



NATURE'S FURY: Locals at the site after several buildings collapsed due to a rain-triggered landslide at Anni in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, Thursday. PTI PHOTO

ARBITRARY ACT

CBI claims the triple train crash near Bahanaga in Balasore June 2 occurred on account of unauthorised swapping of circuit diagram in the repair works by senior section engineer Arun Kumar Mahanta

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 24: More than one and a half month after the terrible triple train crash near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district killed 296 passengers and maimed over 1,200, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told a court Thursday that the accident occurred on account of arbitrary swapping of circuit diagram in the repair works carried out at a level crossing (LC) near the accident spot.

In a submission made before the special court, the CBI, which is investigating the mishap, squarely blamed senior section engineer (signal in-charge) Arun Kumar Mahanta for using the circuit diagram of LC gate No. 79 to undertake repairs at LC gate No. 94 without the prior approval of senior divisional signal and telecom engineer.

"The typical circuit diagram of LC gate No. 79 was being used at the time of execution of wiring work being done at North Goomty of Bahanaga Bazar railway station, for changing the operation of LC gate No. 94 from 110 volt AC to 24 volt DC," the CBI submitted before the court.

According to CBI, Mahanta was to ensure that testing, overhauling and carrying out alterations to the existing signal and interlocking installations were in accordance with the approved

plan and instructions.

"Further, it reveals since no such steps were taken by the accused (Mahanta), it caused the accident and in the said accident more than 296 passengers were dead and many more passengers were seriously injured," the court noted citing the CBI submissions.

However, Mahanta disputed the CBI claims and told the court that he should not be held accountable for the miss (and the accident) since the supervision work in question was entrusted to some other persons. He also said that the higher-ups bothered little to rectify the error at LC gate No. 94. "Although LC gate No. 94 at KM 255/11-13 had not been

working properly, the higher officials did not take 'active action' for addressing the issue," Mahanta told the court. The CBI had arrested Mahanta and two other railway officials July 7, 2023 in connection with its probe into the triple train accident case.

The tragedy took place when the Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary freight train near Bahanaga Bazar station, and some of its derailed coaches collided with Yeshwantpur-Howrah Express, June 2.

A special CBI court in Bhubaneswar has rejected the bail application of Mahanta, noting that material submitted by the CBI prima facie shows his complicity in the case.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Seems that despite being late, the minister sir has finally boarded train

All about Wagner chief Prigozhin

AGENCIES

Moscow, August 24: The founder of the Wagner private mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who Russian aviation authority says was on board a plane that crashed with no survivors, was once close enough to Vladimir Putin to be called his 'personal chef' before he led a mutiny that posed the greatest challenge to the president's long rule.

Prigozhin, 62, soared in prominence after Russia's February

2022 invasion of Ukraine, where his fighters led the Russian assault on the city of Bakhmut in the longest and bloodiest battle of the war. He used social media to trumpet Wagner's successes and wage a feud with the military establishment, accusing it of incompetence and even treason.

In June, Prigozhin led a mutiny in which Wagner fighters took control of Rostov-on-Don and shot down many military helicopters, killing their pilots, as they advanced towards Moscow.



Putin called it an act of treachery that would meet with a harsh response.

The revolt was defused in a deal whereby the Kremlin said that in order to avert bloodshed, Prigozhin and some of his fight-

ers would leave for Belarus and a criminal case against him for armed mutiny would be dropped.

Confusion has surrounded the implementation of the deal.

Born in St Petersburg June 1, 1961, Prigozhin spent nine years in Soviet prisons for crimes.

Released in 1990 amid the Soviet Union's death throes, he launched a career as a caterer and restaurateur in his hometown. He is believed to have met Putin, then a top aide to St Petersburg's mayor, at this time.

SHORT TAKES

WFI suspended

New Delhi: United World Wrestling (UWW), the global governing body for wrestling, has suspended the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for not conducting its elections on time, a development which will not allow Indian grapplers to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag. The Indian wrestlers will have to compete as 'neutral athletes' at the Olympic-qualifying World Championships, starting September 16 as the ad-hoc panel, led by Bhopender Singh Bajwa, did not honour the 45-day deadline for conducting the elections.

National Film Awards

New Delhi: In a hat-tip to mainstream cinema in the north and the south, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' was named the best feature film at the 69th National Film Awards announced Thursday, while Allu Arjun, Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won the top acting honours. Bhatt and Sanon shared the best actress prize for their roles in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' and 'Mimi', respectively. Southern cinema sensation Arjun bagged the best actor award for Telugu blockbuster 'Pushpa: The Rise (Part I)'. It is the first National Film Award for all three stars.

DSPL - 188

BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA

HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA

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CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA

1 LAKH

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leisure



HALLE TO PAY \$8,000 PER MONTH FOR CHILD SUPPORT

Actress Halle Berry and her husband Oliver Martinez have finalised their divorce. According to a Los Angeles court, the actress will have to pay \$8,000 every month in child support. The couple has a nine-year-old son named Maceo.

DUA ROPED IN TO STAR IN CAMDEN

Singer Dua Lipa is set to star in a new documentary series *Camden*, which is being directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Asif Kapadia. The series will also put the spotlight on the likes of Coldplay's Chris Martin, Mark Ronson, Boy George and the Black Eyed Peas, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You are keenly interested in supernatural and occult phenomena, and today you will indulge in this hobby. You may buy a glossy hard-bound book on tantra or other paranormal things. However, Ganesh warns you to use the knowledge that you gain only for peaceful purposes.

TAURUS
You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesh. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

GEMINI
Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesh. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

CANCER
Your way of talk today will be such that it can cause misunderstanding. In a fit of emotion, you will take a hasty decision. You will regret the same in future, but you will also get a chance to rectify the same. So, says Ganesh, do not take a any ad hoc or temporary decision but a firm decision.

LEO
You will try to finish your tasks as per schedule and will also be able to earn well. You will benefit from the influence of high ranking officials. They will appreciate your dedication. A promotion may come your way. You will reap the rewards of your hard work, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work. Ganesh says today you will garner the support of people by uniting them under you for achieving greater success.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will get the opportunity to lay bare your thoughts and feelings and exchange ideas with others. Your mind will be at ease and more relieved when you have opened up. Your business acumen will be praiseworthy today.

SCORPIO
For you Scorpios, love and intense passion are like a way of life. Today will not be any different, for you will put these on top priority, as you mark today's planner. Well, there is no harm in it, till you know your boundaries. At work, take it easy, for if you fail to resist yourself from making a pass at someone attractive, you may land yourself in serious problems.

SAGITTARIUS
You feel highly balanced today, says Ganesh. Being a family person, you dedicate your time equally at home and carry out responsibilities towards family. When it comes to work, you are at ease today. Enjoy the serenity of nature in the evening.

CAPRICORN
If you are an engineer, you will consider about investing your money in your dream project or a business venture. For sports person, today will be a favourable day for health and wealth, foresees Ganesh. Make every step ahead wisely, otherwise you will have much to regret when something goes wrong. Socially, you will build a stronger reputation, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
One way or the other, money matters will be the highlight of the day. Working environment at your office will be better than before. Be prepared to work harder as today your bosses may assign you some new projects, foresees Ganesh. Travelling is on the cards for you.

PISCES
To get away from your daily tasks you will concentrate on entertainment, fun and rest today. You will feel like a free bird today. In all this also some important task will need your attention today. Ganesh says you feel nice as things around you change.



Tamannaah on strange practices in showbiz

New Delhi: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia said that she finds it strange that conventionally good-looking actors often carry a badge of not being able to do serious roles, adding that she always felt it's easier to be realistic. Tamannaah, who plays the role of Anya in *Aakhri Sach* said, "I find it strange that actors, especially conventionally good-looking actors, often carry this kind of badge of not being able to do serious roles. Glam characters take as much work as something realistic. I have always felt that it's easier to be realistic as you are getting

closer to reality." "When you are putting up a persona that is larger than life, it's always more difficult, it comes purely from your imagination. Playing a character like this is more cathartic for an actor. To be honest, I felt very raw and somewhat naked while performing this character. While, I am playing a cop in *Aakhri Sach*, I am very glad to say that I really had to keep myself vulnerable, which helped me play Anya," she added. *Aakhri Sach* will stream from August 25, on Disney+ Hotstar.

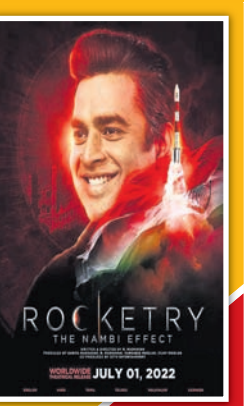
69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Allu, Alia, Kriti bag acting honours

MADHAVAN'S HINDI FILM ROCKETRY: THE NAMBI EFFECT WON THE COVETED TITLE OF BEST FEATURE FILM

New Delhi: In a nod to the diverse spectrum of Indian cinema spanning across the northern and southern regions, the National Awards for 2021, which were unveiled on Thursday, paid tribute to the Hindi film *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* by bestowing upon it the coveted title of Best Feature Film.

The accolade for Best Actress was shared by Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon, in recognition of their remarkable performances in *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and *Mimi*, respectively. The Best Actor award went to Allu Arjun for Telugu blockbuster *Pushpa: The Rise (Part 1)*. Pankaj Tripathi earned the distinction of Best Supporting Actor for his *Mimi*, while Pallavi Joshi's commendable role in *The Kashmir Files* earned her the title of Best Supporting Actress. The Vivek Agnihotri directorial also clinched the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration. *RRR* reigned supreme by



amassing a total of six awards. This included the recognition of MM Keeravani as the Best Music Director, alongside Devi Prasad for *Pushpa*. It also secured distinctions in categories such as Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment, Best Male Playback Singer, Best Special Effects, Best Action Director, and Best Choreography. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Gangubai Kathiawadi* went home with five awards. Apart from Alia's Best Actress trophy, Bhansali was honoured for Best Screenplay Writer (Adapted) in collaboration with Utkarshini Vashishtha, as well as for Best Editing. It also bagged awards of Best Dialogue Writer for Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia, and Best Make-Up Artist for Preetisheel Singh D'souza.

Sardar Udham, a captivating biographical film by Shoojit Sircar, clinched multiple honours, including Best Hindi Film, Best Cinematography (Re-record-

Pratikshya adjudged best Odia Film

Bhubaneswar: Anupam Patnaik's *Pratikshya* was nominated as the Best Odia Film at the 69th National Film Awards announced Thursday. Adapted from a short story of Gourahari Das, the movie, starring Dipanwit Dasmohapatra, Choudhury Jayprakash Das and Barsha Patnaik in key roles, tells the story of Sanjay, a boy from a middle class family who is on the lookout for a government job. He waits endlessly for the death of his father, a government employee, to land the job under Government's scheme

of compassionate appointment. Speaking to Orissa POST the director said, "We never expected this honour for our film. So, it's like a dream comes true. I owe this recognition to Lord Jagannath, the fans and the jury." He went to add, "The award means a lot as like me my father Amiya Patnaik also bagged his first National Award for his first movie Hakimbabu. The feat will motivate us to do more good films."



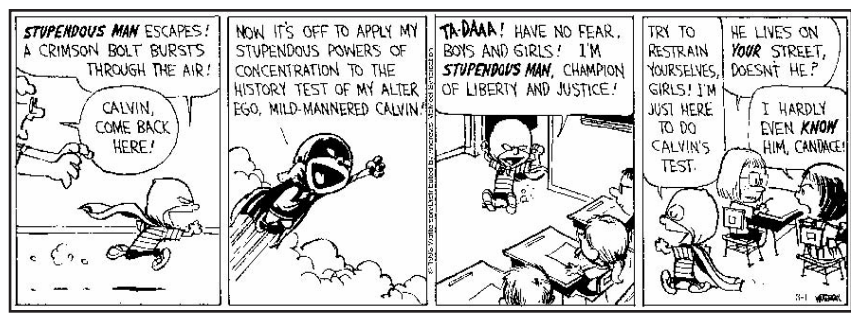
Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam, who has worked in hit films such as *Bala*, *Uri: The Surgical Strike* and *Oh My God 2*, revealed that she has always stated that an actor's work speaks for itself, and this is the type of acknowledgment she seeks. The actress said, "To see your film getting so much love from the audience is always the best feeling. All the hard work and dedication put in pays off and there no greater feeling than that. I am extremely grateful for the constant outpouring of love and support for my films." Yami added, "I've always stated that an actor's work speaks for itself, and this is the type of acknowledgment I seek. To many more films and box office success!" On the work front, Yami will be next seen in *Dhoom Dhaam*.

'An actor's work speaks for itself'

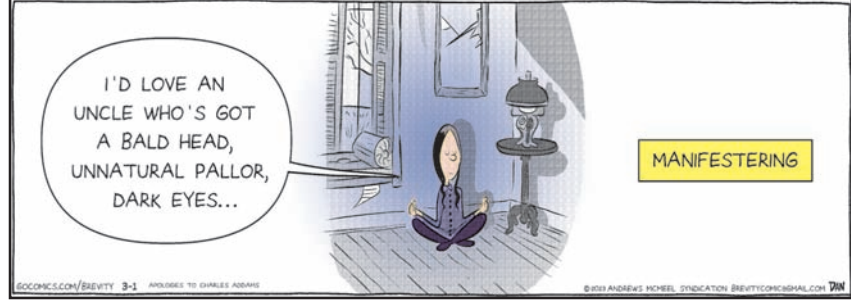
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8					9	
10	11		12			
13				14	15	
				16		
17			18		19	20
21		22			23	
24				25		

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Across

- 1 Dull and mundane
- 5 Agile lizard
- 8 Courage
- 9 Kind of poodle
- 10 Young pigeon
- 12 Italian seaport
- 13 Robin Hood's stash
- 14 Chèvre, e.g.
- 17 Overshadow
- 19 Stagers
- 21 Flyspeck
- 22 Venetian explorer (5,4)
- 24 Bubbly drinks
- 25 Shoplifting, e.g.
- 4 Hair gel
- 5 Beach souvenir
- 6 Meddle
- 7 Type of address
- 11 Not connected
- 13 Dockets
- 15 Seaport feature
- 16 Auto necessity
- 18 Quinces, e.g.
- 20 Narrative
- 23 Bonanza find

Down

- 1 Sword handles
- 2 Deface
- 3 Coloured arc

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

G	U	S	T	H	U	G	A	M	A	H		
R	E	R	R	A	N	D	S	R	U	L	E	R
M	A	F	A	A	A	D						
L	I	T	T	L	E	E	N	D	I	V	E	
I	U	S	S	S								
N	E	T	E	Q	U	A	L	E	F	T		
R	E	R	N	A								
S	H	A	N	T	Y	S	T	U	D	I	O	
H	P	T	O	I	U							
O	P	E	R	A	C	A	R	A	V	A	N	
A	Z	L	H	S	A	C						
T	R	E	E	J	A	Y	K	N	E	E		

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Girls checking rakhis at a makeshift stall in College Square area of Cuttack, Thursday



Deaths on Odisha roads dip by 6.24%

MISHAPS DOWN BY 7.56% IN SECOND QUARTER, SAYS STATE TRANSPORT DEPT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, August 24: Indicating a stricter enforcement of road safety norms, road accidents and related fatalities have fallen by 7.56 per cent and 6.24 per cent, respectively during the second quarter of 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022, state Transport department officials said, Thursday.



The state recorded 2,897 road accidents and 1,397 deaths in the second quarter of this year, whereas 3,134 mishaps and 1,490 fatalities occurred during the second quarter of the previous year. Similarly, altogether 2,572 people were injured in the second quarter of 2023 as against 2,871 injuries during the same pe-

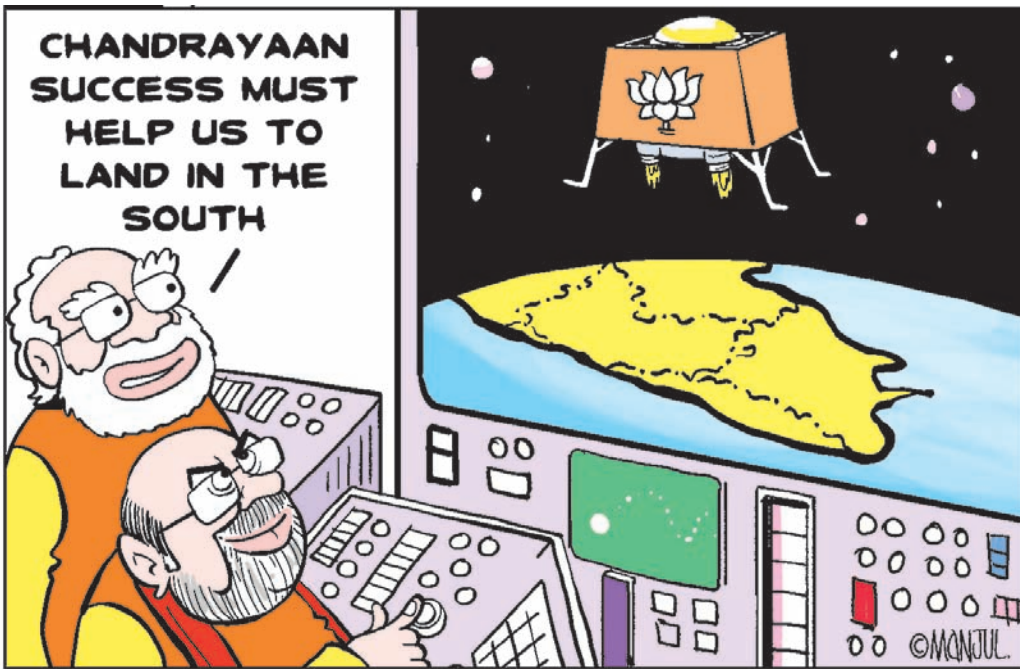
IN A NUTSHELL

- Odisha recorded 2,897 road accidents and 1,397 deaths in the second quarter of this year, whereas 3,134 mishaps and 1,490 fatalities occurred during the second quarter of the previous year
- Altogether 2,572 people were injured in the second quarter of 2023 as against 2,871 injuries during the same period in 2022
- Transport dept claims adoption of 4Es - enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care - made roads safe

riod in 2022. Joint Commissioner, Transport (Road Safety), PK Mohanty said, "The Transport department, in collaboration with Odisha Police, is observing every Tuesday as 'Zero Tolerance Day' against traffic rule violations. The negative growth in road accidents and fatalities has been achieved due to strict enforcement of road safety norms across the state." It is pertinent to mention that 'Zero Fatality Week' was observed from April 1 to 7 as part of an intensified awareness-cum-enforcement campaign to reduce road mishap fatalities. There was 33.15 per cent decrease in accidents and 15 per cent decline in fatalities during 'Zero Fatality Week' as compared to same period of last year. Mohanty further said, "The aim is to sensitise the public that road safety is a shared responsibility and together we can make a difference."

Odisha has adopted a four-fold strategy to make the roads safe through 4Es - enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Encounter in Puri; criminal nabbed

AGENCIES

Puri, August 24: Pinaki Boral alias Pinku, a dreaded criminal, was nabbed by the police from a forest located on the outskirts of the Pilgrim City after an encounter Thursday.

Pinku along with his accomplices were hatching a robbery plan in a cashew forest when a police team rounded them up

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Susil Mishra told mediapersons that Pinku along with his accomplices are involved in highway robbery and were preparing to rob tourists. They were hiding in a cashew forest near Shankheshwar temple close to the highway when the police team rounded up the forest and asked the accused to surrender. However, Pinku opened fire on the police team while his gang members fled the spot, Mishra said. The police in self-defence opened fire and Pinku sustained injury on his left knee and was captured. Police recovered a pistol with two live cartridges, a bike and a mo-

bile phone from him. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) for treatment but later shifted to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. The dreaded criminal is involved in 11 criminal cases including highway robbery under Baseli Sahi and Sadar police stations and was wanted by police, the ASP said. The police have been carrying out a special drive to arrest criminals who are reportedly robbing visitors. In the tussle to nab accused Budharai Majhi, a sub-inspector sustained minor injuries, Mishra added.

HC acquits doc in bribery case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, August 24: The Orissa High Court has set aside a conviction order of a special Vigilance court and acquitted a government doctor who was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a year in a bribe case registered against him for having demanded and received ₹300 from a patient 16 years ago.



Pradepta Kumar Purohit was arrested by the anti-corruption wing of the state police September 14, 1998 while he was working as an assistant surgeon in Kathiguda government hospital of Nabarangpur district. The doctor had allegedly taken the bribe from a local patient in lieu of a favourable medico-legal report. Berhampur-based special judge (Vigilance) court, after trial in the case, convicted the government doctor and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment. Challenging the conviction and sentence order of the Vigilance court, Purohit had moved the Orissa High Court

in 2007 with a prayer to set aside the lower court's conviction and sentence orders. A single-judge bench of Justice SK Sahoo Monday, setting aside the orders of the vigilance court, held that the offer by the bribe giver and the demand of the public servant has to be proved by the prosecution. "Mere acceptance or receipt of an illegal gratification without anything more would not make it an

offence," the HC observed. Stating that the prosecution case suffers from 'serious infirmities', Justice Sahoo further observed that there is no sufficient, cogent and reliable evidence available on record to establish the doctor guilty in the case. Acquitting the doctor of all charges, the high court also discharged him from liability of the bail bonds and the surety.

Two held for killing minor girl in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a man on charges of killing his minor niece in Infocity area here August 9.

The deceased girl. From the questioning of her relatives and footage obtained from CCTV cameras installed in the colony, the cops finally zeroed in on the suspects. Police sources said that Sukhlal, who works as a daily wagger, used to send the minor to different places for work. On the fateful day, the accused lost his cool and started rebuking the deceased after the wandering minor was brought home by some relatives. He, in a fit of rage, hit the victim on her head with a wooden stick. The girl succumbed to her injuries. Accused Sukhlal and Narendra later disposed of the body at a secluded place in Nandan Vihar area late August 9 night. The accused duo was produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody Thursday.

The accused, Sukhlal Soy, 29, a native of Jajpur, lives in Nandan Vihar area here. The cops have also arrested his associate, Narendra Singh, 35, for helping the accused in concealing the body and destroying evidence. The girl's decomposed body was recovered from the conservancy lane at Nandan Enclave in Kalarahanga area under Infocity police limits here August 11. The body was found in a semi-decomposed state. It was found during investigation that the deceased was 13 years old and lived with her uncle in the same area. The police collected more leads about

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	65252.34 ↓ 180
NIFTY	19386.70 ↓ 57.30
DOLLAR	83.04 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	89.4140 ↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹58870 ↑ ₹51
SILVER	₹ 73800 ↓ ₹204

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.7°C	32.6°C
TEMP. MIN	24.8°C	25.0°C
Humidity	94%	82%
Rainfall	0.2	4.8
Forecast	Light rain likely	



RUN FOR COVER: A traffic cop caught in a sudden shower at Janpath in Saheed Nagar area of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

CM invites chef Khanna to Odisha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Internationally acclaimed chef Vikash Khanna Thursday highly praised the culture, sculpture, art, heritage and traditional food of Odisha during an interaction with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through videoconferencing. Khanna was in the news recently for establishing a replica of Konark wheels at Times Square in New York. During the interaction with the Chief Minister, he talked about his spiritual feelings during his visit to Puri Srimandir. Stating that Odisha is march-



ing fast on the path of development, Khanna praised the far-sightedness, strong leadership and humanitarian thoughts of the Chief Minister. He is of the view that Konark wheel is a symbol of world unity. In turn, Patnaik appreciated the creative and entrepreneurship attitude of Khanna and invited him to visit Odisha.

Dengue vaccine likely by Jan 2026



Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026, a top executive said, as the race to develop the country's first such vaccine heats up. Dengue, a mosquito-borne disease, has over the last few years become a major public health concern in India, with 31,464 dengue cases and 36 related deaths reported between January and July 31, 2023. While its spread had fallen during the pandemic, there was a 333 per cent surge from 2020 to 2021 and a 21

per cent rise in number of cases between 2021 and 2022, according to the National Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases Control. IIL's managing director K Anand Kumar said the vaccine's early-stage trials conducted on about 90 individuals, aged 18-50 years, did not demonstrate any adverse effects. "We're about to complete Phase 1 trials and will proceed to the next level. All of this will take at least two to three years. So, we are looking at January 2026 for the vaccine's commercial launch," Kumar said. The early-stage trials are about de-

US-BASED NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH HAS PROVIDED IIL WITH THE VIRUS REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPING THE VACCINE

termining the safety factor and efficacy to a small extent, Kumar said. US-based National Institute of Health (NIH) has provided IIL with the virus required for developing the vaccine, Kumar added. Besides IIL, at least two other Indian companies - Serum Institute of India and Panacea Biotech (PNCA.NS) - are working to develop a dengue vaccine. Hyderabad-based IIL, which exports animal as well as human vaccines to more than 50 countries, said its mainstay is the manufacturing of rabies vaccines with its sales contributing about 35 per cent of the total. The company expects to clock in a total revenue of ₹1,300 crore in 2023-2024. Reuters

ବିଜ୍ଞାପନ
46th Barsha 2023

ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦିତ ନୃତ୍ୟଶିଳ୍ପୀ, ସଂଗୀତଜ୍ଞ, କଣ୍ଠଶିଳ୍ପୀ, ବାଦ୍ୟଶିଳ୍ପୀ ଓ ଚିତ୍ରଶିଳ୍ପୀଙ୍କର ଅପୂର୍ବ ସମାରୋହ ସହ ରୋମାଞ୍ଚକର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ

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Media Partner: Dharitri & OrissaPost

ବାର୍ଷିକ ୪୭ ବର୍ଷ କର୍ମଯାତ୍ରାର ସମ୍ଭାଷଣ

Logos: Odisha, CRPF, OrissaPOST, MABUTI REPRINT

Police stops family march to protest near Naveen Niwas



GVAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Family members of a minor boy who was killed in Chandrasekharpur area last year, were stopped by police when they were marching towards Naveen Niwas to protest and allegedly make suicide attempt, Thursday.

The deceased's parents demanded investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) into the case and arrest the actual killer of their minor son.

The family accused that Chandrasekharpur police under the pressure some influential groups had deliberately implicated the accused Ashok Jena in the murder case while shielding the real murderers of the minor. The deceased's father accused police of arresting Ashok without informing him, the complainant in the case.

Notably, the police have re-

cently arrested 27-year-old Ashok from his hide out in Gajapati district after 14 months of the brutal murder of the minor son. The accused Ashok who stayed near the resident of the minor used to give him training in physical exercise. Meanwhile, the accused allegedly killed the minor after he refused to return the cash stolen from former's house.

June 16, 2022, the body of the minor was recovered from a trench near Panda Park Basti three days after the murder.

"The accused Ashok had killed the minor alone and no other person is involved in the crime. The family members have been putting pressure to arrest their neighbours who were named in their complaint. We have conducted all the examination including lie detection test of the persons named in complaint but nothing has come out of that," told Prakash Chandra Majhi, the IIC of Chandrasekharpur police station.



FOUNDATION DAY: Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, Ouat vice chancellor PK Roul and dignitaries attending the 62nd Foundation Day of the state agriculture university in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. On the occasion, the guests launched the Ouat web portal 3.0, farmer-friendly apps, and unveiled several booklets and newsletters related to agriculture

OP PHOTO

IMD predicts heavy rainfall till Saturday

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Even as Odisha is witnessing heavy rainfall due to the southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more down-pour till Saturday.

In the last 24 hours till 8:30am Thursday, the coastal state received an average of 9.9 mm rainfall, with the highest of 145 mm recorded at Tangi in Khurda district, followed by 81.2 mm at Bahalda in Mayurbhanj district,

and 76 mm at Athagarh in Cuttack district. State capital Bhubaneswar has recorded 12.7 mm rainfall during the same period.

The IMD has issued yellow warning, forecasting thunderstorms with lightning, for Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Boudh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal,



Nayagarh, Khurda, Ganjam and Puri districts till 8:30am Friday.

Thunderstorm with lightning is also likely in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam,

Gajapati, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and Koraput districts till 8:30am Saturday.

The weather office said Odisha has recorded 760.2 mm of rainfall against 838.8 mm of normal rain from June 1 to August 24 this monsoon season.

Rainfall is excess in two districts, deficient in 11 and normal in 17, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar.

OPCC questions govt on contractual appointment

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPC) Thursday slammed the state government for its decision to appoint 20,000 junior teachers on an annual agreement basis ignoring its own announcement of not to make any further contractual appointments. OPCC spokesperson Rajani Kanta Mohanty told a press conference here that 92,000 teacher posts are lying vacant in the state, demanding the government to fill them up by making permanent recruitment. Mohanty questioned the government for making contractual appointment while claiming that economy of the state is strong. He alleged that the education system of the state has totally collapsed. Party spokesman KC Pati demanded the government to fully abolish the contractual appointment system. He said 11,710 schools have no electricity, 6,782 have no required classrooms and 1,728 schools have no headmasters.

SUMUM surgeons ease pain of month-old baby



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: Paediatric surgeons at the SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here operated on a one-month-old baby girl using the laparoscopic method to successfully repair her inguinal hernia which was causing obstruction of the ovary.

"We regularly do open surgery in such cases. As the baby weighed only three kg, the choice of laparoscopic surgery was quite challenging," said Antaryami Pradhan, consultant surgeon at the hospital who

headed the surgery team.

"This is the youngest patient operated through laparoscopic method in the hospital till now," Pradhan said adding though the parents were a bit fearful initially they were quite happy when the baby was discharged.

Surgery in newborns generally are not that risky because of safe anesthesia and availability of advanced facilities in the operation theatre, and further laparoscopy is less painful, resulting in quick recovery and discharge from the hospital one day after surgery, Pradhan said.

Among other staffs involved anesthesiologists Dipankar Padhiary and Bhabani Pati administered anesthesia to the baby while pediatricians Pradip Kumar Dey, Ajay Gahan, NICU staff, pharmacists and other OT personnel were part of the treatment.

2-day 'Youth Assembly' to be held September 30



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 24: In a bid to increase participation of youths in the political process, Iconic Transformation will organise a two-day mock Youth Assembly in City, the organisers informed Thursday.

In a press conference, Iconic Transformation founders Sanjay Chowdhury and Sheikh Abdul Samim, Youth for Nation Odisha president Chandan Mohanty and vice president Rajnikant Mishra told that the event will be held for the first time in Odisha and will provide a platform for youths to understand the legislative process. The event will be organised September 30 and October 1 under the chairmanship of founder and mentor Chidatmika Khatua.

The Youth Assembly is designed to empower young people to actively participate in discussions and debates on key issues affecting the society.

STF urges victims to lodge complaint against fraudster

GVAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch Thursday urged people duped by the fraudster Kahnu Charan Pradhan and his associates to come forward and lodge complaint with the police by calling on the toll free phone number '1800345710'.

The STF has reportedly found the involvement of Pradhan in at least six more fraud cases registered at the Chandpur police station in Nayagarh district.

The cops suspect that Pradhan and associates impersonating RTI activist and senior government officials have duped several others in different parts of the state. The victims have been requested to contact STF on the above toll free number for necessary action against the accused persons.

The cops, during the course of investigation, came to know that accused Pradhan by impersonating himself as top government official had forcibly taken pos-



The STF has reportedly found the involvement of Pradhan in at least six more fraud cases registered at the Chandpur police station in Nayagarh

session of one foreign liquor shop.

In another case, the accused, by falsely identifying himself as the Additional Home Secretary, CZM (Special Project) National Highway Authority of India, CCM (Special Project) National Highway Authority of India and the CCM Project, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) from the possession of Pradhan.

Notably, STF arrested by Pradhan Sunday while his associate Kishore Kumar Mishra was held from Koraput August 17.

Assistant Director (Tech), Director of PS & P, Odisha, Cuttack, Chairman SC & ST Welfare, Home Dept., CZM (Special Project) National Highway Authority of India, CCM (Special Project) National Highway Authority of India and the CCM Project, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) from the possession of Pradhan.

Notably, STF arrested by Pradhan Sunday while his associate Kishore Kumar Mishra was held from Koraput August 17.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Suresh Chandak, S/o-Late Manilal Chandak, resident of Ward No.-22, Sahadevkhunta, P.S.-Sahadevkhunta, Dist.-Balasore, Pin-756001, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.29, dated 21.08.2023 that now onwards, I shall be known as Suresh Kumar Chandak for all future purposes.

By virtue of affidavit, Dtd 21.08.2023 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my surname from Majhi to Mohapatra. Henceforth, I shall be known as Minati Rani Mohapatra for all purposes. Sd./- Minati Rani Mohapatra.

I, Aruna Kumar Nayak, S/o. Late Manguli Charan Nayak, resident of Gopalpur, Badhei Sahi, near Banadurga Mandir, Gopalpur, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 753011, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 9039 Dtd.23.08.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Arun Kumar Nayak for all future purposes.

142.5 km of Khurda Road-Bolangir line completed

Bhubaneswar: 142.5 km out of 301 km of the Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line project under East Coast Railway (ECoR) division has been completed, which includes approximately 105.8 km from Khurda Road to Dasapalla and 36.6 km from Bolangir to Khambeswarapali. This was revealed during ECoR general manager Manoj Sharma's inspection of the Purunapani-Sonepur railway section of the Khurda Road-Bolangir project Thursday. ECoR also aims to complete 84 kms more of the rail line from Khambeswarapali to Purunakatak in the fiscal 2023-24. Sharma later inspected an important under-construction Railway Bridge on Tel river, a tributary of Mahanadi. This construction of this bridge has proven to be a challenge as apart from its natural water flow, backwater of Mahanadi also enters Tel. "The Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line is a prioritized public centric project, which is being monitored by apex authorities on a regular basis," said an ECoR official.

NEW BRAIN DEVICE GIVES VOICE HOPE TO PARALYSED

Scientists have developed a device that can translate paralysed people's brain signals into words at faster speeds than before, a step towards restoring communication to people with severe paralysis.

The brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) are capable of decoding brain activity into speech faster, more accurately and covering larger vocabulary than existing technologies, the researchers said.

People with neurological disorders, including brainstem stroke or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often face speech loss due to paralysis of muscles.

Previous studies have shown that it is possible to decode speech from the brain activities of a person with paralysis, but only in the form of text and with limited speed, accuracy and vocabulary.

The latest findings, published

in two papers in the journal Nature, demonstrate a BCI that collects the neural activity of single cells with an array of fine electrodes inserted into the brain, and trained an artificial neural network to decode intended vocalisations.

With the help of the device, a patient with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis was able to communicate at an average rate of 62 words per minute, which is 3.4 times as fast as the previous record for a similar device and moves closer to the speed of natural conversation (around 160 words per minute).

The BCI achieved a 9.1 per cent word error rate on a 50-word vocabulary, which is 2.7 times fewer errors than the previous state-of-the-art speech BCI from 2021. A 23.8 per cent word error rate was achieved on a 125,000-word vocabulary.

In another study, the re-



searchers developed a BCI based on a different method for accessing brain activity, using non-penetrating electrodes that sit on the surface of the brain and detect the activity of many cells across sites over the entire speech cortex.

This BCI decodes brain signals to generate three outputs simultaneously: text, audible speech and a speaking avatar.

The researchers trained a deep-learning model to decipher neural data collected from a pa-

tient with severe paralysis, caused by a brainstem stroke, as she attempted to silently speak full sentences.

Brain-to-text translation generated a median rate of 78 words per minute, which is 4.3 times as fast as the previous record and moves even closer to the speed of natural conversation, the researchers said.

The BCI achieved a 4.9 per cent word error rate when decoding sentences from a 50-phrase set, which is 5 times fewer errors than the previous state-of-the-art speech BCI, they said.

A 25 per cent word error rate was achieved when real-time decoding sentences with a over

1,000 word vocabulary, and off-line simulations showed a 28 per cent word error rate using a vocabulary with over 39,000 words.

Brain signals were also translated directly into intelligible synthesized speech sounds which untrained listeners could understand, with a word error rate of 28 per cent for a set of 529 phrases, and personalised to the participant's pre-injury voice.

The BCI also decoded neural activity into an avatar's facial movements during speaking, as well as non-verbal expressions.

Stable, high-performance decoding was demonstrated over months, according to the researchers.

Overall, this multimodal BCI provides more possibilities for people with paralysis to communicate in a more naturalistic and expressive way, they added.

PTI

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Vigilance sleuths unearth DA worth crores from DFO

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The officials of Vigilance department Thursday detected disproportionate assets worth crores of rupees from the possession of Rayagada Divisional Forest Officer (DFO).

Vigilance sources here said on the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets by Bijay Kumar Parida, DFO Rayagada Peripheral, simultaneous house searches were being conducted by Vigilance officials led by eight DSPs, six inspectors and other staff at seven places in Rayagada, Khurda, Cuttack and Jajpur districts. Searches were made at the residential government quarter, his office at Rayagada, Kalarahanga, Bhubaneswar, his relatives' house at Urali, Cuttack and various other places. During searches one building with approximate valuation of ₹1.8 crore, one triple storied building and one flat in Bhubaneswar, eight plots, ₹1.24 lakh cash along with other assets were unearthed. The measurement and valuation of the flat, buildings and plots is being carried out by the Vigilance Technical Wing. Unearthing of more assets is likely and overall valuation is also likely to increase, the sources added.

Woman police SI consumes poison

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir/Saintala, August 24: A woman sub-inspector (SI), working as a trainee officer at Saintala police station in Bolangir district tried to end life by consuming poison at her rented accommodation in Saintala late Wednesday night. The police officer was identified as trainee SI Kajal Bag of Saintala police station.



Reports said that Bag decided to consume poison after having a tiff with a male friend over phone. Neighbours heard her talking with someone on the phone in loud voice late Wednesday night. Chatters were abuzz that she reportedly took the step after having tiff with a police officer with whom she is in love. On being informed, police rushed her in critical condition and rushed her to the Saintala community health centre. Later, she was shifted to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir where her health condition improved after treatment. While the actual cause behind her suicide bid is yet to be ascertained, a love affair is sus-

pected to be the reason behind her attempting the extreme step. After reports surfaced, media personnel rushed to the BBMCH but failed to trace her in any ward of the hospital. Police officials were contacted but all remained tight-lipped and refused to speak on the issue.

Doctors during rounds found out that she fled from the hospital despite not being discharged from the hospital. However, no one commented on the issue. When contacted, hospital superintendent (in-charge) Dr Sachal Bhoi said that the lady SI was admitted to the hospital after she consumed poison, late Wednesday night. Her health condition improved and she was stable after treatment. However, she was absent in the women's medicine ward when doctors took round, Thursday morning. She has fled from the hospital without informing anybody, he said, adding that a report will be filed in this regard.

Reliable sources said the family members of the woman SI and some others were present in the hospital during her treatment. However, no one knew her whereabouts and with whom she left the hospital.

Man murders wife suspecting infidelity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, August 24: In a tragic incident, a man axed his wife to death suspecting infidelity at Sampoch village under Harbhanga block in Boudh district Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Kasturi Swain (45) and the accused was identified as Bholanath Swain of Sampoch village under Harbhanga block in this district. As per the information, Bholanath was suspecting that his wife was having an extra marital affair. There used to be quarrels between them over the matter. Wednesday morning around 11am when Kasturi returned from farmland after finishing work, Bholanath attacked Kasturi with an axe.

Kasturi tried to save herself from the brutal attack and tried to close the door but could not save herself. In the axe attack, Kasturi's head separated from her body. After committing the crime Bholanath informed the police and his other relatives about the incident. Informed Boudh police reached the spot and seized the body along with the axe used in killing. Police arrested Bholanath from the spot.

Tension as jumbo attack claims 2 lives



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, August 24: Tension ran high after two persons including a woman were killed in an elephant attack at Pateli village under Bantala and Angul forest ranges in this forest division and district, Thursday morning.

Akhaya Nayak in Saharaguda village under Angul forest range also sustained critical injuries after being attacked by the animal. He has been admitted to the Angul headquarters hospital for treatment.

The deceased were identified as Shankar Biswal, 60, of Pateli village in Angul forest range and Jhilli Majhi, 38, of the same village under Bantala forest range. A villager

was killed on the spot. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted their bodies. The incident spread outrage in the village as irate villagers burnt tyres and blocked road demanding compensation and immediate measures to stop elephant attacks. They relented after forest and police officials intervened and assured them to look into their demands.

EAST COAST RAILWAY e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBST-347E, Dated: 18.08.2023. NAME OF WORK: DESIGN, SUPPLY, ERECTION, MODIFICATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 1X25KV OHE IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTRIFICATION OF GOODS SHED SIDING AT NAYAGARH TOWN STATION ALONG WITH 01NO. NEW SECTIONING & PARALLELING POST (SP) WITH ASSOCIATED PSI WORK AT DASPALLA UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Saturday, 26th August, 2023; 6:30 pm onwards. at JDR Hotel, Rangadiya, Jay Damodar Residency, Sundargarh - 770 002, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Ranjit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035.

KVB Karur Vysya Bank Asset Recovery Branch (ARB)-Kolkata. 15 Bondel Road, First Floor, Ballygunge, Kolkata, West Bengal-700019. Call No: 033-22900752. Email: head.arb.kolkata@kvbmail.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the said Act.

Item No. 1. (a) All that piece and parcel of Residential Land measuring Area-A0.010 Dec out of A0.020 Dec, situated at Plot No. 1402, Khata No. 497, Mouza - Deuligram, Tahsil-Jagatsinghpur and District-Jagatsinghpur, standing in the name of Mr. Debiddata Mohanty (b) All that piece and parcel of Residential Land measuring Area A0.010 Dec out of A0.040 Dec, situated at Plot No.1052, Khata No. 253, Mouza-Panaisala, Tahsil-Jagatsinghpur and District-Jagatsinghpur, standing in the name of Mr. Debiddata Mohanty

Item No. 1. (a) All that piece and parcel of Residential Land measuring Area-A0.010 Dec out of A0.020 Dec, situated at Plot No. 1402, Khata No. 497, Mouza - Deuligram, Tahsil-Jagatsinghpur and District-Jagatsinghpur, standing in the name of Mr. Debiddata Mohanty

Item No. 1. All that piece and parcel of residential land and building measuring Area-A0.0374Dec (16291.44 Sqft) situated at Khata No.756/390, Plot No. 1482, Mouza-Kalsandhar, P.S.Tahsil: Aska, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Satya Narayan Panda

Item No. 1. All that piece and parcel of residential land and building measuring Area-A0.035Dec situated in mouza Balipadar under SRO/Tahsil-Buguda Dist. Ganjam covered under Khata No.418 Plot No.1627, Kism-Gharabari, standing in the name of Mr. Manoj Kumar Achary and Mr. K. Nilamadhach Achary

Item No. 1. All that piece and parcel of residential land and building measuring Area-A0.0413 Dec East to west width 30 feet and South to North length 60 feet, situated at Old Plot No.2847, New Plot No.2847/5138, Old Khata No.234, New Khata No.703/1451, Mouza Ankushpur, Kukuludakhani Block, Tahsil - Kukuludakhani, Town-Berhampur-761100, Dist. Ganjam, Odisha, standing in the name of Mr. Ashok Kumar Pradhan

Item No. 1. All that piece and parcel of residential land and building measuring Area-A0.044 Dec (1916.64 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot No.979/1347 New Plot No.1347/4225, Old Khata No.109 New Khata No. 410/1649, Kukuludakhani Block, Nimakhandi Village, kukuludakhani, Ganjam Orissa 760001. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar

Item No. 1. All that piece and parcel of residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.044 Dec (1916.64 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot No.979/1347 New Plot No.1347/4225, Old Khata No.109 New Khata No. 410/1649, Kukuludakhani Block, Nimakhandi Village, kukuludakhani, Ganjam Orissa 760001. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar

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Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002. Zonal Office: Star House, 11/D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower in the loan Account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.

UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE: C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423 POSSESSION NOTICE. (Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below. The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses- thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Born in India's moon moment, babies named 'Chandrayaan' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA. Kendrapara, August 24: Several babies born in Kendrapara district shortly after India's Moon mission reached the surface of the Earth's natural satellite were named 'Chandrayaan'.

At least four babies, three boys and a girl, who were born in the Kendrapara district headquarters hospital here Wednesday evening, were named so by their overwhelmed parents.

"It was a double delight. Our baby was born a few minutes after the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon. We have decided to name the child after the lunar mission," said Pravat Mallick, father of one of those four babies.

The local tradition is to name a baby on the 21st day of the birth after a puja.

Mallick's wife Ranu, a resident of Aripada village who gave birth to a son, said elders will be suggested to name the baby boy after Chandrayaan.

She said that the child's name may also be 'Chandra' or 'Luna' as Chandrayaan means a vehicle to the Moon.

"Chandrayaan, however, is a stylish name. We will take a final decision on the 21st day puja," the mother smiled.

Durga Mandal of Talachua village, Joshnyarani Bal of Nilakanthapur and Bebinda Sethi of Angulei village also delivered babies Wednesday evening. While Durga's baby is a girl, the two others are boys.

Anjana Sahoo, head nurse at Kendrapara government hospital, said, "All new mothers are interested in naming their children after Chandrayaan."

She recalled that several babies were named after cyclones that hit the coastal district in the past.

Additional District Medical Officer of the hospital Dr PK Praharaj said the parents feel privileged as their children were born at the country's historic moment.

"They want to celebrate India's feat in the Moon mission by naming babies after Chandrayaan," the doctor said.

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The world is deafened with useless words.

THE MOTHER



Triple Challenge

Three upcoming international gatherings – the G20 Leaders' Summit in September; the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in October; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates in November – will focus on devising strategies to sustain global growth and tame inflation. With public and private debt at record levels, political leaders face the monumental task of maintaining financial stability while simultaneously allocating resources to address critical challenges such as global warming and pandemic preparation.

With increasingly frequent and more intense extreme weather events underscoring the urgent need for decisive action, much of the attention will rightly be on the debt crisis currently engulfing much of the developing world. Given that many middle- and low-income countries lack the necessary resources to invest in adaptation and mitigation measures, global leaders will undoubtedly be pressured to narrow the climate-finance gap.

But the collapse of the traditional Paris Club-based renegotiation process and the ongoing failure of the G20's Common Framework for Debt Treatments have hindered efforts to establish a more efficient policy framework to reduce low- and middle-income countries' debt burdens. Moreover, developing countries' debt woes have been exacerbated by the sharp increase in global interest rates and the decrease in private capital inflows to emerging-market economies.

Several recent initiatives seek to tackle the triple challenge of sustaining economic growth, ensuring financial stability, and mobilising the resources needed to address global threats like climate change. All of them, including the roadmap outlined by policymakers at the June Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris and the new G20 report on reforming the multilateral development bank system, acknowledge that reviving private capital inflows into low- and middle-income countries is a prerequisite for success.

How can this be achieved, particularly given the current economic trends? A recent report by the Bretton Woods Committee's Sovereign Debt Working Group, which we co-chair, suggests that mobilising private capital to address today's triple challenge would require nothing less than a new policy paradigm establishing equitable burden sharing between the public and private sectors.

Currently, each sector's roles and responsibilities in ensuring adequate funding for borrowing countries are not clearly defined, owing to a lack of consensus among policymakers and businesses. To foster cooperation, we must improve our understanding of the different motivations and incentives driving national and bilateral lenders, as well as private investors.

To be sure, borrowing countries also must be prepared to address lenders' legitimate concerns, including about transparency, good governance, and sound fiscal policy. From the perspective of private investors, the two most critical factors are whether opportunities align with market conditions and offer reasonable risk-adjusted returns, and whether debt restructuring processes can facilitate fair burden sharing during periods of economic stress.

A good starting point would be to redefine the official sector's mission to reflect the role of private capital in addressing needs that government cannot meet on its own. Leveraging the balance sheets and preferred creditor status of government institutions in a responsible way would enable policymakers to align the interests of the private and public sectors, de-risk certain types of investment, increase capital flows to emerging economies, and facilitate critical debt-relief efforts.

Moreover, there are already effective models of cooperation that underscore the potentially transformative impact that risk sharing could have on private capital inflows and debt-restructuring deals. Such models, including partial guarantees, public-private partnerships, and certain co-financing schemes, could reduce credit risk and extend the protective umbrella of preferred creditor status to private investors partnering with official entities.

The Sovereign Debt Working Group's analysis suggests that contractual standards, market-based initiatives, and national legislation could all improve global debt management. Moreover, by drawing the right lessons from previous debt-restructuring arrangements, policymakers and economists could develop a best-practices framework.

But first, the official sector must treat the private sector as a partner and ally and shift its focus to mobilising private capital. If adopted, this approach would mark a significant departure from today's ineffective policy frameworks. The Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable, established by the IMF, the World Bank, and the G20 presidency (currently held by India), is a step in the right direction. This high-level committee, which includes both official and private-sector representatives, could reconcile existing discrepancies and forge a new consensus on how to manage sovereign debt.

Similarly, the World Bank's recently announced Private Sector Investment Lab, which brings together global policymakers and senior financial-sector executives, could make significant strides toward removing the barriers currently impeding private capital flows to developing and emerging economies. If policymakers are genuinely committed to scaling up global climate investment, they must embrace such initiatives and take further steps to enhance private-sector engagement.

The writers are Co-Chairs of the Bretton Woods Committee's Sovereign Debt Working Group. @PROJECT SYNDICATE



William R. Rhodes & John Lipsky

With public and private debt at record levels, political leaders face the monumental task of maintaining financial stability while simultaneously allocating resources to address critical challenges such as global warming and pandemic preparation



Jayakrishna Sahu

A MAJOR FACTOR OF LOW CONVICTION RATE IS OUR RELIANCE ON THE TRADITIONAL AND ARCHAIC METHOD OF COLLECTING EVIDENCE

Recently we celebrated our 76 years of Independence from British colonialists, but many laws enacted by the British Parliament in 19th century to perpetuate their rule, operate till this day. During this one-and-a-half century there have been immense civilisational changes in the world including India, but we continue to stick to these archaic and obsolete laws with some minor and a few major patch-works, which results in denial of justice to citizens. We made an excellent Constitution for our free, democratic nation, but failed to enact a set of new major criminal laws.

On 11 August, Union Home Minister Amit Shah placed three Bills in Lok Sabha – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill which will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1972 (originally enacted in 1898) and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

There has been criticism that no proper homework and consultation have been made for this mammoth task, but Shah clarified before the House that the project took four years before culminating to this stage, and during that period consultations and discussions were made with 18 state governments, 6 Union Territory governments, the Supreme Court, 16 High Courts, 5 Judicial Academies, 22 Law Universities, 142 MPs, 270 MLAs and numerous legal experts and common people. The Bills have been sent to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs comprising members of both Houses, which will examine them and report within three months.

The naming of the new Bills in Hindi has created another controversy which could have been avoided. Since the contents of laws are enacted in English, their titles should have been in English. Hindi and other major language-versions of the Bills should also be available

FOCUS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

ENDING COLONIAL LEGACY



At a time when there are five crore pending cases in the country, the effort to modernise criminal law and justice in conformity with the changing world is surely laudable

in official websites so that they can be widely read and discussed. The proposed Bills are going to remove 475 slavish and humiliating terms of colonial era, like "Parliament of UK," "Crown Representative," "London Gazette," "Her Majesty's Dominion," "Barrister," and "Attorney" which was long overdue.

The law of evidence plays the most vital role in our justice-delivery system as it applies to both civil and criminal cases. Our present system is concerned with weighing of evidences, and not with providing justice. Also, as per the 19th century Evidence Act, the criminal cases are decided mostly by oral evidences which are mostly weak and shaky. Till 2000, documentary evidence was meant to be only paper-documents. Only during the 2000-Amendment of the Evidence Act "electronic records" were included to it, but it was not specified. The present Bill broadens definition of documents which include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smartphones, laptops, SMSes, websites, locational evidence, mails and messages on devices.

A major factor of low conviction-rate is our reliance on the traditional and archaic method of collecting evidence. Let's take

the recent sensational and brutal Sakshi murder case. It is clearly recorded by close-circuit cameras, and the entire nation saw the gruesome murder through news channels. However, under our archaic justice system, the judges are not supposed to take notice of this fact as the European Deity of Justice is blind-folded! The police have to trace and produce "eye-witnesses" of this crime as only their evidence is "direct and credible" and other evidences are "circumstantial or hearsay." The entire nation has seen how the eye-witnesses of Sakshi's murder were moving through that street with a sort of inhuman stoicism. Can we expect that such witnesses would tell the truth before court when the trial begins after a few of years?

Despite the vast development of forensic science, our present laws don't adequately utilise it. At present there are a very few forensic science laboratories (FSL) in the country and they are located only in state-capitals. There is also dearth of forensic scientists. So a forensic test takes months and even years to be decided. The Union government's decision to establish National Forensic Science University which will produce about 33,000 forensic experts and three mobile FSLs in every district is a welcome one. It will

be now mandatory for police to collect forensic evidence in every crime punishable for 7 years or more imprisonment.

The new CrPC (BNSS) has provision of Zero-FIR which will ensure a person to lodge report before any police station. Police will forward it to the proper police station within 15 days. FIR can be lodged through e-mail too. For speedy trial, charge-sheet must be filed within 180 days, courts will frame charge within 60 days, judgements are to be delivered within 30 days of closure of evidences and they must be available to public online within next 7 days.

The new IPC (BNS) has been thoroughly overhauled. Community service is added as a new punishment which will be awarded to culprits convicted in petty offences for first time, through summary trials. This will reduce the burden of cases borne by courts. The highly controversial provision of sedition has been abolished. Criticising the government is no more an offence. However, crimes against the State like secessionism, subversion, armed insurgency, separatism and challenging the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India will be punishable from 7 years to life-imprisonment. Marriages made through deceptive identity for the purpose to convert gullible women to other religions are made an offence punishable with a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.

At a time when there are five crore pending cases in the country, cases are taking decades to be decided and conviction-rate is very low, the effort to modernise criminal law and justice in conformity with the changing world is surely laudable. However, as the taste of the pudding lies in eating, the new laws' real capacity to render better and speedier justice lie in their actual successful implementation.

The writer is an advocate and columnist. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Boost to Congress, INDIA

The return of Rahul Gandhi to Parliament has, no doubt, enthused his party but a lot depends on whether it gives impetus to the Opposition 'INDIA' bloc. Congress politicians as well its cadre are obviously in high spirits since the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the victory in Karnataka. The yatra helped cement Gandhi's centrality not only to the Congress but also to the larger Opposition coalition. Many Congress supporters feel the stage is now set for a rejuvenated Gandhi to undertake a third and final act – the role of the primary challenger to Prime Minister and BJP star campaigner Narendra Modi, as he has brought out issues that have embarrassed Modi.

Moreover, analysts believe that Modi appears to be quite anxious of Rahul as he and his team have repeatedly focused on the government's pro-rich approach and the neglect of the poor and the marginalised sections. However, it needs to be pointed out that Rahul has remained steadfast about certain core issues that other members of the 'INDIA' alliance have compromised on. The most significant

has been his rhetoric against the all-consuming crony capitalism of the Modi era.

What is of critical importance is that Rahul's disqualification from Parliament and of him being asked to vacate his official residence in a tearing hurry, not seen before, did not go down well with the people. Rather, the BJP was clearly on the wrong foot as its action generated sympathy for the Congress leader among the people.

At the same time, the Rahul has taken a grassroots approach, visiting the marginalised and impoverished sections and even standing by with the people of Manipur, who have been greatly affected by violence unleashed since May 3. One cannot doubt the fact that the grand old party has shrivelled over the last three decades because it has lost this space to many regional parties. It is seeking to instrumentalise the increasing national relevance of Rahul to regain some of this. One can argue that his projection as the Prime Minister might help the party in certain states where it faces rival claimants in this space. Though of course, this is unlikely to happen as the INDIA bloc is keeping

the PM face out of all its unity efforts.

However, the Congress appears to be veering round the view that its share with Rahul at the head may benefit the party in triangular fights in Punjab, Delhi and Telengana. The aura of national leadership around him can also potentially have a marginal impact in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, particularly in mobilisation of traditional Congress base among Muslims and Dalits. But a lot depends on how the seat-sharing formula among the united Opposition pans out in the various states.

An NDTV-CSDS survey from May painted a revealing picture as it estimated that Congress had increased its vote share to 29% – a jump of nearly 10 points from its 2019 vote share while BJP's vote share was 39%, adding just 2 percentage points. However, these votes were not coming from the BJP but from regional parties. But in Karnataka, the Congress managed to get a sizeable percentage of votes from its arch rival and form the government for which Rahul and his Bharat Jodo Yatra had a big role.

Though Rahul has effectively criticised the government of the

BJP sprinkling kerosene all over the country in inciting violence through communal discord, it is indeed difficult to point out how effectively he would be able to counter the poison of Hindu nationalism in the coming months. As is well known, religion, and aggressive religion, have been promoted in an ugly manner and pervaded all spheres of society. History is now being distorted and there is an all-round attempt to project nationalism through the eyes of the Hindutva movement. The Congress and Rahul would have to counter the government over its failure in the social and economic fronts.

It needs to be reiterated that the focus of the Congress campaign has to be on uplifting the conditions of the backward sections and the economically weaker sections who have not gained from the policies of the ruling dispensation. Other issues that have cast a shadow on society should also be brought to focus which include the lack of autonomy and funds for institutions of higher learning, communal disturbances, autocratic behaviour of the present government, and conflict with the judiciary.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

IT NEEDS TO BE POINTED OUT THAT RAHUL HAS REMAINED STEADFAST ABOUT CERTAIN CORE ISSUES THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INDIA ALLIANCE HAVE COMPROMISED ON

WORDSWORTH

Mortsafe

Medical schools in the eighteenth century, and increasingly so in the early nineteenth century, found it difficult to teach anatomy because the supply of bodies for dissection was limited. So a clandestine trade grew up of grave-robbing: the anatomists paid resurrectionists to go out at night, especially in winter when the cold would slow putrefaction, to dig up freshly interred bodies and convey them to the schools. At the time, a dead body was not legally regarded as property, so body snatchers could not be convicted of theft. When this supply proved inadequate, some gangs – such as that of the infamous Burke and Hare – turned to murder to meet demand, leading to the verb to burke and to burkism as a name for the practice. Various methods were tried to thwart the resurrectionists, such as setting guards or traps over the grave. Another was to employ metal coffins, such as the patent coffin invented by Edward Bridgman in 1781. In Scotland the most common method in the eighteenth century – for those who could afford it – was the watch box or mortsafe (from French mort, death). This was an iron grid or cage either placed over the coffin or set in mortar above ground to cover the whole area of the grave. Some of the latter type can still be seen in churchyards.

Well done, Kharge

Sir, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has finally formed his new working committee. Along with this, the criticism that the party had elected a new president but was unable to provide him with his own staff was dropped. The creation of the new working committee has occurred at a time when national elections are approaching. Prior to this, many states will hold assembly elections, which are regarded politically significant. Looking at the new working committee in this light, it is evident that Kharge, as party president, has transmitted significant messages through it. For starters, the disagreements and insecurity inside the party that existed prior to the president's election have vanished. The party has finally been brought together under the leadership of its new president. This is evident from the fact that the working committee includes all the major figures featured in the so-called G-23, i.e., dissident leaders. Nonetheless, many must have worried that because these leaders were openly seen opposing the then-party leadership, they would be sidelined. Kharge dismissed such concerns by giving these figures a seat on the working group. Overall, it can be claimed that Kharge took his time building the team, but he did it well.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Reining in road rage

Sir, Hooligans are the worst perpetrators of road rage. Gestures to verbal assaults, to the ultimate fistfight, the repercussions of road rage can be frightening. Somewhere a line had to be drawn. The Karnataka government has decided to open rowdy sheet on road rage offenders depending on the intensity of the offence and the type of intimidation involved. Earlier, road rage incidents rarely reached police stations; habitual offenders stayed emboldened. With the advent of social media and thanks to sophisticated vehicle gadgets like dashboard cameras, vivid details of road rage are coming in the open making it easy for the police. A rowdy sheet is a register that maintains names and descriptions of people with history of unlawful and criminal activities. The police can consistently monitor the activities of rowdies, and can summon them to police station. No need to say that finding a name in the rowdy sheet can be a huge blow to the name and fame of a person.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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BJP only gave pain, sorrow: Pilot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 24: The BJP failed as a ruling party at the Centre and as the opposition party in Rajasthan, former deputy chief minister and Congress leader Sachin Pilot said Thursday.

Pilot exuded confidence that the trend of power being alternated between the BJP and the Congress will break this time, and his party will retain power.

Speaking at a public meeting in the Masuda Assembly constituency in Ajmer, Pilot said the BJP got a huge mandate twice in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections but did not do any good to the voters.

The Congress leader said the upcoming assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana will have a huge impact on the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"The BJP government has been ruling at the Centre for nine years. People voted for the party and gave full majority twice but they were cheated by the party. After taking votes from every class, the government only gave pain and sorrow," he said.



THE CONGRESS LEADER SAID THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN RAJASTHAN, MADHYA PRADESH, CHHATTISGARH AND TELANGANA WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2024 LOK SABHA POLLS. SPEAKING AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE MASUDA ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY IN AJMER, PILOT SAID THE BJP GOT A HUGE MANDATE TWICE IN THE 2014 AND 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS BUT DID NOT DO ANY GOOD TO THE VOTERS.

Pilot said the Central government brought three 'black' farm laws, which were withdrawn after a large number of

farmers staged protests in Delhi. Escalating his attack on the ruling BJP, the Congress leader said inflation skyrocketed but

the Centre did not even say that efforts would be made to control it.

"They would only come ahead of the elections and seek votes in the name of temple, mosque, Hindu, Muslim. What has the central government done for the benefit of the general public?"

Manmohan Singh government had brought MGNREGA and schemes for the welfare of the people," he said.

Pilot, who is the MP from Ajmer Lok Sabha seat, said he was hopeful the Congress will retain power in the Rajasthan assembly elections due later this year.

"BJP leaders in Rajasthan are only sleeping. Their central leaders come from Delhi and try to wake them up, but they are sleeping," he said. Masuda MLA Rakesh Pareek, Chaksu MLA Ved Solanki and other state Congress leaders were present in the meeting.

School teacher recruitment exams begin

The tests are being conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) and will continue till Saturday. More than 8 lakh aspirants have applied for the recruitment of 1, 70,461 school teachers in the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 24: School teacher recruitment examinations began Thursday at 870 centres across Bihar, amid tight security, officials said.

The tests are being conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) and will continue till Saturday. More than 8 lakh aspirants have applied for the recruitment of 1, 70,461 school teachers in the state.

"Proper arrangements have been made to ensure seamless execution of tests at 870 examination centres across the state. The exams will be conducted in two shifts, with primary teacher recruitment tests and compulsory paper assessments scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

"Secondary teachers' assessments (for classes IX and X) will be held in the first half of August 26 while in the second shift, tests for higher secondary teachers (classes XI and XII) will be conducted," a senior BPSC official said.

He also said 79,943 teachers would be recruited in primary schools, 32,916 in secondary and



57,602 in higher secondary schools. Candidates' biometric data has been collected, and a facial recognition system has also been installed for authentication. The police and district administrations are keeping a constant vigil on the examination centres. "All arrangements are in place to ensure smooth conduct of examinations. The administration has also formed several flying squads to check whether there is any violation of the guidelines issued by the

BPSC," Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh said. Echoing a similar view, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP-Patna) Rajeev Mishra said, "Adequate security forces have been deployed at all examination centres in Patna to check any untoward incident." The state government had, in May, approved a proposal to recruit 1.78 lakh teachers in schools. The entire recruitment process is expected to be completed by the end of this year, the official added.

Rajasthan govt launches campaign against 'romeos'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 24: Facing flak from opposition parties over crimes against women, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said men arrested for harassing women on the streets will be barred from government jobs. Their pictures will also be displayed at police stations, he said.

Addressing youngsters at an event here, Gehlot said, "Hamein manchale logon ka ilaaj karna chahiye (we should do something about the 'romeos')." In the last 15 days, the Rajasthan Police has arrested 300 people, he said while referring to those harassing women and girls on streets, and outside schools and colleges.

"We have started a campaign against such people and their pictures will be displayed in police stations. They will also be debarred from government jobs," the chief minister said and added that the campaign is underway to free the state of the crime.

Gehlot also spoke to children through video-conferencing at the event to launch 'Rajasthan-Mission 2030' which aims to make Rajasthan a leading state of the country. Opposition parties in Rajasthan, including the BJP, have been alleging that crime against women is on the rise in the state. Their attack got sharper following the alleged gang rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district on August 2.

Amid an outcry over the rape and murder case, Gehlot had on August 8 announced that his government has decided to "ban" people accused of rape and other sex crimes from government jobs. In post on X, formerly Twitter, he had said a record of such people will be maintained at police stations and it will also be mentioned on character certificates needed for government jobs.

The state government has decided that raped accused and those who molest girls and women will be "banned from government jobs", Gehlot had said.

Like history sheeters, the chief minister had said, a record of people accused of sex crimes will also be maintained at police stations and this will be mentioned on their character certificate issued by the state government or police. "Social boycott of such anti-social elements is necessary," Gehlot had tweeted earlier.

Tejashwi meets Gadkari, demands expressway

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 24: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav met Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari Thursday and demanded an expressway for his home state.

Talking to media persons Tejashwi Yadav said, "We had a very positive conversation with the minister and had a discussion about the projects which were on hold since last 11 to 12 years in Bihar. We also discussed the road projects of Bihar."

"There is no expressway in Bihar. So we have demanded for an expressway for which Gadkari has responded positively," the Deputy Chief Minister said. He also shared agenda of his meeting with the minister on X.

"We have demanded for construction of Buxar to Bhagalpur Expressway, a bridge parallel to JP Setu on the river Ganges. Elevated corridor between Patna

There is no expressway in Bihar. So we have demanded for an expressway for which Gadkari has responded positively

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

to Koilwar and Anisabad to Didarganj. Also long pending projects like Patna-Gaya, Hajipur-Chhapra, Maheshkhunt-Saharsa-Purnia National Highway were also discussed. We also discussed the early completion of Muzaffarpur bypass," the Deputy Chief Minister wrote on X.

Notably, the Bihar state plans to extend Uttar Pradesh's 341km long Purvanchal Expressway to Bhagalpur, located near the eastern border of Bihar, via the state capital Patna. The 350-kilometre Buxar-Bhagalpur expressway plan will connect Buxar in west Bihar bordering Uttar Pradesh to Bhagalpur in east Bihar.



Vehicles move through a waterlogged street after heavy rain in Patna

PTI PHOTO

Rajasthan to cut power supply to industries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 24: In wake of increasing power crisis in Rajasthan, the state government will cut power supply to industries and give it to farmers and common men.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot called a meeting with the officers on late Wednesday night to discuss ways for battling the ongoing power crisis in state. In the meeting, it

has been decided to cut the power supply of the industries and give it to the farmers and common consumers, said officials.

Due to crisis, farmers will be supplied electricity in the night shift instead of day to irrigate their crops. In fact, due to slowing down of monsoon in August, power crisis has deepened in the state. The demand for electricity has increased due to increase in temperature. Load management is being done by the

electricity department and power is cut from the city to the rural areas.

Senior officials said that the average consumption of electricity in the state has crossed 3,400 lakh units per day. The maximum demand for electricity has reached around 17,000 MW. Due to no rain this

time, the demand for electricity has increased. Power cuts are being done due to high demand and low supply to keep pace with demand and supply. Due to unavailability of sufficient power, power cuts of one to one and a half hours are being done in different areas as per requirement.

No friends but only competitors, say students and experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Raj), August 24: There are no friends but only competitors in the country's coaching capital popularly known as "Kota factory", say students and experts as the government struggles to keep a check on the spate of suicides among engineering and medical aspirants.

Authorities say 20 students preparing for competitive exams in Kota have ended their lives so far in 2023 - highest for any year. Last year, the figure was 15. Battling with packed schedules, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, burden of parents' expectations and homesickness, students say they often find themselves alone with no one to talk to and share their feelings with.

Experts warn that parents also see friendships as potential distractions for their wards and discourage them to make friends when they are here for coaching. "There is no concept of friend-

ship here...There are only competitors. Every student sitting next to you is seen as an additional burden to fight with. Unlike schools and colleges, nobody shares notes among peers here because everybody is seen as a threat who might take one's seat away in the college of his or her choice," Ridhima Swamy, a NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) aspirant from Madhya Pradesh, said.

Mansi Singh, a Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) aspirant from Odisha, who has been here for the last two years said life in Kota feels like one is on a "treadmill". "It is like running on a treadmill. You only have two options either to get down or keep running. I assured her that I will go to his room, once back to hostel..I went back and got busy in studying. While his mom kept calling me, I was busy preparing for a test next day that I was restless that I will lose time and will not be able to prepare well."

"His mom figured out some-



mately impacts the performance causing further stress.

Sharing an incident, the student from Maharashtra said, "One day I received a call from the mother of one of the boys here who lives in the same hostel. She was worried that she was not able to reach her son and wanted me to check on him as he had not been attending classes for a week. I assured her that I will go to his room, once back to hostel..I went back and got busy in studying. While his mom kept calling me, I was busy preparing for a test next day that I was restless that I will lose time and will not be able to prepare well."

one else and the issue was sorted but later I felt guilty that what if he was unwell, what if he had taken the extreme step and all I could think was that I will get less time to prepare for a test...Such is the pressure here...I couldn't sleep for days when the realisation hit me," he said. Dinesh Sharma, Head of Psychology Department, Government Nursing College, said students neither open up nor develop empathy for their peers here.

"The first instructions from the parents when they drop their kids here is...Do not waste time in friendships, you are here to study. When parents see it negatively, students feel that it is something wrong and should not be done." "Every coaching has counsellors now but these students are apprehensive about opening up with them thinking their parents might be informed...So friends can be really helpful but here those who make friends are not seen in good light," he said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), KANDHAMAL DIVISION, PHULBANI
Email Id: eagrlikandhamal@gmail.com

Govt. of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. :E.E (A)- KANDHAMAL Division -03/2023-24 No.L-81:The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Kandhamal Division,Phulbani, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover system for the works in ONLINE MODE only

- Estimated cost: Rs.8,29,656/- to Rs.8,31,791/- (Excluding GST)
- Bid Cost : Rs.4000/Mentioned in Column-04
- Period of completion : Mentioned against each work. (Column-06)
- No. of works (Tender) :9 no.
- Class of Contractor :C & D Mentioned in Column - 05
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt.31.08.2023 at 10.30 AM upto 5.30 PM of Dt.11.09.2023
- Last date /Time for receipt of bids in the portal :11.09.2023 upto 5.30 PM
- Date of submission of original documents (Regd post only): Dt.02.09.2023 at 10.30 AM to Dt.13.09.2023 upto 5.30PM. (working days only)
- Date & time of opening of online bids :14.09.2023 at 11.00 AM. onwards.
- Name and address of the officer inviting bid :The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Kandhamal Division, Phulbani, Odisha. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)
Kandhamal Division, Phulbani
OIPR-01468/11/0005/2324



Monsoon clouds hover in the sky in Thane, Maharashtra



A Sumatran tiger investigates a measuring stick during London Zoo's Annual Weigh In, in London. The Annual Weigh In is a chance for keepers at the conservation zoo to make sure the information they've recorded is up-to-date and accurate, with each measurement then added to the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS), a database shared with zoos all over the world that helps zookeepers to compare important information on thousands of threatened species



TMC MP and film actor Nusrat Jahan performs during the Tele Academy Awards 2023 in Kolkata, West Bengal



Students stage a protest over recent violence in Haryana's Nuh at Jamia Millia Islamia campus, in New Delhi



School students in Jodhpur sit in a formation to congratulate ISRO after the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the surface of the Moon



Pulikali (Tiger Dance) artistes being painted during the Onam festivities in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Firefighters and residents try to extinguish a fire in the city of Canakkale, northwest Turkey

AP/PTI PHOTOS

of the day quote

The state has set a target to build 15,000 km of rural roads and we need to speed up construction. There should be no compromise on the quality of roads as it would not be tolerated

At present procurement is being done at 13 centres set up by NAFED. So far, 500 metric tonne onion had been procured. Considering the quantity of onion with farmers we have requested that the number be increased

It is shocking that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has only Rs 186 crore for farmers but is spending Rs 750 crore on self projection through advertisements. If this wasteful expenditure alone is stopped, farmer compensation can be increased by three times immediately

SHORT TAKES

SC upholds bail granted to Narain

New Delhi: In a relief to former Andaman and Nicobar Islands chief secretary Jitendra Narain, the Supreme Court Thursday upheld the Calcutta High Court order granting him bail in a rape case. The apex court dismissed the pleas filed by the complainant woman and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands challenging the February 20 order of the Port Blair circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court. While dismissing the pleas, the top court directed the trial court to expedite the trial in the case.

9 killed as tractor falls into drain

Saharanpur/Lucknow (UP): A tractor-trolley fell into a drain near Redhibodki village in the Saharanpur district, leaving nine people dead, four of them children, police Thursday said. The incident took place Wednesday evening in the Tajpura area when a tractor carrying around 50 devotees was on its way to Randaul village for a religious event, Superintendent of Police, City, Abhimanyu Manglik told PTI.

2 dead as building collapses in Delhi

New Delhi: Two workers were killed and six others got injured Thursday after a portion of an under-construction building in Delhi's Okhla area collapsed on them, police said. The incident took place when excavation work to construct a basement was underway at the site.



I am shocked to learn that the United World Wrestling (UWW) has suspended the Wrestling Federation of India. Centre and BJP have kept on harassing our indomitable sisters with misogyny and crude male chauvinism

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

GOOGLE JOINS THE CELEBRATION

Search engine giant Google Thursday celebrated India's success in its third Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 with a special animated doodle



CHANDRAYAAN-3

Rover rolls out on Moon's surface

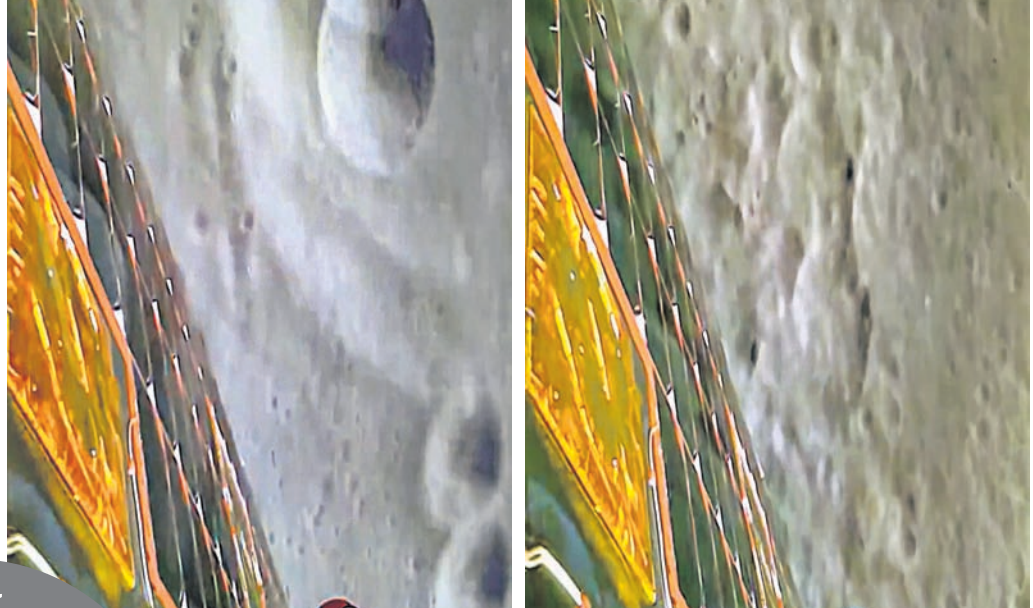
THE VIKRAM LANDER WITH PRAGYAN ROVER IN ITS BELLY TOUCHED DOWN ON THE MOON'S SURFACE "WELL WITHIN THE AREA" IDENTIFIED FOR THE PURPOSE, SAID ISRO CHAIRMAN S SOMANATH, AS THE 26-KG SIX-WHEELED ROVER BEGAN ITS EXPLORATION OF THE LUNAR SURFACE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 24: The Moon rover of India's Chandrayaan-3 exited the spacecraft Thursday to begin exploring the surface of the lunar south pole and conducting experiments, and was braced for new challenges, the space agency chief said.

The soft, textbook touchdown by the lander after a failed attempt in 2019 sparked widespread jubilation and celebration in the world's most populous country. The media hailed the historic landing as India's biggest scientific feat.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath said the lander and the rover were in good condition, and "both are working very well" but the experiments were yet to start. "All activities are on schedule. All systems are normal," ISRO posted on X, formerly Twitter. "Rover mobility operations have commenced." The rover, named "Pragyan", has two instruments to con-



Screenshots show the surface of the Moon captured by Lander Imager Camera PTI PHOTO

India Wednesday scripted history as its third unmanned Moon mission's Lander Module made a flawless soft-landing, making it only the fourth country to achieve this feat, and first to reach the uncharted south pole of Earth's only natural satellite

duct element and chemical composition experiments, and a robotic path planning exercise for future exploration.

Chandrayaan means "Moon vehicle" in Hindi and Sanskrit. The rover is expected to remain functional for two weeks, or one lunar day, the period of time its solar-powered equipment is built to last.

POSSIBLE CHALLENGES Somanath said there were "many issues" on the Moon's surface that ISRO will experience for the first time, especially lunar dust and temperatures that could impact moving parts.

"The mechanisms, the moving items...can get entangled with the dust there. It can get into the moving parts and jam them, the bearings of the system may not work, the motors may not work," he told the CNN News 18 TV channel.

Lunar dust is different from that on the surface of earth and in the absence of air on the Moon, it could stick to materials of the rover, impacting its operation, he said.

"All this creates problems in those mechanisms...so let us see how it goes," the scientist said. "We will face it...that's why we are exploring. If everything is known, what is the fun in doing it?"

The Moon's rugged south pole is coveted because of its water ice, or frozen water, which could prove to be a

source of fuel, oxygen, and drinking water for future missions, but its rough terrain makes landing challenging.

- Chandrayaan-3 rover exits spacecraft, all systems normal
- ISRO chief says probe could face issues such as lunar dust
- PM Modi says landing is achievement of all of humanity
- Media hails landing as India's biggest scientific feat
- ISRO said all the Lander Module(LM) payloads have been turned on

CELEBRATIONS

People across the country tuned in to watch the landing Wednesday, with nearly 7 million people viewing the YouTube live stream alone.

Prayers were held at places of worship, and schools organised live screenings for students.

Besides boosting India's standing as a space power and its reputation for cost-competitive space engineering, the landing is also seen as a major moment of national pride.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he has been congratulated by everyone since Wednesday and that the world saw the successful landing not as one country's achievement but that of all of humanity.

PM Modi raises border issue with China's Xi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PM Modi raised the border issue with China's Xi Jinping during the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

The ties between India and China came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border standoff that began in May, 2020.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in the standoff in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks. India and China held the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks August 13 and 14 with a focus on resolving pending issues at the standoff areas of Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh. A joint statement described the talks as "positive, constructive and in-depth" and that both sides agreed to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner. Days after the fresh round of high-level talks, the local commanders of the two militaries held a series of negotiations in two separate locations to resolve issues in Depsang Plains and Demchok.

New Delhi, August 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to Chinese President Xi Jinping India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues along Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh during a conversation on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Thursday.

The Prime Minister underlined that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas and observing and respecting the LAC are essential for normalisation of India-China relations, he said at a media briefing.

In this regard, the two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and deescalation, the foreign secre-



Students from South Africa and Laos participate in Onam celebrations with their batchmates at the Government Women's College, at Vazhuthacaud in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala PTI PHOTO

Climate change fingerprints all over monsoon this year: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Barring the cumulative rainfall over the country, this year's monsoon has been anything but normal and experts point to climate change as the underlying cause.

From a cyclone with the longest lifespan in the Arabian Sea to devastating floods in parts of northwest India and the adjoining Himalayan states, as well as a prolonged break in the monsoon, the unmistakable imprints of climate change are evident this year, asserted Mahesh Palawat, vice president (Climate Change and Meteorology) at private forecasting agency Skymet Weather.

In early June, cyclone Biparjoy delayed the onset of the monsoon over Kerala and the advance over southern India and the adjoining western and central parts of the country. Meteorologists say the cyclone

experienced rapid intensification initially and maintained its strength due to an unusually warm Arabian Sea. They emphasise that cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are intensifying rapidly and retaining their potency for longer periods due to climate change.

According to a study "Changing status of tropical cyclones over the north Indian Ocean", the frequency, duration, and intensity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea have increased by about 20 per cent in the post-monsoon period and 40 per cent in the pre-monsoon period.



Mumbai simultaneously for the first time since June 21, 1961, on June 25. In June, 377 stations across the country reported very heavy rain events (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm), the highest in the last five years, according to the India Meteorological Department data. July saw a considerable rise in the number of heavy rain events, with 1,113 stations reporting very heavy rainfall and 205 stations experiencing extremely heavy rainfall (above 204.5 mm), both being the highest in the last five years. In July, unprecedented floods wreaked havoc in northwest India, particularly Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, causing over 100 deaths. Mumbai had its wettest July, while the Yamuna in Delhi reached a record 208.66 metres. Over 80 people died after a landslide struck Irshalwadi of Raigarh district in Maharashtra on July 19 following heavy rainfall. August continued the trend, with heavy rainfall causing extensive damage in the fragile Himalayas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, resulting in over 80 casualties. Professor Y P Sundriyal from HNB Garhwal University said

EXTREME WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER-RELATED EVENTS CAUSED 573 DISASTERS IN INDIA BETWEEN 1970 AND 2021 THAT CLAIMED 1,38,377 LIVES, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. INDIA RECORDED 2,227 HUMAN CASUALTIES DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN 2022, ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL STATEMENT ON CLIMATE OF INDIA, ISSUED BY THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Gauhati HC acquits all 6 convicts in 2004 I-Day blast case

Guwahati: The Gauhati High Court Thursday acquitted all six accused in the 2004 Dhemaji bomb blast case in which 18 people, including 13 school children, were killed Independence Day. A division bench of justices Michael Zothankhuma and Mridul Kumar overturned a 2019 order of the Dhemaji district and sessions court, which had sentenced four persons to life imprisonment and two others to four years in jail, citing lack of sufficient evidence. Delivering the verdict, the court observed that "the circumstantial evidence does not form an unbroken chain that leads to the possible inference that the appellants are guilty of crime". There is no evidence at all except for the statements recorded under section 164 of the CrPC, which are not corroborated with proof, it said. "Further, the judicial officer recording the evidence has not given reason for believing that the same was given voluntarily as per provisions of law," it added.

international



India will continue to provide developmental assistance to Sri Lanka in every possible area
S JAISHANKAR | INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

ALARMING RISE

Over 500 dengue deaths have been recorded in Bangladesh this year as the South Asian country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said



of the day quote

By aiming for the Moon, India has not only reached it, but also set its sights on the limitless possibilities that lie ahead
RUCHIRA KAMBOJ | INDIA'S UN ENVOY

The chief justice is well aware that this person [Imran Khan] has wreaked havoc on Pakistan's economy, ethics, and culture. He has propagated violence and repeatedly violated the Constitution
NAWAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN'S FORMER PM

Our country rejoices with India on the success of its lunar mission, which is a matter of immense pride and inspiration to all the South Asian countries in advancing the science and space technology sector
SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESH PM

SIX COUNTRIES TO JOIN BRICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, August 24: In a landmark move, the top leaders of the BRICS nations Thursday decided to admit Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as full members of the grouping that is largely seen as a counterweight to Western powers.

The decision to induct the six countries to join the bloc from January 1 next year was announced by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the final day of the annual summit of the BRICS that currently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"We have consensus on the first phase of this expansion process, and further phases will follow," Ramaphosa, flanked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, said at a media briefing at the end of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

The decision to expand the bloc is seen as an effort to reshape global governance while putting the voices of the Global South as a key priority area to advance the overall development agenda. In his media statement, Modi said the "expansion and modernisation" of BRICS is a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at a session during the 2023 BRICS Summit, in Johannesburg

THE BRICS MEMBER NATIONS HAVE BEEN THE MAIN ENGINES OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE YEARS

The decision to expand the bloc is seen as an effort to reshape global governance while putting the voices of the Global South as a key priority area to advance the overall development agenda

At present, the BRICS represents 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade

message that all institutions in the world need to mould themselves according to changing times.

"India has always fully supported the expansion of the BRICS membership. India has been of the view that the addition of new members will further strengthen BRICS as an organisation, and give a new impetus to all our common endeavours," he said.

With the entry of the six countries, the total number of members in the grouping is reaching 11 from the current five. The

South African president said an agreement was reached on the "guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures of the BRICS expansion process, which has been under discussion for quite a while".

"We have decided to invite the Argentine Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to become full members of BRICS," he added. Around 40 countries had shown interest in joining

Japan begins release of Fukushima water



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 24: Seoul office worker Kim Mijeong said she intends to stop eating seafood because she deeply mistrusts the safety of Japan's release of treated radioactive wastewater into the sea from its crippled nuclear power plant.

"We should absolutely cut back on our consumption of seafood. Actually, we can't eat it," Kim said. "I can't accept the Japanese plan because it's too unilateral and is proceeding without countermeasures." Many foreign experts said the water discharge will have a negligible impact on the environment and human health.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also said it has experts on the ground to ensure the release goes as planned. But

with the discharge starting Thursday, public fears and frustration were being shared in its Asian neighbors, where many still bear strong resentment over Japan's World War II aggression.

In response to the release, China banned seafood from Japan. Ministry of Commerce spokesperson Shu Jueting called the discharge "extremely selfish and irresponsible" and said it would "cause damage and harm to the global marine environment that cannot be predicted."

Hong Kong and Macau said they were banning seafood from Fukushima and nine other Japanese prefectures. North Korea's Foreign Ministry called the release a "crime against humanity" and said Japan would be wholly responsible for its "catastrophic consequences."

SHORT TAKES

Gunfire kills three

Trabuco Canyon: Gunfire at a popular Southern California biker bar killed three people and wounded several others, and the gunman — believed to be a retired law enforcement officer — was fatally shot by deputies, authorities said. Hours after the shooting on Wednesday evening at Cook's Corner, in Orange County's rural Trabuco Canyon, authorities said at a news conference that they were still gathering information and interviewing witnesses. Authorities arrived within two minutes of the first report of a shooting, and the gunman was also soon dead, Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Frank Gonzalez said.

Imran Khan's plea hearing adjourned

Islamabad: The Islamabad High Court Thursday adjourned the hearing until Friday on the appeal filed by Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan challenging his conviction and sentence by a sessions court in the Toshakhana corruption case. A panel of judges comprising IHC chief justice Amer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri resumed the hearing of appeal against the conviction of 70-year-old Khan in the Toshakhana case. During the hearing, Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa offered his argument against the conviction, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and it's full of shortcomings.

WSJ reporter's arrest extended

Moscow: The arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on espionage charges has been extended to November 30, Russian state news agency Tass said. Gershkovich arrived at the Moscow court Thursday in a white prison van and was led out handcuffed, wearing jeans, sneakers and a shirt. Journalists outside the court were not allowed to witness the proceedings. Tass said they were held behind closed doors because details of the criminal case are classified.

Team formed to probe attacks

Lahore: The government in Pakistan's Punjab province on Thursday constituted a high-powered Joint Investigation Team (JIT) team to probe the recent unprecedented mob attacks on churches and homes of Christians. The Punjab Home Department constituted a six-member JIT a week after the incident took place in which 21 churches and 86 houses were burnt down by the mob allegedly led by members of the extremist group Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

Sunak apologises for 'inadvertent' code breach

Sunak, 43, told the parliamentary watchdog that he had declared the interest on the Ministerial Register and Greenberg concluded that he was satisfied that Sunak had confused the concept of registration with the concept of declaration of interests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 24: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has apologised to the UK parliamentary watchdog after an investigation concluded that his failure to declare wife Akshata Murty's business interest in a child-minding agency arose "out of confusion" and was "inadvertent".

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Daniel Greenberg, had opened an inquiry into allegations that when discussing the government's financial incentive scheme

for people joining the child-minding workforce, Sunak failed to declare that his wife held shares in one of six childminding agencies selected by the government to provide its new members with an enhanced financial incentive.

Sunak, 43, told the parliamentary watchdog that he had declared the interest on the Ministerial Register and Greenberg concluded that he was satisfied that Sunak had confused the concept of registration with the concept of declaration of interests.

"I formed the view that the failure to declare arose out of this confusion and was accordingly inadvertent on the part of Mr Sunak," noted Greenberg in his inquiry report released Wednesday.

"In view of this, I decided to conclude my inquiry by way of the rectification procedure available to me under Standing Order No. 150," he said, which stops short of a formal report to be tabled with members of Parliament in the House of Commons to determine a course of action. Under the requirements of the Standing Order, Sunak acknowledged and apologised for the breach of the rules. "I apologise for these inadvertent errors and confirm acceptance of your proposal for rectification," Sunak wrote in his letter to the Commissioner.



People look at a large column of burnt out and captured Russian tanks and infantry carriers which have been on display on the central Khreshchatyk boulevard as Ukrainians mark Independence Day, in Kyiv

Six Indians killed in bus mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, August 24: Six Indian pilgrims were among seven people killed when the bus they were travelling in plunged some 50 metres from a mountain road in Nepal's Madhesh province, a media report said Thursday.

The accident happened in the early hours of Thursday in

the province's Bara district when the bus carrying pilgrims from Rajasthan overturned and fell some 50 metres down the road at a riverbank south of Churiamai Temple at Simara Sub-Metropolitan City. The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

Apart from the six Indians, one Nepalese citizen was also

killed in the accident which also injured 19 others. "The bus carrying six Indian pilgrims overturned and fell down the road at a river bank. A total of 26 passengers were on board and in the accident one Nepalese was also killed. The family of the deceased has been informed," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Pradeep Bahadur Chhetri.

Russians who opposed Putin and paid the price

REUTERS

Moscow, August 24: Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was believed dead after a private jet on which he was listed as a passenger crashed north of Moscow with no survivors.

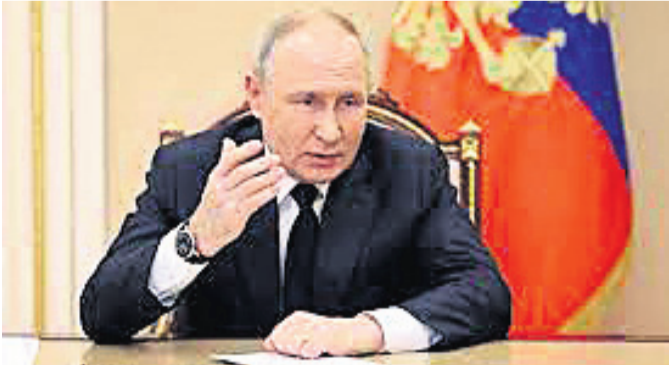
Prigozhin, 62, spearheaded a mutiny against Russia's top army brass on June 23-24, which President Vladimir Putin said could have tipped Russia into civil war. Others who have opposed Putin or his interests have also died under unclear circumstances or come close to death. Here are some details about these mysterious incidents:

Alexei Navalny
Russia's most prominent opposition leader, Alexei Navalny, was flown to Germany in August 2020 for medical treatment after being poisoned in Siberia with what Western experts concluded was the military nerve agent Novichok. Russia has denied any involvement. Navalny earned admiration

around the world for voluntarily returning to Russia in 2021. He was immediately arrested on arrival. He is now serving sentences totalling 11-1/2 years on fraud and other charges that he says are bogus. His political movement has been outlawed and declared "extremist". Navalny had an extra 19 years in a maximum security penal colony added to his jail term recently.

Sergei Skripal
A former Russian double agent who passed secrets to British intelligence, Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found unconscious on a bench outside a shopping centre in the English cathedral city of Salisbury in March 2018.

They were taken to hospital in critical condition, and British officials said they had been poisoned with Novichok, a group of nerve agents developed by the Soviet military in the 1970s and 1980s. Both survived. Russia has denied any role in the poisoning and said Britain was whipping up anti-Russian hysteria.



Vladimir Kara-Murza
A Russian opposition activist, Vladimir Kara-Murza said he believes attempts were made to poison him in 2015 and 2017. A German laboratory later found elevated levels of mercury, copper, manganese and zinc in him, according to medical reports seen by Reuters. Moscow denied involvement.

Alexander Litvinenko
Alexander Litvinenko, an ex-KGB agent and outspoken critic of Putin, died in 2006 aged 43 after drinking green tea laced with polonium-210, a rare and po-

tent radioactive isotope, at London's Millennium Hotel, British officials have said. Putin probably approved the killing, a British inquiry concluded in 2016. The Kremlin has denied involvement.

An inquiry led by a senior British judge found that former KGB bodyguard Andrei Lugovoy and another Russian, Dmitry Kovtun, carried out the killing as part of an operation that he said was probably directed by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main heir to the Soviet-era KGB. Litvinenko fled Russia for Britain six years to the day

before he was poisoned.

Alexander Perepilichny
The 44-year-old Russian was found dead near his luxury home on an exclusive gated estate outside London after he had been out jogging in November 2012. Alexander Perepilichny sought refuge in Britain in 2009 after helping a Swiss investigation into a Russian money-laundering scheme. His sudden death raised suggestions he might have been murdered.

British police ruled out foul play despite suspicions he might have been murdered with a rare poison. A pre-inquest hearing heard that traces of a rare and deadly poison from the gelsemium plant was found in his stomach. Perepilichny had enjoyed a large bowl of soup containing sorrel, a popular Russian dish. Russia denied involvement.

Viktor Yushchenko
Viktor Yushchenko, then a Ukrainian opposition leader, was poisoned during the campaign for the 2004 presidential election in which he ran on a

pro-Western ticket against the pro-Moscow Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

He said he was poisoned while having dinner outside Kyiv with officials from the Ukrainian security services. Russia denied any involvement. His body was found to contain 1,000 times more dioxin than is normally present. His face and body were disfigured by the poisoning, and he had dozens of operations in the aftermath. He won the presidency in a re-run poll after Ukraine's Supreme Court struck down results declaring Yanukovich the winner amid street protests dubbed the "Orange Revolution".

Anna Politkovskaya
Anna Politkovskaya, a journalist who reported on human rights abuses, was shot dead outside her flat in Moscow October 7, 2006, after returning home from the supermarket. The murder of Politkovskaya, a 48-year-old mother of two, provoked an outcry in the West and underlined concerns about the dangers to reporters working in Russia.

business

of the day quote

Basically that (green hydrogen consumption) mandate fixation is in process. By and large, we have had the discussions and we have come up with some figures, and we will go to the cabinet soon

RK SINGH | UNION POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

We are not done yet. We remain hungry, we are capable, and we are motivated. Hindustan Zinc is a leader in the industry in India. One day, we will also be among the best companies in the world

PRIYA AGARWAL HEBBAR | CHAIRPERSON, HINDUSTAN ZINC LIMITED

With India's top executives endorsing the potency of interpersonal skills in the age of AI, we're entering an era that values more fulfilling, human-centric work

ASHUTOSH GUPTA | MANAGER, LINKEDIN INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Antfin to sell 3.6% stake in Paytm

Bangalore: Paytm shareholder Antfin is likely to sell a 3.6% stake in the Indian payments firm through a block deal Friday as it further reduces its stake in the company, CNBC-TV18 reported Thursday. The floor price for the sale is set at ₹880 per share, the report added, which is a 2.7% discount on Paytm's last closing price of ₹904.45. Citi has been appointed as the broker for the deal, which the broadcaster said is valued at a total of \$234 million. Earlier this month, Paytm said Chief Executive Vijay Shekhar Sharma would buy a 10.3% stake held by Antfin in the firm he founded - in a deal that made him its single largest shareholder. Antfin, whose stake in Paytm fell to 13.49% after the earlier deal, could further reduce its stake to under 10%.

Tata Power ties up with Zoomcar

New Delhi: Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Thursday said it has tied up with car-sharing platform Zoomcar to promote electric vehicle adoption. The collaboration aims to promote Tata Power's EZ Charge points on the Zoomcar platform and will focus on supporting existing and aspiring EV owners along with Zoomcar's existing customers. Tata aims to establish 25,000 charging points in the next five years, bolstering the national EV ecosystem and driving sustainable mobility growth.

SUBWAY SOLD AT MORE THAN \$9BN

THE SANDWICH CHAIN AGREES TO SELL ITSELF TO BASKIN-ROBBINS OWNER ROARK CAPITAL

REUTERS

Washington, August 24: Subway has agreed to sell itself to private equity firm Roark Capital in a deal valuing the sandwich chain at more than \$9 billion, sources said, ending a long-drawn auction that saw several bids from buyout firms.

Roark beat out a late challenge from a rival bidding group led by TDR Capital and Sycamore Partners, which also submitted a final bid of more than \$9 billion, according to people familiar with the matter.

Subway, which has roughly 37,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries, did not disclose the terms of the deal Thursday.

The deal will make Roark Capital one of the largest restaurant operators in the world. It con-



Roark brings more to the table than other investors would have. Its experience of helping restaurant brands grow will be helpful, especially in the US market where it remains well below the peak it hit a few years ago

NEIL SAUNDERS | MD, GLOBALDATA

trols Inspire Brands, the owner of restaurant chains including

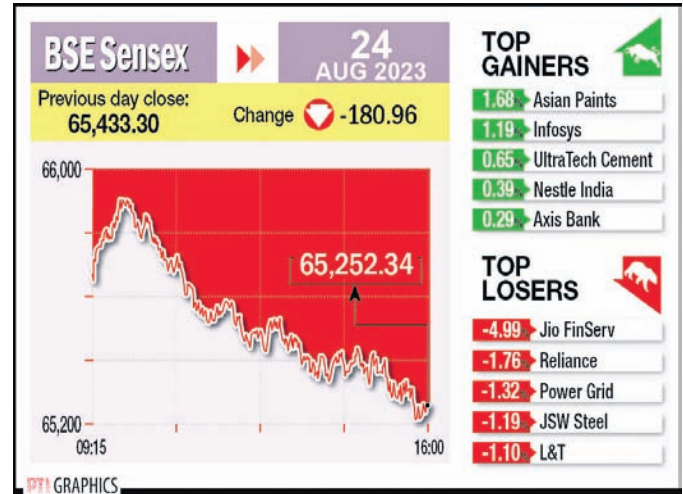
Jimmy John's, Arby's, Baskin-Robbins and Buffalo Wild Wings.

NADAL: INFY'S BRAND AMBASSADOR

IT services company Infosys Thursday announced a three-year partnership with Rafael Nadal, onboarding the global tennis star as ambassador for the brand and Infosys' Digital Innovation. To mark Nadal's first-ever collaboration with a digital services company, Infosys and Nadal's coaching team are developing an AI-powered match analysis tool



Stock markets snap 3-day gaining streak



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 24: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty pared early gains and settled lower after a volatile trade Thursday due to selling in index major Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

The BSE Sensex closed 180.96 points or 0.28 per cent lower at 65,252.34 with 18 of its constituents ending in the red. During the day, it hit a high of 65,913.77 and a low of 65,181.94.

The NSE Nifty declined 57.30 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 19,386.70 as 35 of its stocks declined while 16 advanced.

Sensex and Nifty opened higher following overnight gains in US stocks and positive cues from Asian markets. However, the indices failed to hold onto gains due to losses in IT, oil, and banking shares.

From the Sensex pack, Jio Financial Services fell the most by 4.99 per cent. Reliance Industries, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, NTPC, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank also declined.

IndusInd Bank, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, Nestle and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

"While markets were volatile in early trades, it turned range-bound with a negative bias thereafter and finally ended on a subdued note as investors are not taking any chances by betting big in an uncertain global economic environment.

Investors will continue to take cues from global markets for direction as nobody wants to get caught off guard in case of any negative developments," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

The rupee appreciated by 16 paise to settle at 82.56 against the US dollar Thursday, marking its third straight day of gains on the back of softening crude oil prices and foreign funds inflows.

The upward trend in the past three sessions led to a gain of 57 paise in the Indian currency, rebounding from its all-time low level of 83.11 against the greenback witnessed Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers Wednesday as they bought equities worth ₹614.32 crore.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 213.27 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 65,433.30 Wednesday. The Nifty had gained 47.55 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 19,444.

Transaction limit for small value payments in offline mode raised to ₹500 from ₹200

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 24: The Reserve Bank Thursday enhanced the upper limit of an offline payment transaction to ₹500 from the existing ₹200 to promote the use of UPI-Lite wallet in areas where internet connectivity is weak or not available.

However, the total limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument remains ₹2,000 at any point in time.

"The upper limit of an offline payment transaction is increased to ₹500," the RBI said in a circular on 'Enhancing transaction limits for Small Value Digital Payments in Offline Mode'.

To increase the speed of small-value transactions on UPI, an on-device wallet called UPI-Lite was launched in September 2022 to optimise processing resources for banks, thereby reducing transaction failures.

The product has gained traction and currently processes more than 10 million transactions a month.

Earlier this month, the RBI had proposed to facilitate offline transactions using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology to promote the use of UPI-Lite. Transactions through NFC do not require PIN verification.

It had said this feature will not only enable retail digital payments but also ensure speed, with minimal transaction declines in situations where internet or telecom connectivity is weak or not available.



REPO RATE UNCHANGED

MPC blames inflation

POSSIBLE 2ND ROUND SHOCK OF FOOD PRICE RISE ON INFLATION PROMPTED RBI TO KEEP REPO UNCHANGED, SAYS MPC MINUTES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 24: A possible second-round impact of food price shocks on overall inflation prompted Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das and other members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to opt for the status quo on the benchmark interest rate at the bi-monthly policy review earlier in the month.

The Reserve Bank at its last bi-monthly monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting August 8-10 decided to keep the benchmark interest rate (repo rate) unchanged at 6.5 per cent citing inflationary concerns, especially the spiralling prices of tomatoes and vegetables.

All six members including M D Patra, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Rajiv Ranjan voted for the status quo on policy rate, according to the minutes of the meeting released by the Reserve Bank on Thursday.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, which was released after the monetary policy review, showed that retail inflation soared to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July. Also, this was for the first time in the current financial fiscal that the retail inflation breached the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent.

The Reserve Bank has been mandated by the government to keep retail inflation at 4 per cent, with a 2 per cent margin on either side. As per the minutes of the MPC meeting, Das stressed that the Reserve Bank's task of containing inflation was "still not over".

"Given the likely short-term nature of the vegetable price shocks, monetary policy can



While the vegetable price shocks are expected to correct quickly with the arrival of fresh crops, there are risks to food and the overall inflation outlook from El Nino conditions, volatile global food prices and skewed monsoon distribution - all of which warrant close monitoring

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

look through the first-round impact of fleeting shocks on headline inflation. At the same time, we need to be ready to pre-empt any second-round impact of food price shocks on the broader inflationary pressures and risks to anchoring of inflation expectations," Das opined.

He said that the inflationary pressures have emerged again with inflation rising to 4.8 per cent in June on the back of rising food prices, adding "headline CPI is expected to harden significantly in July-August, driven by the spike in tomato and other vegetable prices."

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Patra expressed a similar opinion saying that sustained easing of core inflation was crucial to the MPC's objec-

tive of bringing inflation down to the target.

"This objective should not be undermined by supply shocks that show any signs of persisting and getting broader-based," he argued while voting for maintaining the status quo on the policy rate and for persevering with the withdrawal of monetary policy accommodation.

RBI Executive Director Rajiv Ranjan said, "our job is not yet fully over," stressing, "costs of high inflation regime are simply too high to take any chances."

According to independent member Shashanka Bhide, "while the spikes in prices of a few commodities may not lead to persistent overall price pressures, broadening of price pressures would be a concern."

Another independent member Ashima Goyal said that as the liquidity was in surplus, the policy needed to signal continuing watchfulness towards bringing inflation to the target level.

Jayanth R Varma, another independent MPC member voted for keeping the repo rate unchanged, arguing that the current level of the repo rate was high enough to bring inflation below the upper tolerance band on a sustained basis and also glide it towards the middle of the band.

FOCUSED ON YOUTH Reliance Retail opens 'Yousta' fashion stores

THE MOVE IS LIKELY TO GIVE A CUT THROAT COMPETITION TO TATA-BACKED AFFORDABLE FASHION BRAND ZUDIO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, August 24: Leading retailer Reliance Retail Thursday announced the launch of its youth-focused fashion retail format, Yousta, with the opening of its first store in Sarath City Mall here.

A press release from the company said with contemporary technology-enabled store layouts, Yousta offers high-fashion at affordable prices targeted at young consumers. All products, for instance, are priced below ₹999, with a majority of them priced below ₹499.

Speaking on the launch, Akhilesh Prasad, President and CEO - Fashion and Lifestyle, Reliance Retail, said Yousta is a young and dynamic brand that

underlines a way of life that will grow and evolve with the youth of this country.

"The team will continuously work with India's younger generation to understand their evolving fashion needs. Every day will be 'Day One' in terms of freshness and relevance. Yousta will not only give a voice to the youth but also give them the freedom to express themselves, because for us, they are absolute stars," he said.

Yousta's outlets will boast several tech-touch points, including QR-enabled screens for information sharing, self-checkout counters and charging stations, the release said.

The move reinforces competition at the value-end of the market with more retailers eye-



Yousta is a young and dynamic brand that underlines a way of life, which will grow and evolve with the youth of this country

AKHILESH PRASAD | PRESIDENT & CEO (FASHION AND LIFESTYLE), RELIANCE RETAIL

ing a greater share chasing those consumers.

Yousta has partnered with a non-profit organisation for customers to donate old clothes at stores and allow them to be used for community programmes.

The brand's range is now available at its first store in

Hyderabad and can also be accessed online through Ajio and JioMart.

Reliance Retail is India's largest retailer. It already holds rights for global brands such as Gap, apart from running its own formats such as Reliance Trends and Azorte.

Struggling to stay afloat: SpiceJet

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 24: Indian budget airline SpiceJet told a court Thursday it was "struggling to stay afloat", as it was ordered to make a payment to its former owner over money owed.

In 2018 SpiceJet lost an arbitration case arising out of share transfers from former owner Kalanithi Maran to the company's new management in 2015, making the airline liable to pay \$70 million plus interest. Maran later took SpiceJet to court saying he was still owed \$48 million.

In a Delhi High Court hearing Thursday on Maran's case demanding the dues, SpiceJet said it was struggling financially.

"We are struggling to stay afloat," the airline's lawyer Amit Sibal told the judge.

SpiceJet offered to deposit ₹750 million (\$9.08 million) within 10 days, but the judge ordered the airline to pay ₹1 billion (\$12 million) by September 10 and



warned it could consider seizing the company's assets to recover the dues, if it fails to comply.

SpiceJet said in a statement it would honour the court order and "make the specified payment within the prescribed timeframe."

The order comes days after India's Supreme Court, in a separate case, asked SpiceJet's Managing Director Ajay Singh to appear in court and defend allegations by Credit Suisse claiming certain unpaid dues. Both the Delhi High Court case and the Supreme Court case will next be heard September 11.

SpiceJet this month reported its highest quarterly profit in four years, helped by a sharp drop in expenses due to fewer flights operated. SpiceJet has also been scrambling to raise funds and restore operations for about a fourth of its fleet, which has been grounded amid battles with its lessors over payments, as competition heats up fiercely in the sector.

While India's biggest carrier IndiGo and Tata group-owned Air India have hundreds of new planes on order, another budget airline, Go First, filed for bankruptcy in May.

HEARTBREAK FOR PRAGGNANANDHAA

Satwik-Chirag, Prannoy reach quarters at Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku, August 24: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's dream run in the FIDE World Cup ended at the hands of World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, who beat him 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break here Thursday after the classical games ended in a stalemate.

The second 25+10 tie-break game ended in a draw in 22 moves as the Norwegian legend played it safe after he had won the first, displaying his end-game skills. It was Carlsen's first World Cup triumph, having won the World Championship five times.

Carlsen overcame a stiff challenge from his 18-year-old Indian



opponent in the first tie-break game, winning it in 45 moves. He overcame the problems he en-

countered due to Praggnanandhaa's enterprising play to turn the tables and seize

the advantage. The two classical games Tuesday and Wednesday had ended in draws forcing the final to a tie-break.

Praggnanandhaa enjoyed an incredible run in the tournament, having beaten World No.2 Hikaru Nakamura and World No.3 Fabiano Caruana to set up a final date against Carlsen.

The results in the ongoing tournament also helped Praggnanandhaa qualify for Candidates 2024 tournament, which will be played in Canada.

Praggnanandhaa, thus, became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

ROAD TO FINAL

- Rd 1:** Got a bye
- Rd 2:** Beat French GM Maxime Lagarde 1.5-0.5
- Rd 3:** Beat Czech GM David Navara 1.5-0.5
- Rd 4:** Beat World No.2 Hikaru Nakamura of USA 3-1
- Rd 5:** Beat Hungarian Ferenc Berkes 1.5-0.5
- Rd 6:** Beat compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4
- Semifinal:** Beat World No.3 Italian-American GM Fabiano Caruana 3.5-2.5
- Final:** Drew Game 1 (35 moves) and Game 2 (30 moves) against Carlsen to take the contest into tie-break, which the Indian lost 0.5-1.5



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, August 24: Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stood one step away from another World Championships medal after reaching the quarterfinals with a three-game win over Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin here Thursday.

The World No.2 pair, which had claimed a maiden bronze in the last edition, bounced back from a mid-game slump to outwit Carnando and Marthin, ranked 10th, 21-15, 19-21, 21-9 in the round of 16 match that lasted a little over an hour.

The Commonwealth Games champions, who won four titles this season, will meet either 11th seeds Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen from Denmark or Malaysian seventh seeded combination of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi next.

Earlier, the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand couldn't sustain the

attack and went down 14-21, 9-21 in 42 minutes against World No.1 Chinese duo of Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan.

Chirag and Satwik had a slow start but Chirag and Satwik soon stepped up, bringing more discipline in their approach. The Indians rained down their cross court returns with Chirag patrolling the front court as they took a 15-10 lead.

Satwik and Chirag got into position quickly and kept the intense pressure on their rivals. The Indians were on the money during the flat cross fast exchanges. A booming backhand gave the Indians six game points. The Indonesians saved one before spraying the serve into the net.

After the change of sides, Chirag took a medical timeout after feeling discomfort near his right knee. Indians were 11-8 ahead at the interval. The momentum shifted after the break with Marthin and Carnando reeling off six straight points to take a lead with the former showing some good interception before eventually sealing the game.

Back to the winning side, the Indians were locked 4-4 at one stage but soon they won seven of the next nine points to take a five-point cushion at the break. After the change of sides, the Indians ran away with the match with the Indonesians committing too many errors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Messi magic leads Inter Miami into semis

CINCINNATI: Lionel Messi had two assists and converted a penalty kick as Inter Miami rallied from a two-goal deficit and beat MLS-leading Cincinnati 5-4 in penalties in a US Open Cup semifinal. Cincinnati jumped to a 2-0 lead before Messi set up a pair of goals for Leonardo Campana, tying the game at 2-2. Miami moved ahead when Josef Martinez scored three minutes into the first extra period, but Cincinnati tied the game at 3-3 when Yuya Kubo scored in the 114th minute, forcing penalty kicks Wednesday night. Messi made Miami's first attempt in the shootout, and both teams were perfect through four rounds. Herons goalkeeper Drake Callender saved Nick Hagglund's kick in the fifth round, and Benjamin Cremaschi made his PK to send Miami to another tournament final. Miami advanced to face the winner of Wednesday's late semifinal between Houston and Salt Lake in the final in September 27. Messi was held scoreless for the first time since joining Inter Miami in late July.

India eves in final

BIRMINGHAM: The Indian women's visually challenged cricket team created history by becoming the first team to reach the final of the International Blind Sports Federation World Games 2023 here. Visually challenged cricket at the IBSA World Games debuted last week. India began their campaign beating Australia, before hammering England. The third fixture, Wednesday, saw India pummel Australia by 163 runs.

Rajeshwari shines

BAKU: Shotgun shooting runs in her family, and trap exponent Rajeshwari Kumari showed why she is among the best in the country when she earned a seventh 2024 Paris Olympic quota place by finishing fifth in the ISSF World Championship here Thursday. The 31-year-old also became the second trap shooter after Shagun Chowdhari to ever earn an Olympic quota in women's trap.

WFI suspended over election delay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: UWW, the world governing body for wrestling, has suspended the WFI for not conducting its elections on time, a development which will not allow Indian grapplers to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag.

The Indian wrestlers will have to compete as 'neutral athletes' at the Olympic-qualifying World Championships, starting September 16 as the ad-hoc panel, led by Bhupender Singh Bajwa, did not honour the 45-day deadline for conducting the elections.

The development has come a day before the ad-hoc panel conducts the World Championships trials in Patiala. The IOA had appointed the ad-hoc panel April 27 and the committee was supposed to hold elections within 45 days. UWW had April 28 warned that it could suspend the Indian federation if the deadline to hold elections is not honoured.

"The UWW communicated to the ad-hoc panel on Wednesday night that WFI has been suspended for not holding elections to its executive committee," an IOA source told PTI.

Meanwhile ad-hoc panel mem-

ber Gian Singh told PTI that they are being kept in the dark by Bajwa on the related developments and that they are not part of decision making anymore.

"I have also heard that WFI has been suspended but I can't tell you what the ad-hoc panel will do now. Mr Bajwa does not call us for discussion any more. I did not even know how the criteria were finalised for the Worlds trials," Gian told PTI.

"Mr Bajwa is too busy, it seems," he added, indicating that the ad-hoc panel has failed to properly manage issues at hand. Bajwa was contacted for a comment but he did not return calls or respond to text messages.

The wrestlers earned points because they were representing their country but now at the senior World Championships in Serbia, the Indians will compete as 'neutral athletes' and their perform-



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

ances will not be counted as India's.

The wrestlers, though, can compete under the Indian flag the Asian Games, starting September 23 in Hangzhou, since it's the IOA which has sent entries and not the WFI. At the Worlds, it is the WFI which has to send entries after selecting a team through trials.

Originally, the WFI was to hold elections May 7 but the Sports Ministry had declared the process as null and void and subsequently IOA installed an ad-hoc panel to run the sport in the country. The elections have been delayed several times after that with multiple disgruntled and disaffiliated state bodies moving the court, seeking the right to participate in the polls.

TODAY'S MATCHES	Premier League	La Liga
	Chelsea vs Luton Town	Celta Vigo vs Real Madrid
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	Telecast: Star Sports Select	Telecast: Sports 18
	Stream: Disney+Hotstar	Stream: Jio Cinema

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