



JANHVI'S MANTRA

Actor Janhvi Kapoor, opening up about dating, says honesty is everything in a relationship

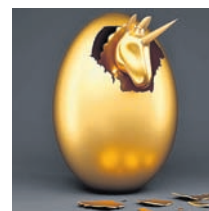
LEISURE P2



BOOSTING TIES

India and Greece elevate their ties to strategic partnership, vow to double bilateral trade by 2030

INTERNATIONAL P10



ZEPTO BECOMES UNICORN

Online grocery company Zepto raises \$200mn in its latest funding round, making it the only startup to turn unicorn this year

BUSINESS P11

SHORT TAKES

Crorepati DFO held

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested crorepati divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rayagada Bijaya Kumar Parida in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case. Parida was found in possession of 17 plots in prime locations of Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack and Jajpur, apart from two palatial mansions, one each in Capital city and Cuttack. The DFO of Territorial Division in Rayagada district was apprehended in connection with a case (25/23) registered at the Vigilance police station here. Following house search and examination of documents related to income, expenditure and assets of Parida, the Vigilance found him in possession of disproportionate assets worth crores of rupees estimated to be 206 per cent in excess of his known sources of income. **P3**

Trump returns to X

New York: Former President Donald Trump has returned to X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter, firing off his first message in 2 1/2 years shortly after he surrendered at an Atlanta jail on charges he conspired to overturn his election loss. He posted a photo of his mug shot and the words, "Election interference. Never surrender!" along with a link to his website which directs to a fundraising site. It was Trump's first post since Jan 8, 2021, when Twitter suspended his account indefinitely, citing fears he would incite additional violence following the deadly storming of the US Capitol building. **P10**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No new launches, sir. We will now be busy only meeting politicians, who have organised felicitations for us

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	64886.51 ↑ 365.83
NIFTY	19265.80 ↓ 120.90
DOLLAR	82.73 ↓ ₹0.31
EURO	89.08 ↓ ₹0.19
GOLD	₹58,525 ↓ ₹286
SILVER	₹73,103 ↓ ₹465

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.8°C	30.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.8°C	25.5°C
Humidity	92%	86%
Rainfall	1.2mm	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely



UP IN THE SKY: Norway's diver Asbjorg Nesje trains in front of the Opera House one day before the Death Diving (Dods) World Championships 2023 in Oslo, Norway, Friday

AP PHOTO

No reason to limit bail period, says SC

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 25: The Supreme Court has held that the courts should not limit the bail for a specific period if the judge has arrived at the conclusion that the applicant is entitled to grant of bail. A two-judge bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal observed that granting of bail for a limited period will only multiply the proceedings as the accused will have to again apply for bail and the court will be required to spend time in dealing with the applications. "Once the Court comes to the conclusion that an accused is entitled to grant of bail, there is no reason to limit the order granting bail for a specific period. If such orders are passed, it will only multiply the proceedings in as much as on the verge of completion of the limited period of bail, the accused will have to again apply for bail and the Court will be required to spend time in dealing with the subsequent bail applications," the bench said.

The apex court order came on a bail application filed by Ujjal Kumar Pradhan, who has been booked for the offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. He was granted a temporary bail by the Orissa High Court in July last year for a period of three months. The HC recorded a finding that taking into consideration the period of detention of the appellant in judicial custody and the progress of the trial, the appellant is entitled to be released on bail. The appellant had challenged the High Court order in the Supreme Court. The apex court has directed that the petitioner shall be enlarged on bail on the same terms and conditions on which by the impugned order he was enlarged on temporary bail for a period of three months.

More teeth against hate

SC to strengthen 2018 guidelines to curb hate crimes in country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Supreme Court Friday said it will strengthen its 2018 guidelines for dealing with mob violence, hate speeches and lynching to ensure that culprits are dealt with equally, irrespective of their communities for their public utterances spreading bigotry.

In a significant verdict on a plea by activist Tehseen Poonawalla, the top court had July 7, 2018 issued a slew of guidelines to curb hate crimes, and directed states and union territories to take preventive and remedial measures like appointment of nodal officers in each district to keep a tab on such activities.

The top court Friday asked the Centre to collate details from states and UTs on compliance of its 2018 verdict in three weeks. The court asked the central government to inform it on the next date of hearing if the information is not received by then.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to file a status report giving details of appointment of nodal officers by the states in accordance with its 2018 verdict.

The bench said it has gone through the 2018 guidelines issued by the top court and, in its view, some more elements needed to be added.

"These guidelines of 2018 are fairly elaborate ones. We will be adding more to it and not subtract

Top court asks the Centre to collate details from states and UTs on compliance of its 2018 verdict in three weeks



anything," the bench said, as it pointed out that CCTV cameras, a deterrent factor in such crimes, can be installed at the vulnerable places.

The top court was hearing a batch of petitions seeking directions to curb hate speeches across states, including a plea for action against Hindu outfits calling for social and economic boycott of Muslims following the recent communal violence in Haryana's Nuh and Gurugram close to Delhi.

The bench said it has other

measures in mind like deployment of police personnel in plain clothes, who will record everything that is happening and the deputy commissioner of police shall submit these videos to the nodal officers.

"These nodal officers shall maintain a record and, if the complaints increase to say four to five times, irrespective of the community, the officer can place the report before a committee and subsequently direct the SHO to register the case in accordance with law.

"Sometimes, there are various versions and cross versions and audios and videos, everything needs to be taken into account," the bench said, adding, "We want peace, harmony and brotherhood to prevail."

CM approves 416 new posts in BMC

There will be four additional commissioners instead of one at present, and sixteen deputy commissioners in place of three

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday approved 416 new posts for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), the biggest local self government body in the state, keeping in view the rising population.

Patnaik said the initiative would protect the historical dignity of the heritage city and help the corporation become more efficient and proactive. With this, the total

strength of the BMC has gone up to 626 from earlier 210.

Chief Minister's Office (CMO) sources said the number of additional commissioner posts has been increased from earlier one to four while that of the deputy commissioners' from three to 16 and assistant sanitation commissioners' from 4 to 13. Similarly, the strength of civil executive officers has been increased from two to six.

This apart, six new zonal commissioner posts, 11 new posts in the Finance department, 17 in the Engineering department, 13 in Social Welfare department, 19 in Enforcement department and 187 posts in ward office section were created.

Twenty new posts in Drainage department, five in Sanitation department and 67 new ward officer posts have also been created in the civic body, said the CMO sources.



Kishore's fairytale run continues, enters finals

AGENCIES

Budapest, August 25: Odisha javelin thrower Kishore Jena is having nothing short of a fairytale run as he sailed into the finals at the World Athletics Championships (WAC), Friday.

He joined his counterparts Olympics gold winner Neeraj Chopra and P Manu in the finals. Kishore, competing in Group B, made the cut for the 12-man finals with an 80.55m throw, finishing ninth in the standings. He took off with an energetic 80.55m throw in his first attempt but went down to a 78.07m in the second attempt and finished with his lowest of the day with, 77.12m.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the trioka and wished them luck. "Congratulate javelin throwers @Neeraj_chopra1, DP Manu and #Odisha's Kishore Kumar Jena on qualifying for the men's javelin throw final of the prestigious World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest. May they continue to shine and make India proud. Wish them all the best," Naveen wrote on his X, earlier known as Twitter, handle.

Neeraj, on the other hand, sealed automatic qualification with his season-best throw of 88.77m, while DP Manu finished



sixth overall across both groups with his best effort of 81.31m. It was a historic moment for Odisha as the 27-year-old from Kothasahi village in the Puri district became the first athlete from the state to qualify for a final event of the WAC.

Notably, a week ago, Jena's WAC participation was in a state of limbo due to his Hungarian visa issues. He finally got his visa August 18 after Neeraj came to his support. Jena's visa application was cancelled by the Hungarian embassy in India August 16 for unknown reasons.

"Just heard that there are issues with Kishore Jena's VISA, preventing him from entering Hungary for the World C'ships. I hope the authorities are able to find a solution, as this is one of the biggest moments of his career. Let's do everything we can," Neeraj had posted on Twitter, tagging MEA and Jaishankar.

Heineken sells off Russian operations for €1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hague, August 25: Dutch brewer Heineken has completed its withdrawal from Russia, 18 months after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, selling its business in Russia for just €1, the company announced Friday.

Heineken said it would incur a total loss of 300 million euros (\$325 million) for the sale to Russian manufacturing giant, the Arnest Group.

Heineken had faced criticism for



the slow pace of its exit in the wake of the outbreak of war, but insisted it was seeking to look after its local employees in Russia.

In March last year, Heineken had said it was quitting Russia as its business there was "no longer sustainable nor viable in the current environment," but added that it wanted to ensure an "orderly transfer" to a new owner.

"While it took much longer than we had hoped, this transaction secures the livelihoods of our employees and allows us to exit the country in a respon-

sible manner," Heineken CEO Dolf van den Brink said in a statement.

The sale covers all of Heineken's assets in Russia, including seven breweries. The company said that Arnest has guaranteed the employment of Heineken's 1,800 local staff for three years.

Heineken brand beer was removed from the Russian market last year. One of its other major brands, Amstel, will be phased out within 6 months, the company said.

leisure



ED SHEERAN ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM AUTUMN VARIATIONS

Singer Ed Sheeran has announced that he will be coming out with his seventh studio album September 29. Titled *Autumn Variations* and comprising 14 tracks, it comes just four months after Sheeran released his sixth album *Subtract*.

SHANIA WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH HER FEMININITY AS A TEEN

Actress-singer Shania Twain said that she didn't enjoy being a 'female' during her teenage years. Her life was changed by a group of male friends, who helped liberate her and ultimately inspired her to write *Man! I Feel Like a Woman!*, her 1999 hit single.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

There is all likelihood today of things not shaping up as you desired. It may seem you made all the wrong investments, as the benefits may be very less. However, Ganesh indicates that life is full of unexpected happenings. There is a chance that you may meet an old friend which will make you very happy.

TAURUS

Your relationship with your parents is likely to turn sour today, says Ganesh. You need to ensure that differences and misunderstandings do not creep in between you all. If, at all, that does occur, the best way to sort out issues is talk directly to them.

GEMINI

You need to beach your emotions and concentrate only on your work. Your day will be spent in meeting the demands of your family members. You will attend important meetings, be they personal or professional, in the afternoon, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh is foreseeing the conversion of your romance into marriage. But you will not have mind in the career or business and you lack enthusiasm in the same. So Ganesh advises you not to take up any new work, but finish off pending work.

LEO

You will need to curb down on your aggressive nature today. You will face a lot of situations today where you may lose your temper owing to minor issues and will later feel depressed. Calm and peace is required to progress in life, along with courage.

VIRGO

Today is a day to do some hard training and hard thinking. Ganesh says you will have to exercise both your muscles and your brain. Hard work will eventually lead to rich rewards. A romantic meeting with your beloved in the evening will put you in high spirits.

LIBRA

Ganesh says higher officials at work will shower you with appreciation and praise for your efforts. You may even be able to get a promotion or a pay rise today. There may be intensive arguments with your enemies. New relationships will get a chance to blossom today. Your competitors will be defeated today as it is a success-filled day for you.

SCORPIO

Not so good, not so bad, is what you would feel after the day gets over. And average day at business with no major loss, foresees Ganesh. A feeling of insecurity may upset you, making you restless. Try to divert your mind by reading a self-help book. Await for a new dawn in your life.

SAGITTARIUS

If you see people fainting when you pass by, blame it on that thousand watts, sparkling smile of yours. At work, your colleagues will benefit from your expertise and skills. In the evening, your heart may be thumping faster as your plan a special date with your sweetheart!

CAPRICORN

You will fully utilise your talents and earn a reputation of perfectionist in your area of work. If you are stuck in a legal battle or dispute, it will come an end on a positive note. You will understand the importance of constructive criticism and learn to improve upon your behaviour, foresees Ganesh. Your opponents will get the hint that you are better than them.

AQUARIUS

It is the day of the creative people like musicians, artists, and orators. You will look beyond the criticism coming your way and develop an understanding to aim for a better future. With unmatched enthusiasm and charm you will outshine others at work.

PISCES

You might leave for an unplanned work related or social journey today. Small things will give you happiness today. In short, your day after noon time will be easy going and lucky. Ganesh assures you of success at work.

Janhvi: Honesty is everything in dating

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor has opened up about dating and relationships. She shared that as a Gen Z woman, she has learnt that having high standards is not being picky but valuing yourself enough to know what you deserve.

Gen Z woman I've learnt that having high standards isn't being picky; it's valuing yourself enough to know what you deserve."

She added, "And when it comes to dating, honesty is everything. No games, just genuine connections. You deserve a relationship that loves all of you, just as you are."

"Young women today are upfront about what they want when it comes to their dating lives. They are doing so by normalising conversations around female desire, body positivity, consent and boundaries which the viewers will also get to witness on *Swipe Ride*," she concludes.

The *Mili* actress on *Tinder*'s latest episode of *Swipe Ride* said, "Self-love is all about knowing you're worth more and not settling for anyone that doesn't see that. Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes and happiness starts with loving every bit of yourself. As a



CHINTA O CHETANA'S 3-DAY MONSOON FEST BARSHA KICKS OFF

Sujata Mahapatra's Odissi recital captivates audience



Orissa POST and *Dharitri* Editor Tathagata Satpathy felicitates acclaimed Odissi exponent Sujata Mahapatra while others look on

Bhubaneswar: The 46th edition of Barsha, a three-day monsoon festival, organised by Odisha's prominent socio-cultural organisation Chinta O Chetna, was opened here at Rabintra Mandap, Friday.

The evening began with a rain-themed dance presentation performed by acclaimed Odissi dancer Sujata Mahapatra.

"I will try to showcase how the arrival of rain makes the world a happier place while too much of it can destroy our existence. I am quite excited to perform today before the dance lovers of the city," remarked the danseuse ahead of her performance.

Editor of *Orissa POST* and *Dharitri* Tathagata Satpathy, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest, said that

he is a big admirer of Mahapatra and doesn't like to miss out on her performance.

"Chinta O Chetana, over the years, has been playing a crucial role in bringing about positive changes in society," appreciating the host organisation's commitment to

social welfare, he added. Other



Sujata Mahapatra

performance of the evening was Thali dance by Srabani Mitra and team.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion included Chairman of Chinta O Chetana Sashibushan Behera, organisation's State President Sahadev Sahoo and State Secretary Surendra Das.

Founded by former Odisha Chief Minister Harekrushna Mahtab in 1980, Chinta O Chetana is committed for the development of people belonging to socially, economically and educationally down-trodden communities, quipped Das.

It's worth mentioning that several eminent personalities from various walks of life are closely associated with Chinta O Chetana for the socio-cultural development of the people from all sections of the society.

Kriti reflects on Nat'l Award win

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon has won the National Film Award for Best Actress for her work in *Mimi*.

Narrating her first reaction, she said, "I couldn't understand what was going on. I usually don't step outside the meetings to take calls but this time I had to, and that's when I really got to know the news. I was so elated and emotional that I had to pause the meeting and run down to give my parents a hug. It's a moment that I will never ever forget in my life."

The *Adipurush* actress continued: "I think as an actor, I was really looking for an opportunity to dig deep and explore myself as an actor. *Mimi* gave me that platform where I could show my potential. The emotionally draining scenes, and every little bit, I gave it my all because it brought that creative satisfaction that every actor craves for. The love and the validation that the film has got even though it was released on OTT is beyond words."

Getting the first National Award as Best Actress will remain very very special for whole life, she added.



Rani sees women as agents of change

Mumbai: As her film *Mardaani* clocked nine years in Hindi cinema, actress Rani Mukerjee has spoken about the franchise and said that she has tried to project women very differently through her films.

The *Kal Ho Na Ho* actress said, "I'm very proud of the *Mardaani* franchise. As an actor, I have tried to project women very differently through my films. I realised I could contribute towards showcasing women as real agents of change for society to look at."

She added, "I have tried to

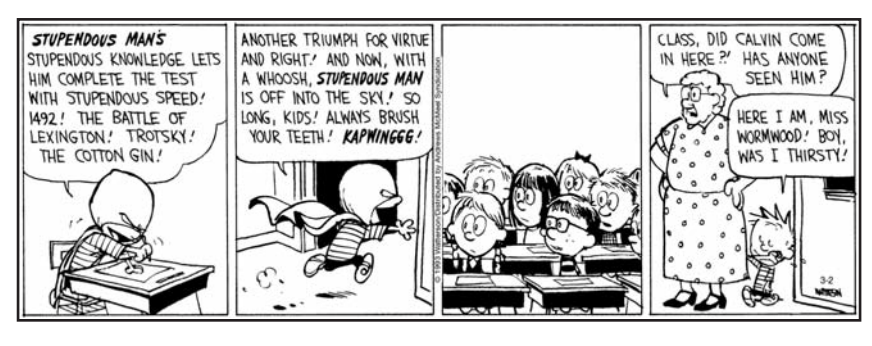
show women as ambitious, self-reliant, courageous, go-getters who are uncompromising, feisty and upright individuals. *Mardaani* fits into my vision for women in cinema aptly and because of this synergy, I think I have been able to give 200 per cent to this character."

"*Mardaani* franchise is quite a glass-ceiling shattering one as it's a blockbuster franchise with a woman as the lead. I hope the success of this franchise will help in many more films being made with women at the forefront," she further said.

PEANUTS



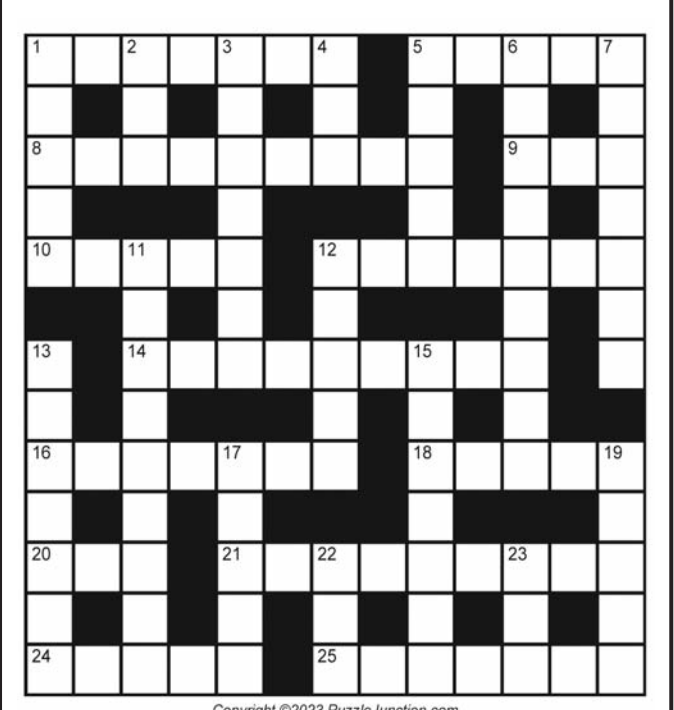
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



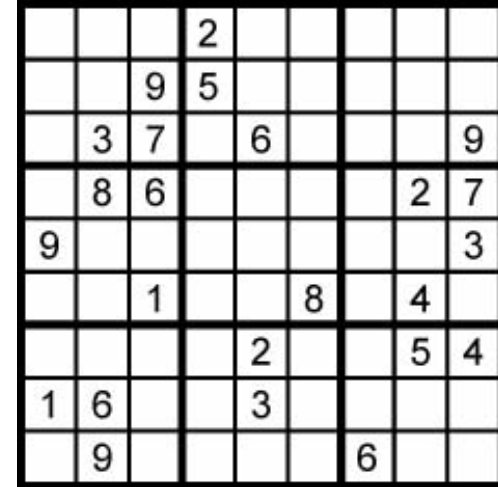
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Biting
 - 5 Roman assembly
 - 8 Smelly cheese
 - 9 Romaine lettuce
 - 10 Relieved
 - 12 Musical passage
 - 14 Opaque gem
 - 16 Courageous
 - 18 Mountain pass
 - 20 Colourful carp
 - 21 Pillars of Hercules locale
 - 24 Driving hazard
 - 25 Himalayan high point
 - Down**
 - 1 Sign of life
 - 2 ___ de guerre
 - 3 Guayaquil site
 - 4 Children's game
 - 5 Sent packing
 - 6 Anecdotalist
 - 7 Makeup
 - 11 After weather or TV
 - 12 Tennis venue
 - 13 Countermands
 - 15 Thankless wretch
 - 17 Uneasy feeling
 - 19 White heron
 - 22 "Ciao!"
 - 23 Three-way joint

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

VIG CUFFS ON CROREPATI DFO

Vigilance finds the DFO in possession of assets that are around 206% in excess of his known sources of income

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested crorepati divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rayagada Bijaya Kumar Parida in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

Parida was found in possession of 17 plots in prime locations of Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack and Jajpur, apart from two palatial mansions, one each in Capital city and Cuttack. The DFO of Territorial Division in Rayagada district was apprehended in connection with a case (25/23) registered at the Vigilance police station here.

Following house search and examination of documents related to income, expenditure and assets of Parida, the Vigilance found him in possession of DA worth crores of rupees estimated to be 206 per cent in excess of his known sources of income.

Vigilance unearthed huge movable and immovable properties including a three-storey building at Palasuni and a flat at Kalarahanga in Capital city apart from several plots in prime locations here.

The G+3-storeyed under-construction building of Parida located at Srikouran in Cuttack has been valued at ₹1.8 crore by the Vigilance which also found ₹1, 24,600 cash, gold jewellery weighing around 650 gram, one 4-wheeler, two 2-wheelers and household articles worth over ₹17.87 lakh.

"After thorough search, inventory and further inquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Bijaya Kumar Parida, DFO, Territorial Division, Rayagada

Vigilance teams comprising 8 deputy SPs, 6 inspectors & other officials Thursday conducted house searches at locations related to Parida in Rayagada, Khurda, Cuttack and Jajpur

The G+3-storeyed under-construction building of Parida in Cuttack has been valued at ₹1.8 crore by the Vigilance which also found ₹1, 24,600 cash & 650 gram gold jewellery

Parida has 17 plots in prime locations of Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack and Jajpur, apart from two palatial mansions, one each in Capital city and Cuttack

were calculated. He was found in possession of disproportionate assets which were 206 per cent in excess of his known sources of income," revealed Vigilance sources Friday.

The cops Friday produced Parida before the Special Vigilance court here that later sent him to judicial custody.

Notably, seven Vigilance teams comprising eight deputy SPs, six inspectors and other officials Thursday conducted house searches at different locations related to Parida in Rayagada, Khurda, Cuttack and Jajpur districts on the strength of search warrants issued by the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance in Bhubaneswar.

Ex-tehsildar among 2 jailed in graft case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: A Vigilance court in Keonjhar Friday awarded jail terms to two former employees of Revenue department after convicting them in a bribery case of 2011.

Pradeep Kumar Nayak, former tehsildar of Patna in Keonjhar, and Biswanath Naik, former peon of the tehsil, were convicted for demanding and accepting bribe from a man for issuance of Record of Rights (patta) in five mutation cases.

In 2011, the Vigilance Directorate had registered a case against the two under Section 13(2) and 13(1)(d)/7/12 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988. The special Vigilance judge sentenced the former tehsildar to two years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for the offence under Section 13(2) and 13(1)(d) of the PC Act, 1988. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹5,000 on him. Failure to pay the penalty would entail an additional six months of RI, the court said.

The former tehsildar was also sentenced to one year of RI under Section 7 of the PC Act, 1988. Besides, the court slapped a penalty of ₹2,000 on him. The convict will undergo additional three months of RI if he fails to pay the penalty, it said, adding that all the sentences will run concurrently. Similarly, the court awarded one year RI to the former peon of Patna tehsil under Section 12 of the PC Act, 1988. It also slapped a penalty of ₹2,000 on the convict. "Non-payment of the penalty amount would invite additional two months of RI," the court said.

The Vigilance will move the competent authority for stoppage of pension of the convicts, said an official.

ENGINEERS' MEET

The 23rd annual general body meeting of Odisha Power Transmission Engineers' Association in progress at Institution of Engineers in Bhubaneswar, Friday



CANAL REJUVENATION: An excavator engaged by CMC removes weeds from Petanala in CDA area of Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

OUTR student wins ₹2L, trip to Boston

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 25: In an exhilarating grand finale of the 'SmartIDEathon 2023', an annual pan-India mega pitch-fest organised by GITAM Deemed to be university, young entrepreneur Anup Paikaray bagged the winner's title, a cash prize of ₹2 lakh and a fully sponsored trip to Boston.

Presenting to an eminent jury, Anup a student of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) made a winning pitch for his startup Newrup Tech Solutions.

He developed heat-powered air blowers to harness excess heat from chulas or tandoors, converting it into rotational energy for an internal fan, at just ₹500.

"It thereby seeks to impact

SMARTIDEATHON



Anup Paikaray has developed heat-powered air blowers to harness excess heat from chulas or tandoors at just ₹500

the lives of over two billion women still cooking on traditional chulhas/mud stoves worldwide," the jury members said.

The university said that winners and runners-up won personalised coaching and boot camps by internationally-trained venture coaches, a sponsored trip to the USA to showcase at Boston Entrepreneurship Week, and cash and grants worth ₹30 lakh for winners and runners-up.

Shortlisted from over 1,000 pan-India entries, the finalists refined their pitches in a series of advanced boot camps and personalised mentoring by internationally trained venture coaches. The finale took place in person at GITAM's University campus August 25.

Skyroot Aerospace co-founder and ex-ISRO scientist Pawan Kumar Chandana said, "Entrepreneurship gives im-

mense satisfaction and helps create impact and employment. A career in space tech is a very rewarding and satisfying experience for every engineer. Space can sustain trillions of people because of the resources. It is an exciting future for all of humanity."

Krish Nangegadda, chief innovation officer, GITAM (Deemed to be University) said, "Entrepreneurship education gives you skills that you can use anywhere."

According to the university as runners-up, Vineet Kumar and Manish Bibhu, students of Sersha Engineering College in Bihar, won ₹1 lakh for POLY-FUELER, which is working on revolutionising waste management by transforming diverse plastic waste into fuel, powered by a proprietary catalyst.



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Patara Bisois preparing 'rakhis' for Srimandir deities in Puri, Friday

OP PHOTO

Bhubaneswar receives 'Best Smart City' award

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Bhubaneswar has bagged the prestigious 'Best Smart City' award at the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022, the results of which were announced Friday.

Bhubaneswar received award in the eastern zone category with less than 10 lakh population. The President will felicitate the winners of ISAC 2022 awards September 27, 2023 at Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

The ISAC is being organised under the Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It is one of the important activities initiated under the Smart Cities Mission, where pioneering city strategies, projects

The President will felicitate the winners of ISAC 2022 awards at Indore in MP September 27, 2023

and ideas are recognised to award the exemplary performance, enable peer-peer learning and disseminate best practices, it was learnt.

ISAC recognises and rewards the cities, projects and innovative ideas that are promoting sustainable development across the 100 smart cities, as well as stimulating inclusive, equitable, safe, healthy and collaborative cities, thus enhancing quality of life for all.

Man held for attack on biz rival

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Friday arrested a 30-year-old man for carrying out murderous assault on his business rival using hired criminals. The accused, identified as Ashish Kumar Rout, is a resident of Banki and has been residing at Kalinga Nagar under Bharatpur police limits. Ashish was apprehended after a case (349/23) was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Abhinandan Barik August 13, 2023. Sources claimed that Ashish and Abhinandan have been at loggerheads over some business related disputes for the past few months. Ashish had also filed a case against Abhinandan with Tamando police. Meanwhile, Ashish had allegedly hatched a plot to kill Abhinandan. He hired one Shyam Sunder Sahoo and his aides to teach Abhinandan a lesson. On August 13, when Abhinandan was going towards Kalinganagar, Sahoo intercepted the Baleno car of Abhinandan and later attacked him with an iron rod. They arrested Ashish while the hired criminals are at large. The cops Friday produced Ashish before the court that later remanded him to judicial custody.

UTKAL UNIVERSITY

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Dr. SwayamPrava Mishra
Project Director

'Carbon credits generated by overestimating green efforts'

Millions of carbon credits are being generated by significantly overestimating the levels of deforestation they prevent, according to a study published in the journal Science.

This means that many of the "carbon credits" bought by companies to balance out emissions are not tied to real-world forest preservation as claimed.

Carbon credits, also known as carbon offsets, are permits that allow the owner to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases.

An international team of scientists and economists led by the University of Cambridge in the UK and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands found that millions of carbon credits are based on crude calculations that inflate the conservation successes of voluntary REDD+ projects. Consequently, tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions consid-



ered "offset" by trees that would not otherwise exist have, in fact, only added to our planetary carbon debt, the researchers said.

REDD+ schemes generate carbon credits by investing in the protection of sections of the world's most important forests - from the Congo to the Amazon basin. These credits represent the carbon that will no longer be released through deforestation.

Organisations and individuals can then offset their own carbon footprint by purchasing credits equivalent to a given quantity of emissions.

Carbon credit markets have exploded in recent years. Over 150 million credits originated from voluntary REDD+ projects in 2021, with a value of US USD 1.3 billion. Some companies use carbon offsetting to claim progress towards "net zero" while doing little to reduce greenhouse gases, the researchers said.

The study authors argue that the booming trade in carbon credits may already be a type of "lemons market", where buyers have no way of distinguishing quality, so some sellers flood the market with bad products, leading to a breakdown of trust and ultimately market collapse.

"Carbon credits provide major polluters with some semblance of climate credentials. Yet we can see that claims of saving vast swathes of forest from the chainsaw to balance emissions are overblown," said study senior author Andreas Kontoleon, from Cambridge's Department of Land Economy. PTI

ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ଓ ଚେତନା

46th Barsha 2023

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Media Partner: Dharitri & OrissaPost

5T Secretary reviews mega projects in Ganjam district

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has sanctioned Rs 92 crore for inclusion of all colleges of Ganjam district under 5T transformation programme, says Pandian



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Acting on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian visited Ganjam district Friday to review the progress of various development projects in the district and redress public grievances.

He reviewed the progress of ongoing mega piped water supply projects being taken up at a cost of Rs 180 crore in Rangeilunda and Chatrapur blocks. The projects will be operationalised in phases from July 2024 onwards. As many as 19 gram panchayats of Beguniapada block will benefit from the piped water supply scheme from Salia Dam at a cost

of Rs 70 crore which would be completed by July 2025. He directed the officials concerned to ensure quality work and timely completion of the project.

Pandian reviewed the progress of various projects like indoor stadiums at Kodala and Kabisuryanagar at a cost of Rs 18 crore. These projects would be completed by September 2023. Similarly, Ama Hospital at Kodala NAC that is being constructed at a cost of Rs 3.6 crore would be completed by October 2023. Improvement and widening of Berhampur-Gopalpur Road being taken up at a cost of Rs 9.50 crore would be completed by November 2023, it was learnt.

In Gopalpur and Rangeilunda area, Pandian reviewed projects like desiltation work at Haripur

and Markandi rivermouth opening at a cost of Rs 6 crore; construction of planetarium at Bikrampur in Rangeilunda at a cost of Rs 22 crore; modernisation of Rangeilunda Airstrip at a cost of Rs 99 crore; construction of hostel and auditorium at Biju Patnaik Adarsha Vidyalaya at a cost of Rs 46 crore and improvement of waterway at Markandi at a cost of Rs 178 crore.

He interacted with the students of several junior and degree colleges of Ganjam district and informed them that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has sanctioned Rs 92 crore for inclusion of all colleges of the district under 5T transformation project. He motivated the students to set their goal high and work hard to realise their dreams and assured them of all support from the state government.

During the day, he participated in public grievance meetings at Beguniapada and Rangeilunda. He interacted with the public regarding their grievances. He emphasised that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik gives top priority to citizens' grievances and assured early resolution of the petitions submitted.



CITY PLIGHT: A group of street vendors confronted a BMC enforcement team while the civic authorities were conducting an eviction drive near Kalpana Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Zoo ambassadors soon in 40 schools

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Mo School, in collaboration with Nandankanan Zoological Park, will launch the 'student zoo ambassador programme' to focus on biodiversity education through the aspirational clubs. This was announced at the 42nd 'Mo School' executive council meeting conducted here Friday to discuss initiatives to strengthen relations between schools and former students.

The 'student zoo ambassador programme' will include 40 schools from Cuttack and Khurda districts around Nandankanan, where students will be taught about biodiversity.



At the meeting, several strategies for alumni-school collaborations were outlined, including creation of block-level alumni associations' conferences, integrating alumni into aspirational courses, facilitating collaboration with external entities, and fostering excellence in education in general.

School and Mass Education

department commissioner-cum-secretary Ashwathy S highlighted the pivotal role alumni play in the holistic development of the institutions. Recognizing the collective effort required to elevate the standard of education, she emphasized the importance of not only financial support but also active engagement in academic and extracurricular programmes.

"Block-level alumni conferences will take place from September 8 to November 14 across all 198 blocks in the state, bringing together committee presidents and representatives to facilitate discussions on school improvement," one official said. Another initiative, 'School adop-

tion programme' will facilitate meeting between mentors, alumni and other stakeholders to assess the school's progress and identify areas for improvement.

"Furthermore, a collaborative agreement with Khan Academy will help students with mathematics and science across all Odia medium schools," added the official.

Notably, in a display of commitment towards education over 10,998 alumni and CSR organizations have contributed more than 12 crore for school development. This support has facilitated approval of 5,857 project proposals amounting to over 36 crore, including two times matching grant from 'Mo School'.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Prabodha Kumar Sahoo @ Samantaray, Aged about 72 years, S/o- Laxmidhar Samantaray, Father of Amrit Keshari Samantaray, resident of Village- Madhipur, Ward No.- 10, P.O.- Konark, P.S.- Konark, Dist.- Puri, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.03, Dtd. 14.08.2023 that myself Prabodha Kumar Sahoo and Prabodha Kumar Samantaray is one and same person and there is no such type of person in our village.

I, Sk Mukhtar Ali, 30 yrs., S/o Sk Akbar Ali of Village-Gopa, P.O./P.S.- Aul, District- Kendrapara, Odisha state as follows: That my name and my father's name is wrongly recorded in my Passport bearing No.- N3445591 as Shaikh Mukhtar Ali, S/o Shaikh Akbar Ali. That I required this affidavit to produce before the authority concerned to use as a document for all purpose correction my name and my father's name as Sk. Mukhtar Ali, S/o Sk Akbar Ali in my Passport. That the original Passport issued by the authority has been lost. In spite of my best efforts unable to trace it out and it is beyond recovery. That I hereby make the declaration as required by the authority concerned to issue me a new copy of Passport. Sd./- Sk Mukhtar Ali

Officials, business leaders discuss healthcare hurdles

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: To brainstorm how public-private partnerships can help address existing challenges in healthcare in Odisha, the Indian Chamber of Commerce organised the 4th ICC Health Summit here Friday in collaboration with state Health and Family Welfare department and Health Care Providers Association. The theme for this year's conference was 'Healthcare for an incredible India.'

Joining the summit as the chief guest, development commissioner and additional chief secretary Anu Garg said that health has been one of the priorities of the government and due to the improvement in the



health services in the state, significant success has been achieved in the diagnosis of malaria and tuberculosis. "A blueprint is being prepared by the state government to bring medical services to the grassroots level through private air services," she informed.

Police commissioner

Saumendra Priyadarshi, joining as another guest, said that the number of medical colleges in the state should be increased and the post graduation interval should be decreased. "Relatives should be counseled during hospital admission and full information should be given to patient's relatives during

treatment," he added.

ICC Odisha chairman JB Pani presided over the summit with Nilanjana Mukherjee, managing director of Kalinga Hospital and secretary of AHPI Odisha chapter joining as a guest. In his address, Mukherjee said that the number of health care facilities and hospitals in the state is increasing.

"Discussions were held on ways to address the critical issues facing healthcare today. From enhancing primary healthcare infrastructure in rural corners to harnessing the power of digital technology, reducing burden of non-communicable diseases and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare," said one member of the ICC.

Journalism has seen substantial rise in philanthropic spending

There has been a "substantial" increase in philanthropic spending for journalism over the past five years, particularly outlets that serve poor and minority communities, a report issued Thursday said — but journalists need to tighten ethical rules that govern the new spending, it recommended.

The struggling news industry is increasingly relying on donations and subscriptions, although it hasn't come close to making up for the collapse in advertising that has led to the dramatic drop in outlets that cover local news.

More than half of funders surveyed by NORC at the University of Chicago said they have increased their journalism grants. Most nonprofit and for-profit news organizations report more funding.

"We see many more people — and that includes people who work in philanthropy — being interested in a stronger civic in-

frastructure by funding local news," said Sarah Alvarez, founder of Outlier Media, a Detroit-based news source that started in 2016 and now has 16 employees.

Partly because it's a relatively new area of giving, it's hard to get a reliable count of how much philanthropy funds journalism. A report by Boston Consulting Group estimated \$150 million per year is given to nonprofit news outlets. The same report said that industry needs up to \$1.75 billion.

A major drive with a goal of raising \$1 billion for local news is expected to be announced this fall, the NORC report said.

"It's significantly more important than it was eight years ago," said Tom Rosenstiel, a University of Maryland professor who worked on the report, updating a similar one from 2015. "There are more nonprofit news organizations, and a lot of for-profit news organizations now get charitable donations, including



The New York Times."

Alvarez, a former public radio reporter in Michigan, built an organization intent on delivering information to poor communities — through text messages at first — on topics like housing, utilities and transportation.

Outlier Media has worked with other local news organizations in the Detroit area to develop a network of community reporters to keep an eye on local government meetings, she said.

She found a sharp increase in philanthropic interest in Outlier Media after the pandemic because it showed people who weren't used to living every day with a lack of vital infor-

mation what that was like.

Nearly six in 10 funders that responded to NORC's survey said they have made grants to outlets primarily focused on communities of color. Rosenstiel said that was partly spurred by the racial reckoning caused by George Floyd's killing, along with a recognition that news organizations have long been better covering wealthier areas because that was what most interested their advertisers.

While the situation has improved since the 2015 study, news organizations have been slow in developing public guidelines on what type of money they will accept, and how that is disclosed to readers, he said. For instance, 72% of for-profit outlets say they don't have written policies, the survey said.

But the policies are vital if the outlets want consumers to understand that they are not accepting money from donors who are interested in specific stories being written to advance an

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 25: BJP national spokesperson and Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP Aparajita Sarangi Friday urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take action on a massive land scam on the outskirts of the Capital.

Addressing the media here, Sarangi alleged that around 150 acres of valuable land in Bhagabanpur and Giringapat villages on outskirts of the City have been unauthorisedly and forcibly grabbed by a very influential woman with involvement of 'an influential bureaucrat in the CM's office'.

She said a luxurious farm

house has been built on the land and Granites available in the Tirupati area have been used in the construction of the farm house. The BJP MP further said big logs of wood are inside the farm house located near the reserve forest which needs to be probed.

Sarangi alleged that the acquired land included government (anabadi) land, minor forest, the land of a society, temple land and land belonging to the poor and helpless people.

She said she had visited the area and saw it has been fenced with barbed wire as a result the agricultural activities could not be undertaken in around 300 acres of land for the last two years.

Workshop held on vascular injury management

Bhubaneswar: A comprehensive Continuing Medical Education (CME) and workshop was organized here Friday to train doctors on handling of bleeding and blood vessels injuries during surgeries. Led by the Debashish Nayak, a senior consultant cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon at Apollo, Bhubaneswar the event saw participation of some 40 surgeons. Recognizing the importance of equipping young and seasoned surgeons alike with the skills needed to navigate unforeseen situations, the organisers expressed optimism about impact this event would have on medical practices. The event's cornerstone was the comprehensive workshop conducted at the venue. This hands-on session provided doctors with valuable training and practice in repairing blood vessel injuries, an essential aspect of surgical expertise. Participants took part in scenarios that simulated real-world surgical complications, allowing them to refine their skills and confidence in managing complex cases.

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AT FULL THROTTLE: Labourers clearing the debris after the residence of the chief priest was demolished to make way for infrastructure under the SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative) project on Samaleswari temple premises in Sambalpur, Friday

Panigrahy faces stiff opposition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur/Gopalpur, August 25: Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy faced stiff opposition from BJD workers at Kanishi on NH-16 during his visit to attend a programme at Kanishi Balaji Vidyaapeeth, sources said Friday. The legislator's vehicle was stopped by some youths holding placards, allegedly BJD supporters, who also resorted to 'go back' sloganeering against the MLA near his car.

Tension ran high as a scuffle ensued between the BJD workers and supporters of Panigrahy. Some of the party workers allegedly manhandled some supporters of the law maker. Later Berhampur Town PS IIC, Suresh Tripathy along with his team reached the spot and controlled the situation.

Panigrahy's vehicle moved ahead after police intervention. However, protesters allegedly intercepted the car again and stopped it just 300 meters away from the venue and did not allow it to move ahead as eggs, water bottles, ink and stones were hurled on it.

On the other hand, many BJD workers in the leadership of Ganjam district BJD president Bibhuti Bhusan Jena opposed 5T Secretary Pandian's visit wearing black dresses and black caps. Some other activists standing on the roof of the college threw eggs and showed black banners towards the helicopter in which the 5T secretary arrived. Police picked 13 BJD workers along with the Ganjam district vice-president of BJD.

Councillors call off stir after tenders cancelled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 25: After two days of sit-in demonstration, the 12 protesting councillors of Rajgangpur Municipality called off their strike Friday after their demand for cancellation of the tenders was met.

Project director of District Urban Development Agency Lalit Soreng was specially sent Friday morning to intervene in the impasse that was continuing for the last two days. After over three hours of prolonged discussions, it was decided to cancel the tenders floated and awarded earlier and re-do the process.

Speaking about the development vice chairman of Rajgangpur civic body MD Irfan said, "It has been decided to cancel the paver block work, along with cc road and crematorium. All the councillors will again put a list of works in their wards August 28. Soon after the verification of sites, the final decision will be taken. However, the 5T work will go on as usual."

Following the submission of councillors' lists an emergency meeting will be held September 2 where the final decision will be taken. In the absence of chairman Madhuri Lugun, who has been hospitalised, vice chairman Md Irfan will preside over the meeting. Apart from the councillors, representatives of MLA and MP will remain present during the meet.



The demonstration, for people in the know of things, was more political than administrative in nature. 12 councillors -- four from Congress, three from BJD, four from BJD and one independent -- staged a sit-in demanding the cancellation of the tenders, which the authority said had been processed with transparency.

"We want that the tenders, which have been awarded illegally, be cancelled immediately otherwise we will continue to demonstrate," one of the councillors said on condition of anonymity. The protesting councillors

have alleged that the tender is totally illegal and should be cancelled. "There has been no resolution for the tender to begin and although works have been awarded for most of the wards, there are glaring examples of neglect to some wards. That is why we are demanding cancellation of tenders," said one of the protesters.

Meanwhile, politically informed sources said Thursday that this was nothing but a threat to the elected body of the civic body headed by Madhuri Lugun of BJD, who is presently admitted to a private hospital at Rourkela. The presence of the four BJD MLAs shows there is some sinister design behind the entire demonstration, they added. Vice chairman Md Irfan said, "There is no threat to the body. Their whole idea is to build pressure and replace the existing chairman Lugun."

Meanwhile, EO Govind Dansena Thursday said, "We passed the tender resolution August 16 with everybody's consent. Then this was typed and made ready. Meanwhile, Lugun was hospitalised and the printed copy could not be signed and distributed among all the councillors. And now they are saying they were not part of the process and the tenders should be cancelled."

Notably, the Rajgangpur Municipality has received massive funds for developmental works.

GUARDING SIMILIPAL Joint task force to start operations from Sept 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, August 25: A joint task force which has been formed to provide protection in the Similipal wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district is all set to kick off its operation from September 1, a report said Friday.

The task force will strengthen the security cover around the sanctuary and prevent poaching of animals inside the sanctuary. A preparatory meeting was held Tuesday where threadbare discussions were made on roles and responsibilities of the task force.

Task force chairman and regional chief conservator of forests (RCCF) Prakash Chand Gogimeni presided over the meeting which was attended by district police SP B Gangadhar, deputy director Samrat Gouda of Similipal Tiger Conservation Project, STR, south division, officials of STR's north division, Baripada DFO Santosh Joshi, his Karanjia and Rairangpur counterparts and ASP Umesh Kumar Panda. The participants prepared a blueprint to make the operation a success.

Notably, Similipal National Park (SNP) is the only wildlife sanctuary in state suitable for breeding of Royal Bengal Tigers owing to which the population of big cats has been increasing in the state.

The wildlife sanctuary is also home to rare melanistic tigers for which the National Tiger



The joint task force comprises three forest range officers, six foresters and 81 forest guards and 100 armed police constables and forest personnel

Tracking the poachers and checking the rampant poaching prevalent inside the sanctuary will be the responsibility of the task force is to

It will also verify the possession of illegal firearms and weapons among the locals living in the buffer and fringe areas

Conservation Authority (NTCA) is taking a host of measures in the state to increase the population of Royal Bengal Tigers and the rare melanistic tigers.

The joint task force comprises three forest range officers, six foresters and 81 forest guards while 100 armed police constables and forest personnel will be deployed with them. The responsibility of the task force is to track the poachers and check the rampant poaching prevalent inside the sanctuary.

The task force personnel will also verify the possession of illegal firearms and weapons among the locals living in the buffer and fringe areas of Similipal National Park. Efforts have already been launched to track the poachers and take stringent action against them.

Moreover, forest personnel

will be provided training in firearms and will be deployed in the operation set to start next month.

It is pertinent to mention that the task force was formed by the state government after two forest officials engaged in the protection of the sanctuary were shot dead by poachers.

Wild animals like Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards and elephants are poached all round the year in the sanctuary. Despite their engagement in the sanctuary, forest officials have failed to protect the animals including those on the verge of extinction.

They have also failed to check the illegal intrusion of poachers inside the sanctuary. Concerned over the development, the state government has formed the joint task force to strengthen the security cover of the sanctuary.

Civic woes plague Batighara panchayat

VILLAGERS SUFFER DUE TO LACK OF DRINKING WATER, PROPER ROADS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 25: Despite their strategic location there are problems aplenty for residents of eight villages in Batighara panchayat in this district. These villages despite being only 48 km away from the district headquarters and 10 km away from the Jagatsinghpur industrial estate lack the basic amenities that people can't do without.



There are approximately 5,000 residents living in these eight villages. Lack of electricity, drinking water facilities and educational institutes are some of the prime problems the villagers have to face. Incidentally Batighara and Hukitola have been recognised as tourism sites by the Odisha government in 2016. However, even then no development has happened at these two places.

The non-availability of a bridge on Kharinasi river, absence of proper roads and unplanned growth of forests are major obstacles for development work. Literacy rate (66.2%) is

also very poor among the residents of these villages. Farming and fishing are the main sources of income for people living in this panchayat.

Locals pointed out that the development of infrastructure for tourism can be a huge booster for the panchayat. They pointed out that if tourism is developed at Hukitola, Batighara and False point, then employment opportunities for the locals can be generated. Overall economic development can then be achieved, they said.

Other residents of the panchayat stressed on the need for protection of environment. They pointed out effluents from the industries in neighbouring Jagatsinghpur district are polluting river water as well as the atmosphere. They added that due to this pollution various health issues are cropping up in the panchayat. Regularly cases of skin disease and even cancer are surfacing due to drinking of polluted water.

Due to the absence of a bridge on the Kharinasi river, medical facilities for the residents of this panchayat remain a distant dream. Ambulances cannot reach the eight villages while medical camps are not organised for the people of Batighara panchayat. Overall, the entire locality appears as if it is not a part of modern India. However, now there is some hope for them as plans are afoot to build a bridge on the Kharinasi river.

Orientation of new students at NIT Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 25: The orientation programme for the first year undergraduate students of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela has culminated in the Bhubaneswar Behera auditorium. Over a thousand new students and some of them with their parents were present in the two-day orientation programme. Deans, Registrar, HoDs,

heads of various units and other academic officers introduced the students to the campus environment, the institute and its various functionaries, academic regulations, resources, infrastructure, student clubs and the community of NIT Rourkela. The students were assured that they would not face any difficulty as they would get able guidance.

Director Prof K Umamaheshwar Rao congratulated and welcomed the students and highlighted the need for inclusivity and empowerment during his address. He said, "This is the time and place where you should utilise the resources properly to build valuable skills. You should all focus on health, time and stress management." Every obstacle is an opportunity to learn, innovate, and emerge stronger, he added. He also said that NIT Rourkela offers many



opportunities to grow and learn, and with the implementation of NEP-2020, students must explore their interests, as these 4-5 years will play a significant role in the rest of their lives.

Displaced tribal youth becomes successful organic farmer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 25: A tribal youth who shifted to Joda in Keonjhar district after being displaced for the Kanpur dam project has brought about a turnaround in his life by growing vegetable through organic methods.

Gangadhar Banra, 35 has carved a niche for himself as a successful farmer. Vegetables grown by him have great demand in the market as he uses only organic manure for his crops instead of any chemical fertilizer. People are seen flocking to his farm to buy vegetables as they are cheaper than the existing market prices and cultivated in organic methods.

Five years back, Banra was displaced from his village for

the construction of Kanpur mega irrigation project. Left with no other option, he shifted to Joda with his family and moved from mine to mine with a hope of getting work. However, his hopes were shattered after he failed to get work. He finally rolled his sleeves up to take up farming and earn a livelihood for his family.

He started cultivation on four acre land lying vacant near the old-age home in Joda on rent basis. The vegetables he is cultivating are long beans, ridge gourd, bitter melon, bottle gourd, brinjal and cauliflowers. Slowly fate smiled on him and he started making progress in cultivation works.

Now, he is selling a quintal of brinjals per day while he is har-



vesting over 4,000 cauliflowers every year and selling them in local market and to traders. Moreover, an interesting aspect of his cultivation is that he is not using any chemical fertilizer for his crops and raising them in purely organic methods.

He is using Jeevamrut organic fertiliser to boost the growth of

his crops and his harvest. Banra said that the use of Jeevamrut fertiliser is helping increase his harvest and maintain the vegetable quality and nutrient content which are very essential.

Banra uses organic manure, cow urine, jaggery, gram flour and soil collected from the root of the banyan tree to prepare

Jeevamrut fertiliser which is a rich source of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous and other micro nutrients responsible for plant growth and development. The organic fertiliser also prevents plants and crops from disease and pest attack.

All these items are collected in a big drum and left to decompose which is then applied on the crops within a week. Moreover, he has bought waste a decomposer from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh to increase the fertility of the soil. This helps in creation of earthworms which help in increasing the fertility of the soil. Moreover, what has come as a relief for the common consumers is that Banra sells his vegetables at less than their prevailing prices in the market.

Banra is assisted by his wife Sumitra who works hand in hand with him to ensure that their hard labour never goes in vain. They have also helped the local residents get organic vegetables which were a dream for them.

Vegetable traders Rajiv and Narsingh said that Banra with his hard work has been able to invent new methods of cultivation and put those into practice. This has helped him become a successful and self-reliant farmer.

Scribe Benudhar Behera, educationist Somanath Mohanty, senior citizen Madan Mohan Barik said that Banra has started a green revolution in this mining valley which no person could even dare to think of a few years back.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender No. 13-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24
NAME OF WORKS: EXECUTION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF 12 MTR WIDE FOB AT 07 STATIONS (BALUGAON(BALU), CHATRAPUR (CAP), ICHCHAPURAM (IPM) PALASA (PSA), SAKHI GOPAL (SIL), RAGHUNATHPUR (RCTC), PARADEEP (PRDP) IN SOUTH SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.
Approximate Value: ₹ 87,22,454.66, EMD: ₹ 1,74,500/-, Period of Completion: 180 Days.
(2) Tender No. 16-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24
NAME OF WORKS: EXECUTION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF 177 BAYS PF SHELTERS AT 07 STATIONS (PARADEEP (PRDP), RAGHUNATHPUR (RCTC), SAKHI GOPAL (SIL), PALASA(PSA), ICHCHAPURAM (IPM), CHATRAPUR (CAP), BALUGAON (BALU) OF KHURDA ROAD(KUR) DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.
Approximate Value: ₹ 1,85,45,292.01, EMD: ₹ 2,42,700/-, Period of Completion: 180 Days.
Date & time of closing of tender: at 1300 Hrs. of 13.09.2023 (for all sl.no.)
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD PR-500/03/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/E-Tender/70
Dated: 22.08.2023
(1) Tender No. e-Tender-SOUTHKUR-197-2023
Dtd. 11.08.2023
DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL BY TRET MACHINE FOR A LENGTH OF 41.40 KMS ON UP AND DN LINE IN DIFFERENT PATCHES OF KHURDA ROAD-PALASA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 392.42 Lakh, EMD (₹): 3,46,200/-
(2) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-212-2023
Dtd. 11.08.2023
DESCRIPTION: MANUAL DEEP SCREENING OF TRACK, POINTS & CROSSINGS AND OTHER ENABLING WORKS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SSE(P.WAY)/ DHENKANAL OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 129.16 Lakh, EMD (₹): 2,14,600/-
(3) Tender No. e-Tender-BRIDGKUR-213-2023, Dtd. 11.08.2023
DESCRIPTION: ZONAL CONTRACT (BRIDGE WORKS) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE)/NORTH & SOUTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2024.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 109.09 Lakh, EMD (₹): 2,04,600/-
(4) Tender No. e-Tender-EASTKUR-214-2023
Dtd. 14.08.2023
DESCRIPTION: UP-GRADATION OF FREIGHT WAGON MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AT SICK LINE AND CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING OPEN STORAGE WITH GROUND LEVEL CEMENT FLOORING IN TO A COVERED SHED WITH HIGH LEVEL CONCRETE FLOORING NEAR ROH DEPOT/ PARADEEP(PRDP) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 575.99 Lakh, EMD (₹): 4,38,000/-
Completion period: 10 (Ten) Months (for all sl. no. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 2 & 4) & 09 (Nine) Months (for sl. no. 3).
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 06.09.2023 (for all tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager(Engg), PR-499/03/23-24 Khurda Road

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.
SRI AUROBINDO



Pen To Podium

In a recent column (August 10, 2023), your writer highlighted the BJP's keen pursuit of new talent, with a particular focus on bureaucrats. Intriguingly, the babus, too, are seeking refuge in the party. This is a hopeful sign for those babus who are dejected at being left out in the race for extension of tenure! Joining politics is clearly the next best thing, especially for ex-babus pining for the days when they held the reins of power.

News emerging from poll-bound Madhya Pradesh reveals that three former IAS officers have gracefully pirouetted from babugiri to netagiri, donning the BJP's saffron cloak. Ved Prakash, RK Mishra and MK Agarwal were made official members of the party by none other than Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently. The air of secrecy surrounding this move left the media scrambling to catch up, as the announcement caught them off guard.

The party's spotlight has now turned towards Telangana, where it has not hesitated to extend invitations to former civil service luminaries, including former Andhra Pradesh chief secretaries IYR Krishna Rao and LV Subramanyam, as well as retired IPS officers and former academics, to bolster the party's ranks.

Behind the scenes, according to sources, a covert group of around 20 such former officials, armed with pie charts and bar graphs, is busy analysing the Telangana government's schemes and projects. This elite team reportedly features the likes of former IPS officer T Krishna Prasad and former IAS officer R Chandravadan, among others. It is hoped that the collective efforts of these experienced babus will help sharpen the party's strategy against the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government ahead of polls.

As elections draw near, the political theatre promises to be a riveting show, where babus trade their pens for podiums and governance meets showmanship!

Babus to celebrate 20 yrs of Vibrant Gujarat summit

As the monsoon-induced chaos keeps Delhi's babus on their toes ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit early next month, in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, the diligent babus are meticulously crafting the blueprint for the next edition of the Vibrant Gujarat 2024 summit, which completes 20 years next year. The first summit was held in 2004, when Modi was the Chief Minister of the state.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Sources have informed DKB that the Gujarat Industries Department, steered by the adept Additional Chief Secretary SJ Haider plans to invite and felicitate all those babus who were instrumental in organising previous summits. Senior babus such as AK Sharma, and Maheshwar Sahu, alongside other luminaries who have since retired from service, are slated to be celebrated for their pivotal roles. Notably, AK Sharma has since ascended to the role of minister in the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.

Given the prestige associated with the summit, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Chief Secretary Raj Kumar are directly supervising this initiative, with the PMO likely looking over their shoulders. But it is Haider who has been an indomitable force since the inception of the event and is now at the forefront of the activities. It is learned that a tech show will be the highlight of the next edition of the Vibrant Gujarat summit, showcasing the initiatives of the Centre under the Digital India platform, and Modi himself is expected to inaugurate the event.

Kerala tightens foreign travel rules for babus

The Kerala government has decided to scrutinise the foreign trips of IAS, IPS and IFS officers, even if they are on personal visits abroad. The state Chief Secretary, V Venu, has reportedly instructed all-India service officers in the state to mandatorily inform the government about the country of visit and duration.

Apparently, foreign trips by government officials have long been a subject of discussion due to concerns about their necessity, purpose, and potential misuse of public funds. The review process aims to evaluate the relevance of these overseas trips to the officers' official responsibilities.

In October last year, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions issued a communiqué delegating the powers to sanction the leaves of officers for travelling abroad, except for study leaves, to the state government.

By assessing the knowledge and skills gained during such trips, the Kerala government intends to determine whether they contribute to the officers' professional growth. As for the babus, it is hoped that they can justify their globetrotting expenses!

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value. ALBERT EINSTEIN
- It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation. HERMAN MELVILLE
- Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get. WP KINSELLA

WORDSWORTH

Moxie

Moxie, usually so spelt, was (and in New England it would seem still is) the name of a non-alcoholic drink, first produced in substantial quantities by the Moxie Nerve Food Company of Lowell, Massachusetts in about 1884. Its founder, Dr Augustin Thompson, originally developed it in the 1870s as a patent medicine or nerve tonic, claiming it cured paralysis, loss of manhood, and softening of the brain. The name may come from the Algonquin Indian word root maski- "medicine" which became moxie as a name for wintergreen, one of the early constituents of this bitter drink. Moxie was the first carbonated and bottled soft drink that was widely distributed in America (just beating Dr Pepper and Coca-Cola), being sold from "Moxie bottle wagons" and later "Moxiemobiles". It was heavily promoted in the first three decades of the twentieth century, so that the name became very widely known, especially on the East Coast. In the twenties, the word picked up an informal meaning of "guts, courage, nerve"; the first citation we can find is from a story by Damon Runyon in 1930: "Personally, I always figure Louie a petty-larceny kind of guy, with no more moxie than a canary bird". It would seem the word, at first slang, derived from one or other of the firm's slogans of the inter-war period, such as "What this country needs is plenty of Moxie!". Some have said that it needed courage just to drink the stuff, no doubt a calumny, but even its supporters today admit it's an acquired taste.



Raj Persaud

THE NATURE OF THEIR JOBS PUT THESE HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS IN CLOSER PROXIMITY TO DEATH THAN MOST ORDINARY PEOPLE

ANGELS OF DEATH

FOCUS CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

Recently convicted of murdering seven babies and attempting to kill six others at the Countess of Chester Hospital between June 2015 and June 2016, neonatal nurse Lucy Letby has the grisly distinction of being the United Kingdom's most prolific child serial killer. Over the course of Letby's ten-month trial, believed to be the longest murder trial in UK history, prosecutors detailed how she had harmed the infants in her care by injecting air and insulin into their bloodstreams, infusing air into their abdomens, and dislodging their breathing tubes.



British neonatal nurse Lucy Letby was recently convicted of murdering seven babies, in a years-long case that has horrified the United Kingdom. But serial-killer nurses, it turns out, are more common than many would like to believe

What would provoke a nurse – a caregiver by profession – to inflict such terrible suffering? Even after covering the trial and spending months in Letby's presence, BBC journalist Judith Moritz struggled to understand her motivations. One text message hints at a possible god complex: "...sometimes I think, how do such sick babies get through & others just die so suddenly & unexpectedly?" Letby wrote. "Guess it's how it's meant to be." But, in Moritz's view, this does not provide a satisfying answer.

An examination of similar cases could offer insights into Letby's psychological state. Serial-killer nurses, it turns out, are more common than many would like to believe. Consider Niels Högel, who admitted to killing 43 people while working as a nurse at two clinics in the northern German cities of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst between 2000 and 2005.

Högel, the most prolific serial killer in postwar Germany, embodies the gravity of the danger posed by a disturbed health-care professional. Officials suspect that as many as 300 patients may have died by his hand.

As a psychologist explained during the trial, Högel did not seem to enjoy killing, nor did he do it for financial gain. Rather,

Högel admitted to acting out of boredom, as well as a deep yearning to flaunt his superior resuscitation skills. After misusing medication to trigger cardiac arrest, reviving a patient was an act of personal aggrandisement – he was even nicknamed "Resuscitation Rambo" by admiring colleagues.

In his ruling, the judge cited a psychologist's assessment that the former nurse was a narcissist who liked to portray himself as a hero. While Högel relished the excitement of resuscitation, and sometimes even succeeded in reviving patients, at least 87 died. Likewise, when Letby was on duty, infants in the Countess of Chester Hospital often inexplicably required emergency resuscitation.

Serial-killer nurses tend to use injectable medications like insulin, opioids, and potassium chloride because they can be difficult to identify after death, as most health-care professionals would know. Beverly Allitt, for example, killed at least two babies by administering large doses of insulin while working as a nurse at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in

Lincolnshire, England, between February and April 1991. She was ultimately convicted of murdering four infants in total, attempting to murder another three, and causing grievous bodily harm to six more.

One theory invoked in the Allitt case is that she suffered from Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a rare and controversial diagnosis in which a caregiver inflicts harm on a child to gain personal sympathy. It is similar to one of the possible motivations that the prosecution in the Letby case identified: the nurse was attacking babies to attract the attention of a doctor with whom it is alleged she had become infatuated.

Insulin injections were also Ontario nurse Elizabeth Wetlaufer's weapon of choice. In September 2016, Wetlaufer admitted to killing eight long-term care residents and attempting to murder six others. Wetlaufer's crimes were uncovered only because she spontaneously confessed while receiving drug-addiction treatment. She had never been under any suspicion, and it would have likely remained that way had she not implicated

herself.

Wetlaufer may also have admitted the truth to a childhood friend, telling him: "A lot of what I've done has been triggered by my anger issues." But how could killing people under your care become a means of acting out anger issues? Who hasn't experienced homicidal urges against frustrating colleagues, or maybe undeserving patients blocking your precious beds, if you are a clinician struggling to run an under-resourced service?

The nature of their jobs put these health-care professionals in closer proximity to death than most ordinary people; regularly dealing with mortality could have warped their perspective. Or perhaps they were always drawn to the emotional intensity, and heightened bonding, produced in any team confronted with the ultimate crisis. In any event, because psychological screenings are secondary to technical skills when hiring in medical fields, and all these serial-killer nurses seemed to excel technically, dangerous pathology likely would not have been flagged when it's often difficult to find the basically clinically competent.

None of the experts giving evidence during the Letby trial presented a coherent theory explaining her motivation; maybe even expert clinicians remain in denial about the demons in their midst. Although other "angels of death" can provide clues about what gives rise to such evil, the most worrying implication of the "god complex" explanation is that the next "angel" more likely will be found among the better, or even the best, nurses. And it will always be counterintuitive to search for a killer among the healers you most rely on in an emergency.

The writer is a psychiatrist.
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SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

BRICS dilemma: Politics or trade

The BRICS countries in their 15th Summit at Johannesburg debated the expansion of the five-member bloc. Picking up the unfinished agenda from the last Summit, they debated the mechanism for extending membership to some of the 18 countries aspiring to join. This should remind us of the intense debate during 1990s within the European Union, by far the most successful integrated bloc of 27 countries. The debate was about deepening the Union versus widening it. The same challenge faces BRICS although the origin of this bloc is significantly different from the EU as it is more a shared platform than a cohesive bloc.



Dr. D.K. Giri

IF THE BLOC VEERS TOWARDS A POLITICAL ROAD UNDER THE DUAL LEADERSHIP OF RUSSIA AND CHINA, IT WILL PROVE TO BE A MOTLEY GROUP WITHOUT MUCH IMPACT

The acronym BRIC appeared for the first time in 2001 in one of the publications of Goldman Sachs. The paper prepared by the bank economists Jim O'Neill was to capture the future of growing economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China whose initials constitute the name BRIC. South Africa was added later in 2010 to make it BRICS. The group was conceived by the bank as an investment destination. In fact, Goldman started a BRICS-focused investment fund in 2006. BRICS held its first conference in 2005 in Russia. However, Goldman folded the investment

fund nine years later in 2015. That act was seen as the BRICS era coming to an end. As a matter of fact, the big emerging markets were sputtering; Russia and Brazil had fallen into recession while Chinese economy was on the decline. Now, although the BRICS share of the world economy has increased from 8% in 2005 to 26%, the situation for some member countries has become worse. Brazil and Russia registered growth of 1% for a decade, the latter hit by multiple sanctions. South Africa is caught in the mire of corruption and mismanagement. China is increasingly facing isolation by big economies. It is only India that is showing signs of vibrations in economy and politics.

Politically, BRICS countries are the least cohesive. While India, Brazil, South Africa are democracies, China and Russia are autocratic regimes. Chinese aggressive actions vis-à-vis its neighbours have drawn the attention of the world. Russia is fighting a pariah status after its ill-thought-out war on Ukraine.

That said, BRICS countries perhaps share a common strategic perception of a multilateral world less dominated by a single super power. The new countries wanting to join have similar interests. However, they will be

wary of a strong anti-American bloc emerging at the behest of Beijing. Likewise, India and Brazil will also be sensitive to a rabidly anti-American platform nurtured by China and Russia. That is why Prime Minister Modi urged that the expansion should happen only by consensus.

Modi proposed five points for further cooperation between BRICS countries as they seek to expand. The first area of cooperation suggested by him was in space. This suggestion is perhaps timely to have traction in the Summit as Chandrayaan-3 soft-landed in the Moon creating a sort of history.

The second area suggested by Modi consists of cooperation in education and skill development. He highlighted the innovation labs in schools using AI platforms like Bhasini to overcome language barriers. He assured BRICS partners that India will share all these platforms. The third suggestion was to undertake skill-mapping in each country to identify their respective strength for synergy and cooperation.

The fourth suggestion interestingly was about big cats. Modi suggested cooperation within international big cat alliance for the protection of these species. A large number of big cats of

several species are found in the BRICS countries. The fifth suggestion related to the field of traditional medicine which is essential for creating better health conditions and treatment of several diseases.

Despite the lack of cohesion, BRICS will continue in some form or the other. It provides a platform for members to criticise, often with justification, the functioning of the world institutions under the influence of the West sidelining the Global South. In Cape Town, Foreign Minister Jaishankar talked about the concentration of global economic power leaving too many nations at the mercy of a few. BRICS is projected to be a counterweight to G7. The SCO is too Eurasian. The G20 is too dominated by Western members. BRICS seems to be the best party in the town.

To sum up, how effective BRICS will be is a big question. If it sticks to trade, commerce and investment, it may stay effective as a forum. If it veers towards a political road under the dual leadership of Russia and China, it will prove to be a motley group without much impact.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.
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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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

E-cycle service

Sir, Most of the Mo-cycles are lying unused in Bhubaneswar. Probably the climate and terrain are major hindrances. It is really tough in the state capital to ride a Mo-cycle on uphill roads for long distances in warm and humid conditions. Converting Mo-cycles, especially broken ones into electric bicycles (e-cycles) would be convenient for users. It can also be provided to Mission Shakti, postal employees or other groups as per need. E-cycle services would ensure a clean and green environment.

Nabnit Panigrahi, RAYAGADA

Sustainable finance

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Triple Challenge." The mobilisation of finance at sectoral level should converge to work in tandem at national level. The recent debt for climate swap by Gabon bankrolled by climate finances will be a common sight in future. Such practices will only be sustainable if the promises to be climate-smart are followed by real tangible actions. The onus is on LDCs (Least Developed Nations) to use the fiscal space to promote state-sponsored research, the baton of which can be passed on to private sector players in later stages. It is crucial that the investment is split at 60:40 weightage in terms of long gestation and short-term research and development respectively. African countries like India also have high demographic dividends with huge tapping potential and need to be leveraged to tackle climate change. Handholding in initial stages will build the confidence of private sector to challenge coming-of-age frontiers, thus allowing the younger generation to play more innovative and result-oriented. Considering upcoming summits like COP28 in UAE, such developments will help reaffirm the commitments of global leaders.

Pratyush Satapathy, BHUBANESWAR

Mysterious death

Sir, The death of infamous Wagner boss, Yevgeny Prigozhin, in an air crash, is wrapped in mystery. The tragedy happened two months after Prigozhin attempted to topple Russia's military leadership. Back then, Putin labelled Prigozhin's uprising as "treason" and a "stab in the back" of Russia. He had promised that he would make the perpetrators pay. Despite Moscow launching a probe, rumours of an assassination have grown. Western leaders have voiced scepticism that the plane crash was accidental.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Punjab Guv warns CM of bringing President's rule 'Death better than this nightmare'

BANWARILAL PUROHIT WARNS BHAGWANT MANN THAT HE COULD LAUNCH CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IF HIS LETTERS ARE NOT ANSWERED



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 25: In a sharp escalation of the tussle between the Punjab governor and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Banwarilal Purohit Friday warned that he could recommend President's rule in the state and also launch criminal proceedings if his letters are not answered.

In his latest communication, the governor indicated he was upset over not getting any reply to his previous letters and told the Punjab chief minister that he could send a report to the President on "failure of constitutional mechanism" in the state.

Purohit advised Mann to act before he takes this "final decision" under Article 356 of the Constitution and section 124 of the Indian Penal Code.

A state is brought under direct rule of the Centre with the invocation of Article 356, usually after a report is sent by the governor. Section 124 of the IPC relates to assaulting or wrongfully

restraining the President or a governor from exercising their lawful powers.

"I have, therefore, to advise you, warn you and ask you to respond to my letters referred to above and give me the information sought by me," the governor said in the letter released to the media.

"Before I am going to take final decision regarding sending a report to the President of India under Article 356 about the failure of the constitutional mechanism and take a decision about initiating criminal proceedings under section 124 of the IPC, I ask you to send me the requisite information sought for under my letters referred to above, as also in the matter of the steps taken by you concerning the problem of drugs in the State, failing which I would have no choice but to take action according to law and the Constitution."

Purohit mentioned an August 1 communication and said, "It appears that you are deliberately refusing to give the information

asked by me."

The governor has earlier written to Mann seeking information on training seminar abroad for 36 school principals, and other issues. He said the chief minister didn't reply.

In the latest letter, the governor claimed he has received reports from various agencies on rampant drug abuse in Punjab.

"It is common knowledge that they are available in chemist shops, a new trend is observed that they are being sold in the government controlled liquor vends," Purohit wrote, citing recent action by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Chandigarh Police in which 66 liquor vends in Ludhiana were sealed for selling drugs.

He also cited a parliamentary standing committee report on drug addiction in Punjab. He said facts pointed at the "breaking down of law and order" in Punjab to the extent that villagers are protesting on the streets and setting up their own defence committees to protect themselves from drugs.

"Please send a report concerning the action taken by you in the matter of these drugs to my office immediately," Purohit said. The governor said it is his duty under the Constitution to ensure that the administration carries out efficient, impartial and honest work, and the state government's proposals are not contrary to the law of the land.

The governor also referred to the "derogatory words" used by the chief minister against him in the Punjab Assembly in June.



NDRF personnel rescue a resident from a flood-affected area, in Mandi, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Landslide victims helpless after rain fury in Himachal Pradesh which has witnessed three major spells of heavy rains this monsoon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 25: "Death would have better than going through this nightmare with nowhere to go and no shoulder to cry on," says Promila who lost everything when a room in a building she stayed in crumbled in a landslide here.

A landslide in the morning of August 23 damaged a building near Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital (IGMCH) where Promila stayed with her ailing mother.

Narrating her plight to PTI Friday, she said, "I live with my 75-year-old mother who is suffering from ovarian cancer and has been undergoing treat-

ment since 2016. I also lost my job as a sales girl in a shop in Ram Nagar in the city market last week due to the recession as there were no customers.

"I slept at IGMCH Thursday night as there is no place to go," says Promila, who does not have siblings, or a father, and is also separated from her husband.

"I am desperately looking for a job and am willing to even clean and sweep as I am in dire need of money for my mother's treatment," she says before adding, "My mother is all I have."

Promila has studied up to class 10.

"We could not salvage our

belongings and the only thing left is the clothes we were wearing while running out of the collapsed house," says another landslide victim Suman whose room was adjacent to Promila's.

Suman who works as a domestic help says that she has lost everything in the landslide and that she has no money to even pay her son's school fees. She said they have no shelter, no clothes and that even the books of her son studying in Class 5 were damaged in the landslide.

"Our plight is miserable but it did not attract the attention of the authorities as no casualty was reported in this landslide. What is the use of getting so many donations, if the state government cannot help the disaster victims," she says.

"We had food at a gurdwara and are shuttling between our

relatives' houses, but we have not received any help or immediate relief," she adds.

Shimla has witnessed several landslides in the past weeks with the toll in rain-related incidents in the city in the past 10 days rising to 27, which include 20 deaths in Summer Hill landslide, five in Fagli and two in Krishna Nagar.

So far, 242 people have died in rain-related incidents since the onset of monsoon in the state on June 24 till August 24.

Himachal Pradesh saw three major spells of heavy rains this monsoon. The first July 9 and 10 led to large-scale destruction in Mandi and Kullu districts. Shimla and Solan districts were hit during the second spell August 14 and 15 and Shimla city suffered heavy damage in the third spell Tuesday night.

UNDETERRED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER

Devotees make beeline for Shakti Peeths in HP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 25: Undeterred by natural calamities and inclement weather, devotees made a beeline for Shakti Peeths in Himachal Pradesh with 5.48 lakh people from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and other states paying obeisance during the six-day Shrawan Ashtami Mela from August 17 to 22.

It is an indication that devotees surmounted all odds, and natural calamities and hostile weather could not deter them from reaching the temples, a police spokesman said, adding elaborate arrangements were made to regulate traffic, main-

tain law and order and safety of devotees. The devotees used 4,345 heavy transport vehicles, 19,759 light motor vehicles and 37,853 two-wheelers to reach the temples. Sri Nainadevi shrine drew the maximum number of 2,54,754 devotees, followed by Chintpurni 1,94,899, Jwalaji 49,500, Chamunda Devi 26,000, Brajeshwari temple 21,233 and Sri Bagulamukhi 1,987, according to police data. Due to heavy rush, the devotees waited in queues for 'darshan'.

As many as 120 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state this month while a total of 238 people have died and 40 are still missing since the onset of monsoon in the state.

Punjab to deploy air quality monitoring van

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, August 25: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, an air quality monitoring van will be deployed in Punjab to monitor air pollution levels and to create awareness to understand the type of air they are breathing.

Announcing it on the sidelines of India Clean Air Summit (ICAS) 2023 in Bengaluru, Adarsh Pal Vig, Chairman, Punjab State Pollution Control Board (PSPCB), said it was important for people to understand the air they were breathing. The van will be operated by a local industry under the corporate environment responsibility (CER) under the direction of the PPCB. The journey of the air quality monitoring van will start from Khadoor Sahib in Tarn Taran district near Amritsar that already has a forested patch created by Baba



Sewa Singh, a social worker and environmentalist.

The air quality of this place will be recorded and then the van will move to other cities across the state, comparing the air quality levels of different locations, and explaining to residents the air they are breathing.

The aim is to identify steps that can be taken to improve the quality of air locally.

"The van will also be used during the stubble burning season at sites where there is deteriorating air quality due to burning

compared to those areas that are free from it. It will measure the air quality and explain to people the polluted air they are breathing," Vig added. By sharing the data captured by the van, people will be empowered to improve the air they breathe due to their own actions -- an initiative towards citizen science.

"Clean air is a win-win for health and climate but needs to be done with evidence-based strategies and research with local knowledge," said Professor Vinayak Sinha.

Himachal bans stone crusher units in Beas river basin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, August 25: The government has decided to stop the operation of all stone crushers on both perennial and non-perennial rivulets of the Beas river basin and its tributaries till further orders, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu said.

The decision was made taking into consideration the alarming transformation of the ecosystem during the current monsoon, wreaking havoc downstream in the Beas river and its tributaries in Kullu, Mandi, Kangra and Hamirpur districts, besides Chakki rivulet in Kangra.

The decision has been taken to ensure the safety of human settlements and infrastructure, to preserve the fragile ecology and environment of the state, an official statement said.



However, the lease of legal mining has not been cancelled.

The Chief Minister said the existing captive and temporary stone crushers shall not come under the purview of this order.

He said directions had been given to the Department of Environment, Science and Technology and Climate Change to convene a high-level expert consultation to identify the factors which formed such a disastrous position.

The Chief Minister said

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 ଯାକ୍ତିକ ବିଭାଗ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୩
 ଇ-ମେଲ୍-smdivisionbbsr@yahoo.com
 ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୦୭୬୪-୨୫୨୧୧୨୭

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
 MECHANICAL DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR-3
 E-mail id: smdivisionbbsr@yahoo.com,
 Ph.No.0674-2561827**

No.SEMDB-EST(W)/2022-23/2698 Date:24.8.23

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.48/W/2023-24

No.A-479: The Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate basis bid in single cover system through e-procurement for the work mentioned below.

1. Total No. of Works	1 (One) No. of Mechanical gate works
2. Estimate cost put tender	Approximately Rs. 8,75,405.00 (Excluding GST)
3. Tender paper cost	Rs.4000/- (Non refundable)
4. Class of Contractor	SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation shutter / Hydro Mechanical gates.
5. Period of Completion	30 (Thirty) days
6. Available of Bid Documents and receipt of bid through online	From 29.08.2023 (11.00 A.M) to 08.09.2023 (5.00 P.M)
7. Date, time and place for opening of online tender	11.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, BBSR
8. Lottery	If required, the date of lottery to be intimated to the Qualified Bidders after evaluation of Bid.
9. Digital Signature Certificate	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
10. Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender	Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, BBSR-3

Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha Website- www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

OIPR-32481/11/0007/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Division, Bhubaneswar-3

**Government of Odisha
 Office of the Executive Engineer,
 Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote**
 email:eerwukt@gmail.com & eerwukt@ymail.com

Letter No.2746 Date:23.08.2023

No.O-761-1: Name of the Work: Building Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 29 (Twenty Nine) Nos. 3. Approx. Estimated Cost: Varies from 5.08 Lakhs to 22.52 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'B', 'C' & 'D' Class of Contractor. 5. Period of Completion: As per TCN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
1 Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote	2 Online Tender/ UKT/2023-24	3 05.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	4 14.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM	5 13.09.2023 at 01.00 PM	6 15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote
 OIPR-25103/11/0003/2324

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA
 COUNCIL, PIPLI, DIST-PURI**
 Ph:06758-241442, Email ID: piplinac@gmail.com

**No.C-1203: INVITATION FOR BID
 e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
 No.2312, Dt.24.08.2023
 Bid Reference No.PIPLI-NAC-2(78-II)/2023-24
 Bid Identification No.:2023_ORULB_93224**

- Type of Works: Civil Work as mentioned in DTCN.
- Total No. of Works: 78
- Bid Value: As per DTCN.
- Period of Completion : 60 days.
- Date and time Schedule:
 Submission Start: From 12 hours of 29.08.23
 Submission End: 17 Hrs. of 12.09.2023.
- Opening of Bid in Online: From 11.00 AM of 13.09.2023 onwards.

Further details and necessary documents can be seen from

**OFFICE OF THE PATTAMUNDAI
 MUNICIPALITY, PATTAMUNDAI**
 No.2861, Dt:25.8.23

Expression of Interest

No.C-1202:The Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality on behalf of Pattamundai Municipality, Dist- Kendrapara invites Expression of Interest for the work Survey work for Conducting Bathymetric survey of 11 nos of existing ponds of the Municipality. The EOJ paper can be availed from district website 'www.kendrapara.nic.in' from the period from 26-08-2023 to 07-09-2023 upto 5 pm and same should reach before undersigned on or before 5 pm of 08-09-2023 by hand or post. The firm desire to participate the above EOJ should submit filled in EOJ along with GST Clearance Certificate of last month/quarter, GST Registration Certificate, PAN Card, Turn Over Certificate, No Relation Certificate, Similar Experience Certificate and the quotation paper must accompany with paper cost of Rs. 10000.00 should drawn from any Nationalized Bank in the form of Demand Draft and EMD amount of Rs. 10000.00 should be deposited in the form of TDR/DD duly pledged to Executive Officer, Pattamundai Municipality failing which the EOJ will not consider for financial evaluation. The Tender inviting Authority bears the right to Cancel the tender at any point of time without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd./- Executive Officer
 Pattamundai Municipality**
 OIPR-13220/11/0007/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
 NABARANGPUR (R&B) DIVISION, NABARANGPUR**
 E-mail ID: eerbngpur@yahoo.com,
 Tel & Fax -06858-222833 (0)

**e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. S.E (R&B)-20/2023-24/NGP
 No.4187, Date. 21.08.2023**

No.B-767:Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Civil Work as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of Work : 4 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 7.20 Lakhs to Rs. 42.03 Lakhs
- Period of completion : 2 to 3 Calendar of Months
- Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 29.08.2023 upto 16.00 hours of 07.09.2023
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 16.00 hours of 07.09.2023.
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 08.09.2023
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Nabarangpur(R&B) Division, Nabarangpur

Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

**Sd./- Superintending Engineer
 Nabarangpur (R&B) Division**
 OIPR-34143/11/0016/2324



An actor from the Royal de Luxe theatre group wipes the paw of the Bull Machin giant puppet in Antwerp, Belgium



Women show rakhis made for soldiers protecting the borders of our country ahead of 'Raksha Bandhan' at Seva Bharti Ashram on the outskirts of Jammu



Students perform during Onam celebrations at the Dr. MGR-Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women in Chennai



Artists give finishing touches to idols of Lord Ganesh ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Karad



Damaged Kiratpur-Manali road following heavy rainfall, near Pandoh in Mandi district



Australian Army soldiers from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and Armed Forces of the Philippines soldiers conduct a large-scale combined amphibious assault exercise at a naval base in San Antonio, Zambales, Philippines



A hand rickshaw puller ferries a passenger on a waterlogged road after rains in Kolkata



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin with students during the launch of the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme for schoolchildren, at Tirukkuvalai, in Nagapattinam district



national

of the day quote

He (Lalu) is simply being harassed by the CBI on the direction of the BJP government at the Centre. It's a fact that the BJP-led government at the Centre is misusing central agencies to harass leaders of opposition parties

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER

The new alliance is a 'congregation of confusion and contradiction' and Modi's success will knock this new alliance out of the 2024 elections

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

JERA Co Inc, Japan's largest power generation company, has expressed a strong desire to explore investment and partnership opportunities with the state government in areas of green hydrogen, ammonia, renewable Energy and liquefied natural gas

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

Eight killed

Wayanad: Eight people, mostly women were killed when a jeep they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Wayanad district on Friday, police said. They said there were at least 12 people in the jeep when the accident took place at around 3.30 PM in the Valad-Mananthavady road. "The jeep was returning to Makkimala with women working in a private tea estate," a local resident told the media. The victims were rushed to a hospital at Mananthavady but police said eight of them lost their lives. "The condition of at least two people is serious," a senior police official said.

Iltija granted regular passport

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti was granted a regular passport with 10-year validity here Friday, officials said. Iltija expressed satisfaction on the issuance of a passport to her after a long-drawn legal fight. The issuance of a regular passport to Iltija came more than a month after she moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court with a fresh petition seeking its intervention for extending the duration of her passport along with no bar to travel to any country.

Worker found dead in Raigarh

Raigarh: A 28-year-old worker was found hanging at a plant of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Central public sector undertaking (PSU), in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district, police said Friday. Following the incident, the man's family stated a protest in front of the plant alleging that he had been murdered, they said. Dani Ram Gupta was found hanging from the stairs of a water tank in the coal handling unit of the NTPC's LARA Super Thermal Power Plant in Pusaur on Thursday evening, an official said.

One dead, another injured

Rajkot: A man died and his friend sustained injuries after they were hit by a train while walking along a railway track with their earphones on in Rajkot district of Gujarat on Friday, an official from the Railway Protection Force said. The Rajkot-Somnath train hit the duo who were walking along the railway track near Jetpur town in the afternoon, sub-inspector Kanji Dabhi of the RPF said.



The ED and the I-T Department are powerful wings of the BJP and they are trying to create a fear psychosis ahead of the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections. But they will not succeed in their endeavours

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

SC EXTENDS JAIN'S INTERIM BAIL

The Supreme Court Friday extended till September 1 the interim bail of former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case despite vehement opposition by the Enforcement Directorate, which said the medical advice tendered to the AAP leader did not warrant the relief



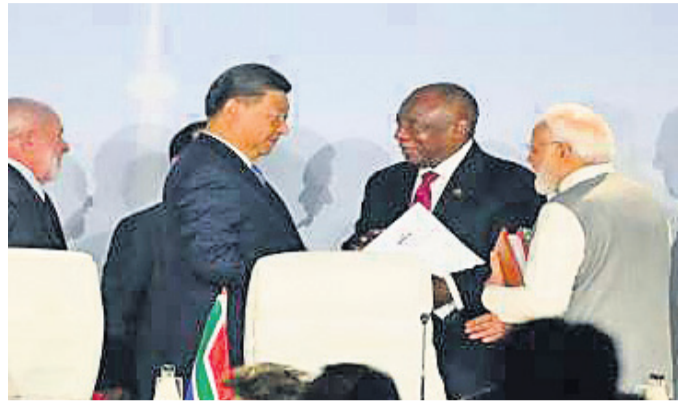
India rejects Chinese claim on Modi, Xi talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a conversation in Johannesburg, India and China on Friday offered divergent views on which side sought the engagement with Indian sources saying that a Chinese request for a bilateral meeting is pending.

Prime Minister Modi and President Xi held the conversation Wednesday on the sidelines of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg. The conversation was not a structured bilateral meeting and was an informal one.

There was a pending request from the Chinese side for a bilateral meeting, sources in the Indian side said hours after the Chinese foreign ministry released a readout on the Modi-Xi conversation that said it was held at the Indian side's request. "The two leaders, however, had an informal conversation in the leaders lounge during the



BRICS summit," said a source.

The Chinese readout said: "President Xi Jinping talked with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at the latter's request on August 23." In his conversation with Modi, Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves common interests and it is conducive to peace and stability of the world and the region, it said.

India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Thursday said Modi conveyed to Xi India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues

along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, underlining that maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas was essential for normalisation of India-China ties.

The Chinese readout described the conversation between the two leaders on Wednesday as "candid and in-depth." On August 23, President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on current China-India relations and other questions of shared interest on the sidelines of the BRICS

Summit," it said.

"President Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves common interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also conducive to peace, stability and development of the world and the region," it said.

"The two sides should bear in mind the overall interests of their bilateral relations and handle properly the border issue so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border region," the statement released by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi said.

At a media briefing in Johannesburg, Kwatra said the two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to intensify efforts at "expeditious disengagement and de-escalation".

"On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the prime minister had interactions with other BRICS leaders. In a conversation with President Xi Jinping of China, the prime minister highlighted India's concerns on unresolved issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas," Kwatra said.

Indore tops in govt's Smart City contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: Indore Friday bagged the best "National Smart City Award", followed by Surat and Agra.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced the India Smart Cities Awards for 2022 Friday.

The awards would be presented by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony in Indore September 27.

Among the 66 winners in different categories, Madhya Pradesh has won the best 'State Award' and Tamil Nadu bagged the second spot.

Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were on the third spot jointly.

Chandigarh has been ranked the number one in the Union territory category.

It has also emerged a winner in the best governance services, according to the ministry.

Among the 100 cities being developed under the Modi government's Smart Cities Mission, Indore bagged the top spot, Surat in Gujarat the second place and Agra the third spot.

In October last year, Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row. In the 'built environment' category, Coimbatore was ranked the best city for its model roads, and restoration and rejuvenation of lakes, followed by Indore while the third spot was shared by New Town Kolkata and Kanpur.

Jabalpur has emerged as the winner in the 'Economy' category with an incubation centre while Indore and Lucknow followed it on the next two spots. According to the ministry, Chandigarh has been adjudged the best city in the mobility category for "Public Bike Sharing (PPP) along with cycle tracks", followed by New Town Kolkata and Sagar.

Indore has also won the best city award in the 'urban environment' category for "air quality improvement and Ahilya Van along with vertical gardens".

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

SC transfers 17 cases to Assam

The top court passed a slew of directions on judicial procedures, including the virtual examination of victims and witnesses by courts, saying they have been issued "at the present stage, bearing in mind the overall environment in Manipur and the need for ensuring a fair process of criminal justice administration"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: In a significant development, the Supreme Court Friday transferred to neighbouring Assam 17 Manipur violence cases being probed by the CBI, including the sexual assault case of two



women seen in a viral video being paraded naked, and asked the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court to nominate one or more judicial officers to deal with them.

The top court passed a slew of directions on judicial procedures, including the virtual examination of victims and witnesses by courts, saying they have been issued "at the present stage, bearing in mind the overall environment in Manipur and the need for ensuring a fair process of criminal justice ad-

ministration".

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra rejected the submissions of many lawyers, who were opposed to transfer of CBI cases to Assam, and accepted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Manipur government, that the suggestion has been made keeping in mind the better internet connectivity there.

"We chose it for the connectivity and the maximum (internet) connectivity is in Assam," the law officer said. "Both sides (Kuki and Meiteis) have been hurt... There have been victims in valleys, and in hills. It would be difficult for people who suffered in valleys to travel to hills, and the other way round. We are not on who suffered more, just the practical difficulty," the CJI said, adding the top court will pass orders which will be fair to both sides.

Rahul raises China border issue in Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kargil, August 25: Raising the Sino-India border issue here, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday said everyone in Ladakh knows that China has "taken away our land" and claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that not an inch of land was occupied was "absolutely false".

Gandhi addressed a public meeting here on the last day of his nine-day tour of Ladakh.

He said, "I visited the whole of Ladakh on my motorcycle over the past week.... Ladakh is a strategic place and when I was

at Pangong lake, one thing was clear that China had taken over thousands of kilometers of Indian land. Unfortunately, the prime minister... Made a statement that not an inch of our land was taken away which is absolutely false."

"Every individual of Ladakh knows that China has taken away our land and the prime minister is not speaking the truth," he alleged.

The former Congress president's remarks came after Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a conversation on the sidelines of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India,



China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg. The conversation was not a structured bilateral meeting and was an informal one.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Thursday said Modi conveyed to Xi India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, underlining that maintenance of peace and tranquility in border areas was

PM DEGREE ROW

NO SC RELIEF FOR KEJRIWAL

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti said it is not issuing notice on the plea as the matter is pending before the Gujarat High Court and is listed for hearing on August 29

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging the high court order rejecting his request to stay the criminal defamation proceedings filed by the Gujarat University over his remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification.

Gujarat University Registrar Piyush Patel had filed a defamation case against Kejriwal and AAP leader Sanjay Singh over their alleged comments after the Gujarat High Court set aside an order of the Chief Information Commissioner for providing information about Modi's degrees to them under the RTI Act.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti said it is not issuing notice on the plea as the matter is pending before the Gujarat High Court and is listed for hearing on August 29. The bench said the Gujarat University and Kejriwal can raise their grievances before the high court.

At the outset, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said the high court had wrongly refused to grant interim stay on the defamation proceedings against him. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the University, said there was suppression of facts by Kejriwal.

The Gujarat High Court had on August 11 rejected Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh's plea seeking an interim stay on the criminal defamation proceedings against them. A Gujarat met-



ropolitan court had earlier summoned Kejriwal and Singh in the defamation case over their "sarcastic" and "derogatory" statements in connection with PM Modi's degree. The matter is listed for hearing on August 31.

The two AAP leaders later filed a revision application in the sessions court challenging the metropolitan court's summons in the case. However, the sessions court on August 7 rejected their plea for an interim stay on trial, after which they approached the Gujarat High Court. The revision application in the Sessions Court will now be heard on September 16.

Only Kejriwal moved the top court challenging the high court order of August 11. According to the complaint filed by Patel, the two leaders made "defamatory" statements at press conferences and on Twitter handles targeting the university over Modi's degree.

Their comments targeting the Gujarat University were defamatory and hurt the prestige of the university which has established its name among the public, the complainant said.

"Their statements were sarcastic and intentionally made to hurt the prestige of the university," Patel has said in his complaint.

On March 31, the Gujarat High Court had quashed a 2016 order of the Central Information Commission (CIC) which directed the Gujarat University to provide information on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's degree to Kejriwal, observing the AAP chief's RTI plea appeared to be "politically vexatious and motivated" instead of being based on "sound public interest considerations".

MADHUMITA MURDER CASE

Tripathis freed after 16 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gorakhpur, August 25: Former Uttar Pradesh minister Amarmani Tripathi and his wife Madhumita, serving life sentences in the poet Madhumita Shukla murder case, were released Friday evening, ahead of the completion of their terms.

The Uttar Pradesh prisons department on Thursday issued an order for their premature release, citing the state's 2018 policy on remission, since they have completed 16 years of their sentences.

The Supreme Court Friday refused to stay the couple's release. The couple is currently admitted in the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur.

The prisons department had also cited the couple's old age and good behaviour.

Amarmani is 66 and Madhumita 61, Gorakhpur district jailor A K Kushwaha said, adding that though the duo has been released, they will continue to remain at the BRD Medical College.

Tripathi's son Amanmani Tripathi told reporters here that his parents were under doctors' supervision and based on their advice, further steps will be taken.

Amarmani Tripathi, who was elected from the Nautanva constituency, was a minister in the state's BJP government in 2001 and also in the BSP government formed in 2002. He has also been with the Samajwadi Party.

'Pragyan' traverses 8 metres on lunar surface

ALL PAYLOADS ON THE PROPULSION MODULE, LANDER MODULE, AND ROVER ARE PERFORMING NOMINALLY, THE BANGALORE-HEADQUARTERED NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY SAID IN AN UPDATE FRIDAY EVENING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 25: Chandrayaan-3 mission's rover 'Pragyan' has traversed a distance of about eight metres on the lunar surface, and its payloads have been turned on, ISRO said Friday.

All payloads on the propulsion module, lander module, and rover are performing nominally, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in an update Friday evening. "All planned rover movements have been verified. The rover has successfully traversed a distance of about 8 metres. Rover payloads

LIBS and APXS are turned ON," it said in a post on X". The Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) is aiming at deriving the chemical composition and inferring the mineralogical composition of the lunar surface.

The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) is attempting to determine the elemental composition (Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Ti, Fe) of lunar soil and the rocks around the lunar landing site. Earlier on Friday, ISRO released a breathtaking video of the rover, 'Pragyan', rolling down the ramp from the lander, 'Vikram', to the lunar surface, as observed by



the lander imager camera. "... And here is how the Chandrayaan-3 Rover ramped (rolled) down from the lander to the lunar surface," ISRO said in an update. The space agency also released the image of 'Vikram'

taken by Chandrayaan-2's Orbiter High Resolution Camera (OHRC) after the lander module soft landed on the lunar surface. "Chandrayaan-3 Mission update: I spy you! Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter photoshoots Chandrayaan-3 Lander! Chandrayaan-2's Orbiter High-Resolution Camera (OHRC) - the camera with the best resolution anyone currently has around the Moon -- spots Chandrayaan-3 Lander after the landing on 23/29/23," ISRO said in the post, saying its well-received informal social media approach.

Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter, launched in 2019, continues to

orbit the Moon. The Vikram lander with Pragyan rover in its belly touched down on the Moon's surface "well within the area" identified for the purpose on Wednesday. A few hours after the landing, the 26-kg six-wheeled rover rolled out from the lander's belly.

ISRO said Thursday evening: "All activities are on schedule. All systems are normal. Lander Module payloads ILSA, RAMBHA and ChaSTE are turned ON today. ROVER mobility operations have commenced. SHAPE payload on the Propulsion Module was turned ON".

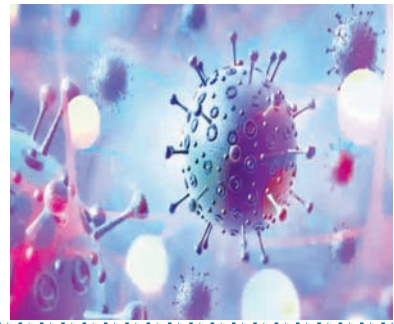
international



China will be hoping to interfere in the elections with all sorts of tactics, but if they succeed, it will be an undermining of Taiwan's democracy
LAI CHING-TE | VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SHOCKING REVELATION

China's abrupt move to dismantle its strict Covid-19 regime, which unleashed the virus onto its 1.4 billion residents, could have led to nearly 2 million excess deaths in the following two months, a new US study shows



of the day quote

Presently, a comprehensive plan formulated by Surbana Jurong (Singapore-based major infrastructure consulting firm) pertains to the Trincomalee district's development, supported by an established agreement between Sri Lanka and India
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT

Wagner's leadership vacuum would be compounded by the reports that founder and field commander Dmitry Utkin and logistics chief Valery Chekalov also died
RISHI SUNAK | UK PRIME MINISTER

If we let a large part of the working class and middle class go over to Marine Le Pen, the professional classes will not support us in the second round. On Sunday, I will say that this aspect of society is crucial. That is what could get Marine Le Pen elected in 2027, not questions on migration
GERALD DARMANIN | FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Threat to Imran's life in jail: Bushra Bibi

Islamabad: Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi Friday urged the Supreme Court to take "serious notice" of her husband's deteriorating health, saying it posed a "serious danger to his life". The 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently lodged in the Attock District Jail in Punjab province after his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case earlier this month.

Nawaz Sharif will return to Pak in Oct

Islamabad: Pakistan's former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif said Friday that his brother and former premier Nawaz Sharif will return to the country in October and ahead of general elections. Nawaz Sharif, 73, has been living in self-imposed exile in the UK since November 2019. He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo will return to Pakistan in October, Shehbaz told media persons in London, the Dawn newspaper reported.

China bans all Japanese seafood

Okuma (Japan): The tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has begun releasing its first batch of treated radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean — a controversial step that prompted China to immediately ban seafood from Japan. People inside and outside the country protested Thursday's wastewater release, with Japanese fishing groups fearing it will further damage the reputation of their seafood and groups in China and South Korea raising concerns.

British Museum director quits

London: The director of the British Museum said Friday he was stepping down with immediate effect after admitting to failings in the museum's investigation into the theft of items from its collection. Hartwig Fischer, a German art historian who was due to leave his post next year, said that the museum did not sufficiently respond to warnings that an employee may have been stealing items and the failings "must ultimately rest" with him.

TRUMP RETURNS TO X

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 25: Embattled Donald Trump has surrendered to authorities in Georgia on charges of plotting to overturn the state's 2020 election results in an arrest that saw the first-ever mug shot of a former US president.

Trump, 77, spent about 22 minutes inside the Fulton County Jail Thursday where he was booked on felony charges of racketeering and conspiracy linked to his alleged efforts to overturn his 2020 reelection loss in Georgia.

Trump was released pending trial after paying a USD 200,000 bond his lawyers negotiated earlier this week with Fulton County prosecutor Fani Willis.

His surrender in Georgia marks the fourth time this year the former president has turned himself in after criminal charges were brought against him by



federal and state officials. But it's the first time he was subjected to a mug shot. No previous US president has been charged with criminal offences. But Trump is now facing 91 charges across the four indictments for his alleged actions before, during and after his single-term presidency ended in January 2021.

Trump, a Republican, also posted the mug shot to his X account, formerly known as Twitter, as well as to Truth Social, both posts with the words

"election interference" and "never surrender." It marked Trump's first tweet since January 8, 2021, two days after the Capitol riots.

The Fulton County Jail released a mugshot picture of him, which soon went viral. The jail authorities recorded him as being 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighing 215 pounds (97 kg), with blond or strawberry hair and blue eyes.

His inmate number was P01135809. Trump, the leading Republican contender for the Republican Party's 2024 presidential nomination, told reporters that he has done nothing wrong.

The conditions of the agreement in part prohibit Trump from intimidating his co-defendants, witnesses or alleged victims in the case, including on social media. Before he boarded his plane back to New Jersey, Trump said that it was "a very sad day for America."

Putin will not attend G-20 summit in India

AGENCIES

Moscow, August 25: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not personally attend the G-20 summit to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced here Friday.

"No, the president has no such plans," the official Tass news agency quoted the Kremlin spokesman as saying.

The format of Putin's participation would be determined later, Peskov said.

Putin did not personally attend the just-concluded BRICS Summit in Johannesburg. He was represented by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. President Putin decided against attending the first in-person BRICS summit after Covid-19 as the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him in March over an alleged scheme to deport Ukrainian children to Russia.

South Africa is an ICC signatory and was expected to help in Putin's arrest if he was present in the country.

Putin has rarely left Russia since the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine that sparked a wave of international condemnation and unprecedented sanctions by the US and its allies. He also skipped last year's G-20 summit in Indonesia.



INDIA, GREECE ELEVATE TIES TO STRATEGIC LEVEL



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by President of Greece Katerina Sakellariopoulou in Athens

AGENCIES

Athens, August 25: India and Greece Friday elevated their ties to the level of strategic partnership, vowed to double bilateral trade by 2030 and agreed to firm up a migration and mobility pact soon during wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Modi, who arrived here from Johannesburg in the first visit to Greece by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years, said both sides decided to expand cooperation in areas of defence and security, infrastructure, agriculture, education and new and emerging technologies.

In reflection of their growing congruence in areas of defence and security, the two sides also agreed to have an institutional dialogue framework at the level of national security advisors.

The two sides also discussed mutual cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism and cyber security

An agreement on agricultural cooperation was also signed following the talks

The discussions covered digital payments, shipping, pharma, tourism, culture, education and people to people ties

Flanked by Mitsotakis, Modi said in his media statement that both India and Greece support diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the Ukraine crisis, adding both sides have "excellent coordination" on geopolitical, international and regional issues including that of the Indo-Pacific.

Firefighters in Greece struggle to control wildfires

Multiple wildfires have burned for days across Greece, including the major blaze near Alexandroupolis and one on the fringes of Athens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athens, August 25: Authorities battling a major wildfire in northeastern Greece that has been described as the European Union's largest single recorded fire recovered another body, the fire department said Friday, bringing the total death toll from wildfires in Greece this week to 21.

The fire department said firefighters recovered the body of a man from the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park, which lies near the border with Turkey, Thursday. Eighteen bodies were discovered Tuesday near a shack in an area near the northeastern city of Alexandroupolis, and the body of another person was found

Monday in a forest.

In central Greece, a man was found dead Monday in a sheep pen after reportedly trying to save his livestock from an advancing wildfire. With no reports of missing people in northeastern Greece, authorities suspect the people whose bodies were discovered in the area were migrants who may have crossed into the country recently from the nearby border with Turkey.

Greece's Disaster Victim Identification Team was activated to identify the remains, and a telephone hotline operating in English, Arabic, Pashto, Turkish and Urdu was set up for the relatives of potential victims to call. With gale force winds abating, firefighters were making headway Friday in tackling the blazes, appeared improved, although neither of the two main wildfires had been brought under control, the fire department said.

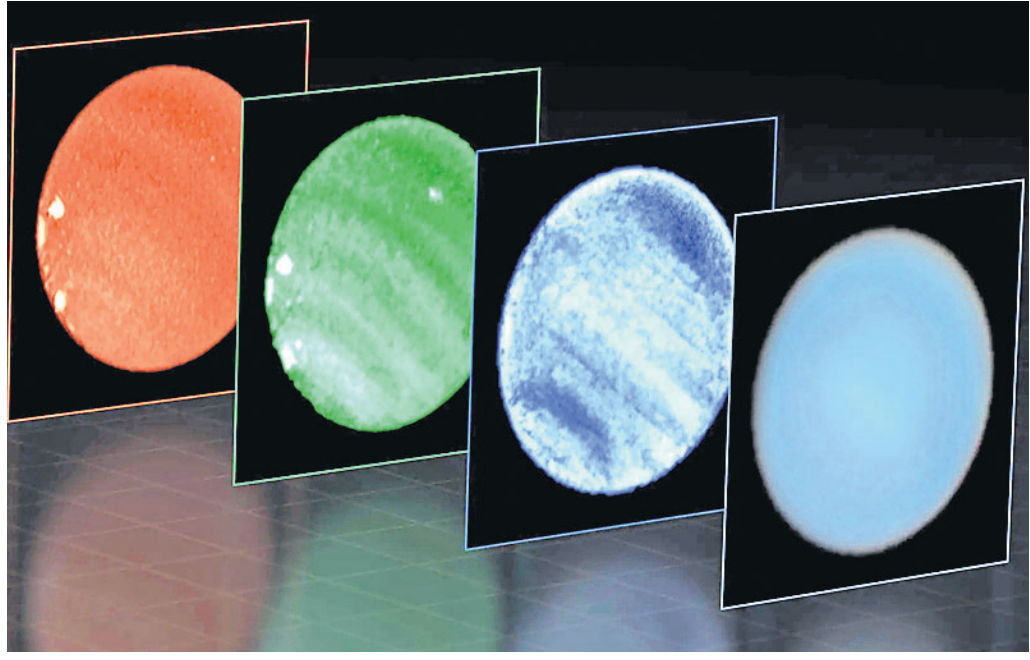
The Alexandroupolis area fire burned for a seventh day after combining with smaller fires to create a massive blaze that consumed homes and vast tracts of



forest. Nearly 15,000 people have been evacuated due to the blaze, government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis said Friday.

Authorities were concentrating on two active fronts, the fire department said, with 295 firefighters backed up with 85 vehicles, four planes and two helicopters. According to the EU's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, the fire had scorched more than 772 square kilometres (nearly 300 square miles) by Thursday. Copernicus is the EU space pro-

NEPTUNE'S MYSTERIOUS DARK SPOT



Astronomers have observed a large dark spot in Neptune's atmosphere, with an unexpected smaller bright spot adjacent to it. This is the first time a dark spot on the planet has ever been observed with a telescope on Earth. The new observations indicate that dark spots are likely the result of air particles darkening in a layer below the main visible haze layer, as ices and hazes mix in Neptune's atmosphere

Accusations of killing Yevgeny Prigozhin an 'absolute lie': Russia

AGENCIES

Moscow, August 25: The Kremlin said Friday that Western suggestions that the Wagner mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin had been killed on his orders were an "absolute lie" and declined to definitively confirm his death, citing the need to wait for test results.

President Vladimir Putin Thursday sent his condolences to Yevgeny Prigozhin's family, breaking his silence after the mercenary leader's plane crashed Wednesday evening with no survivors two months after he led a mutiny against army chiefs.

Vladimir Putin cited "preliminary information" as indicating that Yevgeny Prigozhin and his top associates in the Wagner mercenary group had been killed. Russian investigators have opened a probe into what happened, but have not yet said what they suspect caused the plane to suddenly fall from the sky northwest of Moscow.

Nor have they officially confirmed the identities of the 10 bodies recovered from the wreckage.

Western politicians and commentators have suggested that President Putin ordered Prigozhin killed to punish him for launching a failed June 23-24 mutiny against the top brass which represented the biggest challenge to Vladimir Putin's rule yet.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the accusation and many others like it were false. "There is now a great deal of speculation surrounding this plane crash and the tragic deaths



Belarus Prez said he warned Wagner chief

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said Friday that he had warned Russian mercenary chiefs Yevgeny Prigozhin and Dmitry Utkin to watch out for possible threats to their lives, and he insisted that Wagner fighters would remain in Belarus. Russian President Vladimir Putin initially vowed to crush Wagner chief's June mutiny, comparing it to the wartime turmoil that ushered in the revolution of 1917, but hours later a deal was clinched to allow Prigozhin and some of his fighters to go to Belarus.

of the plane's passengers, including Yevgeny Prigozhin. Of course, in the West, all this speculation is presented from a well-known angle," Mr Peskov told reporters.

"All of this is an absolute lie, and here, when covering this issue, it is necessary to base yourself on facts. There are not many facts yet. They need to be established in the course of investigative actions."

Dmitry Peskov said that it was important to wait for the results of various tests as well as the outcome of the investigation.

Zimbabwe braces for close election

REUTERS

Harare, August 25: Early parliamentary results in Zimbabwe showed the ruling party and the main opposition neck and neck Friday after an election in which President Emmerson Mnangagwa's ZANU-PF party was widely expected to maintain its 43-year grip on power.

Presidential results have yet to be announced after Wednesday's vote, which was extended into Thursday in some neighbourhoods due to late printing of ballot papers.

Mnangagwa, 80, is seeking reelection at a time when the southern African country is grappling with soaring inflation and high unemployment, with many Zimbabweans reliant on dollar remittances from relatives abroad to make ends meet. Zimbabwe's chances of resolving a debt crisis and obtaining World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans are at stake, as foreign lenders have said a free and fair vote is a pre-condition for any meaningful talks.

business

of the day quote

It is imperative we find feasible ways to increase the adoption of emerging materials and technologies in the construction industry



HARDEEP SINGH PURI | HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER

I am a massive fan of digital infrastructure that India has built. It is infrastructure, it is skills, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship



SHANTANU NARAYEN | CEO, ADOBE

The money required in the next 7-10 years is about \$4.5 trillion (to meet the priorities of development goals).



What we are proposing is every business contributes 0.2 per cent of profit to social development goals which are priority for the world

UDAY KOTAK | CEO OF KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

SHORT TAKES

Vedanta may list biz separately

New Delhi: Mining magnate Anil Agarwal has said his group's flagship firm Vedanta Ltd is considering demerger and separately listing all or some businesses like aluminum, iron and steel, and oil and gas to unlock shareholder value. While the London-based parent Vedanta Resources will continue to be the holding company of diversified mining group Vedanta Ltd, some or all businesses will operate separately as independent, listed companies. In a video message to shareholders, Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal said the company has a diversified presence in oil and gas, metals and mining, and a separate listing of different businesses will help them grow many folds.

IOC to invest ₹4L-cr

New Delhi: India's top fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest over Rs 4 lakh crore in this decade to expand oil refining and petrochemical business as well as in energy transition projects as part of a plan to become a '360-degree energy company', its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said Friday. IndianOil will invest Rs 1 lakh crore in expanding capacity to refine and turn crude oil into fuel and a staggering Rs 2.4 lakh crore in projects that will help it achieve net-zero carbon emissions from its operations. Another Rs 60,000 crore is planned to be invested in setting up a giant petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha.

Swiggy's IPO plans

Mumbai: Swiggy, the Softbank-backed food delivery company, is eyeing a 2024 stock market listing and has initiated talks with bankers to assess its valuation, after halting the process for months due to weak markets, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. Swiggy, which delivers food from restaurants and also groceries, was valued at \$10.7 billion in its last fundraising in 2022 but like many Indian startups put its IPO plans on hold amid a funding crunch and investor concerns about stretched valuations.

EDF unveils IDEEA

New Delhi: US-based Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) Friday launched a made-in-India open-source energy model, Indian Zero Carbon Energy Pathways (IDEEA), to help the country achieve carbon-neutral targets. The energy model provides multiple options to a consumer to make energy consumption low carbon intensive.

FIRST IN A YEAR

The quick commerce firm plans to go public by 2025

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 25: Indian grocery startup Zepto said Friday it has raised \$200 million in fresh funding at a valuation of \$1.4 billion, making it the first startup in the country to cross the billion-dollar valuation mark in nearly a year.

Zepto said it raised the funds "in the midst of the deepest downturn in capital markets in over a decade" from US-based

investment firms StepStone Group and Goodwater Capital. Existing backers including Nexus Venture Partners, Glade Brook Capital and Lachy Groom also participated in the deal.

Zepto, which promises delivery of groceries in 10 minutes, was started in 2021 by two 19-year-old Stanford dropouts, and competes with SoftBank-funded Swiggy and Blinkit, which are all betting on fast deliveries in the so-called quick commerce sector. Even among them, Zepto's CEO Aadit Palicha said the company has the quickest average delivery time of 13 minutes.

Zepto plans to use the funds to go deeper into the seven Indian

“Actually in a country like us, it (AI) will create jobs because it will empower people with the little skill or no skill, will empower them with information skill so that they can perform a higher level of jobs

N CHANDRASEKARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA SONS



metros it is currently present in, including Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, where it makes a monthly revenue of \$50 million-\$60 million, Palicha told Reuters. "Operating in a bear market

Drought ends as Zepto turns unicorn

This business is about execution and we are succeeding because our execution is strong. Our culture of deep frugality and worshipping customers has gotten us here, but there is still so much for us to achieve

AADIT PALICHA | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, ZEPTO

has forced us to be more disciplined. There is no (question of) growth or profit, it has to be both." The company is also planning an initial public offering in 2025, he said, without giving further details.

While Zepto is still loss-making, a majority of its so-called dark stores - densely located warehouses - generate cash and the company aims to be profitable in 12-15 months, it said.

The company will consider expanding to new cities after a year, Palicha said.

Zepto was valued at \$900 million when it last raised funds in May 2022. A company statement said it has tripled sales year-on-year and will achieve \$1 billion in annualised sales in the next few quarters.

Investment bank Avendus advised Zepto on its current fundraising round.

Markets drop amid rate hike concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 25: Benchmark Sensex declined by 365 points and Nifty settled below the 19,300 level in a volatile trade Friday as financials, capital goods and oil shares took a hit amid concerns over potential rate hikes and weak trend in global markets.

Falling for a second day in a row, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51. During the day, it dropped 519.77 points or 0.79 per cent to 64,732.57. The NSE Nifty declined by 120.90 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries and Tata Motors were among the major laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 62.15 points or 0.09 per cent and the Nifty dipped 44.35 points or 0.22 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned sellers Friday as they sold equities worth Rs 4,638.21 crore, according to exchange data.

15-MONTH HIGH

FM says the key priority for economic growth is taming price rise because persistently high inflation will weaken demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said India's economic growth in the first quarter of this fiscal should be good and that the government's priority is to tame inflation, which has touched a 15-month high.

Addressing business leaders in the national capital, she said that green shoots of private capital expenditure upcycle can be palpably felt as the government's enhanced capital expenditure is now crowding in private sector investments.

While mentioning about the key priorities of the government, Sitharaman also stressed that the focus is on Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) but essential imports will not be stopped.

She also emphasised on the need for diversification of supply chains at the earliest to avoid shocks.

Noting that India is the fastest growing major economy, she said that in another few days, the

'Taming inflation is priority'



Task for the central banks particularly in today's context is to keep in mind growth and growth-related priorities even as equally looking at controlling inflation

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

GDP numbers for the first quarter of 2023-24 will be released.

"As things stand, nobody has a clue. But everybody feels that yes, the first quarter did go on well, so the numbers should be good," Sitharaman said while speaking at the B20 Summit India 2023, being organised by industry body CII.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is scheduled to release the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for April-June quarter August 31.

She said there is a lot of interest on what the US Federal Reserve is going to say from Jackson Hole.

"All of us are wondering how that is going to come out be-

cause its spill over is also something which we notice," she said.

"It's basic economics. I'm not saying anything new. Equally, elevated interest rates for considerable time can come in the way of economic recovery," the finance minister said and added that the tendency to use interest rates as the only solution for dealing with inflation has its own downside.

"And most economies do have this problem, because I think, for want of a better word, obsession with using interest rate as the only tool to deal with inflation and not manage the supply side factors will not give a complete solution for inflation.

Temporarily it can give but sooner the supply side issues can creep the ugly heads up," she said.

Most of the central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have raised interest rates to tackle inflation following the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine war in February last year that has also disrupted global supply chains.

INDIA-UK FTA TALKS

India hopes to conclude talks over a free trade deal with the United Kingdom by the end of this year, Sitharaman said Friday, amid consensus on broad contours of the pact meant to boost economic growth and jobs.

"I won't be wrong in saying a free trade agreement with UK is very close," she said.

The finance minister's comments come as the two nations work to agree on issues including intellectual property rights, rules of origin and an investment treaty.

While the two nations are not working with a deadline to close the deal, India is committed to "a good outcome at the fastest possible speed", the country's trade minister Piyush Goyal said at a separate press conference Friday, after a G20 trade ministers gathering in Rajasthan, western India.

SEBI submits status report to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: Capital markets regulator SEBI Friday informed the Supreme Court that it has completed the probe in all but two allegations against the Adani group and is still awaiting information from five tax havens on actual owners behind foreign investors investing in the conglomerate.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India in a status report to the Supreme Court stated that out of the 24 matters it was probing, findings in as many as 22 are final.

Without divulging the outcome of its investigations, SEBI gave a detailed breakdown of the steps taken by it during its probe, including related party transactions.

ADANI-HINDENBURG SAGA

"SEBI shall take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in accordance with law," the regulator said in the filing.

The probe reports finalised include allegations of manipulation of stock prices, alleged failure to disclose transactions with related parties and possible violation of insider trading in some of the group stocks.

However, on the allegation of non-compliance with the minimum public sharing requirement by investing in its own companies through overseas proxies, SEBI said its investigation covered 13 overseas entities (12 foreign

portfolio investors and one foreign entity).

These 13 were classified as public shareholders of the Adani group companies but allegations including the US short-seller Hindenburg Research termed some of them as close associates or run by Vinod Adani, the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani.

"As many of the entities linked to these foreign investors are located in tax haven jurisdictions, establishing the economic interest shareholders of the 12 FPIs remains a challenge," SEBI said adding efforts are still being made to gather details from five foreign jurisdictions pertaining to the actual owners of these investors. Pending this, the probe report is interim, it said.

TSSEZL, ACME to set up green hydrogen, ammonia plant in GIP

Bhubaneswar: Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSSEZL) and diversified renewable energy company ACME Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia project at the Gopalpur Industrial Park in Odisha, making it the first ever green hydrogen project of the state and also east coast of India. This will be the largest single location green hydrogen and its derivatives manufacturing facility in the country. Under the definitive agreement, ACME Clean Energy Private Limited (ACME Group) will acquire 343 acres of land in TSSEZL's Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP), located in Ganjam district of

Odisha, to set up a green hydrogen and its derivatives unit. The total investment in this project by ACME Group is estimated to be Rs 27,000 crore, which will be invested in phases.



The brand new Tata ACE EV was unveiled in Bhubaneswar Friday by Biswaranjan Garanyakar (Tata Motors Finance, Regional Product Head), Anil Kumar Rawat (Zonal Head, Cholamandalam Finance) and Vishal Dhawan (MD-Consortium Automobiles Pvt Ltd)

AFTER TESLA PUSH

India mulls import tax cut if EV makers build locally

THE PROPOSAL COULD DISRUPT THE EV MARKET AND UPSET LOCAL PLAYERS LIKE TATA AND MAHINDRA THAT ARE INVESTING TO BUILD ELECTRIC CARS INDIGENOUSLY

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 25: India is working on a new electric vehicle policy that would slash import taxes for automakers that commit to some local manufacturing, following a proposal by Tesla which is considering entering the domestic market, people with direct knowledge said.

The policy being considered could allow automakers to import fully-built EVs into India at a reduced tax as low as 15%, compared to the current 100% that applies to cars which cost above \$40,000 and 70% for the rest, said

two of the sources, including a senior Indian government official.

Tesla's best-selling Model Y, for example, starts at \$47,740 in the US before tax credits.

"There is an understanding with Tesla's proposal and government is showing interest," said the official, who is familiar with the issue.

If such a policy is adopted, it could amount to a drastic reduction in the cost of imported EVs that local carmakers have been keen to avoid. It could also open the door for global automakers, beyond Tesla, to tap the



world's third-largest car market where sales of EVs are less than 2% of total car sales, but growing rapidly.

The lower import taxes could help Tesla sell its full range of models in India, and not just the new car it wants to make locally,

said a third source.

Shares of Tata Motors, India's largest electric car manufacturer, fell nearly 3% on the Reuters report, while rival Mahindra and Mahindra dropped over 2%, dragging the benchmark auto index to an

intra-day low with losses of 1.1%.

"This is going to go through a lot of deliberations even though government is keen on getting Tesla. That's because of the impact on domestic players," said the official.

The policy is still in the initial stages of deliberation and the final tax rate could change, two of the sources said.

TESLA'S NEW EV

Other countries have taken similar measures to spur EV manufacturing commitments. Indonesia, for example, has offered to reduce import duties from 50% to zero for EV makers planning investments, a move seen aimed at attracting Chinese players and Tesla.

Tesla first tried to enter India in 2021 by pushing officials to lower the 100% import tax for

Forex reserves post steepest weekly dip in over 6 months

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 25: India's foreign exchange reserves declined to a near two-month low of \$594.89 billion as of August 18 and posted their steepest weekly fall in more than six months, data from the country's central bank showed Friday.



They fell by \$7.27 billion from the prior week, the sharpest decline since the week ended February 10.

The changes in foreign currency assets, expressed in dollar terms, include the effects of appreciation or depreciation of other currencies held in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) reserves.

The RBI also intervenes in the spot and forwards markets to prevent runaway moves in the rupee.

In the week for which the forex reserves data pertains, the rupee dropped to a 10-month low of 83.16 against the US dollar, prompting intervention from the RBI, as per traders. The currency ended at 82.6475 Friday, rising more than 0.5% for the week and logging its best weekly performance since July 14.

For the week ended August 18, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$6.613 billion to \$527.786 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down by \$515 million to \$43.824 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$119 million to \$18.205 billion, the apex bank said.

NEERAJ QUALIFIES FOR 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

Olympics gold-winning javelin thrower enters World Athletics Championships finals along with Manu, Jena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, August 25: Neeraj Chopra needed just one big throw to qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics and the World Athletics Championships (WAC) javelin throw final, pulling off a commendable first-attempt of 88.77m here Friday.

Not only Chopra but DP Manu (81.31m) and Odisha's Kishore Jena (80.55m) also made the cut as three Indians qualified the final of an event in the World Championships for the first time ever. The 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying mark is 85.50m. The qualifying window had opened July 1.

The 25-year-old Chopra's qualifying round lasted just a few minutes as he sent the spear to his season's best distance in his very first attempt in the Group A qualification round. He topped the qualification round. Chopra had won a silver in the 2022 World Championships in USA.

With the automatic final qualification mark set for 83m, Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, packed up and left the competition arena without taking any further throw. The final will be held Sunday. Those who throw 83m or the top-12 best performers from both Group A and B qualify for the final.

Competing in the same group with Chopra in his debut World Championships, Manu finished third and sixth overall with a best throw of 81.31m which he produced in his second attempt. Manu had won a silver in the Asian Championships in July.

Jena, whose visa was rejected first by the Hungarian embassy in New Delhi before being cleared the next day, ended fifth in Group B and ninth overall with 80.55m. It is also his debut World Championships.



"For the first time three Indians have qualified for the final round of an event in World Championships. It has never happened earlier. It's a historic day for Indian javelin," a team coach in the Indian contingent told PTI. India first participated in the World Championships in 1983.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan also qualified for the 2024 Paris Games with his season best throw of 86.79m. Nadeem topped Group B and finished second overall.

Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, who won silver medal behind Chopra in Tokyo Olympics, was second in Group B and third overall with a best throw of 83.50m. Germany's Julian Weber was fourth overall with a best throw of 82.39m.

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who has been struggling for form this season, failed to qualify for the final

round after finishing seventh in Group A and 16th overall with a best throw of 78.49m.

A World Championships gold is the only medal missing in Chopra's decorated cabinet and going by the performances of other competitors in the qualification round, the superstar Indian looked primed to achieve the feat and add another milestone in his illustrious career.

He won gold medals in Olympics (Tokyo in 2021), Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018), besides becoming the Diamond League champion last year.

Six track and field athletes have already qualified for the 2024 Olympics before Chopra. Akshdeep Singh, Vikas Singh and Paramjeet Bishit qualified for men's 20km race walk and Priyanka Goswami made the cut for women's 20km race walk. Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable have also qualified.

India to send 634 athletes for Asian Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 25: A record number of 634 sportspersons were Friday cleared by the Sports Ministry to compete at the Hangzhou Asian Games, surpassing the 572 athletes in the last edition of continental showpiece in Jakarta in 2018.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had recommended 850 athletes for event to be held in Hangzhou from September 23. Track and field events have got the pride of place as 65 athletes - 34 men and 31 women - are part of the huge contingent.

Sportspersons in 38 disciplines have been cleared, with a total of 44 footballers - 22 players in men's and women's sections respectively - figuring in the list. Hockey constitutes the third-

highest number of athletes at 36, with the ministry clearing 18 players each in the men's and women's sections. The list also includes the men's and women's cricket teams, comprising 15 members each respectively.

Shooting sport, in which India has performed consistently in the continental showpiece, will see a big 30-member contingent competing in Hangzhou, while a 33-member sailing contingent has also been cleared.

The ministry has not cleared any male athlete in weightlifting, gymnastics, handball and rugby. Only two sportspersons have been cleared in kurash (martial art) and weightlifting (both women), while only one gymnast has been included in the list.

Bajrang in contingent
The ministry has included the



19th Asian Games
Hangzhou 2022

name of wrestler Bajrang Punia (65kg) in the list, going with the IOA ad-hoc panel's decision to recommend his name without appearing for the Asian Games trials last month. Vishal Kaliraman had topped the trials in the weight category and has appealed to the ministry to include his name.

Bajrang, however, has indicated that he might withdraw

from the Asian Games if all the khap panchayats that backed him during the protest at Jantar Mantar ask him to do so.

Wrestler Antim Panghal (53kg) name figures in the list after 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Panghal - who too had been exempted from the Asian Games trials and given direct entry - pulled out due to a knee injury.

Indian chess player Koneru Humpy, the double Asian Games gold medalist in 2006 who had indicated earlier this year she might not go for the continental event, is an integral part of a formidable chess team that includes D Harika and R Praggnanandhaa, who Thursday finished runner-up at the FIDE World Cup after losing to World No.1 Magnus Carlsen, among others.

NEWS IN BRIEF

India eves starts 5s WC qualifier in style

NEW DELHI: India began their campaign in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier with a rousing 7-2 win against Malaysia in Oman Friday. For India, captain Navjot Kaur (3th, 28th), Akshata Dhekale (4th), Mariana Kujur (17th), Monika Dipi Toppo (12th, 20th) and Mahima Choudhary (28th) were on target. Malaysia struck through Wan Wan (7th) and Aziz Zafirah (11th). India will next take on Japan Saturday.

Prannoy assures India World C'ships medal

COPEHAGEN: World No.9 HS Prannoy assured India a medal at the BWF World Championships after came from a set down to outfit World No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 13-21, 21-15, 21-16 in the men's singles quarterfinals here, Friday. The 31-year-old Indian will face World No.3 Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the semifinals, Saturday. Earlier, the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty missed out on a second Worlds medal following a shocking 18-21, 19-21 loss to 11th seeded Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark in the men's doubles quarterfinals. The World No.2 Indian pair had claimed a maiden bronze in the last edition.

OFC to open AFC Cup campaign vs MBSG

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha FC will make their debut in the AFC Cup 2023-24, having earned direct qualification to the group stages of Asia's second-tier competition. This achievement follows their 2022-23 Super Cup triumph and a subsequent successful Club playoff against Gokulam Kerala FC. They will kick off their campaign against Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) September 19 at the Kalinga Stadium here. OFC have been drawn in Group D of the south zone along with MBSG, Bashundhara Kings (Bangladesh) and Maziya Sports & Recreation Club (MSR) of Maldives. Group stage matches will be played on a home-and-away basis, with the group winners qualifying for the inter-zone playoff semifinals. Kalinga Stadium will also host the match between OFC and MSR (Oct 24) as well as the OFC-Bashundhara Kings game, Dec 11. OFC will play their away matches against Oct 2 (vs Bashundhara Kings), Nov 7 (vs MSR) and Nov 27 (MBSG).

India ace women's 50m pistol with 6 gold medals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baku (Azerbaijan), August 25: Tiyyana, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur combined to clinch gold in the Women's 50m Pistol here Friday as India finished the 2023 ISSF World Championships with six gold and eight bronze medals in total.

Hence, India finished the event with 14 medals, second behind China. India also ensured four Paris Olympic quotas from the

tournament. In the team event, the Indian trio grossed 1,573 points to secure gold while China finished second with 1,567, and Mongolia was third with 1,566.

Later, Tiyyana also won a bronze in the individual Women's 50m Pistol event. Tiyyana shot 533 during the individual competition. Sakshi shot 531 for the fifth place and Kirandeep finished 11th while shooting 509.

India also got hold of a couple of bronze medals in the men's 50m Pistol. Ravinder Singh came up with a shot of 556 in the individual event, taking the third spot before partnering with Kamaljeet and Vikram Shinde to bag the team bronze with a total of 1,646.

In the final Olympic event of the tournament, the Indian duo of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Manisha Keer produced a shot of 133 and finished 22nd. On the other hand, Kynan Chenai and Preeti Rajak also came up with the same score but were placed 24th in the final calculations.

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