

August rain fail

India on track for lowest monsoon rains in last eight years as August, this year, is set to be the driest in a century

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 28: India is poised for its lowest monsoon rains in eight years, with the El Niño weather pattern seen crimping September precipitation after an August that is on track to be the driest in over a century, two weather department officials told Reuters Monday.

The summer rainfall deficit could make essentials such as sugar, pulses, rice and vegetables more expensive and lift overall food inflation, which jumped in July to the highest since January 2020.

The monsoon, vital for India's \$3 trillion economy, delivers nearly 70 per cent of the rain the country needs to water crops and refill reservoirs and aquifers. Nearly half of the farmland in the world's most populous nation lacks irrigation.

EL NIÑO EFFECT

- India is on course to end the monsoon season with a rainfall deficit of at least 8%, likely the widest since 2015
- Food inflation, which jumped in July to the highest since January 2020, may spike further with little rain on cards

"El Niño dampened rainfall in August, and it will also have a negative impact on September rainfall," said a senior official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD). They declined to be identified since they were not authorised to brief the media.

Indian weather authorities are expected to announce their September forecast August 31. In its last full-season forecast, May 26, the IMD had anticipated

a rainfall deficit of 4 per cent for the season, assuming limited impact from the El Niño weather pattern. El Niño is a warming of Pacific waters that is typically accompanied by drier conditions over the Indian subcontinent.

India is heading for its driest August in more than a century, weather department officials said earlier this month. The current monsoon has been uneven, with June rains 9 per cent below average but July rains rebounding to 13 per cent above average.

The southwest monsoon will begin withdrawing from north-western India on time or slightly before the normal date of September 17, the other IMD official said. The last four Septembers have seen above-average rains due to delayed withdrawal of the monsoon, he said.



VALLEY VISIT: Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska (middle) and others in Kashmiri attire during her Jammu and Kashmir visit, in Srinagar, Monday

CM grants land rights to 65K slum families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday handed over land ownership certificates to 65,000 poor families living in slums under Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur, and Rourkela municipal corporation areas at a programme organised at the Kalinga Stadium here. Incidentally, Odisha is the only state in the country to give land rights to slum dwellers.

Addressing a gathering on this occasion, Patnaik said that financial assistance will also be provided to the beneficiaries for the construction of houses. The second phase of certificate distribution is scheduled for October this year. He said that this campaign will continue till all the poor families in these cities get land rights.

It is pertinent to mention that the Jaga Mission pro-

gramme, which started in 2018, provides land rights to poor families living in urban slums. Till now, more than 2,40,000 families in different cities of the state have received land rights. Along with this, 40,000 families have been given assistance for building houses. With the aim of making Odisha slum-free, all these slums are being given all basic facilities and converted into Biju Model Colonies. Till now, 1,010 settlements in 68 urban areas have been converted into Biju Model Colonies.

"The city is not only for the rich. Even the poor have the right to live in the city with their families. The labour of the poor is added to every brick used in the construction of the city. We should all respect their contribution. Jaga Mission has given respect to the poor, giving them a new identity," the Chief Minister said.

JAGA MISSION

MORE P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We are sports officials, officer. Our duty is here. Neeraj Chopra is going to perform shortly

JR AMBANIS JOIN RELIANCE BOARD

Mumbai: Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani began executing a succession plan for his energy-to-technology conglomerate Reliance Industries, appointing his three children Isha, Akash, and Anant to the board of the company Monday. Till now, the three children were involved only at operating business-level and none were on the board of India's largest listed company. Reliance is seeking a shareholder nod for giving Mukesh another five-year term till April 2029. His wife Nita was a director on the company board but she has resigned to make way for the children.

P3

JUVENILE KILLS SELF AT CORRECTION HOME

Bhawanipatna: A 16-year-old juvenile lodged at a correction home at Kusadangar under Sadar police limits here in Kalahandi district committed suicide by hanging, Sunday night. The deceased was arrested August 12 by Nabarangpur Town police on charge of raping a minor at Kukudabai area, August 5. Subsequently, he was sent to the correction home here by a juvenile justice board. He went to sleep after dinner, Sunday night. However, the warden discovered him hanging from the ceiling at late night and informed the authorities. Police handed over the body to his family after post-mortem and started a probe.

Aditya-L1 all set for Sept 2 launch: ISRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 28: After Chandrayaan-3 Moon mission's success, ISRO Monday announced that India's first solar mission Aditya-L1 to study the Sun will be launched September 2 at 11.50am from Sriharikota spaceport.

Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed to provide remote observations of the solar corona and in-situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth

Lagrange point), which is about 1.5 million kilometre from the Earth.

Lagrange Points are positions in space where the gravitational forces of the Sun and the Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion. These can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position, according to NASA. Lagrange points are named in honor of Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange.



The space agency said in a social media post that the spacecraft -- the first space-based

Indian observatory to study the Sun -- would be launched using a PSLV-C57 rocket.

The Aditya-L1 mission, aimed at studying the Sun from an orbit around the L1, would carry seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the corona -- the outermost layers of the Sun -- in different wavebands.

Aditya-L1 is a fully indigenous effort with the participation of national institutions, an ISRO official said.

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MILEY SAYS TOURING ISN'T HEALTHY FOR HER

Singer-songwriter Miley Cyrus has enjoyed an extremely successful career since bursting onto the scene, but she admits that the touring side of her job isn't healthy for her. Cyrus burst onto the scene in 2005 as the lead star in Disney's *Hannah Montana* before making it big as a musician.

ADELE HALTS SHOW TO DEFEND FAN

Singer Adele is the latest artiste to defend fans from security guards during a performance. In a fan-captured video that made its way online, the singer looked furious while confronting a security member in the crowd and stopped the show for both a fan.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Boy! Are you ambitious today or what! You plan meticulously and perform impeccably. However, you will progress at snail's pace. But don't lose heart, as Ganesh shows his blessings on you, dear one.

TAURUS

Planning your own milestones and celebrating the success of friends is the agenda for the day. Your thoughts will be progressive in business or at work, and any plans you make will make a rock-solid foundation for your future. Social gatherings and parties will beckon with bubbly and bruschetta.

GEMINI

You may come up with a precise understanding of others today, says Ganesh. You will please your sweetheart with both your presence and presents. You will browse through dozens of showrooms for that perfect, and expensive, gift for your beloved. You will also work towards achieving your long-term goals.

CANCER

Today, you and your soul mate will be rolling in the hay; there will be little time or inclination to do anything else. In fact, you will show such single-minded devotion to the act of rolling as if the future of the world lies in the haystack.

LEO

Try and put on some protective gear today — maybe a suit of armour should do fine, says Ganesh. For, you may find some need for it on this day of mixed fortunes as you miss out the expected and come face-to-face with the unexpected. Manage through the day somehow, since the day's distress will eventually give way to an evening of ecstasy and a night of pleasant surprises, portends Ganesh.

VIRGO

Today, you will be aspire to be a master of your own destiny. You have the ability to see through the façade that people put up to shield their true self. You will choose your company wisely and plan for success. Polish your presentation skills and you may need to work an extra bit to get your ideas approved, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

Ganesh feels the day will be beneficial for you when it comes to transactions with the government. But you already expect that. It is more than likely that public servants will have encouraging and optimistic achievements lined up for their efforts.

SCORPIO

Ganesh feels that you may be confronted with vital decisions at work. You will need to trust the opinions of your close friends and peers so that you may take informed decisions. Keep your mind away from negative thoughts and delegate responsibilities accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS

The sage within you will take the lead today. You are likely to prescribe yourself to your own medication for peace of mind. Wise and content that you are today, you will spread the message of love around you.

CAPRICORN

People may call you a busy bee, but that you admittedly will be, says Ganesh. Work will demand your undivided attention, but the good thing is you will quickly get done with pending work one by one. In fact, you will be left with plenty of time in the evening which you are likely to spend romancing with your sweetheart. In fact, if you are lucky enough, your affair could take a new turn today as a physical relation is on the cards.

AQUARIUS

Expect the unexpected today! Success, money, love, whatever it is that you'd lost hope of will suddenly come your way! In the evening, you may catch up with reading, research, discussion or other such activity, says Ganesh.

PISCES

Today is a day of mixed fortunes. So, while you may not win a gazillion dollars in the daily lottery, you might just end up winning a return air ticket to Timbuktu. No one has really been there, but it is better than nothing.

Divya pushes boundaries

New Delhi: Known for her appearances on reality shows, actress, model and dancer Divya Agarwal has opened up about a drowning scene in the romantic drama series *Fuh se Fantasy*, that pushed her boundaries beyond her comfort zone.

Divya has embarked on a transformative journey with her current role as Anjali in *Fuh se Fantasy*. The show explores various aspects of personal fantasies.

Talking about the same, Divya said: "The scene that truly tested my limits was when I had to portray drowning. It was challenging because I'm actually a proficient swimmer, and simulating drowning felt unnatural. I found myself repeatedly floating upwards, struggling to get it right. This process took some time and even impacted my well-being, underscoring its difficulty."

She added: "Stepping beyond the familiar is a beautiful aspect of our humanity. Personally, I've always embraced this idea, and this project was no exception. Immersing myself in it was genuinely exciting; I didn't need exhaustive preparation. The thrill was akin to a sleepless night before a school field trip, and I'm genuinely happy with the outcome."

The show stars Milind Soman, Divya,

Arjit Taneja, Nyrrea M. Banerjee, Smaran Sahu, Poulomi Das, Anuj Sachdeva. Delving into the complexities of human emotions, the series paints a vivid canvas of modern relationships that unapologetically embrace their fantasies.

It is streaming on JioCinema. IANS



THE GKCM YUVA PRATIBHA SAMMAN, WITH A CASH PRIZE OF ₹25,000 AND A CITATION WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED TO FOUR EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED PERFORMING ARTISTES UNDER THE AGE OF 40 YEARS

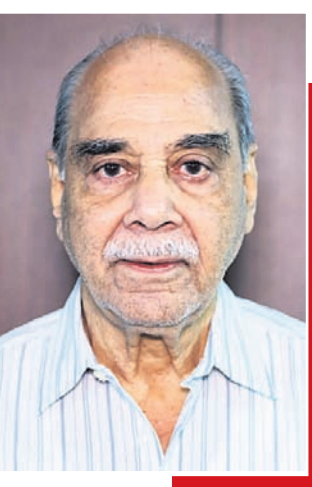
BHUBANESWAR: Indian classical dancer and Rajya Sabha member Sonal Mansingh and renowned theatre personality Anant Mahapatra will receive the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award 2023 for their outstanding contributions.

The award carrying a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation will be presented at the 29th OMC GKCM award festival to be held here at Rabindra Mandap from September 5 to 9.

The Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman 2023, with a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 and a citation will also be presented to four exceptionally talented performing artistes under the age of 40 years.

Arupa Gayatri Panda and Siddhi Waikar will receive the

GKCM HONOUR FOR SONAL, ANANT



same for Odissi dance, while Vishal Krishna will take home the honour for Kathak and Arup Das for Odissi music (Mardala).

The GKCM Award Festival 2023 is organised by Srjan annually and will be held in collaboration with the institutional support of Sri Sri University, Cuttack.

Srjan will also host its flagship annual classical dance and music festival in memory of

Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, with the aim of creating and sustaining awareness of our classical traditions in dance and music.

The Award Festival will witness solo dance performances accompanied by a live orchestra in the first half of each evening, followed by music recitals in the second half.



The inaugural evening will open with an Odissi dance recital by Shashwati Garai Ghosh, followed by the Carnatic

violin duo of Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi.

Subsequent evenings present Kathak by Shila Mehta, Bharatanatyam by P. Praveen Kumar, and Kuchipudi by Amrita Lahiri.

Each of these dance performances will be followed by musical recitals that feature a Hindustani vocal rendering by Jayateerth Mevundi, a Sitar musical by Niladri Kumar and a Tabla recital by Akram Khan, respectively.

On the concluding evening is the prestigious award ceremony, followed by the much-awaited finale by the Srjan ensemble led by Ratikant Mohapatra.

They will present v hanam—Invoking excellence in Art and beyond, a refreshing amalgam of the traditional and the experimental in a bouquet of neo-classical choreographs in Odissi dance.

Orissa POST and Dharitri are the print media partners for the event. PNN

Malaika debunks break-up rumours



Mumbai: After being spotted together at a restaurant for a lunch date, Malaika Arora Monday shared a cryptic post, which seems she is debunking break-up rumours with actor Arjun Kapoor.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Malaika shared a photo of the cartoon character Snoopy, from American comic strip Peanuts, written and illustrated by Charles M. Schulz. The picture had a quote: "Stay close to people who feel like sunshine."

Malaika and Arjun were spotted together

Sunday, enjoying each other's company as they stepped out for a lunch date. The two were spotted walking out of a restaurant in Mumbai.

It was being reported that Arjun and Malaika have parted ways and Arjun was now dating social media influencer and actor Kusha Kapila. However, Kusha, who has recently separated from Zorawar Singh Ahluwalia, denied any such development.

Malaika and Arjun were rumoured to have ended their relationship after Malaika reportedly unfollowed Arjun's family including father Boney Kapoor, sisters Anshula, Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor, on Instagram.

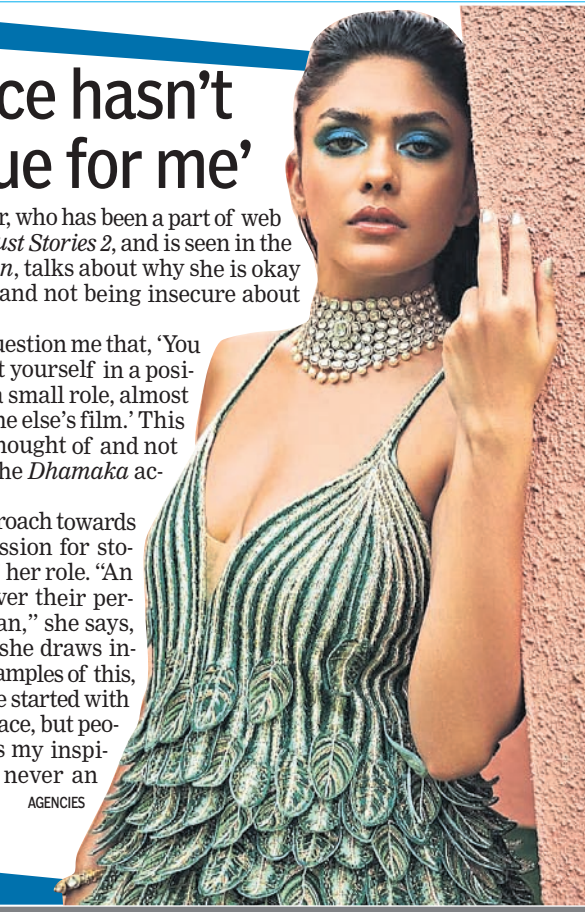
Before dating Arjun, Malaika was married to actor-director Arbaaz Khan, brother of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan. After getting married in 1998, they announced their separation in March 2016, and got officially divorced in May 2017. IANS

'Screen space hasn't been an issue for me'

Mumbai: Actor Mrunal Thakur, who has been a part of web anthologies *Ghost Stories* and *Lust Stories 2*, and is seen in the recent web show *Made in Heaven*, talks about why she is okay being part of just one segment and not being insecure about screen time.

"Sometimes, filmmakers do question me that, 'You are a heroine, why would you put yourself in a position where you are only playing a small role, almost like a guest appearance in someone else's film.' This is really something that I never thought of and not that I want to think about," says the *Dhamaka* actress.

The 31-year-old adds that her approach towards acting is to "emphasise on the passion for storytelling" rather than the length of her role. "An actor's biggest challenge is to deliver their performance in as little time as they can," she says, crediting the late actor Irrfan who she draws inspiration from. "One of the biggest examples of this, and a person I worship, is Irrfan sir. He started with roles that didn't have much screen space, but people remember that role for life. He is my inspiration, and hence, screen space is never an issue for me," she asserts. AGENCIES



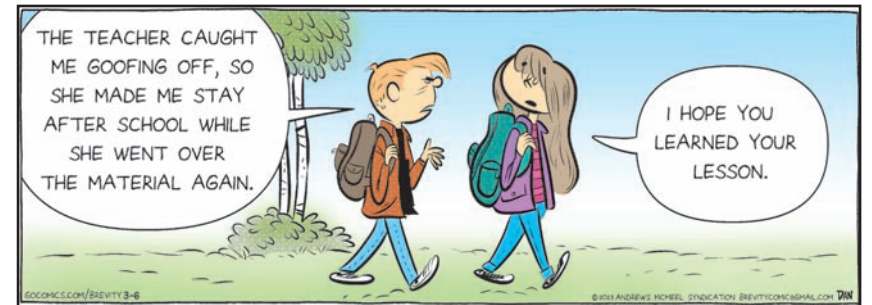
PEANUTS



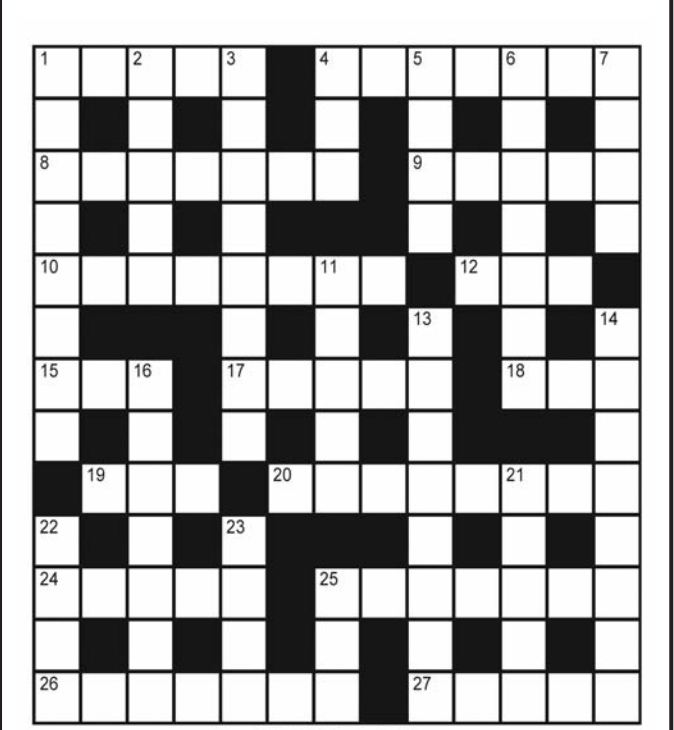
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



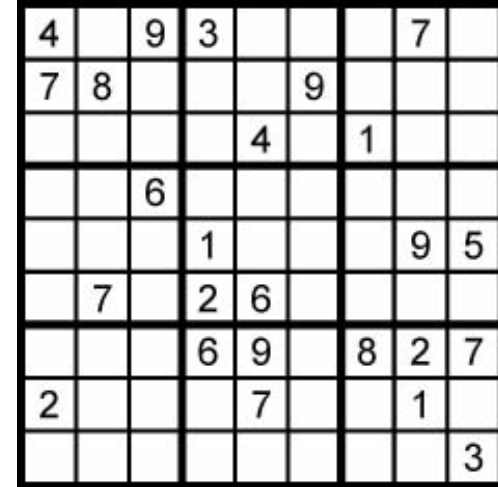
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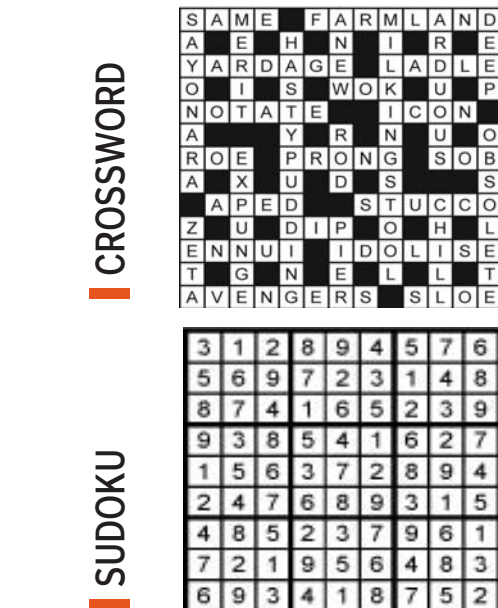
- Across**
- 1 Bashful
 - 4 Decrease
 - 8 Tackle
 - 9 Spherical
 - 10 Kid's winter wear
 - 12 Feathery wrap
 - 15 Rascal
 - 17 Hopping mad
 - 18 Health resort
 - 19 Canny
 - 20 Blood feud
 - 24 Spiralled-horned antelope
 - 25 Pungent herb
 - 26 Lizard type
 - 27 Colossus
- Down**
- 1 Send
 - 2 Words to remember
 - 3 Housekeeper
 - 4 Morse E
 - 5 Pressing need?
 - 6 Questionable
 - 7 Icelandic epic
 - 11 Fatuous
 - 13 Draw (4,4)
 - 14 Chewy cookie
 - 16 Champion
 - 21 Breakfast bread
 - 22 Unguent
 - 23 Door sign
 - 25 Paddle

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

JAGA MISSION

Over 2.4 lakh families now have own space on Earth



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: With 65,000 poor families living in urban slums across the state receiving land ownership certificate from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday, the total number of beneficiary families covered under the Jaga Mission programme, which started in 2018, stands well over 2,40,000 at present.

Along with this, 40,000 families have been given assistance for building houses. With the aim of making slum-free Odisha, these slums are being given all basic facilities and are being converted into Biju Model Colonies. Till now, 1010 settlements in 68 urban areas have been converted into

Biju Model Colony.

At Monday's land rights certificate distribution ceremony the Chief Minister said, "The city is not only for the rich. Even the poor have the right to live in the city with their families. The labour of the poor is added to every brick used in the construction of the city. We should all respect their contribution. Jaga Mission has given respect to the poor, giving them a new identity."

Stating that the Jaga Mission has attracted the attention of the whole world, he said the poor have the first right in the city. Patnaik observed that the Mission has ushered in a new era in the transformation of cities "The 5T initiative has accelerated

our efforts to transform people's lives," he added.

The Chief Minister thanked Tata Steel Foundation for its significant contribution to the Jaga Mission programme. He said, "We are moving ahead with everyone's cooperation."

Stating that the government's goal is to build a new Odisha, a strong Odisha, a transformed Odisha, he said, "Today's programme will be a milestone towards achieving this goal."

During this programme, the Chief Minister inaugurated 1010 Biju Model Colonies and honoured the cities of Cuttack, Khordha, Koraput, and Jaipur for their outstanding work in the construction of the Biju Model Colony.

He said that where it is not possible to give a place to the slum dwellers in their own place due to legal reasons, new colonies are being set up in nearby places with the consent of all. Chikiti, Boudh, Dhenkanal, and Keshinga were also promoted by the Chief Minister for their outstanding work in setting up the new colonies.

Dhenkanal district has been the first in the country to grant land rights to slum dwellers under the Forest Rights Act.

SHOT IN THE ARM

MP Sujeet Kumar inaugurates a Medico Legal Facilitation Centre at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Monday, as police commissioner SK Priyadarsi, additional police commissioner Umashankar Dash and DCP Prateek Singh look on



SKY WARRIORS: Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent reaches Egyptian Air Force Base to participate in Exercise 'Bright Star-23', in Cairo, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Comic book for schoolkids by NCERT, UNESCO

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 28: Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will launch an innovative comic book titled 'Let's move forward' which is developed jointly by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The ministry said that the comic book focuses on promoting adolescent health and well-

The comic book 'Let's move forward', which will be unveiled Tuesday, covers essential themes related to adolescent health and wellbeing

being. The ministry said that the special book will be launched in New Delhi Tuesday. The comic book is aligned with the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP) initiated under Ayushman Bharat.

SHWP, a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Education

and Health and Family Welfare, aims to provide health education, disease prevention, and better access to healthcare services in schools, the official at Education Ministry added.

The 'Let's move forward' comic book covers essential themes related to adolescent

health and wellbeing. Its interactive approach imparts crucial life skills and health knowledge. The book will be available in multiple languages, official said.

The launch anticipates positive implications for schools and health departments across the nation, contributing to a healthier and empowered generation. The e-copy of the comic book will be made available on the MoE, NCERT, UNESCO and DIKSHA website, the official added.

CBI books ED assistant director over bribery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against Enforcement Directorate (ED) assistant director Pawan Khatri in connection with an alleged payment of ₹5 crore bribe by liquor businessman Amandeep Dhall who wanted help in the Delhi excise policy scam case, officials said.

Along with the two, the CBI has also named an assistant general manager of Air India Deepak Sangwan, the CEO of Claridges Hotels and Resorts Vikramaditya, chartered accountant Praveen Kumar Vats and two others - Nitesh Kohar, an UDC in the ED, and Birender Pal Singh, they said.

The CBI action was initiated on a complaint from the ED, which during its probe in the Delhi government's excise policy scam found that Amandeep Dhall, an accused in the case, and his father Birender Pal Singh gave ₹5 crore bribe to chartered accountant Praveen Vats for arranging help in the ED probe, the officials said. Vats told the ED that Sangwan had introduced him to Khatri in December 2022, they said.

Vats said that he paid ₹50 lakh as advance to Sangwan and Khatri in December 2022 at a parking place behind ITC Hotel in Vasant Vihar for taking out Dhall's name from the list of the accused, they said.

MAHAPATRA CREMATED WITH STATE HONOURS

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, August 28: The last rites of noted poet Padma Shri Jayanta Mahapatra was performed with full state honours at Khan Nagar crematorium here Monday.

In the presence of family members, friends, well-wishers and several personalities from the literary world, Mahapatra's mortal remains were consigned to flames with full state honours.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani, and Chairman Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) Anil Samal, who were present at the cremation ground, offered their tributes to the departed legendary poet.

The eminent litterateur died Sunday while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

He was 95. Mahapatra was suffering from pneumonia and old-



Eminent litterateur Jayanta Mahapatra died Sunday while undergoing treatment at SCBMCH

age related complications for the last several days.

Born October 22, 1928, Mahapatra was the first Indian to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for English poetry. He is the author of poems such as 'Indian Summer' and 'Hunger', which are considered classics in modern Indian English literature.

The eminent poet was awarded the Padma Shri in 2009. However, he returned the award in 2015 protesting against the 'rising intolerance' in the country.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep grief and sorrow on Mahapatra's demise. In a mes-

sage, the Chief Minister described him as a legendary author and poet, who was a genius in both English and Odia literature.

"His mellifluous words will continue to weave their magic reminding us of the power of human expression. The vivid imagery of his writings about daily life, particularly drawn from Cuttack, will always remain a rich encapsulation of Odia life," the CM added.

The Chief Minister has wished peace and tranquility for the departed soul and expressed his deep sympathies for the bereaved family.

CM announces ₹25L reward for Kishore Jena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday announced a cash reward of ₹25 lakh for javelin thrower Kishore Jena who is the first athlete from Odisha to represent India at the finals of the World Athletics Championship.

He finished a creditable fifth in the javelin throw final at the World Championships in Budapest, Sunday. He achieved a personal best with a throw covering a distance of 84.77 metres.

"Kishore Jena's remarkable journey and exceptional performance at the World Athletics Championship in Budapest have not only brought glory to our state and nation but would also inspire many athletes for years to come," Patnaik said.

His participation in this championship not only represents a personal achievement but also showcases the sportsmanship and talent that Odisha has to offer to the world, the chief minister said.

BJD's 'double standards' jibe at Dharmendra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Monday lashed out at Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan alleging the senior BJP leader of maintaining double standards on violence in politics.

Citing the example of Pradhan's 'frequent meetings' with Chilika MLA Prasanta Kumar Jagadev, BJD MP Sasmit Patra said BJD does not believe in any form of violence or obstruction in public life.

BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik had expelled Jagadev after the Chilika MLA was found to have assaulted BJP's Balugaon Mandal Sabhapati Niranjan Sethi September 8, 2021. However, Jagadev, who is known for his highhandedness and is ready to join the saffron camp, is having regular meetings with Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the Parliamentarian said.

"What example are you (Pradhan) setting for the people of Odisha? What will you tell



the people of Odisha? That a man who was expelled from BJD for goondaism and hooliganism is being embraced by you only for political benefits? How will you face the people of Odisha? People will know all your talk about democracy is a smokescreen," the senior BJD leader said.

Earlier, Pradhan had criticised the ruling dispensation when Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi was shown blag flags and attacked with eggs as well as stones allegedly by Mission Shakti members during her visits to various places in the last three days.

Ambani picks children in Reliance succession plan

ISHA, AKASH AND ANANT WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF RELIANCE INDUSTRIES AS 'NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY' AT THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 28: Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani began executing a succession plan for his USD 200-billion energy-to-technology conglomerate Reliance Industries, appointing his three children Isha, Akash and Anant to the board of the company which he will continue to chair for five more years.

Till now, the three children were involved only at operating business-level and none was on the board of the India's largest listed company.

The board of Reliance met



ahead of the company's annual general meeting to approve the appointment of twins Isha and Akash as well as Anant, as the "non-executive directors of the company," the firm said in a stock exchange filing Monday.

At the shareholders' meeting, Mukesh said US Ivy League university-educated scions have "earned their stripes" and he saw "the flame" of his legendary father Dhirubhai shine in them.

The 66-year-old tycoon, joined the board of India's most valuable company at the age of 20 years in 1977, has secured another five-year term as the company head after expiry of the current terminal April 19, 2024.

"Today, I see both my father

and me in Isha, Akash, and Anant. I see the flame of Dhirubhai shine in all of them," he said, adding he would mentor them for the leadership role. "I shall continue to perform my duties and responsibilities as Chairman and Managing Director for five more years, with greater vigour."

Ambani has been talking about succession since 2021. Last year, he handed over the baton of India's largest mobile firm Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd to his first-born Akash Ambani, and identified retail business for his twin sister Isha, 31, and new energy business for Anant, 27. Jio Infocomm is a subsidiary of Jio Platforms, in which Meta

and Google hold stakes and is still chaired by Mukesh Ambani. Reliance Industries Ltd is the parent of Jio Platforms.

Reliance also said Mukesh Ambani's wife Nita has stepped down from the board to focus more on strengthening the firm's charity arm. She will continue attend all board meetings as a permanent invitee in capacity as the Chairperson of Reliance Foundation. Reliance has till now had three main business - oil and petrochemicals, telecom and retail - one each identified for the three siblings. Recently, it has added financial services business, to which Isha has been appointed as a board member.

Akash, who attended Brown

University, was part of a team that brokered multi-billion dollar investment in Jio Platforms, and also mentors the group's IPL cricket team. Isha Ambani, who graduated from Yale University and studied MBA at Stanford University, has been driving the expansion of Reliance Retail into new categories and geographies.

Anant, who also went to Brown University, is involved with the recently launched new energy business that is supposed to help offset emissions from Reliance's mainstay fossil fuel business. An animal lover, he was the force behind building a zoo in Gujarat and is also said to take keen interest in corporate affairs and security detailing of his father.

Akash and Isha, who is married to Anand Piralam (son of Piralam Group's Ajay and Swati Piralam), have been regulars at Reliance AGMs for the last couple of years, making presentations on new pathways in the businesses they looked after.

In a statement, Reliance said their "appointment will take effect from the date they assume office after approval by the shareholders." While retail and digital services are housed in sepa-

rate wholly-owned subsidiaries, the Oil-to-Chemical or O2C business is a functional division of Reliance. The new energy business is also with the parent firm.

The three businesses are almost equal in size. The latest announcement is a clear sign that Mukesh, who was embroiled in a bitter inheritance dispute with his younger brother after their father Dhirubhai died in 2002 without a will, is preparing to handover the baton to his children in the future. Mukesh and his brother Anil fought a bitter battle for control of Reliance Industries. After a protracted public spat, their mother brokered the split in 2005; Mukesh took oil and petrochemicals while Anil got telecommunications, power, and financial business, among other units.

But their fortunes diverged - while Mukesh rose to become the richest Asian, Anil pleaded "zero" net worth to a London court in 2020.

The brothers, however, seemed to have reached a detente in recent years.

In 2019, Mukesh helped Anil to make a USD 77 million payment that allowed him to escape jail.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	64996.60 ↑ 110.09
NIFTY	19306.00 ↑ 40.20
DOLLAR	82.6350 ↓ ₹0.02
EURO	89.3275 ↓ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹58,822 ↑ ₹18
SILVER	₹73,667 ↑ ₹11

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 34.7°C	35.5°C
	MIN 25.9°C	27.0°C
Humidity	67%	60%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
	Forecast: Light rain likely	

CM: Higher edu needs to make youths job-ready

NAVEEN HIGHLIGHTS THE ROLE OF TEACHERS AND PROFESSORS TO INSTILL CONFIDENCE IN STUDENTS AND CREATE A SENSE OF PURPOSE IN THEIR LIVES



“The state will spend over Rs 216 crore in next five years under the Chief Minister Research & Innovation Fellowship Programme, the CM informed from quality teaching, they should instill confidence, inspire them with positivity and create a sense of purpose in their lives. Only a teacher can do this effectively.”

He added he has strong faith in all teachers and professors and expressed confidence that they can successfully transform students into assets for our nation. Congratulating the assistant professors, the CM said that higher education gives a major platform to students to jump into professional careers. So this is one key sector, where we are increasingly putting our focus on, he added, informing that since 2016-17, the state government has recruited more than 4,000 teachers in government colleges.

He further said that the government is increasingly spending on research. “The state will spend over Rs 216 crore in next five years under the Chief Minister Research & Innovation Fellowship Programme,” he added. During the programme, he released guidelines for Mukhya Mantri Research and innovation Fellowship Programme (MRIP) and Mukhya Mantri Research Fellowship Test.

Joining the programme, Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabayashi summarized the efforts made by his department to recruit teachers, enhance quality of teaching in colleges and universities.



ACCOLADES: Nabarangpur DSP and author Chandrasekhar Hota, poet Pinaki Mishra and writer Ramesh Chandra Jena receiving 'Kalindi Charan Panigrahi Prabandha Samman', 'Kalindi Charan Panigrahi Kabita Samman' and 'Kalindi Charan Panigrahi Galpa Samman', respectively at Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack, Monday

Chief Secy inaugurates centre for good governance

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena inaugurated the office of Centre for Good Governance, Odisha (CGGO) in the presence of GAA Director General Raj Kumar Sharma at the premises of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration here Monday.

CGGO will be a result-based management and social innovation centre and as a permanent vertical of the Academy. The CGGO is mandated to facilitate knowledge management contributing to good governance by conducting location specific evidence based research and facilitate training.



Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said that the infrastructure of Gopabandhu Administrative Academy has been improved as well as new innovations have been incorporated in training modules for the IAS, OAS probationers and other officers who are undergoing training at GAA. He stressed on the need for probationers and trainees to study more and more data on the geographical location, understanding wild life, ecology, environment and climate change issue of Odisha.

Two books published by the Gopabandhu Administrative Academy – the “Similipal Tiger Reserve” – impressions of study visit of OAS officers trainees of the 2019 batch and a book review by OAS probationers along with “Academy News” of GAA and a “Training Manual” were released on the occasion.

Sharma said that the Academy has always given importance to quality training. He said that the officers undergoing the training are being trained to be value-based, principled, honest and efficient along with acquiring knowledge and maintaining honesty, fear-free and impartiality. He informed that 3 MoUs have been recently signed with 3 various national level institutions to further enhance and partnership in training.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 28: One of the key challenges before the higher education system is to make youths employable or self-employed, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at a ‘nijkuti parba’ organised here at Lok Seva Bhawan on the occasion of 262 assistant professors and 88 junior executive assistants joining the state government Monday.

The Chief Minister further said, “There is a need for our students to come out of their institutes more confident of their capacity to do something meaningful in their own lives, and ultimately, for society. Here, the role of teachers, professors becomes very significant. Apart

Man alleges realty fraud of ₹55 lakh

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The Commissionerate Police has launched investigation into allegations related to land fraud to the tune of around Rs 55 lakh by a City-based realtor. A case (319) has been registered under sections 420 and 34 of the IPC by Saheed Nagar police in this regard.

Banamali Nayak, the complainant, alleged that one Chitrasen Behera, the director of Dunash Chattels Real Estate Private Limited cheated him of Rs 55 lakh in the name of providing a landed plot in the City.

According to Nayak, he came across the accused while searching for a plot during August 2021. Chitrasen introduced him to one Puspajali Patra. Both assured Nayak of providing him a dispute free plot in the City.

They allegedly showed two plots in Basuaghai muaza on the outskirts of the City. Nayak agreed to buy a plot measuring 3,000 sqft for a price of Rs 67 lakh.

Accordingly, an agreement was executed by Nayak and the real estate firm October 29, 2021. Meanwhile, the complainant paid Rs 17 lakh as advance and another Rs 1 lakh for registration purposes to Chitrasen in different installments.

However, Chitrasen deliberately delayed the execution of the registration of sale deed under various pleas. Nayak claimed that the duo later told the complainant that they would provide another plot at Pandara Mauza and took another Rs 57 lakh.

The accused duo again started avoiding the complainant after taking the above amount in August 2022. When Nayak brought the matter before the police August 8, 2023, Puspajali gave Rs 2 lakh to Nayak and agreed to return the rest in installments. She also gave two cheques of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 7 lakh as per the agreement.

However, both the cheques were bounced for insufficient funds and mismatch of signature. Finding no other way, Nayak filed a complaint with Saheed Nagar police over the matter. The investigation is on.



IN SYNC: Artistes perform Odissi during 12th annual song and dance festival organised by Nrutya Upasana Pitha at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

BJP MP ASKS PATNAIK TO FOLLOW ‘RAJADHARMA’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 28: BJP’s Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi Monday asked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to follow ‘Rajadharma’ and stop being a ‘Dhritarastra’.

Sarangi was allegedly attacked with eggs, and stones by members of the Mission Shakti during her visit to the Athantra area under the Bhubaneswar Parliamentary segment on Sunday. “In the name of women empowerment, the state gov-

ernment of Odisha has been using Mission Shakti women to attack me - a woman MP, duly elected & blessed by the people. THE REAL FACE OF MISSION SHAKTI... Will Hon’ble @CMOdisha stop being DHRI-TRASHTRA & carry out his ‘RA-

JDHARMA,” Sarangi said in a post in X, formerly Twitter. In the post the BJP MP also attached three pictures of Mission Shakti women members allegedly holding black flags, stones and eggs used in the attack.

Gender-specific warning signs seen before sudden cardiac arrest

People experienced gender-specific warning symptoms before an imminent sudden cardiac arrest, new research published in the journal The Lancet Digital Health found.

In women, shortness of breath was the most prominent symptom of a sudden cardiac arrest about to occur, whereas in men, it was chest pain, the study led by the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, California, US, found. However, smaller subgroups of both genders were found to have palpitations, seizure-like activity and flu-like symptoms.

Further, 50 per cent of those having a sudden cardiac arrest felt at least one telling symptom such as chest pain, breathless-

ness, lightheadedness or irregular heart beat 24 hours prior to loss of heart function, the researchers found.

Harnessing warning symptoms to perform effective triage for those in dire need of emergency healthcare services could lead to early intervention and prevention of imminent death, the study said.

“Our findings could lead to a new paradigm for prevention of sudden cardiac death,” said Sumeet Chugh, from Smidt Heart and senior and corresponding author on the study.

Out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest has been found to claim the lives of 90 per cent of those experiencing it, thus marking an urgent need to better pre-



dict and prevent the condition, the study said.

For this study, researchers took data from two US community-based studies, both developed by Chugh - California-based Prediction of Sudden Death in

Multi-Ethnic Communities (PRESTO) study and Oregon-based Sudden Unexpected Death Study (SUDDS).

Fifty per cent of the 823 people, or 411 people, who had a sudden cardiac arrest witnessed

by a bystander or emergency healthcare professional experienced at least one telltale symptom 24 hours previously, the PRESTO study showed. It was started 8 years ago and a total of 1672 individuals with out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest of probable cardiac cause had been included.

The SUDDS study, initiated 22 years ago, too showed similar results, the researchers said.

“This is the first community-based study to evaluate the association of warning symptoms - or sets of symptoms - with imminent sudden cardiac arrest,” said Eduardo Marban, executive director of the Smidt Heart Institute. “Next we will supplement these

key sex-specific warning symptoms with additional features - such as clinical profiles and biometric measures - for improved prediction of sudden cardiac arrest,” said Chugh.

Participants’ data were obtained from emergency medical services reports for people aged 18-85 years with witnessed sudden cardiac arrest (between Feb 1, 2015, and Jan 31, 2021) and an inclusion symptom, the study mentioned.

Data were also obtained from corresponding control populations without sudden cardiac arrest who were attended to by emergency medical services for similar symptoms (between Jan 1 and Dec 31, 2019), the study said.

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2024 State elections: BJD in a fix over Raghunathpalli candidate

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 28: The BJD will have a tough time selecting the candidate for the Raghunathpalli Assembly constituency in the upcoming state elections in 2024. Apart from sitting MLA Subrat Tarai, there is a strong contender in Prasant Sethi.



Prasant Sethi Subrat Tarai

Tarai invited Monday the media for a get-together. However, this move has come in for criticism from his detractors as well as a section of the media. People are now questioning Tarai's real motive behind the gathering.

It should be stated here that Tarai has remained incommunicado in his constituency for a substantial amount of time. At the peak of the pandemic, he was never seen although Labour

around in Raghunathpalli constituency has unnerved Tarai. Hence he is now trying to woo the media and gain the sympathy of the people," said a BJD worker.

Sethi has been coming to the aid of people for the last couple of years. He has helped many get treatment and the elderly to get their pensions. His activities are all the more noticeable since he quit the Congress. "He may have finished a poor third when he contested on a Congress ticket in 2019. However, he cannot be ruled out at all," said a local political analyst.

In the 2019 Assembly elections, Tarai got 44,815 votes, BJP's Jagabandhu Behera got 40,131 and Sethi received 20,026 votes. However, Sethi on a BJD ticket will certainly start favourite.



TRIBAL ART: Students displaying 'Pattachitra' on tribal culture drawn by them at a workshop on the premises of Kalakhetra in Balasore, Monday. OP PHOTO

No change in Binjharpur's 'reserved' tag

COMMITTEE FORMED TO DEMARCATe CONSTITUENCY'S BORDER HAS NOT MET A SINGLE TIME, ALLEGE SOURCES

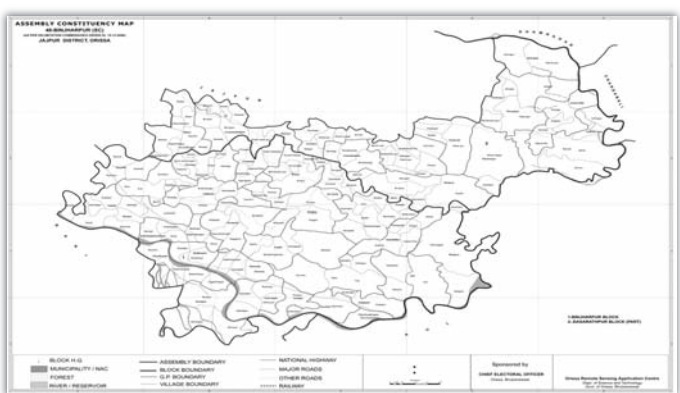
POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 28: Binjharpur Assembly segment in Jajpur district has remained a 'reserved' constituency for the last 56 years since 1967. Demands have been made repeatedly by residents of this constituency to make it an unreserved one and to demarcate its border. However, it seems that the pleas have fallen on deaf ears as there is no effort to fulfil the demands.

The Centre conducted a review meeting to change Binjharpur's status in 2004. Later, a border revision committee was formed which became operational July 4, 2004.

Former Joint Secretary Bhawani Prasad Ray of the Home (Election) department in a letter [No. (B)-3/2016-3893; June 9, 2016] had directed the then district collector to provide actual details and opinions on the issue.

The then Under-Secretary TC Kom of the Election Commission of India (ECI) had also inter-



vened in the matter. However, nothing much has happened as the central committee formed to demarcate the borders of Binjharpur is yet to conduct a single meeting.

The committee was formed under the chairmanship of former judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Kuldeep Singh, the then Chief Election Commissioner BB Tandon and the state election body chief. The Lok Sabha speaker also selected five MPs

and five Assembly members from each state to assist the committee in its work in demarcating borders of various constituencies in the country.

The committee framed a set of rules and regulations for restructuring the borders of the Lok Sabha and Assembly segments in various states and Union Territories. However, surprisingly the committee did not change the borders of Binjharpur Assembly segment for reasons

best known to it.

A geographical examination of the constituency reveals that 12 panchayats in Dasarathpur block has been merged with the Binjharpur Assembly segment. However, in the process, some of the other panchayats that should have been included in the constituency have been left out.

The committee had also emphasised that the population of the constituency should be taken into account while demarcating the borders of Binjharpur Assembly segment.

Sources alleged Monday that rules have been flouted during formation of Binjharpur Assembly segment. The residents have drawn the attention of the State Election Commission and the district administration but nothing has materialised so far, they added.

As per the 2001 census, the population of Jajpur district stands at 16,24,341. The district has seven Assembly segments out of which the

Binjharpur Assembly segment has the highest number of voters at 2,36,787.

Bhandaripokhari, Chandbali, Jajpur, Binjharpur, Pattamundai, Salipur, Balipatna, Nimapada, Jagannathprasad, Malkangiri, Dharmagarh, Bhawanipatna, Phulbani, Titlagarh, Sonepur, Hindol, Talcher, Bhatli, Redhakhole, Anandapur and Jagatsinghpur Assembly segments in the state were reserved for scheduled caste candidates before 2009.

After 2009, Binjharpur continues to be a reserve constituency along with newly-added Atabari, Raghunathpalli, Rengali, Badasahi, Remuna, Soru, Hindol, Chhendipada, Birmaharajpur, Loisingha, Bhawanipatna, Niali, Cuttack Sadar, Kendrapara, Tirtol, Kakatpur, Jaydev, Daspalla, Khallikote, Chhatrapur, Dhannagar, Korapur and Anandapur. These constituencies have been reserved for scheduled caste candidates.

10 YEARS RI FOR RAPE ACCUSED

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasore, August 28: Special POC SO Court Judge here, Ranjan Kumar Sutar convicted Monday a rape accused and sentenced him to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and also slapped a fine of ₹4,000.

The convict Anil Kumar Patra was arrested in 2017 after an

FIR was lodged against him for raping a minor girl. While pronouncing the verdict, the judge ordered that if Patra fails to pay the fine, he will have to undergo an additional two years in prison.

The court after examining 13 witnesses and 18 exhibits pronounced the judgment, Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda said.

Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, GOI
120, F-Wing, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001, 011-23384106

"Invitation of Suggestions from Prospective Bidders"

Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal (GoI) has been conducting auction of coal blocks through Commercial Mining Scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in June 2020. A list of 32 coal mines/blocks has been uploaded on the website of Ministry of Coal seeking suggestions and views from prospective bidders to enhance appeal for these commercial mining during next auction round. Interested bidders are requested to visit website to <https://coal.nic.in/en/nominated-authority/auction-allotment> for further details on the above and submit their expression of interest/suggestions through email on nomauthority.moc@nic.in & manish.uniyal38@nic.in.

CBC 04107/12/0005/2324

Security man killed by own colleague

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, August 28: A security guard was hacked to death by his colleague at Jogibhagara village in Khuntapada block under Boudh police limits in this district Sunday night. Both were working for a company which is carrying out the construction work for the Khurda-Bolangir railway line.

The deceased was identified as Ranjan Pradhan of Roubahal village under Baunsuni police limits and the accused was identified as Prakash Behera, of Khuntapada village.

As per the information provided by the police, a heated altercation broke out Sunday between Ranjan and Prakash. In the heat of the moment, Prakash attacked Ranjan with an axe and hacked the latter to death on the spot. Police after getting information reached the spot and arrested Prakash.

Odisha woman gifts rakhi made of 'unusable' materials to PM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 28: A village artisan of Odisha, who has earned praises in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Maan Ki Baat' programme for making utility products from waste materials, has sent Monday a 'rakhi' made of food wrappers, plastic and other 'unusable' things to the PM on the occasion of 'Raksha Bandhan'.

Kamala Moharana, 64, of Kendrapara district runs a self help group (SHG). The members of this SHG earn money by converting garbage into useable products like baskets, pen stands, flower pots, mobile phone stands, hand fans and wall frames.

"My life changed dramatically the day the Prime Minister heaped praise on my work. Narendra Modi is like my elder brother. I prepared a rakhi from waste materials like plastic, polythene, food wrappers and plastic milk packets and have sent it to him by post," Moharana

informed Monday.

"Plastic, polythene and other waste materials cause huge problems in the environment. So, I focus on those waste materials. People have started appreciating my work after the PM mentioned me in 'Maan Ki Baat'," Moharana added. The 'Raksha Bandhan' festival will be celebrated August 30 across India.

In the 98th episode of 'Maan Ki Baat' aired February 26 this year, Modi praised the work of Moharana and the women of her group.

"The women of this group make many things like baskets and mobile stands from milk pouches and other plastic materials. This is becoming a good source of income for them along with ensuring cleanliness. If we resolve, we can make a huge contribution towards a clean India," Modi had said in his radio programme.

Starting with a few women in 2016, Moharana's self help group now has around 50 members.

RAJ KISHORE MAKES HIS MARK WITH 'DREAM GIRL 2'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, August 28: After Padma Shri Nila Madhab Panda, directors Surya Deo and Sabyasachi Mahapatra, it is now the turn of Raj Kishore Hota of Subarnapur district to create a niche for himself in the Hindi film industry. Rajkishore, 35, is the assistant director of the recently-released film 'Dream Girl 2'. The Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer has Ananya Panday as the heroine of the film which has been directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa.

Born in a middle-class family, Raj Kishore has his roots in Gridco Colony of this town. However, studies did not hold much interest for him and he dropped out of the MBA course which he had enrolled in at Bhubaneswar in 2008. Then he moved to Mumbai to pursue his movie dreams.

Initially, Raj Kishore had to struggle a lot in Mumbai as he did not know people in the Hindi film industry. His first break came when he worked as an assistant director with



Panda for the film 'I Am Kalam'. In 2021, Raj Kishore made a documentary titled 'The Mountain Hockey'. The documentary dwelt on 400 girls belonging to the scheduled tribes in Odisha and their passion for hockey. The documentary made people realise

the prowess of Raj Kishore.

Shooting of the film 'Dream Girl 2' started in 2019. However due to the outbreak of the pandemic, shooting was put on hold for some time.

Raj Kishore said that working with big actors and directors has been an enriching experience for him. "I have learnt a lot from this commercial venture. It has been a huge opportunity for me. Now I am getting offers to work in some big budget movies and serials," Raj Kishore said.

Raj Kishore is from a humble background with his father Dasarath a former worker at a spinning mill close to this town. It was difficult for Dasarath to run the family and also provide proper education to his two sons and a daughter. Raj Kishore had to face a lot of hardships as he grew up. Now however, it seems that all his struggle and hard work has paid off as he tastes the sweet aroma of success. Currently he has begun shooting for another film in Goa, people close to him informed Monday.

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and particular to the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbiotic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, the same shall be referred herein after as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be auctioned on 20.09.2023 on 'AS IS WHERE IS', 'AS IS WHAT IS' and 'WHATEVER THERE IS' basis through E-auction.

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Sl. No.	Account No. and Name of the Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s. 13(2)	Description of the Secured Assets (Immovable Property)	a) Reserve Price (RP) b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) c) Bid Increment Amt.	a) E-Auction Date and Time b) EMD Submission Last Date c) Inspection Date d) Date of Possession (Status of Possession)
1.	Loan A/c. No. : X0EBHU00002551992 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Purna Chandra Samantray Plot No. 1106, Mahavir Nagar, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 006. Also at : Plot No. 581/3560, Madhupatna Unit No. 32, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Pin - 753 010. And also at : Rahangorada, Adhena, Rahangorada, Puri, Odisha, Pin - 252 121. 2. Bishnu Priya Samantray Plot No. 1106, Mahavir Nagar, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 006. Also at : Plot No. 1127/2036, Lotus Enclave, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751006. 3. Rangalata Samantray Plot No. 1106, Mahavir Nagar, Jharpada, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 006. 4. Rangalata Samantray Plot No. 1127/2036, Jaydurga Nagar, Bhomikhal, Budheswari Colony (MC), Khorda, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 006. 5. M/s. New Kalika South Indian Hotel Plot No. 661, Bomikhal, Cuttack Road, Ward 31, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 006.	12.01.2023 Rs. 29,27,403.00 as on 11.01.2023	All that piece and parcel of the property and construction thereon situated in Dist-Cuttack, P.S. - Madhupatna No. 7, Tahasil & D.S.R.O. - Cuttack Sadar, Tahasil No. 231, Mouza - Cuttack Sahar, Unit No. 32 Madhupatna, Mutation Khata No. 861/518, Plot No. 581/3560, KISSAM - Gharabari One, Area Ac. 0.020 dec, Hal Khata No. 818, Hal Plot No. 581. Butted and bounded by : North - by Road, South - by Govt. Land, East - by Building (Mr. Panda), West - by Vacate Land.	a) Rs. 34,20,000.00 b) Rs. 3,42,000.00 c) Rs. 25,000.00	a) 20.09.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 5 min) b) 19.09.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 12.09.2023 & 13.09.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00. P.M.) d) 27.04.2023 (Symbolic Possession)
2.	Loan A/c. Nos. : X0EBHU00002833640, X0EBHU00003034261 and H02BHU00000002269 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Sunil Kumar Mohanty Mukundaprasad, P.N. College, Khorda, Odisha, Khurda, Pin - 752 057. 2. M/s. Sarada Enterprises Plot No. 182.3577, Kh No. 526.1380, Mukundaprasad, P.N. College, Khurda, Pin - 752 057. 3. Sunil Kumar Mohanty Plot No. 182.3577, Kh No. 526.1380, Mukundaprasad, P.N. College, Khurda, Pin - 752 057. 4. Anil Kumar Mohanty Plot No. 182.3577, P.N. College, Mukundaprasad Bazar, Khorda, Khurda, Pin - 752 057. 5. Minarva Mohanty Mukundaprasad, P.N. College, Khorda, Odisha, Khurda, Pin - 752 057.	11.03.2022 Rs. 29,83,257.86 as on 10.03.2022	Dist - Khurda, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, P.S. - Khurda No. 118, Mouza - Mukundaprasad, Khata No. 526/1320, Plot No. 182/3577 Area. Ac. 0.036 decs, having KISSAM - Gharabari one, bounded by : On the North-Raghunath Sahu, On the South-Bauri Bandhu Behera, On the East - Road, On the West - Sakti Prasad Jena.	a) Rs. 40,50,000.00 b) Rs. 4,05,000.00 c) Rs. 25,000.00	a) 20.09.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 5 min) b) 19.09.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 12.09.2023 & 13.09.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00. P.M.) d) 19.05.2022 (Symbolic Possession)
3.	Loan A/c. Nos. : X0EBHU00002901642 & X0EBHU00002951694 Borrower / Co-borrower / Mortgagee : 1. Bidyara Jena (Applicant) 2. M/s. Meena Bastralaya (Co-Applciant) 3. Sumita Jena (Co-Applciant) 4. Laxmidhar Jena (Co-Applciant) 5. Smita Mohanty (Co-Applciant) 6. Susama Jena (Co-Applciant) 7. Debraj Jena (Co-Applciant) All are at : Plot No. 31/A, Near BDA Park, BJB Nagar, Near Bjem School, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751 014.	10.04.2023 Rs. 2,62,08,103.00 as on 06.04.2023	District - Khurda, Tahasil - Bhubaneswar, under the Jurisdiction of Office of the District Sub-Registrar, Khurda (BBSR), P.S. - New Capital, P.S. No. 52, Mouza - Bhubaneswar Sahara Unit No. 30, Laxmisagar-1, Mutation Khata No. 1593/1005, Shitibani Plot No. 2534, Area Ac.0.096 Decs, KISSAM-Gharabari-1 which corresponding to Khata No. 1927, Plot No. 2534 which further corresponding to G.A. Plot No. A/32, Drawing No. C/3654, measuring an extent Dimension and Area (55 X 80) Ac. 0.096 Decimals approximately. Bounded by : North - Conservancy Lane, South - Road, East - Plot No. A/31, West - Plot No. A/33. (DRT Case No. : SA/624/2023 - Pending before Cuttack DRT)	a) Rs. 3,15,000,000.00 b) Rs. 31,50,000.00 c) Rs. 1,00,000.00	a) 20.09.2023 (11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.) (with unlimited extension of 5 min) b) 19.09.2023 (up to 5.00 P.M.) c) 12.09.2023 & 13.09.2023 (10.00 A.M. to 1.00. P.M.) d) 21.06.2023 (Symbolic Possession)

1. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on E-auction prospective bidders may contact M/s. 4 Closure; Contact : Jaya Prakash Reddy, Contact No.: 81420 00064, Mr. Muhammed Rahees, Contact No. : 81240 00030, E-mail ID : info@bankauctions.in, Odisha Contact No. : 98365 22775, 79787 44193.

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in E-auction.

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Authorised Officer

Always do what you know to be the best even if it is the most difficult thing to do.

THE MOTHER



Thai Democracy

An attempt to install a government in Thailand truly wedded to the principles of democracy is nipped in the bud with the second largest party – Pheu Thai Party – forming an alliance with parties that include some that are controlled by former army generals. The military has been ruling the country for over a decade. Observers describe the development as a betrayal of democracy since the Pheu Thai promised to the people, during the run-up to the elections held in May, that it would not form government with the help of the parties linked to Prayuth Chan-ocha and Prawit Wongsuwan, both retired generals and outgoing Prime Minister and Deputy Minister, respectively.

The post-election realignment of forces enabled real estate tycoon Srettha Thavisin of the Pheu Thai, controlled by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, to become the Prime Minister. He got the royal endorsement after his party broke ranks with the Move Forward, which won the highest number of seats, and joined forces with the royal family, the army and business establishments.

The election of last May 14 saw Thai voters clamouring for change after nearly a decade of military rule. Move Forward had campaigned on bringing radical reforms to Thailand's power structure, including dismantling monopolies, reforming the military and amending the law insulating the monarchy. But the military and royal forces joined together and Move Forward, headed by Pita Limjaroenrat, was prevented from forming the government despite being the largest party in parliament. Rightly, the party's Secretary-General Chaithawat Tulathon, remarked the new coalition government "distorts the will of the people in the elections."

That an opportunistic deal had been struck between Pheu Thai and the pro-royal and pro-army forces became apparent when Thaksin returned to Thailand after 15 years in self-imposed exile the day Srettha Thavisin got the green light to be the PM. The tradeoff seems to be that the Pheu Thai's coalition partners will have things go their way in return for a plausible royal pardon of Thaksin's corruption while he was PM. Many Thais were disappointed when Pheu Thai broke the alliance with Move Forward and formed a new coalition with parties linked to Prayuth, who was instrumental in orchestrating a coup ousting the last Pheu Thai government led by Thaksin's sister, Yingluck, in 2014. Ahead of the election, the two parties had both refused to team up with coup leaders.

The logic put forward by Pheu Thai for its volte face strains credulity. Srettha explained that the Thai people should accept the reality that many are waiting for the government and the policies of the party which cannot be implemented without a government led by Pheu Thai.

After the 2014 coup, Thailand's constitution was rewritten to make it nearly impossible for parties not backed by the military and conservative elites to form a government. Move Forward's surprise victory was a major blow to the military-royalist conservatives and eventually the threat posed by the progressive party's huge popularity outweighed the establishment's rivalry with the Shinawatra family.

Srettha is an outsider without any experience in government. Things went in his favour as the 60-year-old real estate mogul has a proven track record in business. Before his political debut, Srettha was president of one of Thailand's biggest real estate developers. Born in Bangkok and educated in the United States, Srettha holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Massachusetts and a master's in finance from Claremont Graduate University in California.

It is this background that makes him a favourite with Thailand's business community. In a recent survey two-thirds of 100 CEOs in Thailand said they wanted him at the helm. As such he is expected to better handle Thailand's precarious economy plagued by soaring prices, oil crisis and the effects of COVID-19. However, critics doubt his track record as a successful businessman will help much since his hands are likely to be tied by his allies that will not allow him to push for policies in the way he wants. He will have to cobble together an alliance with a diverse range of interests and keep in good humour the establishment that helped put him in office.

As such Thailand has missed an opportunity to have a tryst with real democracy and this has come as a great blow to the people hoping to neutralise the influence of the monarchy and military on the politics of Thailand.

This is the grim picture of Thailand today. India, as its neighbor, has had the distinction of being a vibrant democracy with regular elections and an established order of governance that has withstood the test of time. Yet, today India too seems to be dithering and tripping. It is no better than its neighbors like Thailand, Burma or Pakistan. The people of India are solely responsible for bringing upon themselves what they decide as best for their interest.

WISDOM CORNER

- He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions. **CONFUCIUS**
- Change happens when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change. **TONY ROBBINS**
- Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going. **JIM ROHN**

WORDSWORTH

Mulct

It derives from classical Latin, in which multa or mulcta meant a fine or penalty. The c was probably introduced as the result of confusion with the verb mulcare, to handle roughly or damage, an unsurprising association of ideas. But many centuries passed before the change became general. Both Anglo-Norman and Middle French had mulct, to pay a fine. It came into English in the fifteenth century as mulct and it was a century before the c became wedged permanently into place. (The same thing happened in French, in which mulcter evolved from mulctar at about the same time, though the verb has disappeared from the modern language.) Mulct remains in English, though in its original sense it is now restricted to the world of lawyers and judges. Elsewhere, it has shifted to refer to the illegal extraction of money through fraud or extortion. Since it appears in phrases such as "mulcting the poor taxpayer", we may assume people subject to some legally sanctioned mulct came to regard it as excessive. [The energy supply] industry is quick to pass on price increases, and damnably slow to give customers the benefit of today's tumbling costs. It is no good urging these hardfaced profiteers. The only thing they understand is the brute force they use to mulct their customers (Daily Mirror, 12 Dec. 2008). Scots once had a related term, multure, based on the older spelling of mulct, which can be traced back to the early thirteenth century for a charge or toll made by a miller, a multure, for grinding corn. Knowing something of the rapaciousness of old-time millers, the association must have helped the shift in sense of mulct.

LOL

How you made money

A young man asked an old rich man how he made his money. The old guy fingered his worsted wool vest and said, "Well, son, it was 1932. The depth of the Great Depression. I was down to my last nickel. "I invested that nickel in an apple. I spent the entire day polishing the apple and, at the end of the day, I sold the apple for ten cents.



"The next morning, I invested those ten cents in two apples. I spent the entire day polishing them and sold them at 5:00 pm for 20 cents. I continued this system for a month, by the end of which I'd accumulated a fortune of \$1.37. "And that's how you built an empire?" the boy asked. "Heavens, no!" the man replied. "Then my wife's father died and left us two million dollars."



Jagdish Rattanani

THE CURRENT CRISIS FACING INDIA TODAY IS BROUGHT BY A LEADERSHIP THAT UNDERSTANDS NEITHER THE INSIDE NOR THE OUTSIDE, AND DOES DISSERVICE TO BOTH

India is over the moon, having landed its craft on the south pole and becoming only the fourth country to land on the lunar surface. There is understandably a sense of euphoria, pride and sheer joy at what the nation has achieved. We have travelled far. We learn a lot when we look outside. But Indian thought and spiritual traditions teach us that we learn a lot more when we look inside. It is ISRO Chief S Somanath who touched on this lightly during a visit to the Bhadra Kali temple in Thiruvananthapuram days after the successful touchdown on the lunar surface. He said: "I come to many temples, I read many scriptures, try to find the meaning of our existence and our journey in this cosmos ... I am an explorer. I explore the moon. I explore the inner space."

Inner space is where all journeys begin and end. Swami Dayananda Saraswati, one of the foremost exponents of Vedanta, a revered scholar and teacher who PM Modi respected, taught this with telling effect expounding on the very first line of the Bhagawad Gita. The Holy book begins with the blind King Dritharashtra asking Sanjaya, his witness: Gathered on the battlefield, desiring to fight it out, what did "my people" and the "sons of Pandu" do? His sons are his people; his brother Pandu's sons are not, and this is where the battle begins. All battles are on the inside and our body and its actions form the battlefield of Kurukshetra where dharma will be tested, Swami Dayananda Saraswati teaches, in a manner and style that remains unforgettable.

In bringing up inner space at a time of outer pride, S. Somanath stands out among a rare set of evidence-based practitioners of the scientific method who have at the same time made place for exploring the idea of

FOCUS SOCIETY

MOON & MIND



In bringing up inner space at a time of outer pride, S. Somanath stands out among a rare set of evidence-based practitioners of the scientific method who have at the same time made place for exploring the idea of spirituality in their lives.

The ISRO chief's high performance in space exploration is rooted in his love for the methods of science, as indeed it must be. But instead of turning this into a tool to use the language of domination and control, or to torture nature to force it to reveal its secrets, as the father of the Scientific Revolution Francis Bacon (1561-1626) put it, the Indian tradition is to respect nature, to worship nature and to learn from it.

Without the approach and tools of science, blind belief runs the risk of listening to and promoting backward and superstitious thought of the kind Jawaharlal Nehru railed against. This is the very approach some of the ruling elite and their minions have brought back in the name of rediscovering our roots. On the other hand, without reverence for nature and all that it has provided us, the enterprise runs the risk of becoming an exploitative model that has brought us the age of the anthropocene and the climate crisis that confronts humanity today. The crisis is global and its

answer comes in the form of various ecological movements that are raising new questions on the idea of progress for mankind. These challenges are completely alien to the ruling elite and the minions who speak the language of domination and in the process go about destroying natural systems in the mindless hope that this is how India can grow and become a superpower in the new order.

Success in the moon landing has come at a time of political turmoil when the temple has become a weapon, spirituality has been turned into militant saffron and scriptures are cited carelessly or to lend an aggressive tone to texts that are known for communicating and celebrating oneness.

Needless to say, spirituality is not religiosity. A person practicing any religion, or indeed practicing no religion at all, can be as or more spiritual than a mantra-spouting believer. Spirituality connects myriad strands and triggers deep inquiry that resonates across timeframes, geographies, religious belief systems and celebrates a

million approaches to it.

The current crisis facing India today is brought by a leadership that understands neither the inside nor the outside, and does disservice to both. It does no justice to the scientific approach when theories are propounded of how surgery was invented in India or how we had airplanes and 'pushpak-vimanas' thousands of years ago. It does even more injustice in its mindless quest for faster GDP growth by a careless and thoughtless plunder of nature, by politics that divides and makes one group fight the other, by growing inequality and by the preferential treatment to a select super-rich.

If everything is reduced to the immediate profit-and-loss kind-of thinking without long-term visionary thinking, then it is no surprise that India's important big step on the moon has also been accompanied by smallness of the mind.

The row over how the PM diverted to Bangalore to meet the scientists at ISRO, and asked the CM Siddaramaiah not to receive him or travel with him as protocol dictates, is unseemly. The PM should have known that his explanation that he did not wish to "disturb" the state leaders would not wash, given the celebratory popular mood over the success of the moon mission, the upcoming 2024 national elections and the BJP's penchant for drawing political mileage.

No one in ISRO said 'I' did it. Team members were invited to face the cameras. In the words of the ISRO Chief: "This is not our work alone. It is the work of a generation of ISRO leadership and ISRO scientists..." This is incremental progress."

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Advancing environmental justice with AI



Justina Nixon-Saintlin

GIVEN ITS CAPACITY TO INNOVATE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR COULD PROVIDE THE TOOLS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND, MITIGATE, AND EVEN REVERSE THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change is undoubtedly the defining challenge of our time, but its effects are not equally distributed. In both developed and developing countries, environmental degradation disproportionately affects communities marginalised because of race, ethnicity, religion, and poverty. More often than not, these communities are already confronting systemic inequalities such as water scarcity and greater exposure to pollution and extreme weather events – all of which are exacerbated by the climate crisis.

It is a reality with which I am intimately familiar. As a child, my family had a farm on Dominica, a small Caribbean island state that faces the threat of hurricanes each year. One tropical storm could knock out power grids and wipe out entire harvests, destroying local livelihoods. Given its capacity to innovate climate solutions, the technology sector could provide the tools we need to understand, mitigate, and even reverse the damaging effects of global warming. In fact, addressing longstanding environmental injustices requires these companies to put the newest and most effective technologies into the hands of those on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Tools that harness the power of artificial intelligence, in particular, could offer unprecedented

access to accurate information and prediction, enabling communities to learn from and adapt to climate challenges in real time. The IBM Sustainability Accelerator, which we launched in 2022, is at the forefront of this effort, supporting the development and scaling of projects such as the Deltares Aquality App, an AI-powered tool that helps farmers assess and improve water quality. As a result, farmers can grow crops more sustainably, prevent runoff pollution, and protect biodiversity.

Consider also the challenges that smallholder farmers face, such as rising costs, the difficulty of competing with larger producers that have better tools and technology, and, of course, the devastating effects of climate change on biodiversity and weather patterns. Accurate information, especially about soil conditions and water availability, can help them address these issues, but has historically been hard to obtain. One could imagine regional officials in a developing country deploying a machine learning algorithm to forecast future population growth and corresponding change in energy demand using temporal and spatial data. With this forecasting model, policymakers could optimise the country's energy network, redirecting supply to where it will be needed most.

Developing AI-powered mobile apps and virtual assistants, and making them widely available, promotes equitable access to data and technical insights. With highly accurate weather forecasting, advanced agronomy techniques, and carbon-footprint calculations, as well as other predictions generated by AI, smallholder farmers can build greater climate resilience and boost both production and income by adapting to changing conditions more quickly and managing crops more sustainably.

At the same time, simply handing over these tools to disadvantaged communities will not solve the problem – apps alone are not an antidote to climate injustice. To implement AI-based technology successfully, tech companies must be willing to share knowledge with users, including instructions on how to take measurements that will yield data. They must build in the ability for users to collaborate independently with one another, and solicit feedback from farmers and other users. To that end, an AI chatbot that automates question-and-answer exchanges could help minimise user-training challenges while democratising access to information. As companies develop AI solutions, we also need to support local tech firms and app developers, as they are best positioned to

put these tools to use. Beyond increasing access to new AI-powered tools, the tech community, together with NGOs, governments, and international agencies, can help build an equitable, resilient future for disenfranchised communities by providing training in the technical skills and knowledge required for green jobs. As the transition to a low-carbon global economy accelerates, demand for so-called "green skills" is projected to outstrip supply. Preparing workers for the jobs of the future, in combination with the widespread adoption of new technologies, will strengthen climate resilience, especially in developing economies.

All of us – individuals, corporations, organisations, and governments – share the responsibility to address growing environmental threats. Tech firms, in particular, must channel more resources to combat global warming. That means investing in the development and implementation of AI tools and ensuring that those in the greatest need can access them. Finding climate solutions – and achieving environmental justice – depends on the private sector mobilising its expertise for the greater good.

The writer is Vice President at IBM. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Putin at play

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Prigozhin & Putin" Orissa Post, August 28. Ever since the abortive coup against Kremlin in last June, the speculation had been that Yevgeny Prigozhin could be living on borrowed time. When the head of the notorious Wagner group launched his historic uprising, inflicting the biggest crisis of Vladimir Putin's 23-year reign, many were left wondering how the Russian President would respond. Putin does not suffer betrayal gladly and is known to divide those who oppose him into two categories: enemies and traitors. Prigozhin's uprising undoubtedly placed him in the second category. But Putin's initial response to the mutiny left many puzzled. Despite promising to "liquidate the traitor" in a televised address to the nation, Putin allowed Prigozhin to strike a deal with Belarus' Alexander Lukashenko and leave Russia for exile. However, as speculations swirl on the role of Putin in the crash, the warlord's death will surely raise tensions within the Russian army. While his uprising was largely condemned by the armed forces, he remained a popular figure among some elements of the troops who sympathised with his critiques of the Russian military establishment and the faltering war. N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Festival of unity

Sir, Onam is a harvest festival celebrated by the people of Kerala. It is a state festival that falls during the Malayalam month of Chingam (either in August or in September), according to the Malayalam calendar. The festival commemorates the Vamana avatar of Lord Vishnu and the subsequent homecoming of the legendary King Mahabali. The Malayalees celebrate this festival with unity without any difference of caste and religion. People all over Kerala celebrate this festival for ten days. Each day of this festival carries unique importance. Thus, people celebrate each of them uniquely. The festival is marked by various sports and festivities, including music, dances, games and boat races. People put flower mats in front of their houses on this day to welcome King Mahabali. Keralites all over the world celebrate this festival with great pomp and gaiety. The state government of Kerala conducts Tourism Week celebrations in connection with Onam, showcasing Kerala's beauty and culture. All in all, Onam is a festival that unites all the people of Kerala. Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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NUH WEARS DESERTED LOOK

15 SEERS, RIGHT-WING GROUP LEADERS PRAY AT NALHAR TEMPLE AMID TIGHT SECURITY



A road wears a deserted look in view of the Sarv Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat's call for a 'shobha yatra', at Ghaseda in Nuh district, Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nuh, August 28: The Nuh administration Monday allowed 15 seers and leaders of right-wing groups to offer prayers at the Shiva temple in Nalhar area of this district in Haryana which has been turned into a fortress in view of the Sarv Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat's call for a 'shobha yatra'.

Authorities have denied permission for the yatra Monday in the aftermath of the communal clashes July 31. However, the locals have been allowed to

offer prayers in the temples in their neighbourhood on the last Monday of the holy month of Shrawan.

Heavy security arrangements have been put in place in view of the call for the yatra and some seers heading towards Nuh were stopped at Gurugram, police officials said.

Five major checkpoints have been set up from the Delhi-Gurugram border until Nuh with media vehicles not being allowed to go beyond the third checkpoint.

According to officials, the ve-

hicle of Hindu seer Jagatguru Paramhans Acharya from Ayodhya was stopped at the Ghamorj toll plaza near Sohna.

Acharya told reporters that he and his followers were carrying the water of the Sarju river and the soil of Ayodhya for the 'jalabhishek' at Nalhar temple but were stopped by the police. In protest, he sat on a hunger strike near the toll plaza.

Nuh Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata said around 15 seers and leaders of some Hindutva outfits have been allowed to visit the Shiv temple

in Nalhar and they will perform 'jalabhishek' there. Mahamandaleswar Swami Dharm Dev and Swami Parmanand were among the group allowed to visit the temple.

After offering prayers at the Nalhar temple, the group accompanied by some locals left for the Jhir temple at Firozpur Jhirka.

Bajrang Dal's Gurugram district convener Praveen Hindustani told PTI that a limited number of people took part in the 'yatra' and they have now left for Jhir temple in a bus amid tight security.

LPG CYLINDERS FOR ₹500

Gehlot gets an edge in inflation narrative

It was the Rajasthan government's big-ticket promise to make cooking gas cylinders at ₹500 which came into effect recently, barely six months away from Assembly elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, August 28: At a time when people are battling inflation and finding it hard to make both ends meet, the Rajasthan government has brought much needed relief for the citizens by providing gas cylinders for Rs 500.

In fact, Rajasthan has become the only state in the country to provide gas cylinders for Rs 500.

The price of domestic gas cylinders has more than doubled since the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was introduced.

As a result, the beneficiary families are finding it hard to refill their cylinders every month. However, the Rajasthan government has presented a very different model which has become the talk of the town across the state and nation as well.

It was Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot government's big-ticket promise to make cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500 - which came into effect recently, barely six months away from the assembly elections in Rajasthan. The move was well-received by the state's women, who were known to support the BJP, especially during the Lok Sabha elections after the PMUY was launched. This is the biggest cooking gas subsidy being given in the country - crucial for the Congress in a state like Rajasthan that has a long tradition of voting out the incumbent for over three decades.

This first big-ticket promise was made by the Ashok Gehlot government in December last year. The next one was made



soon after -- 100 units of free power to every family. In February, the government also announced raising the coverage amount of its flagship

health scheme -- Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana -- from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh per year per family

"Rajasthan has become a model state of the country in every field including social security, education, medical, health, information technology, women empowerment and employment. Rajasthan is the only state in the country to provide right to health by enacting a law including free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh and accident insurance of Rs 10 lakh, free medicines and check-up facilities under Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme," Gehlot said.

'No mock tests of aspirants': Kota coaching centres told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, August 28: Authorities in Rajasthan's Kota district have asked coaching institutes to stop conducting routine tests of students preparing for NEET and other competitive exams for the next two months in the wake of suicides by a number of aspirants.

Over two lakh students move to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for engineering and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges.

Ruckus in Haryana Assembly over Nuh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 28: The Haryana Assembly was briefly adjourned Monday following an uproar as the opposition Congress raised the issue of the violence in Nuh and sought a probe monitored by a high court judge.

Communal clashes had erupted in Nuh and its adjoining areas after a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession was attacked by a mob July 31 leading to the death of six people, including two home guards and a cleric.

When the Zero Hour commenced in the Assembly Monday, the Congress members de-

manded a discussion on the Nuh violence, but Speaker Gian Chand Gupta said the matter was sub-judice.

While Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that only the matter pertaining to the bulldozer action by the authorities in Nuh was pending before the high court, Congress leader Kiran Choudhary asserted that they were raising the law and order issue and it should be discussed.

"Chief Minister (Manohar Lal Khattar) had recently made a statement on the Nuh incident pointing towards a conspiracy. A discussion here on the issue will make things clear. We are also demanding a judicial in-

Opposition Congress raised the issue of the violence in Nuh and sought an investigation monitored by a High Court judge

quiry into the incident," Hooda said. BJP member Satya Prakash, however, alleged that the foundation of the Nuh violence was 'laid' in the Assembly when Congress MLA Mamman Khan made some 'inflammatory remarks' on the floor of the House in the previous session.

Amid angry exchanges, the

Speaker adjourned the House for 30 minutes. When the House reconvened, Prakash insisted that the Mamman Khan issue should be discussed but the Speaker kept on saying that the Nuh matter is sub-judice.

Congress' legislator BB Batra asked if Parliament can discuss the Manipur matter, on which the Supreme Court had taken a suo motu cognisance, then why cannot the Nuh matter, barring the 'bulldozer action part' which is before the high court, be discussed in the Assembly.

The Speaker said the Nuh and Guguram violence was also part of the matter before the high court and therefore the issue cannot be discussed in the House.

22 students preparing for competitive exams in the district have ended their lives so far in 2023. Two students ended their lives Sunday, in a span of four hours

According to authorities, 22 students preparing for competitive exams in the district have ended their lives so far in 2023 - the highest for any year. Last year, the figure was 15.

Two students ended their lives Sunday, in a span of four hours. Avishkar Shambaji Kasle (17) jumped off the sixth floor of his coaching institute's building in Jawahar Nagar at around 3.15 pm, minutes after walking out of a room after taking a mock NEET test, police said.

Adarsh Raj (18), who was also preparing for the competitive exam, hanged himself in his rented flat in the Kunhadi police station area at around 7 pm, they said.

The reason behind the two latest suicides is that the aspirants were apparently under pressure for scoring low marks during routine tests conducted by the coaching centres.

Kota district collector OP Bunker, in an order issued Sunday night, asked the coaching institutes to stop holding routine tests for the next two months.

He said the directions were passed to provide "mental support" to students.

RAJ HIKES MINIMUM WAGES FOR LABOURERS BY ₹26/DAY

THE LAST INCREASE OF RS 7 IN MINIMUM WAGES WAS IMPLEMENTED JULY 1, 2021



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 28: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved an increase in minimum wages for labourers by Rs 26 per day. This increase, which would be effective from January 1, 2023, comes just a few months before the state elections.

After the approval, an unskilled labourer will get Rs 285 per day (Rs 8,550 per month) instead of Rs 259, a semi-skilled labourer will get Rs 297 per day (Rs 8,910 per month) instead of Rs 271, a skilled labourer will get Rs 309 per day (Rs 9,270 per month) instead of Rs 283 and a highly skilled worker will get Rs 359 per day (Rs 10,770 per month) instead of Rs 333.

It is noteworthy that the last increase of Rs 7 in minimum wages was implemented July 1, 2021. According to an official statement, the state government is continuously taking important steps to provide economic and social support to workers.

In another move, registered insured employees and their dependent families under the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme of Rajasthan will also get the benefit of Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana under the ESI category.

Under this scheme, about 1.44 crore families are provided free health insurance coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh.

According to the official state-

ment, the chief minister has approved the inclusion of insured employees and their dependent families registered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI) in the Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana under the ESI category, expanding the scope of beneficiaries under the scheme.

With this, a total of 51.85 lakh people, including 13.36 lakh employees and their 38.39 lakh family members currently registered under ESI, will be able to get free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh under this scheme.

The Rajasthan government has also given financial approval of Rs 11.16 crore for Human Resources for the development of the e-registration project of the Registration and Stamp Department.

The chief minister has also approved an additional budget provision of Rs 5 crore for the computerisation of the project and its related communication expenditure in the financial year 2023-24.

With this approval, the work of the Registration and Stamp Department will become online, enabling the common man to register the property faster.

In another decision, the proposal to upgrade six government upper primary schools to higher secondary schools has also been approved. Gehlot has also given his nod to create 78 new posts for these schools.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: BALANGIR
No.3129/BM/Dt.25.8.23
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER-BLGRMPY/06 (01-75)/2023-24
No.C-1225: Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Civil Construction work as mentioned in DTCN.
- No. of Works : 75 (Seventy Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 3.00 Lakhs to 15.00 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 2 to 3 Calendar Months.
- Date and Time of online Bidding : From 11.00 AM of 26.08.2023 to 5.00 PM of 07.09.2023.
- Online Bids shall be opened on : 08.09.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality
- Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Further any addendum/corrigendum/clarification issued in connection with the tenders shall be uploaded in the above website and no newspaper advertisement shall be given. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for obtaining all such details.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Balangir Municipality
OIPR-13169/11/0010/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MAIN DAM DIVISION, BURLA AT/PO - BURLA, DIST.SAMBALPUR (ODISHA) 768017
No.A-491: Government of Orissa
"e" Procurement Notice No.MDD-e-07/2023-24 (Online)
Email Id : semaindamdivn@gmail.com
Date:28.08.2023

- No. of work : 4 Nos.
- Estimated cost : Rs. 10.74 to 47.74 lakhs
- Period of completion : 2 to 6 (Two to six calendar) months
- Date & Time of available of bid document in the Portal : 05.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 14.09.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of bid : 15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name & Address of the Officer inviting bid : Superintending Engineer Main Dam Division, Burla AT/PO- Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha
Email: semaindamdivn@gmail.com

Further details, any corrigendum or addendum can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Main Dam Division, Burla
OIPR-32017/11/0005/2324

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MARG, BHUBANESWAR-751001
Ref.No.590
Date:28.08.2023

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
BID IDENTIFICATION No. BDA/590/SE-II/2023-24
No.CAD-1867: Superintending Engineer, Division No.II, BDA, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites tender on Percentage Rate in Single cover system to be received in on-line mode only for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs in lakh)	Validity of Tender (One) Year	Class of Contractor	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document (in Rs.)	Last Date of online receipt of bids
1	Improvement and Protection of open space of Circle-3 under BMC & G.A. Area around the Government Plots	Rs.31.56	Upto 01 (One) Year	C' & B' Class	1% of Tender Value	Rs.6,000+ GST @ 18% Rs.1,080.00	15.09.2023 upto 5.30 PM
2	Improvement and Protection of open space of Circle-4 under BMC & G.A. Area around the Government Plots	Rs.31.57	Upto 01 (One) Year	C' & B' Class	-do-	Rs.6,000+ GST @ 18% Rs.1,080.00	15.09.2023 upto 5.30 PM

The Bid documents will be available in the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 01.09.2023 to 5.30 P.M. of 15.09.2023.
1. All Corrigendum and Addendum will be published in the Website only. 2. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
OIPR-13033/11/0269/2324
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Division No.II, BDA, Bhubaneswar

FEDERAL BANK
YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER
LCRD Kolkata Division, 91A/1, Park Street, 1st Floor, Avani Signature, Kolkata -700016,
Phone: 033-68151676, Email: kollcrd@federalbank.co.in
Website: www.federalbank.co.in, CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368
(Sale notice for sale of immovable properties)

E- Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co-Obligants that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 29/09/2023, for recovery of 1) Rs.21,50,888/- as on 31/07/2023 under Loan A/c.No.22005500000438 and 2) Rs.2,72,012.22 as on 29/07/2023 under Loan A/c.No.22006900000085 due to The Federal Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) from 1) M/s. Annadata Pesticides, 2) Mr. Anil Kumar Goditi, 3) Mr. Gunnam Satish Choudhury, 4) Mr. Goditi Venkat Rao.
(Description of the Immovable Property with Known Encumbrances, if any)

Details of Immovable property	Reserve Price	EMD
All the piece and parcel of the landed property measuring Area: Ac.0.15 Dec, bearing Plot No.: 3127/10007, Khata No.: 1169/167, situated at Mouza: Kulunda, P.S./Tehsil: Attabira, Dist.: Bargarh, Bounded by East: Land of Hrushikesh Nayak, West: Land of Hrushikesh Nayak, South: Land of Hrushikesh Nayak, North: Road and (As per Sale Deed Doc.No.10161300804/2013 dated 26-07-2013 Registered at SRO: Attabira), Known encumbrances, if any-Nil	Rs.4,86,000/-	Rs.48,600/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the website of The Federal Bank Ltd i.e. <https://www.federalbank.co.in/web/guest/tender-notices>
Date : 28.08.2023, Place: Kolkata
For the Federal Bank Ltd, (Authorised officer under SARFAESI Act)



Artistes perform during the foundation day celebrations of Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad in Kolkata, West Bengal



Devotees take holy dip at a Ganga ghat on the last Somvar (Monday) of the holy month of 'Shravan' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Members of Bharthiya Dalit Congress participate in 'Villuvandi' procession on the 160th birth anniversary of social reformer Ayyankali in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Police detain a student at a protest during a 12-hour statewide 'bandh' called by Twipra Students' Federation (TSF) demanding adoption of Roman script for Kokborok language, in Agartala, Tripura



Healthcare workers perform near a 250 square metre 'Pookalam' during Onam celebrations, in UAE



Families of persons killed in sewer and septic tanks take part in a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



People stand next to an informal street memorial for Wagner Group's military group members killed in a plane crash Wednesday, near the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. Prigozhin was aboard a plane that crashed north of Moscow killing all 10 people on board



Participants at the annual horse-cart race in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

national

of the day quote

I convey my heartiest Onam greetings to the people of the State and other Keralites all over the world. Let us join hands to spread the melody, charm and sparkle of Onam across the globe as Kerala's unique message of love, equality and harmony

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN | KERALA GOVERNOR

The cabinet sub-committee will have a meeting in a day or two. After that we will make a decision. Once drought is declared in the state, we will appeal to the Centre. A central team will come. Centre will have to support us as per the NDRF norms

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The centre is a unique tribute to preserve and promote the glorious artistic heritage of the Dard-Shina tribal community and to provide glimpses of its rich culture to the world. India's first museum for Dardis traces the journey of Shina culture, languages and Gurezi way of life

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Court summons Tejashwi Yadav

Ahmedabad: A metropolitan court in Ahmedabad Monday issued summons to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in a criminal defamation case filed against him over his reported remarks that "only Gujaratis can be thugs (fraudster)." The court of Additional Metropolitan Magistrate DJ Parmar issued summons to the senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader to appear before it September 22 in a case filed against him under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for criminal defamation.

Fodder scam case: CBI court convicts 89

Ranchi: A Special CBI court here Monday convicted 89 people in a case of the fodder scam and sentenced 53 of them to imprisonment of various terms, with the maximum being three years. Thirty-five others were acquitted in the case by Special CBI judge Vishal Srivastav. Altogether 124 people were accused in the case which is related to the fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 36.59 crore from Doranda treasury of undivided Bihar. Special Public Prosecutor of the CBI Ravi Shankar said that in the Doranda treasury case of the fodder scam, the court has acquitted 35 people while 89 others have been convicted.

Bomb threat to Kochi-B'lore flight

Kochi: A total of 139 passengers on board an Indigo flight from Kochi to Bangalore were deboarded at the international airport here Monday after receiving a call regarding the presence of a bomb in the aircraft. The flight -- 6E6482 -- was scheduled to depart for Bangalore at 10.30 AM, CIAL said in a statement.

Balaji's judicial custody extended

Chennai: A special court hearing the cases related to MPs and MLAs has extended the judicial custody of jailed Tamil Nadu minister Senthil Balaji till September 15, an official said Monday. Judge K Ravi announced the orders extending the judicial custody of the minister without portfolio till September 15. The court also handed over the 3,000-page charge sheet of the Enforcement Directorate to the minister directly. The Enforcement Directorate had August 12 filed a prosecution complaint of about 3,000 pages.



I am apprehensive that they (BJP) could hold the Lok Sabha elections in December 2023 itself, or in January. If the BJP returns to power for the third consecutive term, the nation would face an autocratic rule

MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CM

POLICE CASE AGAINST ZUBAIR

Police in Uttar Pradesh have filed a FIR against fact-checker and Alt News co-founder Mohd Zubair for social media posts allegedly revealing the identity of the Muslim boy slapped repeatedly by his classmates on the orders of their school teacher who also appeared to make communal remarks



Top court asks why lecturer suspended after Art 370 hearing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The Supreme Court Monday asked Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to look into the issue of the suspension of Jammu and Kashmir education department lecturer who had argued before the top court in a matter related to the abrogation of Article 370.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud took note of the suspension of Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, who had argued before the top court on August 24 as petitioner in-person in the case.

As soon as the court resumed its hearing, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Rajeev Dhavan pointed out that Bhat was suspended from his job by the Jammu and Kashmir administration after having argued before the top court. "He took leave for two days. Argued before this court and went back and was suspended," Sibal said.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, asked Venkataramani to talk to the J&K Lieutenant Governor and look into the issue. "This should not happen. Someone arguing before this court gets suspended..." the bench said.

Venkataramani replied that he will look into the issue.

The Supreme Court asks centre's top law officer to speak to J&K LG Manoj Sinha and find out why a college lecturer was suspended days after he appeared in court to argue against the scrapping of Article 370

Zahoor Ahmad Bhat was suspended pending inquiry for alleged violation of provisions of J&K Civil Service Regulations, J&K Government Employees (conduct) Rules, 1971 and J&K Leave Rules

Mehta said after the news of Bhat's suspension was published in a newspaper, he checked with the administration and he was informed that there were various reasons behind the lecturer's suspension including that he has been regularly filing petitions before different courts.

"We can place before the court all the materials related to his suspension," Mehta said.

Sibal countered, "Then, he would have been suspended earlier, why now. I have the suspension order of Bhat and it says that he has argued before this court and therefore the suspension. This is not fair. This is not how democracy should function."

The bench said if there are other reasons then it is another matter but if a person gets suspended in close proximity of arguing before this court, then it needs to be looked into.



Centre opposes Bihar caste survey in SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 28: The Supreme Court Monday was told by the Union government that nobody except it is entitled to conduct a census or any exercise akin to a census.

A short affidavit was filed by the Office of the Registrar General from the Union Home Ministry in response to the batch of pleas challenging the caste-based survey in Bihar placing the constitutional and legal position for consideration of the top court.

It said that the subject of census is covered in the Union List under Entry 69 in the VII Schedule of the Constitution and the Census Act, 1948 "empowers only the Central Government to conduct the census".



"It is submitted that no other body under the Constitution or otherwise (except Centre) is entitled to conduct the exercise of either Census or any action akin to census," the affidavit stated.

It also clarified that the Central government is committed to take all affirmative actions for upliftment of SCs/STs/SEBCs and OBCs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India and other applicable laws.

On August 21, the Supreme Court allowed the Union government a period of one week to file its reply after Solicitor



Supporters of NCP chief Sharad Pawar burn an effigy during a protest against Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbal in Thane, Maharashtra

LAVROV TO REPRESENT RUSSIA AT G20 SUMMIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin who conveyed his inability to attend the G20 Summit on September 9 to 10 in India and said Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The two leaders also reviewed progress on a number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, including the recently concluded BRICS summit in Johannesburg, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin in its readout said "a mutual commitment" to the consistent implementation of "large-scale projects" in the energy sector and joint work on the expansion of international transport and logistics infrastructure was "expressed" during the conversa-



India is hosting the G20 summit in New Delhi in its capacity as the current president of the grouping

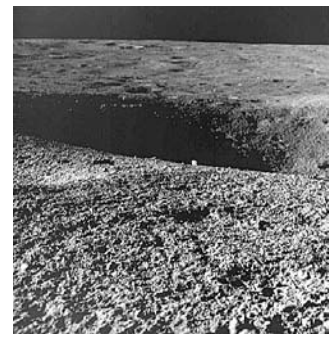
tion. It said the significance of the decision on the expansion of BRICS at its summit in Johannesburg last week figured in the conversation and that they emphasised that it will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of the grouping's influence in international affairs. The PMO said PM Modi and President Putin reviewed progress on a number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of "mutual concern", including the recently concluded BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg.

"President Putin conveyed his inability to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9-10 and informed that Russia would be represented by Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov," the PMO said in a statement.

"While expressing an understanding for Russia's decision, the PM thanked President Putin for Russia's consistent support to all initiatives under India's G20 Presidency. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch," it added. Putin did not travel to Johannesburg for the BRICS summit from August 22-24 and joined some of its key sessions through video conferencing.

It has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. ISRO came out with a graph illustrating the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration.

Pragyan rover encounters lunar crater



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 28: Chandrayaan-3 mission's rover 'Pragyan' came across a four-metre diameter crater just ahead of its location on lunar surface before it was commanded to retrace its path, ISRO said Monday. It's now safely heading on a new path, the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a social media post. ISRO said the rover came across a four-metre diameter crater located three metres ahead of its location August 27. "The rover was commanded to retrace the path," it added.

ISRO Sunday released the first observations from the ChaSTE payload onboard the 'Vikram' lander of the country's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3. ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole, to understand the thermal behaviour of the Moon's surface.

It has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface. The probe is fitted with 10 individual temperature sensors. ISRO came out with a graph illustrating the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration.

This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. Detailed observations are underway, the space agency said.

SC disposes petition against demolition drive in Mathura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The Supreme Court Monday disposed of a plea related to the demolition drive to clear alleged illegal constructions near Krishna Janmabhoomi in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, and granted liberty to the petitioner to seek relief before the civil court.

Noting that suits instituted by the occupants or residents of the land are pending before the jurisdictional civil court, the apex court asked the petitioner to apply for relief there.

"The relief claimed in this petition, in our opinion, is better examined in a suit. As proceedings are pending, we dispose of this writ petition, giving

liberty to the petitioner to apply for relief before the suit court," a bench headed by Justice Aniruddha Bose said.

The bench also refused to extend the status quo which it had granted on August 16, when the top court had halted for 10 days the demolition drive being carried out by the railways to clear the land of alleged illegal constructions.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and SVN Bhatti, was hearing a plea filed by Mathura resident Yakub Shah.

The bench asked the petitioner's counsel what relief can be given in a petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution when suits are pending before the civil court.

ALL IS NOT WELL IN BUREAUCRACY

Ominous clouds seem to be hovering over the bureaucracy in Gujarat with a former district collector in judicial custody, a second under suspension, an additional collector arrested and the Gujarat High Court directing action against a serving IPS officer for not registering an FIR in the case involving the death of a police driver even while the cops are under notice in two other cases of public flogging.

Even as Gujarat government last month reinstated senior IAS officer, Gaurav Dahiya who was suspended in 2019 after facing allegations of bigamy and cheating levelled by a Delhi woman, this month it was the turn of Anand district Collector DS Gadhvi to face suspension. On August 9, the state government ordered Gadhvi's sus-

pension "for serious charges of misconduct and moral turpitude". A 5-member panel of women officers, headed by Sunaina Tomar, Additional Chief Secretary department of Social Justice and Empowerment will probe the matter and submit its report to the state government within a month.

The action against the 2008 batch IAS officer who was promoted from the state sub-ordinary services was initiated after a purported video showing him in an intimate position with a woman in his office began doing the rounds of the social media circuit. Apparently a spy cam had been planted in the office of the district collector.

Deviancy from acceptable norms of administrative conduct do not take place overnight. Ironically the same adminis-

tration which had so far failed to track down these departures, moved with lightning speed at the highest level to track down



the culprits behind the spy-cam. The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) was ordered into the investigation and a Resident Additional Collector (RAC) Ketaki Vyas and two others have been arrested for honey-trapping Gadhvi and blackmailing him with objectionable clips for clearing contentious files, additional charges for disappearance of evidence

and human trafficking have also been invoked.

Sunaina Tomar, who was then principal secretary was also tasked with the inquiry into Dahiya's case when a Delhi-based woman claimed that he had married her in February 2018 while keeping her in the dark about his first marriage and wife. Dahiya had denied the allegation claiming that the woman had "honey trapped" him and was blackmailing him. After four years under suspension Dahiya has now been reinstated.

Meanwhile Gadhvi is now the second officer holding the district collector's post to come under a cloud. Last month SK Langa who was the district collector in the state capital of Gandhinagar from April 2018 to September 2019 was arrested

from Abu in Rajasthan and remanded to police custody in connection with land scams. The officer is presently in judicial custody.

The police claimed to have unearthed documentary evidence pertaining to the land scams that took place during his tenure and led to substantial financial loss to the state exchequer. Langa had initially challenged the sessions court decision to place him in custody on charges of corruption, and alleged criminal misconduct as a public servant but withdrew it after the High Court showed inclination to reject it.

On August 14, the five month long ordeal of a policeman's family for justice came to an end when a FIR was registered against a deputy superintendent of police and a sub-in-

spector for assault and abetting the suicide of a police van driver. Caught in the cross-hair of the Gujarat High Court's scrutiny into the case is an IPS officer Ravi Teja, the present superintendent of police of Gandhinagar. Then posted in Junagadh, Teja was summoned by the Court and hauled over the coals for not registering an offence. The High Court has directed the state home secretary to take action against the officer for his negligence.

Similarly July 25, the High Court issued notices to 32 police officers and men in a contempt proceeding against them pertaining to public flogging of Muslims in Junagadh town the previous month. Clearly all is not well. The bureaucracy could do with a closer look at their own reflection.

international



Electronically tagging illegal migrants into the UK as part of the government's expanded detention plans is among a range of options being considered by the government
SUELLA BRAVERMAN | UK HOME SECRETARY

JAPAN POSTPONES MOON MISSION LAUNCH

Japan's space agency Monday postponed for the third time the launch of its 'Moon Sniper' lunar mission due to poor weather



of the day quote

Tehran had summoned the chargé d'affaires of the Swiss Embassy in Iran to express a strong objection over the US seizing the oil. Switzerland has looked out for America's interests in Iran since the 1979 US Embassy hostage crisis

NASSER KANAANI | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

Beijing is ready to work together to foster a more favorable policy environment for stronger cooperation between US and Chinese businesses and bolster bilateral trade and investment

WANG WENTAO | MINISTER OF COMMERCE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Iran and the Netherlands are having new conditions in bilateral cooperation, which is expected to further expand if both sides are committed to doing so

ALI BAGHERI KANI | IRAN'S DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

SHORT TAKES

Nuke water release: Japan warns China

Tokyo: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hit out at Beijing Monday over what he said were instances of stones being thrown at diplomatic missions and schools in China, following the release of wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant. Last week, China banned all seafood imports from its neighbour after Japan began releasing cooling water from the stricken Fukushima plant in an operation that Tokyo and the UN's nuclear watchdog have said is safe. Since then, Japanese businesses ranging from bakeries to aquariums have received reportedly thousands of sometimes abusive crank calls from Chinese numbers. "There have been numerous harassment calls believed to originate from China and instances of stones being thrown into the Japanese embassy and Japanese schools. It must be said these are regrettable," Fumio Kishida said.

Libya minister suspended

Cairo: One of Libya's rival prime ministers said Monday he has suspended his foreign minister a day after Israel revealed that its chief diplomat met with her last week — news that prompted scattered street protests in the chaos-stricken North African nation. Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, who heads the government of national unity in the capital, Tripoli, also referred Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush, for investigation over the meeting, which was the first ever between top diplomats of Libya and Israel. Mangoush fled to Turkey following the Israeli announcement of the meeting, according to a Libyan foreign ministry official.



Remains of a marquee destroyed by a storm lies on the outskirts of the town of Kissing, Germany

TOSHAKHANA CASE

Pak high court reserves verdict on Imran's plea



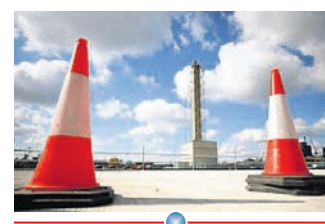
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 28: A Pakistan high court said Monday that it would announce Tuesday its reserved verdict on former Prime Minister Imran Khan's plea seeking the suspension of his three-year jail term given by a sessions court in the Toshakhana corruption case. A divisional bench of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges, comprising Chief Justice Amer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, reserved the verdict after hearing both parties' counsels. The bench later stated that the reserved judgment would be announced at 11.00 am Tuesday. Earlier in the day, the IHC resumed hearing of appeal which it began hearing on August 22. It had adjourned the case on Friday after the lawyer representing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) did not appear due to illness. Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa completed his argument on Thursday, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and full of shortcomings. He urged the court to set aside the sentence but the defence team demanded more time to complete its arguments. Many believe that a favourable ruling for 70-year-old Khan may come after the Supreme Court highlighted faults in the judgment convicting Khan. Meanwhile, the Balochistan High Court (BHC) Monday dismissed a first information report (FIR) filed against Khan for making comments against state institutions and their officers during a speech.

AIR TRAFFIC ISSUE FIXED AS THOUSANDS FACE DELAYS

REUTERS

London, August 28: Flights using UK airspace were delayed or cancelled for several hours Monday due to what Britain's National Air Traffic Service said was a technical issue that it had now identified and remedied. NATS had earlier had to restrict the flow of aircraft and manually input flight plans after the issue affected its system's ability to automatically process flight plans, with airlines and airports warning of delays and cancellations. "We have identified and remedied the technical issue affecting our flight planning system this morning. We are now working closely with airlines and airports to manage the flights affected as efficiently as possible," NATS said in a statement. "Our engineers will be carefully monitoring the system's performance as we return to normal operations." Earlier Irish



A spokesperson for London Heathrow, the busiest hub in western Europe, said the airport was working with NATS and other airport partners to minimise the impact on passengers. Many passengers took to social media to say they were stuck on planes on the tarmac waiting to take off or being held in airport buildings

air traffic control provider AirNav Ireland said the issue, which struck during a public holiday in parts of Britain, was resulting in "significant delays for flights across Europe that are travelling to, from or through UK airspace". A spokesperson for London

Heathrow, the busiest hub in western Europe, said the airport was working with NATS and other airport partners to minimise the impact on passengers, while Gatwick, south of London, said it was seeing multiple delays and cancellations. Earlier Scottish airline Loganair said there had been a network-wide failure of UK air traffic control computer systems. British Airways said its flights were being severely disrupted and it had made "significant changes" to its schedule, while other airlines including Ryanair also said some flights to and from the UK would be delayed or cancelled. Manchester Airport and London Stansted were among the many UK airports who warned of potential disruption to flights, while Dublin Airport said the issues were resulting in delays and cancellations to some flights into and out of the Irish capital.

Foxconn founder to run for Taiwan presidency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, August 28: Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of the electronics giant Foxconn, declared Monday that he will run as an independent candidate for president in Taiwan's 2024 election, ending months of speculation. At a news conference, Gou criticized the governing Democratic Progressive Party, saying its policies have "brought Taiwan into the risk of war" with China, which claims the self-ruled island democracy as part of its territory. He said Taiwan also needs new approaches on the economy and other matters at home. "Domestically, the national policy direction is filled with all



sorts of mistakes. There's no way to solve the difficulties of Taiwanese industry and people's livelihoods," he said. Gou's Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision

Industry Co., is a major supplier to Apple and has factories in China. He has long had presidential aspirations. He ran in the 2019 election but lost as Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic

China drops Covid test for travellers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, August 28: China will no longer require a negative COVID-19 test result for incoming travellers starting Wednesday, a milestone in its reopening to the rest of the world after a three-year isolation that began with the country's borders closing in March 2020. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced the change at a briefing in Beijing Monday. China in January ended quarantine requirements for its own citizens travelling from abroad, and over the past few months has gradually expanded the list of countries that Chinese people can travel to and increased the number of international flights. Beijing ended its tough domestic "zero COVID" policy only in December, after years of draconian curbs that at times included full-city lockdowns and lengthy quarantines for people who were infected. The restrictions slowed the world's second-largest economy, leading to rising unemployment and occasional instances of unrest. As part of those measures, incoming travelers were required to isolate for weeks at government-designated hotels. Residents were in some cases forcibly locked into their homes in attempts to stop the virus from spreading. Protests in major cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Nanjing erupted

in November over the COVID curbs, in the most direct challenge to the Communist Party's rule since the Tiananmen protests of 1989. In early December, authorities abruptly scrapped most COVID controls, ushering in a wave of infections that overwhelmed hospitals and morgues. A US federally funded study this month found the rapid dismantling of the "zero COVID" policy may have led to nearly 2 million excess deaths in the following two months. That number greatly exceeds official estimates of 60,000 deaths within a month of the lifting of the curbs. During the years of "zero COVID," local authorities occasionally imposed snap lockdowns in attempts to isolate infections, trapping people inside of offices and apartment buildings. From April until June last year, the city of Shanghai locked down its 25 million residents in one of the world's largest pandemic-related mass lockdowns. Residents were required to take frequent PCR tests and had to rely on government food supplies, often described as insufficient. Throughout the pandemic, Beijing touted its "zero COVID" policy — and the initial relatively low number of infections — as an example of the superiority of China's political system over that of Western democracies. Since lifting the COVID curbs, the government has been contending with a sluggish economic recovery.

The restrictions slowed the world's second-largest economy, leading to rising unemployment and occasional instances of unrest. As part of those measures, incoming travelers were required to isolate for weeks at government-designated hotels. Residents were in some cases forcibly locked into their homes in attempts to stop the virus from spreading. Protests in major cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Nanjing erupted



Russia detains ex-US Consulate employee

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, August 28: Russia's top domestic security agency said Monday that a detained former employee of the US Consulate in Vladivostok is accused of collecting information about Russia's action in Ukraine and related issues for US diplomats. Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, the country's main domestic security agency, said Robert Shonov is suspected of "gathering information about the special military operation, mobilization processes in Russian regions, problems and the assessment of their influence on protest activities of the population in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election." The FSB, the top KGB successor, said it has served summonses to question two US diplomats who allegedly instructed Shonov to collect the information. Shonov's arrest was first reported in May, but Russian authorities provided no details at the time. The US State Department has condemned his arrest. Shonov was charged under a new article of Russian law that criminalizes "cooperation on a confidential basis with a foreign state, international or foreign organization to assist their activities clearly aimed against Russia's security." Kremlin critics have said that the formulation is so broad that it could be used to punish any Russian who had foreign connections. It carries a prison sentence of up to eight years. The US State Department has said Shonov worked at the US consulate in Vladivostok for more than 25 years.

French ban of abaya robes in schools draws applause, criticism

REUTERS

Paris, August 28: French conservatives Monday applauded the government's decision to ban children from wearing the abaya, the loose-fitting, full-length robes worn by some Muslim women, in state-run schools, but the move also drew criticism and some mockery. France, which has enforced a strict ban on religious symbols in state schools since 19th century laws removed any traditional Catholic influence from public education, has struggled to update guidelines to deal with a growing Muslim minority. The strict ban of secularism, known as "laïcité," is a sensitive

topic, and one often quick to trigger tension. "Our schools are continually put under test, and over the past months, breaches to laïcité have increased considerably, in particular with (pupils) wearing religious attire like abayas and kameez," Education Minister Gabriel Attal told a news conference to explain Sunday's ban. The head of the conservative Les Républicains party, Eric Ciotti, was quick to welcome the move, stressing that his group had repeatedly asked for it. But Clementine Autain, an MP for the hard-left France Insoumise, criticised what she called the "clothes police" and a move "characteristic of an obsessive rejection of Muslims".



The SNPDEN-UNSA union of school principals welcomed the move, saying what it needed above all was clarity, its national secretary, Didier Georges, said. "What we wanted from ministers was: yes or no?" Georges

said of the abaya. "We're satisfied because a decision was made. We would have been equally happy if the decision had been to authorise the abaya. "We were worried by a strong increase in the (the number of

pupils) wearing the abaya. And we believe that it was not our role to arbitrate, but one for the state," he said, speaking of concerns over principals' security. In 2020, history teacher Samuel Paty was killed by an Islamist radical in an attack that struck at the heart of the country's secular values and the role teachers have. Sophie Venet, from the SNES-FSU union, said it was key to focus on dialogue with pupils and families to ensure the ban did not mean children will be taken away from state-run schools to go to religious schools. "And what is certain is that the abaya is not the main problem for schools," she told Reuters, stressing that a lack of teach-

ers was a much bigger issue. In 2004, France banned headscarves in schools and passed a ban on full face veils in public in 2010, angering some in its five million-strong Muslim community. Less than a year ago, Attal's predecessor, Pap Ndiaye, decided against going further and specifically banning the abaya, telling the Senate that "the abaya is not easy to define, legally... it would take us to the administrative tribunal, where we would lose". Abdallah Zekri, vice-chair of the French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFM), made a similar point, saying Attal's decision was misguided. "The abaya is not religious attire, it's a type of fashion," he said.

- Secularism is sensitive topic in France
- In 2004, France banned headscarves in schools
- Education minister announced ban on abaya Sunday
- Move draws mixed reactions

business

of the day quote

Presently, FFVs (Flex fuel vehicles) are levied with a GST rate of 28 per cent, a notable contrast to the 5% GST rate applicable to electric vehicles. We request parity in the GST rebate for FFVs

ADITYA JHUNJHUNWALA | PRESIDENT, ISMA

IBM in India reflects our global footprint. The total investment in India will keep growing

ARVIND KRISHNA | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, IBM

Growth would be driven by rise in data usage to 23-25 GB per subscriber per month this fiscal from 20 GB last fiscal, and recalibration of tariff plans, leading to higher operating profitability

MANISH GUPTA | DEPUTY CHIEF RATINGS OFFICER, CRISIL

SHORT TAKES

ONDC takes on Zomato, Swiggy

New Delhi: Giving a tough fight to Zomato-Swiggy dominance in online food delivery market, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), an initiative of the government, Monday said that 50,000 restaurants are now live for placing online orders on the Open Network, across 172 cities. The number of restaurants on the Open Network shot up from 500 in February 2023 to 50,000 in August 2023, depicting exponential growth. "What started with our first order in September 2022, the Network has onboarded over 50,000 restaurants till now. As we continue to grow and expand, we are excited about the future of online food delivery in the ecommerce ecosystem and our role in shaping it," said T Koshy, MD and CEO at ONDC.

Jet Airways gets time till Sept 30

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Monday extended the time till September 30 for Jalan-Kalrock Consortium for payment of Rs 350 crore to the lenders of the bankrupt Jet Airways. A three-member NCLAT bench accepted the plea of the consortium to extend the timeline and also for adjustment of Rs 150 crore from performance bank guarantee (PBG) towards payment of Rs 350 crore. The consortium has submitted an undertaking before the appellate tribunal, in which it had committed to pay Rs 100 crore by August 31, 2023 and another Rs 100 crore by September 30, 2023.



India has become one of our most important countries, not just for customers, but for employees and for talent. Even in a year where the tech sector in some respects needed to shed some jobs, India grew for Microsoft

BRAD SMITH | PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT

GOOD RESPONSE FOR IT 2.0 PLI

As many as 58 companies, including top global players, have registered for the government's Rs 17,000-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware, a senior government official said Monday. The Ministry of Electronics and IT, Secretary, Alkesh Kumar Sharma said that the response to PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT hardware has been more than expected



DIGITAL HEIST

2022 SAW 192 CRYPTO HEISTS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN THE CRYPTO MARKET'S HISTORY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 28: Crypto criminals have stolen more than \$10 billion to date, despite crypto crime slowing down, a new report said Monday.

According to data presented by AltIndex.com, crypto scammers and hackers stole more than \$3.5 billion of cryptos in 2022.

Cryptocurrency heists took off in the last six years, going from only 15 hacks reported in 2017 to 136 in 2021, according to Comparitech data.

During this time, the total value of stolen cryptos increased eight times, from approximately \$324 million to a staggering \$2.7 billion.

Crypto security threats cost

nearly \$730 million in August 2021 alone. An individual stole \$610 million of this total in a Poly Network heist, which ended up being the second-largest crypto hack. However, crypto crime skyrocketed last year, with crypto scammers and hackers stealing more money than in 2019, 2020, and 2021 combined.

Moreover, the report showed that the year 2022 saw 192 crypto heists, the highest number in the crypto market's history, while hackers stole a whopping \$3.54



billion of investor funds.

Fortunately, the concerning trend slowed in 2023, with crypto criminals stealing approximately \$905 million in eight months, or less than one-third of the value

seen in the same period the previous year.

So far, 718 reported heists have resulted in criminals stealing \$10.2 billion in cryptocurrency. Surprisingly, only one-fifth of the stolen funds, or \$2.6 billion, have been recovered, with a recovery time of around 75 days on average, the report mentioned.

While 2023 saw a huge drop in the total value of stolen cryptos, the number of crypto heists remains high.

Since 2011, there have been

718 cases of crypto heists worldwide, and 70 per cent of them have happened in the last three years. As per the statistics, the year 2021 saw 136 crypto heists, 2.5 times more than the year before that, while, in 2022, the total number of crypto crimes jumped to 199, the highest figure to date, according to the report.

Even though crypto scammers and hackers stole only \$905 million in the first eight months of this year, 2023 saw the second-highest number of crypto crimes.

HINDENBURG INVESTIGATION

'SEBI probe faults Adani'

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 28: An investigation of India's Adani group by the market regulator has uncovered violations of rules on disclosures by listed entities and limits on the holdings of offshore funds, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the inquiry after US-based Hindenburg Research raised governance concerns around the Gautam Adani-led group, shaving more than \$100 billion from the market value of its companies.

The ports-to-power conglomerate had denied wrongdoing in January.

The sources, who sought anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media, characterised the violations as being of a "technical" nature that would attract no more than a monetary penalty once the investigation is complete, however.

India's Supreme Court, which is overseeing SEBI's investigation of the Adani group, is set to hear the matter Tuesday.



But SEBI has no plans to make the report public until the regulator has passed its orders on the Adani investigation, one of the sources said.

On Monday the group did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on the regulator's findings.

On Friday, SEBI told the Supreme Court it had very nearly completed its investigation into the Adani group's dealings.

One key finding had been violations in disclosing certain related-party transactions, the sources said.

"Transactions with a related party need to be identified and reported," said one of them. "If

SEBI examined 13 instances of related-party transactions

'Penalty could go up to a maximum of ₹10mn for each violation by each entity'

SC, which is overseeing SEBI's investigation of Adani group, is set to hear the matter today

ment classed as a foreign direct investment.

"There are some inadvertent breaches of this limit by some offshore investors," said the second of the two sources, but declined to give details.

It was not immediately clear how big a fine the company could face for such breaches. Reuters could not determine the specific companies the regulator has investigated.

In its January response to Hindenburg's accusations, the Adani group said all related party transactions had been fully identified and disclosed.

The group could not comment on the trading pattern of offshore investors as they were public shareholders, it added.

SEBI follows quasi-judicial processes before it publishes an order against an entity, which include giving it an opportunity to defend itself.

The regulator can recommend actions ranging from monetary penalties to a ban from stock markets, depending on the seriousness of the violations. But it was not immediately clear what penalties the regulator will eventually recommend in the Adani investigation.

not done, it could give an incorrect picture of the Indian listed company's financials."

In its court filing the regulator said it had examined 13 instances of related-party transactions.

The penalty could go up to a maximum of Rs 10 million (\$121,000) for each violation by each entity, the sources added.

The inquiry also found that holdings of offshore funds in some Adani companies were not in line with the rules, they said.

Indian law allows an offshore investor to invest a maximum of 10% in an Indian company via the foreign portfolio investor route with any larger invest-

Markets bounce back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 28: Equity benchmark indices climbed Monday after two days of fall, tracking strength in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank.

The BSE Sensex climbed 110.09 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 64,996.60. During the day, it jumped 326.94 points or 0.50 per cent to 65,213.45. The NSE Nifty gained 40.25 points or 0.21 per cent to end at 19,306.05.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Reliance Industries, Nestle, Titan, HCL Technologies, ITC and Tata Motors were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.67 per cent and midcap gained 0.59 per cent. Among the indices, capital



goods jumped 1.37 per cent, industrials climbed 1.09 per cent, realty (0.95 per cent), telecommunication (0.87 per cent), utilities (0.70 per cent), auto (0.65 per cent), commodities (0.63 per cent) and power (0.63 per cent). FMCG, IT and teck were the laggards.

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day higher by 1 paise at 82.63 against the US dollar. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in capital markets Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,393.25 crore.

The BSE benchmark had ended lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51 Friday. The Nifty declined by 120.90 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80.

'CAD may fall \$10bn in Q1'

India's current account deficit expected to fall 1% of GDP in April-June quarter, says India Ratings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 28: With falling trade deficit, India's current account deficit is likely to narrow to around \$10 billion or 1 per cent of GDP in the April-June quarter of the ongoing fiscal, according to India Ratings.

The country's current account deficit (CAD) stood at \$18 billion or 2.1 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

However, the agency expects CAD to rise in the second quarter of the current fiscal as it sees merchandise exports declining below \$100 billion after a gap of eight quarters.



Imports are expected to be around \$163 billion during the period, up from a seven-quarter low of \$160.3 billion witnessed in Q1 FY24, due to increase in crude prices since July.

This will have the overall trade deficit printing in at a three-quarter high of \$64 billion, the rating agency said.

Another reason is the moderation in services demand since June due to the slowdown in the global economy. Global services

PMI stood at a five-month low of 52.7 in July. Thus, services trade surplus to remain around \$36 billion in Q2, it said.

Merchandise exports contracted even in Q1 by coming in 14.1 per cent lower than the year-ago period. This was the biggest decline in the last 12 quarters. Goods exports stood at a seven-quarter low of \$104 billion in Q1 FY24.

Merchandise imports came down to a seven-quarter low of \$160.3 billion in Q1, while goods imports shrunk 12.7 per cent in the same period, which was the sharpest fall since Q2 FY21.

Benign commodity prices helped in reducing the country's import bill as the inbound shipments of critical commodities such as crude (18.5 per cent) coal (32.4 per cent), organic chemicals (31.9 per cent) and vegetable oils (32.9 per cent) came down in value terms.

NSE's ETCDs see transactions worth ₹609tn in 15 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Leading bourse NSE's exchange-traded currency derivatives, which completes 15 years Tuesday, witnessed close to 2,000 crore contracts worth Rs 609 lakh crore transactions during its journey.

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) introduced the Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCDs) segment August 29, 2008, with the launch of Futures on currency spot rate US Dollar - Indian Rupee.

The first day of trading witnessed trading of 65,798 contracts worth Rs 291 crore with participation from more than 150 trading members, including banks.

"In the 15 years journey, close to 20 billion contracts worth Rs 609 trillion have transacted on the exchange," the bourse said in a statement Monday.

In the last 10 years, the number of contracts traded has increased by 7 times from daily average contracts traded to 1.92 crore in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23) from 27 lakh in FY14. During the same period, turnover has risen by 3.4 times from a daily average turnover of Rs 41,400 crore in FY23 to Rs 12,000 crore in FY14.

"The success of currency derivatives is a culmination of the collaborative effort of all the stakeholders. NSE will continue to make efforts on its part for the development of the currency derivatives segment," Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer at NSE, said.

The bourse now offers currency futures and currency options on 7 currency pairs - the 4 Indian Rupee pairs: US Dollar - Indian Rupee (USDINR), Euro - Indian Rupee (EURINR), Japanese Yen - Indian Rupee (JPYINR), Pound Sterling - Indian Rupee (GBPINR) and 3 USD pairs: Euro - US Dollar (EURUSD), Pound Sterling - US Dollar (GBPUSD) and US Dollar - Japanese Yen (USDJPY).

Fashion retailers suffer sales pain as inflation bites

AS PURSE STRINGS TIGHTEN, THE PAIN FELT BY INDIA'S CLOTHING AND SHOE RETAIL SECTOR WORTH AN ESTIMATED \$62 BILLION ARE FANNING CONCERNS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF CONSUMER SPENDING WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SLOWING EVEN BEFORE THE SHOCKING RISE IN FOOD PRICES

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 28: Across India's malls and high streets, the mood at fashion shops is sombre - foot traffic is down, sales are low and many brands are embarking on steeper-than-usual discounts for longer-than-usual periods of time.

The culprit? Sky-high food inflation after erratic monsoon rains damaged crops and disrupted supply chains.

Prices for tomatoes have rocketed, at one point close to five times since June, while those for onions, another staple in Indian cooking, have risen 80% in some areas like New Delhi. Food inflation for July hit a staggering 11.5%, far more than 4.6% in June and marking a three-year high.

As purse strings tighten, the pain felt by India's clothing and shoe retail sector - worth an estimated \$62 billion in 2022 according to Euromonitor International - are fanning concerns about the health of consumer spending which had already been slowing even before the shocking rises in food prices.

At a Zink London outlet in a Mumbai mall, for example, staff at the domestic women's clothing chain have been calling 10 customers each per day and sending product pictures via WhatsApp in an effort to bolster sales, according to a store manager who declined to be identified.

Interviews with managers at 25 other fashion outlets across four Indian cities who spoke with Reuters on condition of



The biggest threat to India's growth will come from private consumption, which constitutes about 60% of GDP, which is weak already

KAUSHIK DAS | ECONOMIST, DEUTSCHE BANK

anonymity painted a similar downbeat picture.

Popular Indian and foreign brands including shoe retailers Japan's Asics and Skechers USA have been offering steep discounts, some as much as 70%, far bigger than normal and have also been extending their sale periods, said several store managers.

Even when customers do purchase fashion items, they buy far fewer than they once would have, some of the managers also said. The downturn in fashion spending has also been accompanied by a slide in spending at restaurant chains like Domino's.

That said, Indian consumer spending is not uniformly down in the dumps. The country's

biggest cinema operator PVR Inox recently clocked its highest daily box office revenue of \$5 million, driven by some hit Bollywood offerings.

Wealthier people also continue to spend with premium SUV sales at a record high. But worries are mounting about the threat that inflation and high interest rates pose to consumer spending.

In some encouraging signs, tomato prices have eased off peaks and India's central bank chief last week said vegetable prices, which have begun to soften, will decline from September.

Retail outlets and industry executives are also hoping that the upcoming festival season - including Diwali in November when people like to make big

purchases for gift-giving and for themselves - will bring some sales relief. But others are not necessarily optimistic.

"The expectation is always there that people spend during festive season ... But we will have to wait and see what people spend on since the inflation factor has also come in," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

For now, consumers say they need to be more frugal given the increase in grocery bills.

"We are looking for branded clothes to fit our budget and are visiting showrooms where there are maximum discounts," said Anjali Mohanty, a housewife in the eastern city of Bhubaneswar who was shopping for jeans for her son. "We have to adjust our family expenditure."

NEERAJ IS 'NOT THE GOAT'!

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, August 28: Neeraj Chopra has arguably become India's greatest sportsman of all time but the slightest reference makes the newly-crowned World Champion uncomfortable.

Chopra, who is known for his humility besides his world conquering skills with javelin, won the coveted world title with a solid throw of 88.17m in Budapest Sunday night.

He is also the first track and field athlete from India to win an Olympic gold. There is no doubt over who is the all-time greatest Indian track and field athlete but the ever modest Chopra doesn't want to get involved in that debate.

"I will never say this, the greatest of all time. People say that just the World Championships gold was missing. I won it now but I have many things left to do and I will focus on that. I would not like to say this (greatest of all time)."

"If you want to say greatest of all time, it would have to be like Jan Zelezny," he said in the context of world record holder in javelin. Zelezny is the legendary Czech Republic javelin thrower, who holds the world record of 98.48m and won three Olympic and three World Championships gold. He is also Chopra's idol.

Worlds tougher than Olympics
The 25-year-old also finds the World Championships tougher than the Olympics. "Olympics was very special and World Championships is a big title. If

you talk competition-wise, Worlds is always tougher than Olympics. All the athletes come prepared for this. Many people came from India here and local public support was also great. Thus win is special."

He also praised his teammates Kishore Kumar Jena and DP Manu, both of whom finished in the top eight. "Kishore Jena and DP Manu also did very well (finished fifth and sixth). Our athletics is growing. But we have to do a lot of work also. I spoke to Adille sir (AFI president) about the Mondo tracks here and hoping that we will also have this in India just like here. We will do even better in coming years," Chopra added.

"Throwers have no finish line" Neeraj is not someone who would sit on laurels, rather he would push himself to excel further since "throwers have no finish line". Chopra Sunday became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World Championships with a big throw of 88.17m. A World Championships gold was the only missing trophy in his decorated cabinet.

"There is a saying that throwers have no finish line. The best thing is that we have our javelin. We can always push ourselves. I may have won a lot of medals but the motivation is to throw farther and farther," Chopra said during a virtual interaction.

"By winning these medals, I should not think that I have achieved everything. I will work harder, push myself harder to



win more medals and bring more laurels for my country. If other Indians join me on the podium next time, that will be great," he said.

The talk of throwing 90m has been going on for the last three-four years but Chopra insisted that it's not a mental hurdle for him.

"I was feeling very good this year and thought I would throw 90m. But in between groin injury has come and created problem. I had throws very close to 90m last year. It will come some day but don't know

when. I won't take pressure thinking for that. What is more important is the medal. I give more importance to consistency, that gives confidence in big events.

"When I reach 90m, I will also try to keep it consistent. I have been working hard and waiting when will it come," said the 25-year-old Chopra, in ominous signs for the rest of rivals in the world.

He said it was a dream come true to win the World Championships gold medal. "This was great. After the Olympic gold, I really wanted to win the World Championships. I just wanted to throw farther. This is brilliant for the national team, but it was my dream to win gold at the World Championships."

Jena might have to wait longer for homecoming

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Indian javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena does feel homesick at times, especially when none of his sisters are around to facilitate a video call with his aged parents. Being away from family is one of the sacrifices a professional athlete has to make.

Jena last met his parents two years ago and he might not get to see them for another 12 months as he remains focussed on his preparation for the Paris Olympics. Sunday, he finished a creditable fifth in the javelin throw final at the World Championships.

"My parents are not very conversant with use of smartphones. Only when one of my younger sisters visit my parents, they set up a video call and I am able to see them. It has now been two years since I have last visited my home," an emotional Jena told PTI Bhubaneswar over the phone from Budapest. Despite legendary Neeraj Chopra's gold winning performance, Jena and teammate DP Manu were able to hold their own with the Odisha man recording a personal best of 84.77m.

Having capped off a memorable run in Budapest, does he plan to visit his native village in Kothasahi, a few hours from Puri in Odisha?

"I don't think I will be able to go back before the end of the Paris Olympics. Since 2021, either I have been at the national camps in Patiala or on the road competing in various events. So may be another year, I will be away from home," Jena said.

He will be 28 in a week and only took up javelin at the ripe age of 20. "I used to play volleyball and it was only in 2015 that I took up javelin. I was

at the Sports Hostel in Bhubaneswar at the start and then at NIS, Patiala. There is no one in my family with a sports background.

"We are a middle-class family with father

being a farmer and we are seven children. I have six sisters, all of whom are married. I want to make my parents proud as my father, despite needing to marry six daughters within his limited means, always encouraged me to pursue my passion for sports," said the man, who is now employed with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Jena is certain that the invaluable experience that he gained by competing at the World meet will help him in getting better results at the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

"I was a bit nervous as this was the biggest event of my career. I was apprehensive whether I would be able to hold my own or not. If you ask me, I am satisfied with my performance," said Jena.

Competing with a global star like Chopra is an event in itself but Jena said that the World Champion had been very helpful and encouraging. "Obviously, when the event is on, everyone is focussed on their respective performances. I had a not-so-great throw and I told him (Chopra) that I was a bit disappointed.

"He told me 'Don't worry. Forget it. It is gone now. Focus on the next throw and trust me you will do well'. It gave me a lot of confidence. It is a matter of pride that three of us were in the top six," said Jena.

The focus now shifts to Hangzhou and Jena is confident of a podium finish. "The fear of big-ticket event is over after the Budapest championship. I believe this experience will come in handy in Hangzhou. Neeraj Chopra has started a movement and we all need to carry on the good work," he concluded.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a reward of Rs 25 lakh for Kishore Jena, who became the first from Odisha to represent India at the Finals of World Athletics Championships. Commending the indomitable spirit of Jena, CM said his remarkable journey & exceptional performance at the WAC have not only brought glory to the state & nation but also inspire many athletes, for years to come



heat to crash out of the event.

The men's relay team obliterating the Asian record, an unprecedented three javelin throwers finishing in the top six and Parul smashing the women's 3000m steeplechase national record and qualifying for the Paris Olympics were the other bright sports in India's otherwise mediocre performance at the World event.

Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amod Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Varyithodi and Rajesh Ramesh had shattered Asian record in a stunning race, clocking 2 minute 59.05 seconds to qualify for its maiden final, where the Indians finish a creditable fifth with a time of 2:59.92. Minutes before, Chaudhary breached the Paris qualifying mark (9:23.00) and created new national record 9:15.31s en-route her 11th place finish.

Chopra soars but Indian athletics remain stagnant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Neeraj Chopra continued to break new grounds as he clinched the only gold medal missing in his decorated trophy cabinet but most of his compatriots flattered to deceive once again at the World Athletics Championships (WAC).

Indian athletes have won a total of three medals at the marquee event so far, with Chopra accounting for two of those — one silver and one gold. Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George had won a bronze in the 2003 edition.

Sunday night, the man with the gold arm scripted history again as he hurled the javelin to a distance of 88.17m to become the first Indian to win the coveted yellow metal in WAC.

However, the men's javelin gold is expectedly the only medal the Indian contingent takes home from Budapest. Despite reaching the finals in four events, the harsh reality is that no Indian apart from Chopra was considered a serious contender.



In the last edition, six Indians had made it to the finals. And there wasn't much change in the number of Indians qualifying for the finals this year.

Those who reached the final included javelin throwers Chopra, DP Manu and Kishore Jena, 3000m steeple chaser Parul

Chaudhary, long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and the men's 4x400m relay team. However, there was disappointment aplenty for the Indians this time round.

Much was expected in the long jump event. The duo of Jeswin Aldrin and Murali Sreeshankar had entered the meet as season

leaders. However, the former finished 11th while the latter failed to make the final.

Similarly, 3000m steeple-chaser Avinash Sable was tipped to be the one of the best Indian performers after Chopra but the national record holder bungled up his

Barca pip Villarreal in 7-goal thriller

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Madrid, August 28: FC Barcelona clinched a dramatic 4-3 victory against Villarreal Sunday evening, thanks to a remarkable performance from 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal.

Barcelona seemed firmly in the driver's seat when Gavi netted in the 15th minute, followed by Frenkie de Jong's goal three minutes later, establishing a 2-0 lead.

However, Villarreal mounted a spirited comeback. Juan Foyth's commanding header in the 26th minute and Alexander Sorloth's exquisite finish in the 40th minute equalized the scores. Four minutes into the second half, Alex Baena's curveball went past Marc Andre Ter Stegen, placing Villarreal in the lead.

In the 67th minute, Lamine crafted an assist for Ferran Torres to even the score for Barca. Shortly after, Robert Lewandowski sealed the victory with a close-range shot, rebounding from Lamine's initial effort that hit the post.

Premier League round-up
Manchester City narrowly escaped defeat, overcoming Sheffield United 2-1 to clinch the top spot in the Premier League. Erling Haaland put the reigning champions ahead in the 63rd minute with a robust header, making up for his earlier penalty



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: Lamine Yamal shows his skills during Barcelona's match against Villarreal, Sunday

miss against the post.

At 85 minutes, Sheffield United's Jaydon Bogle leveled the score with a forceful shot from City's right flank, making it 1-1. However, in the 89th minute, Rodri secured City's win with a decisive left-footed strike.

In the other match, Liverpool, despite being a man down after Virgil Van Dijk's red card, clinched a thrilling 2-1 victory against Newcastle. Anthony Gordon had initially given

Newcastle the lead in the 20th minute, capitalising on a blunder from Trent Alexander Arnold.

The situation worsened for Liverpool when Van Dijk received a red card for a harsh tackle on Alexander Isak. Yet, Darwin Nunez changed the narrative, netting a goal nine minutes from the final whistle, and then scoring the winner in stoppage time after a brilliant assist from Mohamed Salah.

Verstappen poised to make F1 history

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 28: What better place than the 'The Temple of Speed' for Max Verstappen to set a new Formula One record with 10 straight wins.

A victory at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza next weekend would break the mark he shares with Sebastian Vettel. Perhaps fittingly, it would be on the track where Vettel clinched the first of his 53 GP wins in 2008.

The now-retired Vettel went on to dominate F1 and won four consecutive world titles with Red Bull, the last of them in 2013 — the year he won nine straight races.

Vettel was Red Bull's first superstar in its first ultra-dominant era, but Verstappen is now leaving him in his tracks. Vettel looked unstoppable only when at his very best, but Verstappen looks untouchable most of the time.

Verstappen's victory at the rain-soaked Dutch GP Sunday matched Vettel's mark of nine straight wins in a season, and moved him onto 46 overall. With so many years left ahead of him, the 25-year-old Dutchman is set to crush Vettel's career tally for wins.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton holds F1 records with 103 wins and 104 pole positions. But even the seven-time F1 champion never managed more than five consecutive wins during his heyday with Mercedes.

Eves qualify for Hockey 5s WC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Oman, August 28: The Indian team entered the final of the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier after defeating Malaysia 9-5 in Salalah, here Monday. India will now play the Final Monday. The victory also helped them seal a berth in the FIH Women's Hockey 5s World Cup.

For India, Navjot Kaur (7th, 10th, 17th), Monika Dipi Toppo (22nd), Mahima Choudhary (14th), Mariana Kujur (9th, 12th) and Jyoti (21st, 26th) were on target. For Malaysia, Zati Muhamad (4th, 5th), Dian Nazari (10th, 20th) and Aziz Zafirah (16th) were on target.

India started the match ag-

gressively right from the start. However, it was Malaysia that broke the deadlock and took the lead through Zati after she successfully converted the Challenge Goal.

A minute later, Malaysia doubled their lead as Zati was on the scoresheet again, scoring a fine field goal. India pulled one back through Captain Navjot's strike. In-form Mariana then flawlessly converted the Challenge Goal to level the scores.

With both teams constantly creating threatening attacks, Malaysia took the lead through Nazari. India immediately counter-attacked and scored two goals in quick time to take the lead.

Navjot and Mariana scored

the third and fourth goals for India. With a minute remaining in the first half, India extended their lead through Mahima. At the end of the first half, India were leading Malaysia by 5-3.

Both teams came out firing in the second half, making some threatening moves in front of each other's goal. But it was Malaysia who got on the scoresheet through Zafirah after she converted the Challenge Goal.

India added three more goals to their tally through Navjot, Jyoti and Monika to make it 8-5 to India. With four minutes remaining, Jyoti scored the ninth goal for India. The match finished with the Indian Women's Hockey Team winning 9-5.

