Spanish, such as "Tienes buenas habilidades futbolisticas" (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 anymore. 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 contact-less 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 tra-

dition, 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 iffy apology. 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 the kiss? 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 lips? 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 Cup title.



Melvin Durai
IN SPAIN, WOMEN KISS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, WHILE MEN USUALLY KISS ONLY WOMEN

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.

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.

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

Deba Prasad Nayak, KENDRAPARA
CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

TN Guv stokes fresh controversy

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



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 (TANSCH) 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

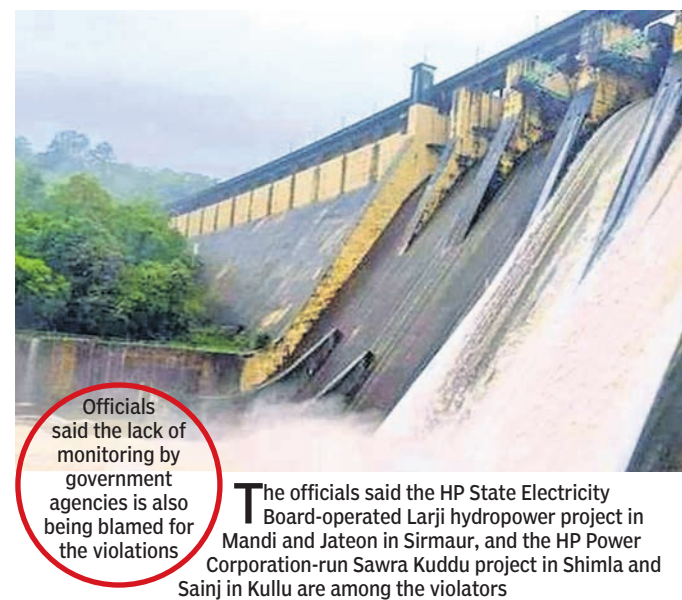
Chennai, August 22: Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, not on good terms with the ruling DMK on several issues, including his opposition to scrapping NEET, appeared to stoke a fresh controversy by returning the file on the state's nominee for the TNPSC chairman post. Also, Ravi, a champion of the Centre's 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 government. The Governor, a former high-ranking police official himself, has returned the file on ap-

leges and management of autonomous institutions had already raised concerns over the state government pushing for adoption of common syllabus designed by TANSCH, before the UGC, saying education is in the union list and hence beyond the competence of the state government. "Their concerns broadly are severe 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 Act, 2022. 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.

21 HP dams violated safety norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 managements. 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 (SJVN) 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



Officials said the lack of monitoring by government agencies is also being blamed for the violations

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

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 of 2015. "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 forest department Tuesday said 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 al-

leged 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 tranquillisers 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 Tamil Nadu. Now the Tamil Nadu government 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 trying 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 state government is trying to streamline 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

agement of the bulls. 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 vil-

Chennai turns 384

Chennai: Chennai, or Madras as it was known earlier, turned 384 years Tuesday, and commemorating the occasion Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated a 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
No. B-736 E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI&R-16/2023-24
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of Work : Road works
3. No. of Work : 6 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : A Class/Special Class/Super Class
6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 29.08.2023 in the website to 5.30 P.M. of 15.09.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt: 16.09.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./ Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C)
OIPR-34111/11/0030/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI
E-mail: purim.hud@nic.in
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
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,
Puri Municipality, Puri
OIPR-13159/11/0026/2324

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 can be downloaded from website of TDCCOL i.e. www.tdccodisha.org. Any changes/modification in the e-Auction documents will be posted in above website.
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, 126 people 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



rains now spell more doom and a dry day scares you of more slides," remarked Additional Director General of Police Satwant Atwal, who was brought 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 year 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 cross-drainage 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

trail of widespread destruction. 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 recent 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 development, 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.



Children play near a seasonal school, locally known as Bohaks, in the high altitude area of Tousmaidan of Budgam district, some 70 kms from Srinagar



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

international


of the day quote

The road built by Greek Cypriots towards the Greek population in Pyla was never subjected to obstruction and 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



ALEKSANDAR VUCIC | SERBIAN PRESIDENT

China has approved the 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 last 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.

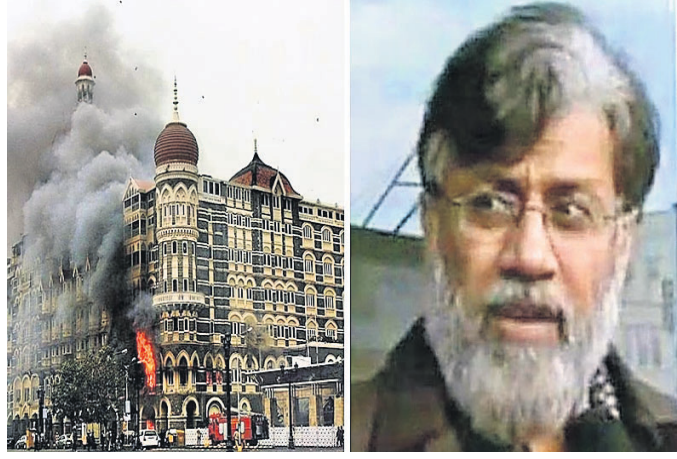
US court stays Rana extradition

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 judge overrode the government's recommendations that there should be no stay on Rana's extradition.

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 26/11 Mumbai attacks. While



The Court does not find that Rana "has made a strong showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits" - otherwise the Court 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 extradition treaty is not clear and


different jurists could come to different conclusions. Rana's position is certainly colourable and could very well be found to be correct on appeal," the judge noted.

"The final two factors 'merge when the Government is the opposing party.' There is value in compliance with India's extradition request, but Rana's extradition proceedings have been going on for more than three years, which suggests that the

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

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 26/11 MUMBAI ATTACKS

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

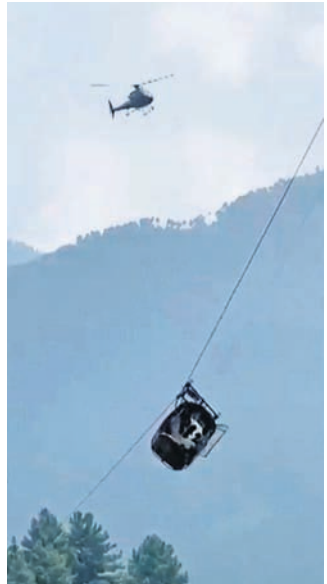


Five rescued from hanging cable car

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



people this way had also arrived. "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. Two children were rescued by helicopter, one by one, district official Shah Fahad and the military's media said.

Rescuers discover 18 bodies in Greece

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. 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.



THE FIRE RISK LEVEL FOR SEVERAL REGIONS, INCLUDING THE WIDER ATHENS AREA, WAS LISTED AS "EXTREME" FOR THE SECOND DAY TUESDAY

Hot, dry and windy conditions have seen dozens of wildfires break out across Greece, with the most severe entering its fourth day and encroaching on the northeastern port city of Alexandroupolis

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.

India's boom, Russia's crunch: Money shaping a new space race

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: money. 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



mission is successful, it raises the 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. "Expenses for space exploration are systematically reduced from year to year," said Vadim Lukashovich, 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-

Japan to release Fukushima water from Thursday

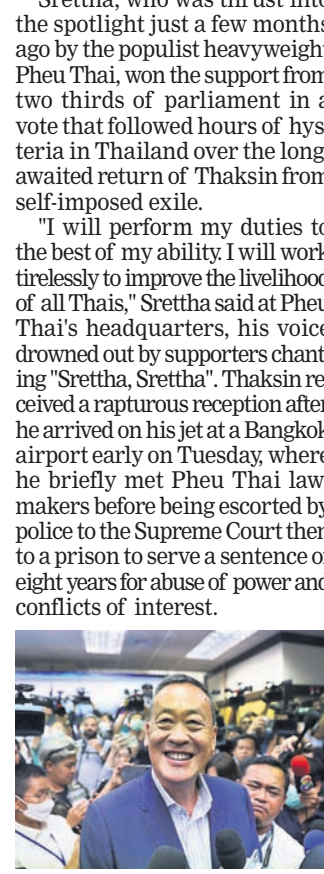


Tokyo, August 22: Japan will start releasing treated and diluted radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean as early as Thursday - a controversial step that the government says is essential for the decades of work needed to shut down the facility that had reactor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

Srettha elected PM

Bangkok, August 22: Thai 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 long-awaited 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.



business

of the day quote

Our focus is to harness generative AI's disruptive potential in partnership with our key alliances by leveraging our targeted industry solutions that help clients realise sustainable business outcomes and achieve real transformations

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 electric

DETLEV VON PLATEN | PORSCHE AG EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

We need a lot of local suppliers for EVs because we want to go for a local supplier-based system. So, the cost of acquisition (for a buyer) becomes competitive

VENKATRAM MAMILLAPALLE | CEO AND MD, RENAULT INDIA OPERATIONS

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, stayed at a 39-month low of 4.9 per cent. "The government has already



taken preemptive measures to restrain 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-

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 year-ago period.

Both SBI and IcrA credited capital expenditure by the Centre and states for their expectations 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 cent.

"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 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 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 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, 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.

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 Quesq Corp said in its staffing report, Tuesday.



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 decision.

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 just about quality-centric, he said.

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 sectors.

"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 domestically 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 7%.

"In the next few months, the Nifty might remain in a broad range of 19,000-20,000, but mid-caps 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-for-longer 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 QG Partners boosted its stake in Adani Ports last week.

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 online.

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 Zalando.

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 regulation.

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 digital services to Europeans will eventually have to comply with the DSA. They will face fewer obligations than the biggest platforms, however, and have another 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.

WHAT'S CHANGING?
Platforms have started rolling out new ways for European users to flag illegal online content and dodgy products, which companies 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 third-party 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 be explained to the person who posted the material and the one who flagged it, and decisions can be appealed.

IS THERE PUSHBACK?

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 bench-strength as India aim to complete a comfortable clean-sweep against Ireland in the three-match 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 Prasadh 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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 22: An annoyed 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



creating controversy. This is our team now. If you don't like it, 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 17-member Asia Cup squad," Gavaskar said.

Gavaskar also backed the decision to pick Rahul, who has developed a new niggles 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 niggles."

"As far as India are concerned, there are 11 days to go. That's enough time to recover from a niggles. 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.

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.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 22: India should have included Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal as spinners for the Asia Cup in the lead-up 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 all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel.

"Australia have played Kuldeep Yadav very well. Yuzvendra Chahal should have got a chance. He is a match-winning 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 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-

Omission of Ashwin, Chahal raises eyebrows

ing back from long injury layoffs. "More or less it is the same team which we were all thinking about. The only concern is their fitness because both the Asia Cup and the World Cup are big events and level of fitness is very important," he said.

"If you are not fit physically then you are not mentally fit either — injuries always worry you. Hope the selectors have taken care of that."

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.



THE SQUADS

INDIA

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, Prasadh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan.

IRELAND

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.

SHORT TAKES

Yarraji disappoints

BUDAPEST: National record holder 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji 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-year-old 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. The last semifinals qualifier clocked 12.92s.

Honey, Rahul shine

DUBAI: Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya 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 Jograjya 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 Championship, 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 tamerly 14-21, 14-21 to old nemesis Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, a 2017 gold medalist 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 Chicco Aura Dwi Wardoyo 21-9, 21-14 to set up a clash with 2021 champion, Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. Earlier, Sen, a bronze medalist



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 head-to-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.

10-man Arsenal edge past Crystal Palace 1-0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, August 22: Arsenal relied on Martin Odegaard's 54th-minute penalty and an obdurate defensive effort when down to 10 men late on to secure a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace in the English Premier League.

Takehiro Tomiyasu was sent off in the 67th minute after collecting a second yellow card Monday, forcing Arsenal to retreat to preserve its second straight victory to open the campaign.

In the end, a penalty separated 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 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.

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 Pragganandhaa, mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 22: Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa'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, Pragganandhaa 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.

Pragganandhaa 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.

Pragganandhaa 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.