



COUPLE GOAL

Rani Mukerji says the best thing about a relationship is that one needs to 'shock' the partner every day

LEISURE P2



RELIEF FOR IMRAN

A high court in Pakistan suspends Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case

INTERNATIONAL P10



SWASTI GETS TOP HONOUR

Cyclist Swasti Singh bags prestigious Biju Patnaik Sports Award for her exceptional performance

SPORTS P12

Sulphur, oxygen on lunar surface

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 29: The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument on-board 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 has unambiguously confirmed the presence of sulphur and oxygen on the lunar surface near south pole, through first-ever in-situ measurements, ISRO said Tuesday.

It also said the instrument also detected aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, manganese and silicon, as expected. "The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole. These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," the space agency said in a statement.

"A high-energy laser pulse is focused onto the surface of a material, such as a rock or soil. The laser pulse generates an extremely hot and localised plasma. The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by detectors such as Charge Coupled Devices. Since each element emits a characteristic set of wavelengths of light when it's in a plasma state, the elemental composition of the material is determined," it said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thanks to our govt, every citizen can feel like Pragyan rover

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	65075.82	↑	79.22
	NIFTY	19342.70	↑	36.70
	DOLLAR	82.64	↑	₹0.01
	EURO	89.40	↑	₹0.07
	GOLD	₹59,230	↑	₹343
	SILVER	₹74,695	↑	₹1083

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.8°C	35.6°C
TEMP MIN	25.2°C	26.2°C
Humidity	80%	68%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



THREAD OF LOVE: Girls shop Rakhis ahead of the 'Raksha Bandhan' festival, in Guwahati, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Early poll buzz

ECI team's visit next month fuels speculation of early Assembly polls in Odisha; parties say ready

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Is Odisha heading for early Assembly elections? Speculations became rife in the state political circles Tuesday following the announcement by the Election Commission of India (ECI) that it will be sending a team next month to review poll preparedness in Odisha.

Although Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Bihari Dhal said the ECI team's visit has nothing to do with early polls, the three major political parties - BJD, BJP and Congress - maintained that they are ready for

election whenever it takes place. The Election Commission of India (ECI) team will hold a meeting with all district collectors September 13.

"EVMs and VVPATs will be examined in October and the process will be completed by November 15. But this process or the ECI team's visit has nothing to do with early polls. Both Lok Sabha and assembly elections will be held as per schedule," Dhal said.

Political parties, particularly opposition BJP and Congress, speculated that early polls might be held in Odisha along with five other states later this year. Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan was among the first politicians from the state to have speculated in recent times that the ruling BJD might seek early polls in the state.

Early polls were held in Odisha in 2004. Even though BJD leaders remained tight-lipped over speculations of a repeat this year, they said they were pre-

pared to face polls at any time.

The state government has launched several welfare schemes ahead of the polls, due early next year. "We have nothing to fear as the people of Odisha are with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik," BJD legislator D S Mishra said.

BJP MLA Mukesh Mahaling also asserted his party is well-prepared to face elections at any time. Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Sarat Pattanayak claimed that his party is also ready to face elections whenever it happens as "people have understood that BJD and BJP are two sides of the same coin".

Senior BJP leader and Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi, however, asserted that holding separate elections for assembly and Lok Sabha will double the expenditure and hamper development works in the state.

As per the schedule, the next assembly elections for 147 seats in Odisha should be held before June 2024.

BSKY benefits for 'unlisted' children

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Children of National Food Security Act (NFSA) or State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) beneficiaries whose names are not included in the database will now be able to avail the benefits of the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna (BSKY) following the approval of the Odisha government, Tuesday.

These children, in the age group of 5-18 years, whose names don't find place in the database of NFSA/SFSS, can take BSKY benefits on production of documentary evidence by their parents to support the claim that the individual being treated is their child.

In a letter, Shalini Pandit, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare department said that it has come to the notice of the state health assurance society that in some cases even though a family is covered under NFSA/SFSS, the names of some

child members are left out of the database. This is due to the non-availability of vacant slots in that block for addition of new members to the NFSA/SFSS database. As a result, it is not possible on the part of the hospital to register and authenticate such child beneficiaries for cashless treatment under BSKY.

"In order to overcome the issue, government has been pleased to approve that BSKY benefits may be extended to the child members of NFSA/SFSS families in the age group of 5 to 18 years whose name are not in the database of NFSA/SFSS by blocking in the name of the father/mother on production of documentary evidence by the parent to support the claim that the individual being treated is their child," the letter read. As per state health assurance society, children below five years are already being provided coverage under BSKY on the basis of self declaration by card holder that the child belongs to his or her family.

CHINA 'STANDARD MAP': ABSURD CLAIMS, SAYS INDIA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: India Tuesday dismissed a 'standard map' released by China Monday, showing parts of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh within its territory, by terming it 'absurd claims'.

Simply releasing maps with

territories not belonging to it does not change anything, as the government is very clear about its territory, and such absurd claims don't make other people's territories theirs, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said as quoted by a television channel.

During an interaction with

the television channel, Jaishankar was quoting as saying said that China has a "habit" of releasing such maps and mere inclusion of territories belonging to other countries in its maps does not mean anything.

The minister was quoted by the television channel as saying that China has put out a map with ter-

ritories that are not theirs.

Jaishankar also chose to de-link the disengagement talks along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the release of the map by China. The release of the map comes just days before the G20 summit, which is scheduled to take place in New Delhi September 9 and 10.

J&K statehood: SC seeks time frame from Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: The five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court, hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, asked the Centre for the first time Tuesday to specify a time frame for restoration of electoral democracy in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the present arrangement 'has to come to an end'.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, told the bench the union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a "permanent thing" and that the government will make an elaborate statement on the vexatious political issue in the court August 31.

The bench, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandradhuh, which was hearing Mehta's submissions defending the Centre's decision to do away with the special status of the former state and its reorganisation, said, "Democracy is important, although we agree that in view of

the national security scenario, reorganisation of the state can be done." The court said lack of electoral democracy cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely.

"This has to come an end... Give us the specific time frame as to when will you restore actual democracy. We want to record this," the bench said, and asked Mehta and Attorney General R Venkataramani to seek instructions from the political executive and get back to the court.

"I have taken instructions and the instructions are that the UT status for Jammu and Kashmir is not a permanent thing. It will remain for Ladakh. However, I will make an elaborate statement August 31," Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavi and Surya Kant.

He read out from the statement Home Minister Amit Shah had made while tabling the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in 2019 saying J&K's statehood will be restored in due course of time.

Rajini walks down memory lane, visits BMTC bus stand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 29: Superstar Rajinikanth Tuesday walked down the memory lane as he visited the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus stand, in the city where he once worked as a bus conductor.

The 72-year-old top actor took everyone by surprise and spent a few minutes with overjoyed BMTC drivers, conductors and other staff at the bus stand at Jayanagar.

Shivaji Rao Gaikwad was once working as bus conductor in this city, before the legendary Tamil director, the late K

SHIVAJI RAO GAIKWAD ONCE WORKED AS A BUS CONDUCTOR BEFORE LEGENDARY TAMIL DIRECTOR K BALACHANDER SPOTTED HIM, CHRISTENED HIM RAJINIKANTH



Balachander spotted him, christened him Rajinikanth and gave the actor his first break in the hit flick 'Apoorva Raagangal' in 1975. The film also starred Kamal Haasan among others.

The moment the actor, who is said to have turned nostalgic, made an appearance, the Traffic Transit Management Center (TTMC) staff of the BMTC greeted him and milled around him. He chatted with them for a while and also posed for selfies.

The actor also paid a visit to Raghavendra Swami Math here. Rajinikanth had donned the tit-

ular role in the movie 'Sri Raghavendra', a biography of the 16th-17th century saint-poet of Madhya Sampradaya of Dvaita Vedanta philosophy.

Sources said Rajinikanth spent his childhood in Bengaluru, and lived in the city till the age of 22 before shifting to Chennai to pursue his film career. Prior to that, he worked as a conductor in the erstwhile Bangalore Transport Services (BTS), which is now known as BMTC.

Rajinikanth had returned to the silver screen after almost two years with the Nelson Dilipkumar directorial 'Jailer', released earlier this month and said to be a box office grosser.

leisure

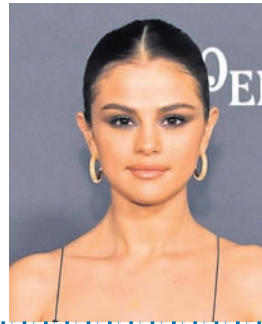


EMINEM ASKS RAMASWAMY TO STOP RAPPING HIS SONGS

American rapper Eminem's lawyers have sent a letter to Indian-origin tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, who is seeking a Republican nomination for the 2024 US presidential election, asking the latter to stop rapping his songs.

SELENA UNDERWENT SURGERY AFTER BREAKING HER HAND

Singer-actress Selena Gomez has had to have surgery after breaking her hand and shared that she recently suffered an injury and had to undergo an operation, reports aceshowbiz.com.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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ARIES

Nourishing high ambitions is a good thing if they can drive you to achieve your potential. You make plans and execute them with utmost care. You may focus all your attention on attracting a member of the other sex. But Ganesh warns you not to get too swayed by it, especially if you are taking crucial decisions.

TAURUS

You may begin the day in a grumpy mood - mostly, because you may be suffering from a stomach ailment, feels Ganesh. It would be best to visit a competent doctor at the slightest sign or symptom of an illness or even discomfort. Step back from the rush, and take some rest, if possible.

GEMINI

You need to understand and respect the feelings of others. You will be beset by financial worries and plagued by financial insecurity. You will work with grim determination to achieve all your goals and will be successful in doing so, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will focus on near ones and give more attention to them. You will exude charm in your actions. Your kin's response will surprise you. Long-time relations will progress and benefit you.

LEO

Your expectations from your partner or spouse are likely to be unmet, so keep them low. For traders and commission agents, this could be a tough day, and hence they should be wary of suffering from financial reversals. Important documents should be signed only after careful scrutiny, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Personal problems which have been simmering for quite a long time may be resolved today. Ganesh advises you to put in that extra bit of effort. You may plan to start a joint venture. In the evening, you can dedicate your time to some much-needed socialising.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be able to impress people with your extraordinary abilities. You will express your intention to study and go in for higher studies in the evening. This decision will help you understand which career field is best suited for you. Ganesh says before taking any further decisions you should think about the future too.

SCORPIO

The chemistry between you and your partner would be electrifying, Ganesh foresees a day full of romantic indulgences. Things at home front would be pretty relaxing. You are on a money saving mission today and your bargaining skills would definitely yield benefits.

SAGITTARIUS

According to Ganesh, creative juices are likely to flow freely today. You are all geared up to meet new challenges in life and crack few business deals. Financial gains on the cards. However, make sure your health does not take a back-seat all this while.

CAPRICORN

Today, you will sit back and think about the mistakes you have made in the past. At work, you perform like a team player and play an important role in the success of your team. But, your efforts may go unnoticed or may not receive deserved appreciation. It will disappoint you, but you know your worth so you'll not complain about it.

AQUARIUS

You will become flexible and tolerant in your approach, and this change will enable you to deal with unfavourable circumstances with an ease. You sympathise with the people who bear the brunt of injustice of any kind.

PISCES

The day will start well but there will be a sharp drop as it peaks in the afternoon and things may arise that will become a cause of worry. Money might be the primary reason for your stress. There will only be two solutions available to this problem.

SARA SHARES HER LOVE FOR LITERATURE

Mumbai: Apart from promoting this film, Sara Ali Khan has also been in the news this year for her various spiritual trips at India's prominent devotional sites. Recently, Sara also proved that she is a bookworm too. In her recent Instagram story, the Kedarnath actress shared a picture of the books she has bought recently to satisfy the avid reader inside her. Going by the choice of her books, it seems that she enjoys spirituality in literature as well. The titles of the books, visible in her story, include, Shiva Sutras, I Am Gita, The Power Of Your Subconscious Mind, India Since Independence, The Forty Rules Of Love, Thinking Fast And Slow and The Price Of Civilization. Sara was recently in the news when she revealed the kind of films she would love to do and the advice she received from her Atrangi Re director Aanand L Rai. "I want to be able to do everything. There is a certain connect that I feel to heartland India, and I would like to do another one in that zone. But I also want to do a royal period drama and a romantic film. I want to reach a point where people say that there is no genre that Sara can't do," she said. AGENCIES



You need to shock your partner every day: Rani

Mumbai: Filmmaker and producer Aditya Chopra and actress Rani Mukerji are known as one of the most famous couples from Indian cinema. The two tied the knot in 2014 in Italy, away from the regular limelight of those typical Bollywood weddings. But whatever is known about their married life is only through Rani since Chopra prefers staying away from the media. In a chat with an entertainment portal, Rani has said that a person needs to 'shock' his or her spouse daily and this is what she follows in her married life with Chopra. "I think the best thing about a relationship is that you need to shock your partner every day. And I shock Adi every day. Every day he sees a new me. *Bechara* (poor guy), he's simple. It's boring to be simple. He tells me that for him, it's like putting on a new channel every day. One day it's comedy, one day it's drama, one day it's violence. One day it's romance, of course," said the actress. It has been said on various occasions that Aditya Chopra is a keen watcher of all new movies. Rani said, in the same interview, that they have kept the tradition alive even today. But since some time, they prefer watching movies inside the Yash Raj Films Studio in Mumbai as she gets noticed. AGENCIES



'Skin colour limits scopes in showbiz'

New Delhi: Actress Kalki Koechlin, known for her unconventional body of work and skillfully portraying the nuances of her character's emotions in the movie *Goldfish*, said the colour of her skin limits her roles in the Hindi film industry, and this role she knew was cut out for her. Kalki said, "*Goldfish* was special because complex, layered, sensitive and funny scripts like that are rare to come by. Anyway there are few roles for someone like me in the industry, since the colour of my skin limits my roles in Bollywood, and this being about the identity of a half Indian, half British was something I knew I was cut out for." About her experience of working with Deepthi Naval, a veteran actress, she said, "It was a pleasure to work with Deepthi ji, she is quiet and yet so brilliant and surprising. I was always kept on my toes as she would come up with something on the spot and I'd have to react to it. I loved working with her." Kalki was last seen in *Made In Heaven 2*. AGENCIES



Vijay not scared of being typecast

Mumbai: Actor Vijay Varma, known for his chameleon on screen presence, continues to captivate audiences with his multifaceted performances in his crime thriller of *Dahaad*, twisted tale of *Lust Stories 2* and the cop drama of *Kaalkoot*. Last seen in *Kaalkoot*, the recent released teaser for *Jaane Jaan* showcased Vijay Varma packing a punch, leaving audiences wondering if they will get to witness him in action mode in this one. In a candid interview, Vijay Varma openly discussed his approach to taking on various roles without fearing typecasting. He drew inspiration from legendary actors like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan who themselves have never afraid to be so. He said, "I have never been scared of typecast because the actors I have grown up watching did not believe in that either." He further added, "There are actors who listen to out-

PEANUTS



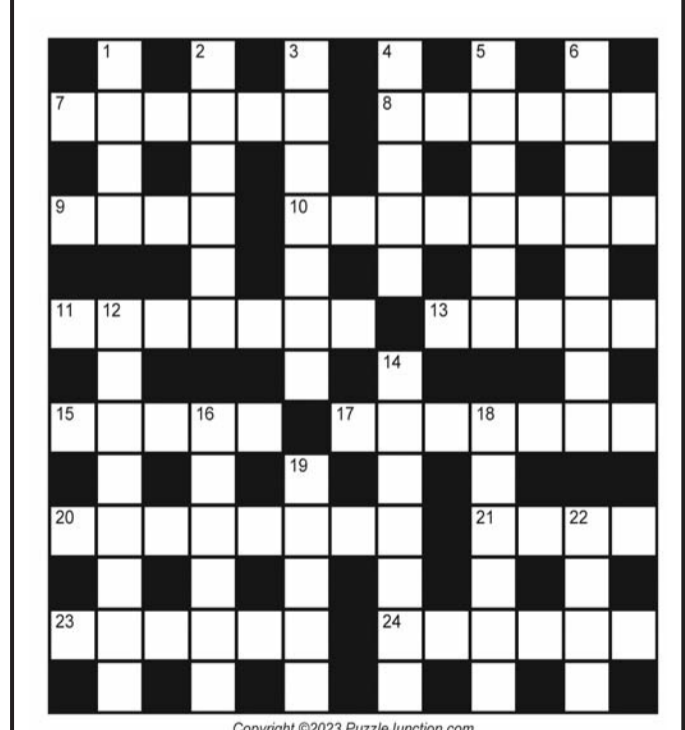
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



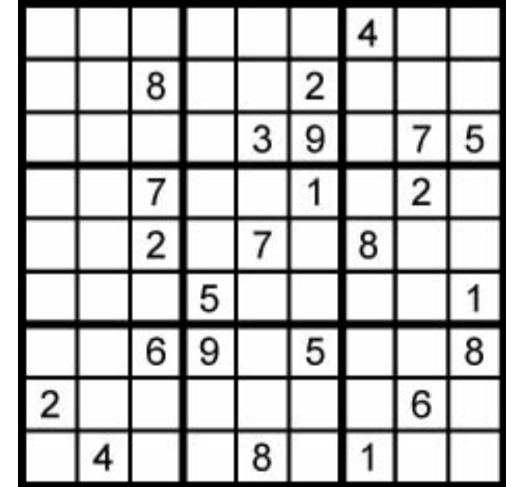
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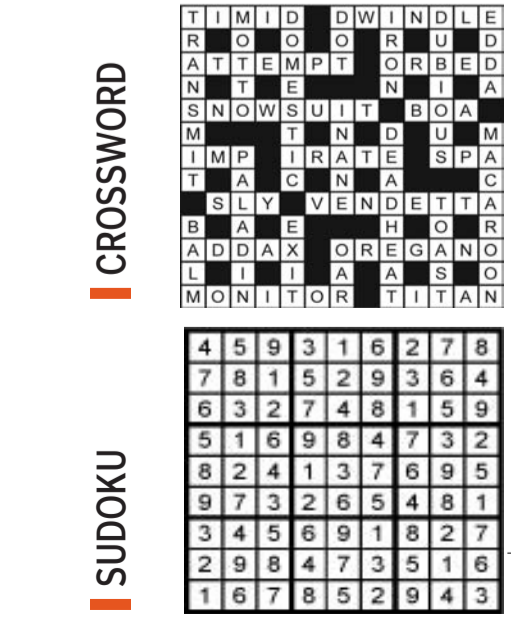
- Across**
7 A real bore
8 Clumsy person
9 Earthenware pot
10 Avoided
11 Parrot
13 Fess up
15 Proposal
17 Chess pieces
20 They smoke a lot
21 Arm bone
- Down**
23 Face fungus
24 Like some telephone callers (2,4)
1 Canaanite deity
2 Apprehensive
3 High-spirited horse
4 It can be slippery
- 5 Cheered up
6 Honore de Balzac, e.g.
12 Branch
14 Lazy speaker's last words? (3,2,2)
16 Ill will
18 Argentine cowboy
19 Flu symptom
22 World's longest river

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



Dignitaries, including Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh, during the inauguration of a health facility in Khapuria area of the Silver City, Tuesday

downtown

SLASHING CYLINDER PRICE

Decade's sins can't be washed away: Kharge

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: Taking a dig at the BJP government at Centre, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge Tuesday alleged that election gifts have started rolling out after fearing a dip in the votes and said the saf from party had mercilessly looted the people for last nine-and-half years and that their sins cannot be washed away.

"When the votes started decreasing, then the election gifts started getting distributed. The merciless Modi government, which looted the hard earned money of the people, is now showing feigned goodwill towards the mothers and sisters. For nine-and-a-half years, by selling ₹400 LPG cylinders for ₹1,100, they kept destroying the life of the common man, then why didn't any 'affectionate gift'

Poll gimmick: BJD

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday described the Centre's decision to slash LPG prices by ₹200 as an election gimmick. People wanted the deduction to be more, senior BJD leader and Finance Minister Sashi Bhusan Behera said. "When the price of crude oil goes down in the international market, is it not passed on to the consumers. They (Central government) were unable to see the tears of women then. They are now feeling the pain of the people only because the election is only four-five months away," Behera said.

come to mind?" Kharge wrote on X.

He said that the BJP government should know that after troubling 140 crore Indians for nine-and-a-half years, handing over electoral lollipops will not work.

"Your sins of a decade will not be washed away. To counter the skyrocketing inflation implemented by the BJP, the Congress party for the first time in many states is going to provide cylinders only for ₹500 to the poor. Many states, such as Rajasthan, have already implemented this," the Congress leader said.

"The Modi government should know that in 2024, the anger of the troubled people of the country cannot be reduced by ₹200 subsidy. Fear of INDIA is good, Modi ji, the public has made up its mind. The only option is to show exit door to BJP to beat inflation," Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, said.

The remarks came after the government Tuesday approved reduction in prices of LPG gas cylinders by ₹200 for all connection holders.



COURTESY CALL: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena in a meeting with Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska, Miss World India 2022 Sini Shetty, Miss World America Shree Saini, Miss World England Jessica Gagen, Miss World Caribbean Emmy Pena and Miss World Organisation Chairperson and CEO Julia Morley, in New Delhi, Tuesday

ROBBERY: 3 ABSCONDERS ARRESTED

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The twin city Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested three absconding members of the gang allegedly involved in the most talked-about robbery in Nandan Vihar under Infocity police limits here August 2, taking the total arrests in the case to eight.

"Rs 66.50 lakh in cash, two gold chains and six gold rings were recovered from the possession of Sk Latif alias Abid, 37, of Rasalbagh in Kendrapara Town police limits, Zahir Khan, 19, of Gulnagar under Sadar police limits of Kendrapara and Ganesh Mandal, 19, of Balipatpur under Tangi police limits of Khurda. The trio was on the run ever since the incident," an official told the media.

While Latif was staying in Lalbagh area of Cuttack, Ganesh has been residing at Haladipadia Slum in the City, said the official.

Five members of the gang were arrested by police Sunday and ₹1.02 crore in cash, one necklace, a gold chain, four ring fingers and one country made pistol were recovered from their possession.

According to police sources, Nibaran Pani and his son were at their residence in Nandan Vihar area August 2 night when three of the accused entered their house after introducing themselves as CBI officers on the pretext of a raid.

Soon, four to five associates of the miscreants entered their house after introducing themselves as CBI officers on the pretext of a raid and took the father-son duo into the kitchen at gunpoint. The miscreants tied their mouth and hands with towels before de-camping with crores in cash, jewellery and other valuables.

During search of the crime spot, police came across a bag in which they got a SIM card registered in name of Badal, former driver of Nibaran's close relative, who used to visit complainant's Nandan Vihar house in the past.

Police later learnt that Badal, in connivance with other accused, hatched a plot to commit the robbery at the residence of Nibaran.

Infocity police registered a case (263/23) August 3 and launched a probe. The prime accused Badal is still at large. Efforts are on to nab him at the earliest.

50% hike in stipend for house surgeons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The state government Tuesday increased the stipend of house surgeons of medical colleges.

On careful consideration of the grievances of the house surgeons, the government is pleased to implement a dynamic stipend at 50 per cent of the current remuneration paid to assistant surgeons under Odisha Medical and Health Service (OMHS) cadre on their entry into government service + dearness allowance (DA) as admissible, the notification issued by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.



The enhancement will come into force with immediate effect, the notification said.

The government has also posted 10 more specialists in Deogarh district on the request of people at the public grievance hearing during 5T secretary VK Pandian's last visit.

The specialists are from different clinical departments like medicine, surgery, paediatrics,

anesthesia, orthopedic, psychiatry, ENT, eye, pulmonary medicine, and dentistry.

The state hopes the posting of these specialist doctors would bring qualitative change in health service scenario of the district.

In a related development, the government has made provisions for sending 90 officials of the H&FW department to Singapore on an exposure visit next month. The department in a letter to the Commerce and Transport department requested to take necessary steps for booking of tickets in the direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Singapore for the exposure visit of the officials.

SC panel lauds state's road safety initiatives

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS) Tuesday appreciated the efforts of the state government in implementing its order related to road safety.

SCCoRS secretary Sanjay Mital, who is on a five-day visit to Odisha to assess and audit the compliance of the apex court's guidelines on road safety, held a meeting with members of the Lead Agency on Road Safety in Bhubaneswar Tuesday, and lauded the efforts taken by Odisha to curb road accidents in the state.

Odisha has adopted a four-pronged strategy to make the roads safe through 4Es - enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care. He appreciated state's effort to map and integrate emergency services. All government ambulances are mapped with trauma care centres and 108 ambulance services.

Mapping of private ambulances with 108 in consultation with Ziquitza Health Care Private Limited is in progress, the meeting revealed. Further, Command and Control Centre for ambulance network has been established. All emergency services like ambulance, police & fire are integrated under one number '112' to provide immediate help to the people in need. Mital also praised 'Suvahak'



The state gov't aims to train 8,400 new heavy motor vehicle drivers and provide training to another 50,000 such drivers every year through 'Suvahak' programme

initiative to train heavy motor vehicle (HMV) drivers and Rakshak Junior initiative to train NCC volunteers as first responders for road accident victims.

The state government aims to train 8,400 new HMV drivers and provide refresher training to another 50,000 such drivers every year through 'Suvahak' initiative. Under Rakshak Junior programme, altogether 65,000 NCC volunteers will be imparted specialised training on road safety.

The SCCoRS secretary appreciated the strict enforcement measures implemented by the state government. The Transport department in collaboration with Odisha Police is observing every Tuesday as 'Zero Tolerance Day' against traffic rule violations.

Mital had earlier visited Puri and Ganjam districts and conducted meetings with officials of stakeholder departments there. He visited National Highway (NH) 316 (Bhubaneswar-Puri) and NH 16 (Bhubaneswar-Berhampur) and

suggested corrective measures on both the stretches. Corrective measures on NH 316 include removal of encroachments, rectification of black spots, implementation of IEMS or camera-based enforcement in all the major junctions between Puri and Bhubaneswar, closure of all illegal medians and adequate lighting on NH-316.

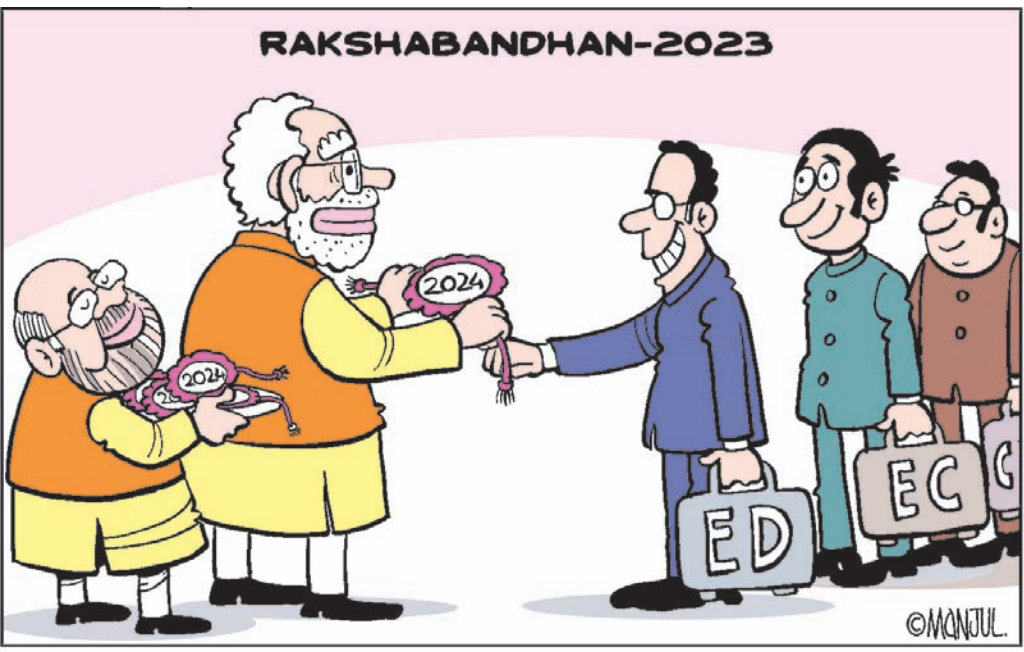
Similarly on NH-16, he advised proper lighting on Khallikote Ghat area. He also said proper road safety measures as per the audit report need to be implemented as per Indian Road Congress (IRC) guidelines. Convex mirror near ghat section should be ensured by NHAI, he added.

Mital is schedule to meet Chief Secretary of Odisha August 30.

Meanwhile, Odisha has registered negative growth in road accidents and fatalities in the second quarter of 2023 as compared to corresponding period of 2022. While road accidents have come down by 7.56 per cent, the fatalities have decreased by 6.24 per cent.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

RAKSHABANDHAN-2023



Delhiites on track to lose 11.9 yrs of life to pollution: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Delhi has emerged as the world's most polluted city in a new study which has also found that its residents are on track to lose 11.9 years of life if the current levels of pollution continue to be higher than the limit set by the WHO.

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago also showed that all of India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the 5 µg/m3 (micrograms per cubic metre) limit set by World Health Organization (WHO).

It also found that 67.4 per cent of the country's population lives in areas that exceed the country's own national air quality standard of 40 µg/m3.

The study said fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, relative to what it would be if the 5 µg/m3 pollution

limit set by (WHO) was met.

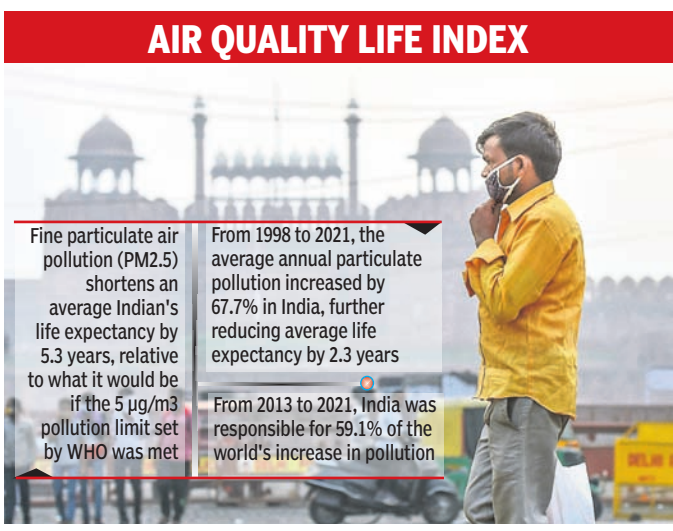
The AQLI said Delhi is the most polluted city in the world and if the current pollution levels persist, its 18 million residents are on track to lose 11.9 years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO limit and 8.5 years relative to the national guideline.

"Even in the least polluted district in the region - Pathankot in Punjab - particulate pollution is more than seven times the WHO limit, taking 3.1 years off life expectancy if current levels persist," it said.

Particulate pollution has increased over time. From 1998 to 2021, the average annual particulate pollution increased by 67.7 per cent in India, further reducing average life expectancy by 2.3 years, the report said.

From 2013 to 2021, India was responsible for 59.1 per cent of the world's increase in pollution.

In the most polluted region of the country - the northern plains - 521.2 million residents or 38.9 per cent of India's popu-



In India's most polluted region - the northern plains, 521.2 million residents or 38.9% of country's population are on track to lose eight years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO guideline and 4.5 years relative to the national standard if current pollution levels persist

lation are on track to lose eight years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO guideline and 4.5 years relative to the national standard if current pol-

lution levels persist. Though particulate pollution in the northern plains is exacerbated by geological and meteorological factors, the AQLI's

dust and sea salt-removed PM 2.5 data imply that human activity plays a key role in generating severe particulate pollution.

That is likely because the region's population density is nearly three times the rest of the country, meaning more pollution from vehicular, residential and agricultural sources, the study said.

"Three-quarters of air pollution's impact on global life expectancy occurs in just six countries - Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Indonesia - where people lose one to more than six years of their lives because of the air they breathe," said Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and creator of AQLI. In 2019, India declared a 'war against pollution' and launched its National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), signalling its desire to reduce particulate pollution.

NCAP aimed at reducing by 2024 particulate pollution by 20

to 30 per cent nationally relative to 2017 levels and focused on 102 cities that were not meeting India's national annual average PM2.5 standard. These cities have been termed 'non-attainment cities'.

In 2022, the government announced its revamped particulate pollution reduction target for NCAP, setting no national goal but increasing its ambition at the city level. The new target is a 40 per cent reduction relative to 2017 levels for 131 non-attainment cities by 2025-26.

The report said that if the revised target is met, these cities' overall annual average PM2.5 exposure would be 21.9 µg/m3 lower than 2017 levels.

"This results in a life expectancy gain of 2.1 years for an average citizen living in these specific 131 cities and increases the life expectancy of an average Indian in the country by 7.9 months. Thirty-eight of these 131 targeted cities (almost 30 per cent) belong to the northern plains of India," the report said.

'Mission Shakti close to CM's heart'

INTERACTING WITH MISSION SHAKTI GROUPS, VK PANDIAN PLEDGES STATE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR TRANSFORMING THE SELF HELP GROUPS INTO SMES

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Following the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian Tuesday visited Jajpur and interacted with the Mission Shakti group members and college students.

Talking with Mission Shakti groups, Pandian discussed their activities and support required for transforming the SHGs into SMEs. He assured all government support to the Mission Shakti movement.

He said that Mission Shakti is very close to the heart of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik due to its impact on the socio-economic empowerment of women.

Pandian informed that Mission Shakti will be further strengthened by providing permanent buildings at the Gram Panchayat, block and district level and mobility support to the district level staff for better reach to all parts of the district.

He also informed that the



government has decided to handover all unused government buildings to the Mission Shakti groups for their activities. He directed the Collector to facilitate the awareness about the interest free loans and also to organise loan melas at Panchayat level.

Later, Pandian interacted with

the college students of Jajpur district. He informed them regarding the Chief Minister's approval for inclusion of 76 higher secondary schools and 50 degree colleges of the district under 5T transformation programme at an estimated cost of Rs 61.5 crore.

He conveyed the vision of Chief Minister for creating a

"Nua Odisha" and efforts towards transformation of the state. He emphasised that the students will be the main force towards making of a "Nua Odisha". He motivated them to aim high and work hard to achieve their goals.

He assured government support towards providing them all facilities for their studies. He encouraged them to focus on personality development and remain physically and mentally fit. He asked them to exercise for at least 30 minutes every day and do meditation for 15 minutes daily.

Pandian discussed with the students regarding the college development. He also emphasised that the students should focus on their academics and not get influenced by friends into bad habits. He asked them not to get addicted to alcohol, smoking, drugs or even social media and spend their time and energies positively towards their career development.

LVPEI urges people to pledge for eye donation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: For the National Eye Donation Fortnight, being observed from August 25 to September 8, the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in City is organizing a host of events to spread awareness about different aspects of eye donation to motivate people to pledge their eyes for donation after death.

Educational programmes for eyecare personnels on topics like eye banking are also being planned. The aim is to ensure that the availability of quality corneal tissue does not remain a barrier in tackling corneal blindness, informed a doctor at the institute.

"We urge people to come forward and pledge for eye donation. Eye donation can happen only after the death of a person and consent from their family members. So equally important is that the person pledging for eye donation informs their family members and requests them to execute the same after their death," said Sujata Das, medical director of Drushti Daan Eye Bank at the Mithu Tulsii Chanrai Campus, Vijayawada, LV Prasad Eye Institute.

Rajdhani Exp to run with Tejas coaches from today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: All the rakes of Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express, via Adra and via Tatanagar, will run with Tejas coaches from Wednesday, an official said.

The Rajdhani Express with Tejas coaches, which provide upgraded amenities for the new era of train travel experience, had started its regular service from Bhubaneswar from August 19 via Sambalpur.

Union Minister of Education & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan and Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav had flagged off the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express

with Tejas coaches from Bhubaneswar August 14.

Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express leaving on Wednesdays & Sundays and the return train on Mondays & Fridays will have Tejas coaches from August 30 and September 1, respectively.

Similarly, Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express leaving Bhubaneswar on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and return train leaving from New Delhi on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays will have Tejas coaches from August 31.

Now all the Rajdhani Express from Bhubaneswar will run as Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Tejas Rajdhani Express.

City schools celebrate National Sports Day

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Several schools in the Capital city celebrated National Sports Day Tuesday with fervour and enthusiasm.

On this occasion, DAV Unit VIII organised a mini marathon with spree. All Physical Education students along with the sports enthusiasts took part in the event exhibiting their sportsmanship and inspiring the denizens to be fit and healthy.

Principal Ipsita Das, speaking to the students, advised them to take care of their physical and mental wellness. Eminent karate player Valena Valentina, the chief guest on the occasion, asked the students to adopt the change and accept sports as an inevitable part of their life.



Similarly, Stewart School organised a series of activities including skating, aerobics and taekwondo on the school premises. Principal Rashmi Rekha Senapati wished the students on the occasion.

A football match was organised between former and present students of BJEM School on the occasion of National Sports Day.

Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar a unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), also celebrated National Sports Day Tuesday where students from various City schools participated in host of programmes. Regional Science Centre project coordinator Kapil Jain addressed the event. This was followed by a session on "Science of Sports" where experts showcased how science and technology plays a great role in the development of modern day sports.



DAV UNIT VIII

IIP to develop packaging for state agri products



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 29: The Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) will design and develop suitable packaging solutions for agricultural products, processed food and non-farm products of self help groups (SHGs), producer groups (PGs) and producer companies (PCs) promoted under Mission Shakti in Odisha.

A tripartite memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed in this regard among Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, Mission Shakti and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) here Tuesday.

The IIP will partner with the Mission Shakti for a period of three years towards standardising packaging practices of Millet Shakti products. It will also facilitate and organise capacity building training programmes on packaging technology for officials of the

directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Mission Shakti and WSHGs for targeting local, high value and export markets.

State Agriculture secretary Arabinda Padhee said, "Women self-help groups in Odisha are producing a variety of products. However, they face challenges in packaging their products. The partnership with the IIP will bring about significant change and add value to their products."

The institute will organise training programmes on packaging technology for master trainers

from WSHGs, as well as workshops and learning events on packaging. It will provide hand-holding support and capacity building programmes for selected WSHGs interested in undertaking packaging entrepreneurship.

Speaking on the matter, Agriculture & Food Production director Prem Chandra Chaudhary said that IIP will significantly enhance the packaging of these products and urged the IIP officials to explore how packaging can be done using locally available raw materials.

Indian Institute of Packaging joint director Babu Rao Guduri said, "IIP has collaborated with other states to improve the packaging of various products. The focus will be on packaging solutions for organic products, high-value markets, and export markets."



EVICTON DRIVE: An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an illegal construction at Kharavela Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

R&D VITAL FOR COUNTRY'S FUTURE SUCCESS: PRADHAN

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Koraput/Bhubaneswar, August 29: Central University of Odisha celebrated 15th Foundation Day in Koraput Tuesday. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who joined the celebrations virtually, said in his address that research and development (R&D) is vital for the future success of India as a country.

Pradhan congratulated the

research community on success of Chandrayan 3 and applauded the achievements of scientists and technologists. "The students today should learn skills, reach new scales and match the speed of progress around the world, so that they can achieve success in future," he said.

The minister also highlighted millets, mango and coffee that are produced in Koraput through organic farming. "We have to give

priority to these products. Biscuits made from millets have to be taken to international markets," he said. He also praised CUO's efforts in bringing out two primers in Kuwi and Desia languages in collaboration with NCERT.

Vice chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi, who delivered the presidential address, congratulated the CUO fraternity for successfully completing 14 years. Highlighting the university's

achievements since its inception, he mentioned introduction of four new BSc programmes in agriculture, forest management, animal husbandry & dairying and PG course in logistic and supply chain management.

As per the philosophy outlined in NEP 2020, he urged the students not to be job seekers, but job providers and hoped that each student will be an academic leader in his or her discipline.

Study shows microplastics can alter behaviour, brain

The infiltration of microplastics is as widespread in the body as it is in the environment, leading to changes in behaviour and also in the brain, especially in the elderly people, according to a study.

Plastics -- in particular, microplastics -- are among the most pervasive pollutants on the planet, finding their way into the air, water systems and food chains around the world.

Researchers from the University of Rhode Island in the US focused on neurobehavioural effects and inflammatory response to exposure to microplastics, as well as the accumulation of microplastics in tissues, including the brain.

The team exposed young and old mice to varying levels of microplastics in drinking water over the course of three weeks.



Plastics -- in particular, microplastics -- are among the most pervasive pollutants on the planet, finding their way into the air, water systems and food chains around the world

RESEARCHERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND IN THE US FOCUSED ON NEUROBEHAVIOURAL EFFECTS AND INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE TO EXPOSURE TO MICROPLASTICS

The findings, published in the International Journal of Molecular Science, showed that microplastic exposure induces both behavioural changes and alterations in immune markers in liver and brain tissues.

The study mice began to move and behave peculiarly, exhibiting behaviours akin to dementia in humans. The results were even more profound in older animals.

"To us, this was striking. These were not high doses of microplastics, but in only a short

period of time, we saw these changes," said Jaime Ross, an assistant professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences at the Ryan Institute for Neuroscience and the College of Pharmacy, at the University of Rhode Island in the US.

"Nobody really understands the life cycle of these microplastics in the body, so part of what we want to address is the question of what happens as you get older. Are you more susceptible to systemic inflammation from these

microplastics as you age? Can your body get rid of them as easily? Do your cells respond differently to these toxins?"

Further, the researchers found that the particles had begun to bioaccumulate in every organ, including the brain, as well as in bodily waste.

"Given that in this study the microplastics were delivered orally via drinking water, detection in tissues such as the gastrointestinal tract, which is a major part of the digestive system, or in the liver and kidneys was always probable," Ross said.

"The detection of microplastics in tissues such as the heart and lungs, however, suggests that the microplastics are going beyond the digestive system and likely undergoing systemic circulation. The brain blood barrier is supposed to be very difficult to permeate. It is a protective

mechanism against viruses and bacteria, yet these particles were able to get in there. It was actually deep in the brain tissue."

That brain infiltration also may cause a decrease in glial fibrillary acidic protein (called "GFAP"), a protein that supports many cell processes in the brain, results have shown.

"A decrease in GFAP has been associated with early stages of some neurodegenerative diseases, including mouse models of Alzheimer's disease, as well as depression," Ross said. "We were very surprised to see that the microplastics could induce altered GFAP signalling."

"We want to understand how plastics may change the ability for the brain to maintain its homeostasis or how exposure may lead to neurological disorders and diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease," she said.

CM not to celebrate Raksha Bandhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will not celebrate Raksha Bandhan this year, an official statement said Tuesday.

"Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has wished the people of Odisha on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. However, he will not participate in the Raksha Bandhan celebrations tomorrow due to other engagements," a statement issued by the CMO said.

Raksha Bandhan is being celebrated across the state on Rakhi Purnima Wednesday including Sri Baladev Jew Temple in Kendrapara while it will be observed in a big way in Shree Jagannath temple Thursday.

The festival is also called Gamha Purnima or Rakhi Purnima in Odisha and the festival marks the birthday of Lord Balabhadra.

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Jajpur residents cry foul over cement plant construction

Allegations of excess land transfer, encroachment of roads fly thick and fast



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 29: Large scale irregularities have allegedly been committed in transfer of government land to an under-construction private cement manufacturing firm at Bairi village under Barchana block in Jajpur district, sources said Tuesday. It has been alleged that Hyderabad-based 'Maha Cement Pvt Ltd.' has acquired 113 acres of land for its plant when it needs only 68 acres.

Sources alleged that the extra land has been acquired in connivance with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) officials. The company is planning to set up a grinding unit with an annual capacity of three metric tonne. The company in a public hearing conducted August 5, 2022 had said that it needs 68 acres of land.

Rumours are afloat that the company is portraying the excess land to obtain loans from various banks and is planning to invest the amounts in other projects outside Odisha.

Locals have questioned the basis on which 113 acres of land was handed over to 'Maha Cement Pvt Ltd'. They have demanded proper investigation into the matter. Locals also pointed out that to run a grinding plant, large quantity of water is needed. However, there is no regular source of water to the plant site.

They also said that the management is yet to provide compensation to owners from whom private plots have been acquired. Locals also pointed out that since many private land owners have not been paid, they are facing acute financial crunch.

Sources stated that initially the management had said that the grinding plant will be set up at an investment of ₹600 crore. It had also said that more than 300 local people will be employed by the company. However, till date only non-Odias have been recruited. This has left the local residents fuming. "The company has breached all norms and yet the state government is

not doing anything to prevent such gross injustice," the locals pointed out.

Such is the situation now that the company management and the local residents are at loggerheads. The company is using its clout to terrorise local villagers. Many false cases have been filed against the villagers, locals alleged.

People also pointed out that company has encroached on many roads leading to plots of farmers. As a result, farmers are facing hindrances to carry out agricultural work.

Local farmer Dilip Swain alleged that the company has erected barricades on the road leading to his farmland, thereby severely restricting his movement. He stated that he has to now sign a register to enter his own farmland. Also he cannot take agriculture equipment like tractors to his 'own property' for farming.

A similar allegation was raised by farmer Dhaneswar Swain. He said that his 1.30 acre land is lying uncultivated as the road leading to it has been completely encroached by the cement company. Others expressed shock at the official apathy meted out to them despite repeated complaints to the district administration.

When contacted, Nilambar Mishra, public relation officer (PRO) of 'Maha Cement' asserted that everything is being done as per rules and all promises will be fulfilled.



ENCHANTING HANDIWORK: Students of Sri Aurobindo Institute of Integral Education and Research in Sambalpur admiring an art and craft exhibition held in their school premises, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Koraput police bust online fraud racket, 3 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, August 29: Police from this district have busted an inter-state online fraud racket arresting three members of the gang from Bihar, officials said Tuesday.

The accused were identified as Bhola Prasad, 46, Gourav Kumar, 23, and Vikas Kumar, 23, of Chakbai village under Warisaliganj police station limits in Nawada district of Bihar. The three have been accused of defrauding a trader of ₹1.50 lakh online on the promise of providing him cement at cheap rates.

Police have also seized ₹1.5 lakh in cash, one laptop and 14 mobiles and three passbooks from the possession of the accused. They were brought here and produced in the court, SDPO Srabani Nayak said, while addressing a press meet at the Koraput police station, Tuesday.

The SDPO said that the accused had floated an advertisement on Google Ads promising to provide cement at cheap rates. A trader of this district noticed the advertisement and contacted the phone number mentioned in the post. The trader was asked to deposit ₹1.50 lakh in an account which he did.



The trader realised that he has been duped after he failed to get the cement even after substantial time had elapsed. He then lodged a complaint at the Town police station here, June 18. Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

On being directed by SP Anubhav Sonkar, the case was transferred to the Cyber Crime department. During investigations, the number mentioned in the advertisement was traced to Bihar which belonged to one of the accused.

With help from Warsaliganj police station, the Cyber Crime team tracked the whereabouts of the three youths and arrested them from Chakbai village. Efforts are on to track others involved in the racket while further investigation is underway, officials of the Cyber Crime department said.

Jewellery shop looted

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, August 29: Three armed miscreants looted Tuesday a jewellery shop at Nehru Square under this police limits in Kandhamal district. They also attacked the owner and injured him before decamping with valuable ornaments.

Eye-witnesses said that the three armed miscreants came in a motorcycle and attacked Subash Chandra Achary, the owner when he was opening the 'Maa Pathakhanda' jewellery shop Tuesday morning. They attacked Achary with sharp weapons and also shot him before looting gold valuables from the shop and fleeing the spot.



Locals rushed the critically injured Achary to the Baliguda hospital. As his condition deteriorated he was later shifted to Bhubaneswar. On being informed police reached the spot and launched an investigation. Police are examining CCTV footage of the locality to ascertain the identity of the miscreants.

RMC to launch eviction drive

In 1st phase, illegal vendors sitting on the stretch from Panposh to Bondhamunda to be evicted



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 29: The Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) will soon undertake an eviction drive in the city to clear pavements and roads from hawkers who conduct their businesses illegally. The drive was supposed to begin Tuesday, but was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, Enforcement officer Narendra Pradhan informed.

"We will soon undertake the drive to clear roads, pathways and drains that have been occupied by hawkers. This (Tuesday) morning I went with an official and police personnel to Panposh and ask the illegal encroachers to vacate the areas. However, they resisted," informed Pradhan.

The RMC official was quick to point out that the rakhli stall vendors have promised to vacate the places by Wednesday evening. "However, it was the fruit vendors who were adamant. I have asked them to meet the Municipal Commissioner to find a solution to their problems. I have told them that if necessary

I will use force to vacate the places they are illegally occupying," Pradhan added.

People of this city have been complaining about how the presence of the hawkers is restricting the free movement of pedestrians. Also by obstructing the drains and covering those up, clearance of water has become a major problem. Officials stated that in the first phase, illegal encroachers on the Panposh--Bondhamunda stretch will be evicted.

"Squatting is a big menace on the stretch between Panposh till Bisra Road Chowk. The main road, starting from Udit Nagar up to Bisra Chowk is the worst affected stretch. This is the main business locality of the city and it faces severe traffic congestion due to these vendors who have set up shop illegally. The problems are compounded by illegal parking of vehicles, two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws," informed Pradhan.

Rourkela police had undertaken action against illegal parking, but then it suddenly stopped. As a result it is causing a lot of hardships, locals alleged.

Youth gets 10 years RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, August 29: A special POCOS court here sentenced Tuesday a youth to 10-years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him for the rape of a minor.

The convict was identified as Pranab Kumar Nayak, 28, resident of a village under the Rural police limits in Bhadrak district. Justice Minati Panda also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on Nayak, apart from the prison term. In default, Nayak has to undergo an additional six months of imprisonment.

This was stated here by advocates Batakushna Das and Pradeep Mohapatra who pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government. The judge also directed the district legal services authority and the state government to pay ₹5,00,000 and ₹4,00,000 respectively to the victim.

According to the case diary, Nayak barged into the victim's house when she was sleeping with her mom. Her father had gone to drop her uncle to the railway station. Hearing suspicious noises, the victim's mother opened the door to investigate. Seeing her, Nayak pelted her with stones and even tried to rape her.

Panicking, the victim's mother rushed to a neighbour's house. In the meantime, Nayak entered the house picked up the victim, took her to a desolate spot and raped her on a farmland. However, he fled as other villagers arrived at the spot.

Officials of the Rural police station registered a case and arrested Nayak when victim's mother lodged a complaint.

Man sentenced to life for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 29: Berhampur Additional District and Sessions Court Judge, Justice Indu Sharma sentenced Rajendra Sethi to life imprisonment for murdering Trinath Patra, December 29, 2016. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict. Failure to pay the fine will lead to an additional six months in prison for the convict.



According to the case diary, Rajendra was originally a resident of Moulabhanaja village under Digapahandi police limits. He had earlier been convicted of murdering his wife while living in Cuttack. He had demanded money from his wife to buy an auto-rickshaw. When she failed to pay the amount, Rajendra had killed her. He was

sentenced to 10 years in prison for the crime. He spent the time in Chowdwar jail.

After his release, Rajendra settled in K Nuagaon village in Ganjam district and started living with a widow identified as Sobha Nayak. However, he suspected that Sobha was having an affair with Trinath, a guard at the panchayat office. A few months later, Sobha died under mysterious circumstances. Rajendra suspected that Trinath was responsible for Sobha's death. So he attacked Trinath with a machete and hacked him to death.

Later on acting on a complaint (No - 177/16) lodged by Trinath's brother, police arrested Rajendra from Cuttack. During the trial, Rajendra was lodged in the Berhampur circle jail.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing 10 eye-witnesses and going through the chargesheet, Special Public Prosecutor Gyanendranath Jena, who appeared for the government in the case, said.

'Underdog' George hoping to beat all odds

FORMER MLA TRYING HIS BEST TO WOO VOTERS OF BIRMITRAPUR ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 29: Even though the dates for the Assembly elections in Odisha are yet to be announced, George Tirkey is leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters in Birmiritrapur Assembly constituency. Birmiritrapur was once his bastion with George winning four times from the constituency. However after he quit the BJD, things have turned sour for him.

George is hoping that the BJD will take him back in the party. Even if it doesn't happen, George is planning to go ahead and fight the elections as a representative of his own creation -- the 'George Sena'.

The last time George emerged victorious from the constituency was in 2014, when he contested on a Samata Kranti Dal ticket. In 2019, he was the Congress candidate for the Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat, but lost. His son, representing the Congress in Birmiritrapur also lost. Undeterred, George is trying his best to regain Birmiritrapur once more. He has been conducting meetings for the last eight months.

George has admitted repeatedly in public that leaving 'BJD was a big mistake'. He is hoping that by publicly renouncing his decision, he will be taken back by the BJD. However, it has not happened so far. "I am ready to



join the BJD, but I have not received any communication," George had said a couple of weeks back.

State Labour Minister Sarada Nayak was recently asked whether the BJD will take back George. "I have nothing to say on this issue. It is the high command's decision," Nayak had said.

George however, has a handful of diehard supporters. With them he is pursuing his goal of winning from Birmiritrapur with single-minded dedication. Some workers of the 'George Sena' called him a 'lion who cannot be caged for long'.

"The cadres of 'George Sena' want me to contest the Assembly

polls. If I am not nominated by the BJD, then I will contest under the banner of 'George Sena', George said. It is clear George still has a lot of popularity. There were substantial turnouts in meetings that he conducted Sunday and Monday in the Birmiritrapur constituency. "I have been on the road for eight-nine months now and I am getting good responses," he added.

As things stand, Birmiritrapur may well turn out to be the cynosure of all eyes in Sundargarh district. George is trying his best to revive his old avatar. Even if can't win, he can certainly play spoilsport to the aspirations of other heavyweights who are eyeing victory in Birmiritrapur.

EAST COAST RAILWAY			
CATERING STALLS AT VARIOUS STATIONS UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION			
No: G.129/Catg Stalls/E-auction/2023		Date: 21.08.2023	
Sl. No.	STATION NAME	LOCATION OF UNIT	LOT NO
1	KATHAJODI (PH)	PF NO-1	Catg-KUR-KTJ-GMU-77-23-1
2	GANGADHARPUR	PF NO-1	Catg-KUR-GNGD-GMU-94-23-1
3	BEGUNIA	PF NO-1	Catg-KUR-BYZA-GMU-101-23-1
4	KALUAI (P.H)	PF NO-1	Catg-KUR-KLJI-97-23-1
5	BHUBANESWAR NEW	PF No-1 (Cuttack End)	Catg-KUR-BBSN-GMU-74-23-1
6	JAIPUR KEONJHAR ROAD	PF No-1 between pole no. 2&3 BHADRAK end.	Catg-KUR-JKR-SMU-131-23-1
7	JHADUPIDI	PF No-1	Catg-KUR-JPI-SMU-108-23-1
8	BRAMHAPUR	PF No-2&3 between pillar no. 3&4 towards VISAKHAPATNAM end.	Catg-KUR-BAM-SMU-129-23-1
9	KHURDA ROAD	PF No-4&5 BETWEEN Pillar No. 5&6 Puri end.	Catg-KUR-KUR-SMU-130-23-1
10	NILAKANTHESWAR	PF No-1	Catg-KUR-NKW-SMU-118-23-1

CATEGORY OF STATION: F(HG-2) (for sl. no. 1 & 4), (E)NSG-6) (for sl. no. 2, 5, 7 & 10), A(NSG-3) (for sl. no. 3, 6, 8 & 9). **TYPE OF UNIT:** Catering Stall (for all sl. no.). **CATEGORY OF STALL (GMU/SMU):** GMU (for sl. no. 1 to 5) & SMU (for sl. no. 6 to 10). **SIZE OF UNIT:** 8'x8' (for all sl. no.). Visit on website: www.ireps.gov.in

DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION: 05.09.2023 (1100-1300 Hrs.)

PR-505/O/23-24 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road

Government of India
Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg
New Delhi - 110049.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, invites applications under various component schemes of PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMPADNA YOJANA (PMKSY) for applicants from SC/ST categories and North-East Region. The guidelines dated 08.06.2022 and other details are available on www.mofpi.gov.in.

- Only online applications submitted at <https://sampada-mofpi.gov.in/> shall be accepted.
- Last date for submission of online applications is 20.09.2023.

CBC 16101/11/0001/2324

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

BE AWARE OF FRAUD RECRUITMENT

It has been reported to Airports Authority of India (AAI) that unscrupulous elements / fraudsters / touts / agents have created false identity for themselves and have tried to deceive by pretending themselves as recruiters of Airports Authority of India.

Prospective candidates / general public is hereby cautioned not to get lured by such fake recruitment advertisements / call letters / appointment letters / fictitious messages in the name of AAI.

All details regarding recruitment such as advertisement, Document Verification / Interview Schedule, Final results etc. are published only on AAI's website www.aai.aero

Any communication received from any unknown source may be cross verified from career → www.aai.aero for its authenticity. If anyone falls prey to such fraud / fake recruitment racket, they are advised to file an FIR against the fraudsters with the local Police Station. For Hindi version please click on <https://www.aai.aero/sites/default/files/aaupload/AAI%20Ad-8x8-HINDI.pdf>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HR)
CBC 03111/12/0004/2324
NIT No. 04/2023-24

“ The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature. **”**
SRI AUROBINDO



Two Indias

Few incidents in the past week or so – one in a sports arena in Budapest, Hungary – and some others like the one in a classroom at Muzaffarnagar where a Moslem boy was slapped by his classmates at the instigation of a lady teacher and another in the same town of Uttar Pradesh where a 19 year old young pregnant woman was strangled by her parents because she refused to testify against her lover, or the one in a school in Jammu where a teacher beat up badly enough to get him hospitalized because he wrote Jai Shri Ram on the black board - have most graphically delineated two different faces of India. One brings out a sportsman spirit of the highest order that preaches universal brotherhood transcending religious differences. The other brings to the fore the filthy and shameful mindset that the current communal polarisation by Right-wing political parties and their zealots have created across India. However, we must realize this hatred that we see today is not new but has been existing for a very long time in the hearts and minds of the average Indian. This hatred is born not out of love for one's religion or God but rather the feeling of personal inadequacies that has been hiding under the blanket of religion in most of us. The sense of strength in being part of a mob chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' or 'Allahu Akbar' is giddy and helps overcome every individual's personal weaknesses. That is us Indians.

In Neeraj Chopra's case – a common man has become a model for others and has shown what tolerance, respect for others and humanity at large, as taught by Indian culture and the lofty ideals of sports, stand for. In the other cases, from a sixty-year-old Hindoo woman and that too, a school teacher who got one of her Moslem students beaten to a Moslem teacher who brutally thrashed a young Hindoo student, both exhibited how they have been infected by the poison of communal hatred being sown for the past few years. Added to this were the intolerant parents of a young woman who demonstrated their hate for love by murdering her. All these are our own images being thrown back at us. The first case, however, inspires hope and confidence that hate campaigns cannot blur the vision of many sober, right thinking citizens in the country.

The sporting and magnanimous gesture shown by India's golden boy, winner of javelin gold medal at World Athletics Championship Neeraj Chopra to Pakistan's silver medallist Arshad Nadeem in Budapest, has been hailed by people all over the country. A video showing Neeraj inviting Nadeem to pose for the camera with the Indian flag went viral on social media. Many netizens immediately started showering praise on Chopra for his sportsmanship. What one wrote is revealing, indeed, "Neeraj Chopra called Arshad Nadeem for this beautiful click. Spread love, not hate between neighbors." Another wrote: "Respect and prayers for both of them."

After the competition was finished, the medal winners were seen posing for photos together with the flags of their respective nations. However, Nadeem was missing from the frame as he did not have a Pakistan flag. Neeraj was quick to invite Nadeem to pose with him as both athletes stood together under the Indian flag. Nadeem did not hesitate to respond nor did he mind sharing the honour under the Indian flag. The patriotism and fellow-feeling of both the athletes shone even more gloriously in that unique pose. Whenever Neeraj and Nadeem compete against each other there is a lot of interest considering the history between the two nations, but Chopra said that there was no "bad blood" between the two athletes. He said Nadeem had gone up to him and they congratulated each other after the event.

It was a spontaneous, unpremeditated act that seemingly came so naturally to Neeraj. He and Nadeem had been taking part in international competitions for the past few years and encouraged each other to forge ahead in the true sportsman spirit without caring a fig for the animosity that politicians, militaries and bureaucracies on both sides of the border bear against one another.

Jingoism has acquired a new pitch under the current dispensation in India when it comes to India-Pakistan relationships. The political atmosphere gets vitiated especially during election time by anti-Moslem and anti-Pakistan rhetoric by Hindoo zealots and their political champions. Neeraj's gesture could be termed as a resounding slap on their face.

On the other hand, the school teacher of UP Tripta Tyagi shocked the conscience of the nation by asking students of her class to take turns to punish a Moslem student who could not tell the tables correctly. The video that went viral showed her exhorting the students to hit the child hard and while she was using communal slurs. It shows to what extent the communal poison has spread in the country.

Since then there has been nationwide condemnation which forced the BJP-ruled state administration to act and lodge cases under sections of non-cognizable crimes which means she would not be arrested. A similar incident has also been reported from a school in Delhi and the police have begun investigation. At a time when India's scientists have created history with their lunar mission to the south pole of the moon which remains in permanent darkness, attempts are being made to enslave young and adult minds with dark, narrow and bigoted ideas of a religious divide that may help none in the future.

This evil, now out of the bottle, may be very difficult to overcome even if there be any political change.

WISDOM CORNER

- “** Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one. **”** BRUCE LEE
- “** Everything is created twice, first in the mind and then in reality. **”** ROBIN S. SHARMA
- “** Realize deeply that the present moment is all you will ever have. **”** ECKHART TOLLE

WORDSWORTH

Mulligrubs

It's not altogether certain where this strange-looking word comes from. The first spelling, which appears at the end of the sixteenth century, is mulliegrums. That may be a fanciful form of the older megrims for a headache, an English contortion of the French migraine. By the sixteenth century megrims could refer to somebody suffering from low spirits, the same sense as mulligrubs then had. Later, mulligrubs could be used humorously for an attack of colic or stomach-ache. You will find it only in the most comprehensive of modern dictionaries, as it is now rarely encountered outside some British dialects. That's a pity, as it deserves wider circulation. Here's an example, dated 1898, from Brann The Iconoclast by William Cowper Brann: It is easy enough to say that a pessimist is a person afflicted with an incurable case of mulligrubs – one whom nothing in all earth or Heaven or Hades pleases; one who usually deserves nothing, yet grumbles if he gets it. The word seems to have survived longer in Australia, in which country the word has evolved into mully-grub, another name for a wretched grub (possibly because immigrants considered this Aboriginal food to be only suitable for giving one a stomach-ache). It has extended still further to refer to a kind of badly-bowled ball in cricket, a mullygrubber, which doesn't bounce but rather skids along the ground.

FOCUS ELECTIONS

VISION FOR INDIA



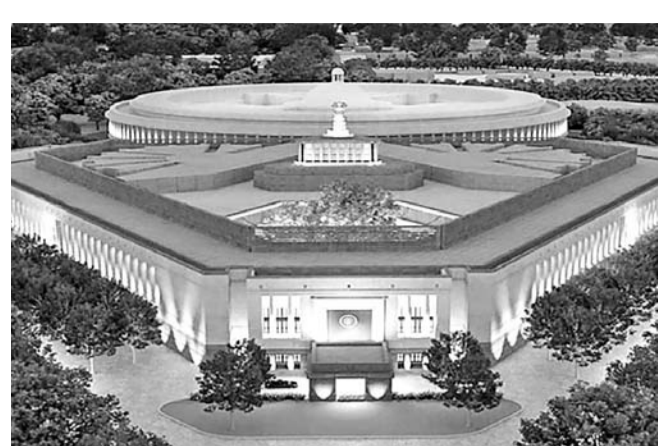
Anita Saluja

IF THE ELECTIONS TURN OUT TO BE A CONTEST BETWEEN MODI AND RAHUL, EVEN THEN THE LATTER SHOULD BE READY WITH THE VISION HE HAS FOR INDIA AND HER PEOPLE

With the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on the Moon, himself, confident of making a hat-trick in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Modi is already basking in the glory of hosting the G20 Summit, much before the event has started and the outcome is known. The 'jhuppies' with the Heads of States will be a good photo-opportunity for the BJP-led NDA to showcase India's emergence on the global stage, with its booming economy that promises to grow at a fast-pace. Modi has assured that the Indian economy will be the third largest in the world by 2028.

From the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day, Modi has promised to make India a developed nation by 2047. If one would recall, Modi came to power in 2014 with the slogan of 'achhe din'. In 2019, he somewhat convinced people that the golden days are on the way by doling out freebies to the poor. In 2023, though unemployment has increased to enormous proportions, Modi has managed to capture the imagination of the people by conjuring up the vision of Naya Bharat. Majority of the 140 crore Indians believe in him, swearing by his honesty and hard work. It is this personality of Modi, which is lacking in any of the leaders in the INDIA alliance. Modi may not have fulfilled his promises, but he has a vision which he skillfully manages to project to the people. Being a good orator, he keeps on engaging with them through his Mann Ki Baat and connects with the masses instantly.

In the Opposition, no other leader, having Prime Ministerial ambitions, has the same calibre, whether it is Rahul Gandhi, Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banerjee, Sharad Pawar, or anyone else. At the Opposition conclave to be held in Mumbai, on August 31 and September 1, the INDIA alliance should come up with a Vision Document, enabling the voter to compare between the



Since no party is keen to give these elections a presidential form, the contest will be between INDIA of 26 parties and NDA of 38 parties

NDA and INDIA. Rahul, the most vocal of the lot, has been taking pot shots at Modi, left, right and centre on all issues – whether it is communal violence in Nuh, the civil strife in Manipur, land grab by China, rising inflation, or any other issue. He has been unsparing in his attacks against Modi. His 4000-km-long Bharat Jodo Yatra, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, was a great success, as it benefitted his party electorally in Himachal and Karnataka. Starting from October 2, Rahul is learnt to undertake yet another yatra, which will be more political in nature. Unlike his first yatra, this time around, we will see a fiery Rahul, who is all set to call the bluff of the Prime Minister. But, the people here again have witnessed the plight of the Gandhi scion of landing himself in trouble every time he opens his mouth. Rahul should thank his stars that his conviction was stayed by the Supreme Court on the statement he made on the Modi community. Otherwise, he would be languishing in jail when the poll bugle would be sounded for 2024. Even in the elections of 2029, he would have been barred from contesting.

Ironically, the leaders of the INDIA alliance are engaged in one-upmanship, rather than

working in a unified manner to take-on Modi. Now, having coined a new name for their alliance, INDIA, they should unveil a vision for the country, which counters the strategy of the Modi government. A series of welfare measures and programmes should be unleashed, creating a wow-moment for citizens. The voters should be in a position to judge the two alliances on their vision for India and their well-being in the years ahead. Possibly, the vision should be of a near future, so that they know which party has the capability of enhancing their lifestyle in the next five years. The poor, aspirational and the service class, besides farmers, have been disappointed with rising inflation. Raising the nationalist sentiments is welcome, but this should be accompanied by their security and well-being.

In none of the two meetings earlier, the INDIA alliance has talked about their vision for the country except to find fault with one another, raise suspicion on the sincerity of other parties, and criticise the NDA. Even who will lead the alliance remains a mystery. Except for Lalu Yadav, who has a soft corner for Rahul, no other leader is ready to name the Prime Ministerial candidate from the alliance. In fact, they will use all

their might to embarrass the other, rather than talk about selecting their leader. An exercise to this effect has already started where JD(U) workers are naming Nitish Kumar as next Prime Minister and TMC MPs taking the name of Mamata Banerjee. The Congress is quiet, as it is not sure whether Rahul, himself, will agree to become the Prime Minister. Who knows, at the last-minute, he may develop cold-feet and nominate Mallikarjun Kharge as Congress candidate for Prime Minister's post.

However, it seems unlikely this time, as the Gandhi scion is sweating it out by addressing a plethora of meetings inside and outside the country, not leaving any opportunity to spar at the Modi government and himself undertaking strenuous yatras to join with the masses. His conviction by the Gujarat court and the scathing attack mounted against him whenever he opens his mouth by the Modi cabinet is all reflective of the nervousness of the Modi government. If the elections turn out to be a contest between Modi and Rahul, even then the latter should be ready with the vision he has for India and her people.

This time around, Modi is wary of presenting himself as the sole leader of the NDA, with the slogan of "Ek Akela Sab Pe Bhaari" having failed in elections held in Himachal and Karnataka, where he campaigned single-handedly. Knowing that his charisma is fading a bit, he has pledged to take along with him all the 38 constituents of the NDA. Since no party is keen to give these elections a presidential form, the contest will be between INDIA of 26 parties and NDA of 38 parties. More than the personalities, therefore, it would be interesting to watch who has a better Vision for India.

The writer is a Delhi-based senior journalist and political commentator. Views are personal.

IN JEST THIS

You don't have to get married to be happy

I've been married for a long time – so long that I sometimes forget what it was like to be single. But every now and then, my wife goes on a trip without me and I quickly realise what I enjoyed the most about being single: FREEDOM.

Here are just some of the freedoms you enjoy as a single person:

- Freedom to sleep as long as you want. You can wake up at 11 am, eat breakfast and go right back to bed. (At least when you're not working.)
- Freedom to come and go as you please. You can return home at 3 am and nobody is going to ask you where you've been or why you have lipstick on your cheek.
- Freedom to consume whatever you want. You can eat ice cream for breakfast and cereal for dinner. You can wake up at 2 am and devour a Stephen King novel.
- Freedom to be a slob. You don't have to keep your apartment neat and tidy. You can clean it once a year or however often

the landlord visits. 5. Freedom to watch whatever you want. No one will dictate your viewing choices, whether you're at home, at a movie theatre or at the beach.

Of course, many single people do not fully enjoy these freedoms, partly because they live with other people. Some have roommates who impose restrictions of some sort, while others live with parents who don't believe in the concept of freedom.

But even if they share their homes with others, single people have plenty to be happy about. They have more time to do whatever they find fulfilling, whether it's pursuing their career goals, getting together with friends frequently or watching cricket every day.

For a growing number of people, being single is a more attractive option than being tied to another person for the rest of their lives.

The percentage of unpartnered Americans (neither mar-

ried nor living with a partner) between the ages of 25 and 54 rose from 29 per cent in 1990 to 38 per cent in 2019, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of census data.

A study in China found that 42 per cent of Gen Zers (those born in the mid to late 1990s) want to remain single. And a poll in India conducted by the dating app Bumble found that 81 per cent of women felt "more at ease being unmarried and living alone," according to an IANS report.

But single people feel a lot of pressure to get married, especially when they attend family gatherings and have to continually answer an annoying question. Married cousin: "When are you getting married?" Single cousin: "I don't know. When are you getting divorced?" Married cousin: "What kind of question is that? I'm happily married."

Single cousin: "Well, I'm happily not married."

Not only do parents put pressure on children to get married

before a certain age, married people often engage in "single-shaming" – making single people feel that their lives are lacking, that they must be sad and lonely.

Many single people do want to get married, but others are quite happy being single, partly because they know that marriage isn't a one-way street to happiness. They know that the divorce rate has been steadily increasing, approaching 50 per cent in some countries. Among people who have stayed married, about half would describe their marriage as a "great success," one-third would describe it as a "good result," and the remainder would describe it as a "Russian moon landing."

It's too easy to marry the wrong person, someone with whom you have little in common, someone whose values or interests you don't share.

This is why I do not compel single people to get married. You don't have to get married to be unhappy.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Nation's image

Sir, At a time when the world is hailing India for its successful space missions and for the presidency of the G20 where it aims for an inclusive global growth through its theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" viz. "One Earth, One Family, One Future," the persisting turmoil in the state of Manipur casts a dark shadow. A humanitarian crisis has engulfed the state for the last three months with no immediate signs of a status quo between the two conflict-stricken communities. The issues and differences could have been resolved earlier, had the State Executive discharged its duties with a proactive approach and the intervention of the Center was timely. It is most unfortunate that the efforts to counter the unrest in Manipur weren't made until the eleventh hour and the deteriorated situation elicited national attention only when a horrific video of two women being publicly assaulted surfaced, compelling the Supreme Court to take a suo motu cognisance of it. The need of the hour is to restore peace and harmony in the state for which the government should leave no stone unturned. As such a prolonged internal strife doesn't bode well with the nation's image.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

Prannoy's bronze

Sir, India's top-ranked men's badminton player HS Prannoy has made the country proud by bagging the bronze at the world championship at Copenhagen. Before going down in the semifinals to Thailand ace Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who emerged as the champion, Prannoy had scalped the great Viktor Axelsen in round 8. Although the Indian had beaten Axelsen earlier, beating him in front of his home crowd was special. Even against Vitidsarn, Prannoy won the first game, and was ahead by 5-1 in the second, before the Thai came into his own to pip him. The 31-year-old was unable to click at the right moment, and squandered the golden opportunity of becoming the first men's player to win a silver at the world championship. The Indian champion has, however, continuously ranked within the top ten in the world notwithstanding the crippling injuries that have haunted him.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

UP slapgate: NHRC issues notice to state govt

Lucknow, August 29: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Government of Uttar Pradesh over the reported beating of a student by his classmates at the behest of his teacher referring to his faith in an absurd manner in Muzaffarnagar.

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognisance of

media reports that a teacher of a private school, referring to the faith of one of her students in an absurd manner, ordered his classmates to beat him.

The school is located at Khubbapur village in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the boy's family has said that he was beaten up for a mistake in the multiplication of tables, during the class. A video of the incident went viral August 25, lead-



ing to calls for action against the teacher and the school.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to a violation of the victim's human rights.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.

It should include the action

taken against the teacher, the status of the FIR registered in the matter and compensation if any, paid to the aggrieved family, as well as steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such shameful incidents do not recur in the future.

According to the media report, the teacher, who also owns the school, has not been arrested yet. The boy's family has already taken him out of the school and is looking for a new school.

App to turn phones into wireless sets for UP cops

Lucknow, August 29: To improve the channel of communication between police personnel in Lucknow, the Commissioner of Police has introduced a new mobile-based application which will enable the cops on field to communicate with one another and there will be no need to have age old wireless sets.



As a result of the GPS system in the app, the live location of all the users will be displayed

"The app titled 'P.O.C.' (PUSH TO TALK OVER CELLULAR) will help all the police personnel to connect directly making mobile phones useful as wireless sets through an app. A line testing/live trial was done in the Reserve Police Lines Monday at a seminar organised where the cops were explained about the working of the app," said the Lucknow Police Commissionerate spokesman.

"Through the PUSH-TO-TALK feature, the discussions can be held one-to-one. As a result of the GPS system in the app, the live

location of all the users will be displayed. Police can upload any video of any incident which can also be seen by higher authorities," said director general, telecom, Uttar Pradesh, Sanjay Tarde while explaining about the app.

"Interestingly, each police personnel will have a unique QR code through which this app will be installed in the mobile phone through which only they can download and use it and it will not be available to the general public," he added.

The DG also said the communication link had been successfully established in Meerut zone/Saharanpur region and Bareilly zone during Kanwar Yatra in Shravan.

NDA in TN not united even as 2024 polls near



Sources in the BJP told IANS that the party is trying its best to bring the coalition in good stead but it has to be seen how the three major parties that are pulling in different directions could go forward

came out against the BJP president and his antics. In a recent meeting held in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited AIADMK supreme leader, Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) which didn't augur well with the state BJP.

Another ally of the NDA, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), is also not in full support of the BJP in Tamil Nadu with the party wanting to take the leadership of the NDA in the state much to the dislike of the AIADMK.

With two major associates of the BJP, wanting to head the alliance, there is a general feeling of mutual distrust and this has led to the NDA puffing and panting in the state.

Sources in the BJP told IANS that the party is trying its best to bring the coalition in good stead but it has to be seen how the three major parties that are pulling in different directions could go forward.

RK Mohanachandran, researcher and social activist while speaking to IANS said, "If the NDA alliance does not settle their internal bickering, it will be difficult for the alliance to get seats from Tamil Nadu as the DMK-led front is very much active at the grassroots level with several new social welfare schemes. With elections only a few months away, the BJP national leadership will have to iron out differences and fight the elections."

2024 LS POLLS DMK to restructure party at grassroots level

CHENNAI, August 29: The ruling DMK is in the process of restructuring and refurbishing party at the grassroots level ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The DMK president and Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin has called upon the party cadres to win all the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu and the one Lok Sabha seat in Pondicherry.

The party is in the process of establishing district units for two Assembly constituencies and this will lead to the number of district units to 117 from 72 district units.

This is to ensure that a district office-bearer is given charge of each panchayat level committee so as to get a proper feedback from the grassroots levels.

The DMK state leadership is planning to make a uniform structure for the division of responsibilities with each committee given charge of two as-



sembly constituencies.

Sources in the DMK told IANS that the party is concerned at the anti-incumbency factor as the party is in power in the state since 2021 and in certain constituencies it is confronting local-level issues that could backfire to the party's prospects in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The party is also dividing responsibilities to the district-level leaders who would be accountable to the electoral prospects of the party. Each district level office-bearer who is in charge of a panchayat level committee will have to provide weekly reports to the

state leader who is in-charge of the concerned district.

It is to be noted that the DMK is a cadre-based political party for promoting Dravidian ideology and this makes it easier for the party-in-charges to extract maximum output from the party's grassroots leaders and cadres.

The party ministers are also given charge of each district. The state leader in-charge of the district and the concerned minister will develop a weekly report and discuss with the Chief Minister and other senior leaders on the performance of the party district units.

SC: Advs can perform self-respect marriages

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 29: The Supreme Court Monday overruled a decision of the Madras High Court which had held that self-respect marriages in Tamil Nadu cannot be solemnised in secrecy and cannot be performed in presence of advocates.

A bench of Justices Ravindra Bhatt and Aravind Kumar said that there exists no blanket ban for advocates to solemnise Suyamariyathai form of marriage under Section 7(A) of the Hindu Marriage Act (Tamil Nadu State Amendment Act).

The court held that lawyers, in their personal capacity of a friend, relative or social activist, can perform such marriages but not in their capacity when



acting as the officer of court.

The special leave petition, filed through advocate A. Velan, challenged the Madras High Court decision which had ordered initiation of disciplinary action against the advocates under whose aegis these self-respect marriages were solemnised.

Also, the impugned High Court order had held that a marriage conducted in secrecy with few

Madras HC had earlier ordered the initiation of disciplinary action against advocates solemnising self-respect marriages, as "self-respect marriages could not be solemnised in secrecy"

strangers around will not amount to solemnisation as required under Section 7 & 7-A of the Hindu Marriage Act as applicable in Tamil Nadu. Suyamariyathai is a form of marriage between two Hindus which could be solemnised in the presence of relatives, friends or other persons and presence of a priest is not necessary.

SUPERTECH TWIN TOWER DEMOLITION

A year on, no action yet against erring officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Noida, August 29: A year ago, exactly on this day, the twin towers of Supertech were demolished at around 2.30 p.m. on the orders of the Supreme Court.

The top court had ordered demolition of the high rises citing irregularities and flouting of norms.

Cases were registered against 26 officials following a probe conducted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

However, no action has been taken yet against the officials who were held responsible for the irregularities. In the SIT report, it was mentioned that rules were violated by Supertech, while the Authority officials made avenues to make the building earn benefits. In lieu of this, the Authority officials also

got financial benefits.

Following a meeting that was held, the SIT team asked the authorities to submit all the documents. Later, on the basis of the SIT's report, an FIR was lodged in the Vigilance office, Lucknow, on behalf of the Planning Department of Noida Authority. In the FIR, a number of officials, including then CEO Mohinder Singh were named.

Currently, the board of 'Vijay Path' has been put up in the place where the Twin Towers had earlier stood. One UBS Tewatia, who fought a long battle in this case, said that action should have been taken against the accused officials. "Today, one year has passed but it is sad that no action has been taken so far. The investigation should be completed soon. The Vijay Path shows how the people of the (residential) society united and achieved victory after a long struggle," he said. Even as four officials have been suspended, the action is not deemed satisfactory. The investigation into the alleged involvement of 11 of the 26 officials was handed by the government to Saumya Srivastava, OSD of Greater Noida Authority March 23.



GOVT. OF ODISHA No. O-810
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION NO-II, KEONJHAR
 E-mail: eerw_kjr2@yahoo.com
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works | Identification No. Online NCB - 04/2023-24

1. Name of the Work: 01 No. Road Work. 2. Total Number of Work: 01 No. 3. Estimated Cost: Rs. 11.75 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'D' & 'C' Class. 5. Period of Completion: As per annexure of e-Procurement Notice No.04/2023-24. 6. Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/o S.E., R.W. Division-II, Keonjhar Technical Bid
		From	To		
1. Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Keonjhar	2. Road Online NCB No. 04	3. Dt.04.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	4. Dt.14.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	5. Dt.13.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	6. Dt.15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
 OIPR-25093/11/0005/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn. No.-II, Keonjhar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JHARSUGUDA (R&B) DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
 E-mail ID:eeepwdjsg2014@gmail.com, Telephone:06645-271242, Kalimandir Road, Jharsuguda, 768202
"e" Procurement Notice
 No.B-796:
Bid Identification No.SE-R&B-JSG-07 of 2023-24

1. The Superintending Engineer, Jharsuguda (R&B) Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover system on ON-LINE mode from eligible contractors for Construction of Civil Work/ Electrical Works as detailed in DTCN.	Civil Work & Electrical Work
2. Nature of Work	Rs. 3.71 Lakhs to Rs. 44.00 Lakhs
3. Estimated Cost	04 (Four) Nos.
4. No. of Work	Rs. 2000/-, Rs. 4000/- & Rs. 6000/- (as per DTCN)
5. Tender Cost	'B' & Electrical 'HT'
6. Class of Contractor	10.00 A.M. of 01.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 10.09.2023
7. Availability of bid document in the website	11.30 AM on Dt.11.09.2023
8. Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
 Jharsuguda (R&B) Division
 OIPR-34094/11/0009/2324

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
 NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR -751001
 RFP Identification No. CE-WBP (O) - 16 /2023-24
 File No- PIM - Misc. - 10/2008 (Pt) No. B-793

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ PROPOSAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

- The Chief Engineer, World Bank Projects, Odisha (the "Authority") on behalf of the Works Department, Govt. of Odisha invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for the work as below through EPC mode of Contract (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis for selection of the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded eventually Construction of Second H. L. Bridge over river Mahanadi connecting Bamsuni of Boudh District - Barmaharajpur in Sonepur District under State Plan.
- The Request for Proposal document (the "RFP" document) will be available in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 10.00 A.M. of 01.09.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of 27.09.2023 for online bidding.
- The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III. The online bidding procedure is indicated in the document.
- The application shall be received only on "online" on or before 5.00 P.M. of 27.09.2023.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held at 12.30 PM on 08.09.2023 at the venue as specified in RFP.
- Applications received online shall be opened at 3.00 P.M. of 28.09.2023 in the office of the Chief Engineer (World Bank Projects), Odisha, Nirman Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening as specified, then the same will be opened on the next working day.
- The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bid without assigning any reason.
- Further details with any addendum, corrigendum, cancellation can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Chief Engineer, World Bank Projects, Odisha
 OIPR-34003/11/0031/2324

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR
 e-Mail: eeolcidivn.bbsr@gmail.com Tel. 0674-2391847

e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 2475/2023-24 Dt. 29.08.2023
 No. CAD-1882- The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED, BHUBANESWAR invites Percentage Rate Bids in online mode for Revival & Re-energisation of Lift Irrigation Projects in Puri & Khordha district under PLAN FUND 2023-24 in TURKEY BASIS as mentioned below from the reputed Contractors/ Firms having valid HT license issued by E.L.B.O., Odisha and Civil license as mentioned below with experience in similar nature of work.

1. Nature of work	: Execution of work for Revival & Re-energisation of 04 Nos. L.I. Projects in different blocks of Puri & Khordha district.
2. No. of packages	: 04 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: As Per DTCN
4. Period of Completion	: 90 days
5. Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: 04.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
6. Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 12.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
7. Date & time of seeking clarification	: 04.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to 08.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
8. Opening date & time	: 13.09.2023 at 11 A.M.
9. Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar

The details of tender are available in the Government tender website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and other related documents are available in the DTCN for bidding. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.
 Sd./- Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Bhubaneswar
 OIPR-32155/11/0017/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KANDHAMAL IRRIGATION DIVISION, PHULBANI
 E-mail:kidphulbani@gmail.com

e- Procurement Notice No:-EE/KID-01/2023-24
 Letter No. 948 Date: 29.08.2023

No. A-497- The Executive Engineer, Kandhamal Irrigation Division, Phulbani on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage rate tender through e-procurement for execution of the following works. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

1. Nature of the Work	Construction of flood protection wall, C.C. Paver Block protection, Painting works & repair works etc.
2. Number of Works	07 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	Rs. 4.65 to 41.92 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	B, C & D
5. Period of Completion	60 to 120 Days
6. Date & Time of Availability of Bid documents	01.09.2023 at 10.00 hours to 11.09.2023 up to 17.30 hours
7. Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	11.09.2023 up to 17.30 hours
8. Bids received in online shall be opened on	12.09.2023 at 11.00 Hours
9. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid	Executive Engineer, Kandhamal Irrigation Division, Phulbani

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
 OIPR-32450/11/0001/2324



Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska during a media interaction in New Delhi



A group of people thought to be migrants are escorted by a French patrol vessel as they cross the English Channel in a small boat travelling from the coast of France and heading in the direction of Dover, Kent, England



ASHA workers raise slogans during a protest against the Haryana government demanding a hike in their wages and regularisation of their jobs in Gurugram



Women prepare a 'Pookalam' during celebrations of the Onam festival in Chikmagalur



Karbi youths take part in the traditional 'Peng Kheh' during National Sports Day event at Nehru Stadium in Guwahati



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during the inauguration of Paschimbanga Mistanna Byabasayee Samity meeting in Kolkata



People inspect a dead whale which was washed ashore off the Surat coast



A woman collects water from a well in a flood-affected area in Morigaon district, Assam

national

of the day quote

Till now, only TWO meetings have been held in the past TWO months by the INDIA alliance and today, we see that LPG prices have gone down by Rs 200. Yeh hai #INDIA ka dum!

Civic hospitals in Mumbai are in a shambles and running out of basic medicines

The state secured the top rank in attracting Foreign Direct Investment worth Rs 36,634 crore which is more than the sum of investment received by Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana in the first quarter of FY 2023-24

SHORT TAKES

One killed in Manipur firing

Imphal: One person was killed and another injured in heavy firing between two groups at Narainsena in Bishnupur district Tuesday morning, police said. Officials said a village defence volunteer, who was staying at a relief camp, was killed when a bomb suddenly exploded. Another person was hit on his shoulder by a bullet and has been admitted to a hospital in Imphal, officials said, adding his condition is stable. Meanwhile, four militants belonging to different outfits were arrested in separate operations and arms and ammunition were seized from them, police said Tuesday.

Rahul to visit Europe in Sept

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to visit Europe next month and meet European Commission lawmakers in Belgium besides addressing students at a university in Paris. He is also likely to address the Indian diaspora at an event in Oslo in early September, sources said. Notably, his visits abroad will come at a time when the crucial G20 summit will be held from September 9 to 10 in the national capital.

Excise scam: ED to probe own officials

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to press money laundering charges against its two officers and some private individuals who were recently booked by the CBI in a bribery case linked to an accused arrested in the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam, official sources said Tuesday.



The Lok Sabha elections are likely to be advanced as the BJP fears with time it will suffer more loss because of the opposition unity
NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

SAFE LANDING

An IndiGo flight from Madurai landed safely at the Mumbai airport Tuesday despite one of the aircraft's engines shutting down. Given that twin-engine planes can safely operate on a single engine, the Airbus A321 safely landed in Mumbai



SEXUAL ASSAULT BY CLASSMATES

Kejriwal orders suspension of teachers, vice-principal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday ordered the suspension of the vice-principal and teachers of a government school in northwest Delhi over their alleged failure to report to police the sexual assault of two boys by their classmates. He also directed the Directorate of Education (DoE) to prepare high-quality material for reference of all teachers and principals and issue guidelines for schools to handle cases of abuse in a supportive environment for children. On the direction of the chief minister, Delhi Education Minister Atishi has written to the DoE to ensure rigorous training of all principals and teachers on provisions of the

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, mandatory reporting, tools for early identification of abuse, types of abuse, impact of abuse on children and remedial measures to avoid such incidents in future. In her note to the DoE, the minister said it is a "deeply disturbing" act. "It is especially worrying that the students had informed the teachers and the vice principal, but they did not bring it to the notice of the police or any higher authorities. Not only is this immoral, but also against the law. As per the POCSO Act, non-reporting of sexual abuse - by any adult who is aware of the abuse - is a criminal offence," Atishi noted. She asserted that everything must be done to ensure children are safe and secure at all times.



Idols of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi partially submerged in waters of the Brahmaputra river following incessant rains, near Chakreshwar temple in Guwahati

Manipur Assembly session adjourned sine die amid ruckus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, August 29: The one-day session of the Manipur Assembly was adjourned sine die within an hour of commencement after Congress MLAs created a ruckus demanding that the session be extended to five days. Opposition MLAs led by former chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh said one day was not enough to discuss the prevailing situation in the ethnic strife-torn state. All the 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven from the BJP, were absent from the House. The proceedings began at 11 am with two-minute silence for those killed in the ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kukis that began on May 3. In his address, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said, "With great sorrow, we condole the deaths of those killed in the violence. In times like these, words seem inefficient for those who have lost their loved ones in the strife." The House resolved that all differences should be addressed through dialogue and peaceful means for communal harmony in the state. "This House unanimously resolves to work for the oneness and harmony of all the people of Manipur, irrespective of caste, community, region, religion or language. The House also resolves that as peace is the priority of the State, this House will strive to resolve all the differences among the people, till complete peace returns to the entire State, through dialogue and constitutional means," the resolution said. The House also lauded the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on Moon and congratulated scientist N Raghu Singh, who is from Manipur and was in ISRO team that led



Congress leaders hoist a black flag to protest over the one-day session of the Manipur Assembly in Imphal

Today, the Manipur Assembly met for the first time since March 3rd, 2023. It stood in 2-minute silence in memory of those killed in the state since May 3rd. The CM read out a resolution and thereafter it got adjourned indefinitely, disallowing any other resolutions. The entire proceedings took much less than an hour. What a farce! There was simply no reason why with its huge majority the ruling party could not have had the session for a few days at the very least. The reason is simple: if the Assembly Session had functioned, the differences and fissures within the BJP would have come into full display and that too on the floor of the Assembly

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

the mission. Soon after, Congress MLAs started shouting "stop mockery, let's save democracy" from their seats and demanded that a five-day session be held for discussing the situation in the state. Speaker Th Satyabrata Singh urged the opposition MLAs to sit down but they continued with the ruckus, following which he adjourned the House for 30 minutes. As the House reassembled, the Congress MLAs continued with their protest, following which the Speaker, while stating that it was not possible to continue with the session amid the ruckus, adjourned the proceedings sine die. Briefing reporters later in the

day, Manipur PWD Minister Govindas Konthoujam criticised the opposition Congress for their "unconstitutional and unruly behaviour" while the Congress termed it a "dark day in the parliamentary democracy of India." Konthoujam said the opposition created a ruckus when the Speaker entered the House and continued to disturb even when obituary references were made. "The opportunity to discuss important matters of the state for the whole day was not allowed by the Opposition members," the minister said. "People of the state should know that Congress created a lot of disturbances in the House," Konthoujam added.

Chidambaram on parl panel reviewing new criminal laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar Tuesday nominated former home minister and Congress member P Chidambaram to the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Chidambaram's nomination comes in the wake of the retirement of Congress member P Bhattacharya from Rajya Sabha. The Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs is currently looking into the three new bills Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, seeking to replace criminal laws Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)

and the Indian Evidence Act. "The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has, on the 28th August, 2023, nominated Shri P. Chidambaram, Member, Rajya Sabha, to the Committee on Home Affairs vice Shri P. Bhattacharya, who retired from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2023," a bulletin from the Rajya Sabha secretariat said. Dhankhar had on August 18 referred the three proposed laws that will replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and asked it to submit its report within three months. The three bills were introduced in Lok Sabha by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 11.



Chidambaram speaking at a podium

China a habitual offender: Kharge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: The Congress Tuesday took strong objection to the inclusion of Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin in China's map and asserted that these are inalienable parts of India which no such illegal representation or arbitrarily invented map by the "habitual offender" can change. The party also urged the government to use the upcoming G20 Summit to expose China's transgressions into Indian territory at the global stage. The Congress' reaction came a day after China officially released the 2023 edition of its "standard map" incorporating Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin region, Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge said Indian territories including Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin are indistinguishable and inalienable part of India and "no arbitrarily invented Chinese map can change that". In a post on X, he said, "China is a habitual offender when it comes to renaming and redrawing maps of territories, belonging to other countries. The Indian National Congress takes strong objection to any such illegal representation or renaming of India's territories." Another Congress leader and Lok Sabha member Manish

China is a habitual offender when it comes to renaming and redrawing maps of territories, belonging to other countries. The Indian National Congress takes strong objection to any such illegal representation or renaming of India's territories

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Tewari also said China's claims on Arunachal Pradesh are "absurd, illogical and historically incorrect" and urged the government to introspect and reclaim Indian territories occupied by China during recent transgressions. "A short history of the India-China Border issue - China's claims on Arunachal Pradesh are absurd, illogical and historically incorrect. China has no claim on Arunachal Pradesh," he said on X. Kharge said "we want a peaceful coexistence with our neighbours, including China and want peace and tranquillity at the LAC." "It is, however, painful to note that China's deception and belligerence continues, post Galwan, in the wake of PM Modi giving them a free pass, by saying 'no one entered our territory', after 20 of our brave soldiers were martyred," the Congress chief said.



Mallikarjun Kharge speaking at a podium

Langur mimics to scare off monkeys during G20 meet

The unchecked population of monkeys has led to their ever-increasing numbers across the city, including in New Delhi areas (Lutyens' Delhi), with the animals loitering around and often attacking and biting people

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: A band of about 30 to 40 men who can mimic the call of a langur and life-size cutouts of the distinctive black faced simian at vantage points will be the stratagem to scare away monkeys during the G20 summit in the national capital. The unchecked population of monkeys has led to their ever-increasing numbers across the city, including in New Delhi areas (Lutyens' Delhi), with the animals loitering around and often attacking and biting people. In view of this, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Forest Department of the city government have taken steps to ensure that monkeys are not allowed to play spoilsport during the important G20 summit, to be held from September 9-10. "All the important sites, including the main venue of the Summit, hotels where foreign dignitaries and delegates would be staying are being covered to ensure the monkey herds are not visible there during the event," a government official said. NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay said the civic body



A cut-out of 'langur' being fixed to a fence to scare monkeys as part of preparations for the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi

will deploy 30-40 trained persons who can mimic langur sound to scare away the monkeys. "These trained persons are registered with us and they have been hired as they are ef-

fective in scaring away monkeys by making sounds of langur. We will deploy one each at hotels where delegates would stay, as well as in places where monkey sightings are reported," he said. An official said over a dozen cutouts of langur were placed strategically in areas, including Sardar Patel Marg that are heavily infested with monkeys. He said apart from other problems, the monkeys have damaged plants and flowers that were part of horticulture landscaping for the G20 Summit by different agencies. Sardar Patel Marg that connects New Delhi to the IGI airport has been given a facelift with installations of statues, fountains, street furniture and lot of greenery and flowering plants since all the delegates and dignitaries for the Summit

will pass through the road, the officials said.

They said arrangements are also being made to provide eatables like fruits and vegetables at identified locations on the ridge so that the monkeys do not come out in human settlements in search of food. Wildlife expert Faiyaz Khudsar said the possible reason why monkeys are scared of langurs maybe they are bigger in size. However, a more practical reason is that a langur is trained to scare away the monkeys, he added. The city is facing the monkey menace for years as no method like using langur to scare them away, sterilisation and shifting them to Asola wildlife sanctuary has materialised due to various reasons, including opposition by animal activists fearing cruelty against the animals, experts said.

Boy beaten to death

Prayagraj (UP): A 15-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death with sticks with his family alleging that he was attacked when he opposed an attempt to molest his cousin, police said Tuesday. Local residents turned out to protest after the killing in the Kheri police station area on Monday. Additional police force was called in as the incident began to take on a communal colour. Police Commissioner Ramit Sharma said that five people, including village head Yusuf and school student Mohsin, have been apprehended. Station House Officer Naveen Kumar Singh and a police post in-charge were suspended, he said. Earlier, SHO Singh said the family members alleged that some youths attacked the Class 10 student when he tried to stop them from molesting his cousin, while the two children were returning from school. The boy was taken to hospital in a serious condition and declared dead there. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Yamuna Nagar) Santosh Kumar Meena, however, said there was a brawl between children at school.

international



China's never wanted to be like us. They want to be communist, and we have to change the way we deal with them
NIKKI HALEY | FORMER GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BP CHECKS AT BARBERSHOPS

The UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) announced plans Tuesday to expand blood pressure checks to more locations within the community, including barbershops and places of worship, as part of a major drive to prevent strokes and heart attacks



of the day quote

The council must reflect current global geopolitical conditions instead of those of the 1940s, suggesting that countries such as Brazil, India, Germany, Japan and South Africa should be made permanent members
LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA | BRAZILIAN PRES

The schedule of bilateral Russian-Chinese contacts at various levels, including at the highest level, is being coordinated. We will inform you about specific events and deadlines in a timely manner
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever commits it
CSABA KOROSI | PRESIDENT OF UNGA

SHORT TAKES

Pre-arrest bail to Bushra Bibi

Islamabad: A Pakistani court Tuesday granted pre-arrest bail to Bushra Bibi, wife of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, till September 12 in multiple graft cases, it emerged Tuesday. Bushra Bibi, 49, appeared before the accountability court in Islamabad along with her lawyers Latif Khosa and Intizar Hussain Panjutha. The court approved her bail plea against a surety bond of Rs 500,000, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. Bushra Bibi is named in multiple graft cases, including the Toshakhana and Al-Qadir University Trust cases.

Extreme weather continues in Italy

Rome: Train services between France and Italy were temporarily halted after a huge rockslide that blocked access to a series of tunnels. In the mountainous regions of Italy, landslides Monday forced the evacuation of dozens of people. Just days after a blistering heatwave, Italy is now experiencing a significant drop in temperatures with strong winds and heavy rains that cause landslides, mudslides and flood warnings, Xinhua news agency reported.

Quake jolts Indonesia

Jakarta: A 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck off South Kalimantan province in central Indonesia early Tuesday, but did not trigger a tsunami, the country's meteorology, climatology and geophysics agency said. The agency reported that the quake occurred at 2:55 a.m.

SL to import 92.1mn eggs from India

Colombo: Sri Lanka will import 92.1 million eggs from India to counter the fluctuations in its prices and make them affordable to the consumers, the Cabinet spokesman said Tuesday. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held here Monday, Cabinet spokesman and mass media minister Bandula Gunawardena said.

US to send \$250mn in weapons to Ukraine

Washington: The Biden administration announced Tuesday it will send an additional \$250 million in weapons and ammunition to Ukraine as part of its ongoing support of Kyiv's counteroffensive. The weapons will be drawn from existing US stockpiles and will include mine-clearing equipment, artillery and rocket rounds.

Pak HC suspends Imran's sentence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, August 29: A high court in Pakistan Tuesday suspended Imran Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release from jail, but the embattled former premier will continue to remain in prison in the cipher case.

A division bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jhangiri announced the much-anticipated reserved verdict to release Khan, leaving many to guess if it is a relief ahead of elections or just a stopgap arrangement to fix him in another case. "All we are saying now is that (Khan's) request has been approved," Justice Farooq said, referring to the former premier's appeal against his conviction and prison term.

However, the former Prime Minister will continue to remain in prison as a special court holding his trial in the Official Secrets Act directed the Attock Jail authorities to keep him in the "judicial lockup" and produce him on August 30 before the court. His deputy and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi is already in custody in the same case. The case alleged earlier this month alleged that Khan and others were involved in the violation of the secret laws of the



TOSHAKHANA VERDICT

The cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, received a conviction due to accusations of illicitly selling state presents that he and his family had obtained while he was in office from 2018 to 2022

country. The high court would be allowed to lead the party in the forthcoming elections. According to experts, it depends on settling the issue of his disqualification. He said that the disqualification was linked with the decision of the appeal by Khan against conviction. Others believe that disqualification has also been suspended. "When sentence is suspended, the disqualification is also suspended," lawyer Qauseen Raza said.

The matter will ultimately land in the high court or the supreme court of the country to decide if disqualification is suspended or not. General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which

KHAN'S PARTY SAID THE DECISION OF THE DISTRICT COURT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE HIGH COURT. THE BENCH ALSO ORDERED THE RELEASE OF THE 70-YEAR-OLD FORMER CRICKETER-TURNED-POLITICIAN ON THE PRODUCTION OF SURETY BONDS WORTH RS 1,00,000

Prigozhin buried in St Petersburg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St Petersburg, Russia, August 29: Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was buried privately at a cemetery on the outskirts of St Petersburg Tuesday, six days after his death in an unexplained plane crash.

His spokesperson said Tuesday a service took place behind closed doors, and directed "those who wish to bid their farewell" to the 62-year-old head of the Wagner private military contractor to go to the Porokhovskoye cemetery in his hometown. Their statement ended media speculation on where and when Prigozhin would be laid to rest, with his funeral shrouded in secrecy. A wooden cross towered over his grave covered with flowers and two flags nearby — a Russian tricolour and a black Wagner flag.

Russian media cited unidentified sources as saying Prigozhin was laid to rest Tuesday without any publicity, per his family's wishes. Members of the Russian National Guard stood along the fence at the cemetery, steering visitors away after it closed for the day. Putin's spokesman said the president would not attend the service.



Icelandic horses play at a stud farm in Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany

US names first 10 drugs for Medicare price negotiation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, August 29: A popular diabetes treatment and the blood thinner Eliquis are among the first drugs that will be targeted for price negotiations in effort to cut Medicare costs.

President Joe Biden's administration Tuesday released a list of 10 drugs for which the federal government will take a first-ever step: negotiating drug prices directly with the manufacturer.

The move is expected to cut costs for some patients but faces litigation from the drugmakers and heavy criticism from Republican lawmakers. It's also

a centerpiece of the Democratic president's reelection pitch as he seeks a second term in office by touting his work to lower costs for Americans at a time when the country has struggled with inflation.

The diabetes treatment Jardiance from Eli Lilly and Co. Made the list, along with Amgen's autoimmune disease treatment Enbrel. Other drugs include Entresto from Novartis, which is used to treat heart failure.

Medicare spent about USD 10 billion in 2020 on Eliquis, according to AARP research. It treats blood clots in the legs and lungs and reduces the risk of



stroke in people with an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation. Biden plans to deliver a speech on health care costs from the White House after the announcement. He'll be joined by Vice President Kamala Harris.

UK FLIGHT CHAOS TO LAST FOR DAYS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 29: The UK government Tuesday said that though the air traffic control "technical issue" that led to the severe disruption of hundreds of flights and left thousands of passengers stranded has been resolved, routes will continue to be affected for some days as airlines scramble to recover from the domino effect on their schedules. However, Transport Secretary Mark Harper stressed that the air traffic control outage behind the chaos on Monday was not caused by a "cybersecurity incident".

UK Transport Secretary Mark Harper said that while the "technical issue" has been resolved, flights will continue to be affected as airlines scramble to recover from the domino effect on their schedules and accommodate stranded passengers on alternate flights.

The British media said a technical fault Monday caused the automatic system for processing flights to not work, meaning things had to be handled manually - slowing down the process. As the spectre of a hacking attempt was raised across social media, the minister also dismissed that as a factor behind one

of the worst air system failures seen in the country in at least a decade. Harper said it would take "some days to get completely everybody to where they should be". "Something on this scale hasn't happened for almost a decade - normally the system works very well," Harper told "Sky News". "Our technical experts have looked at it and are clear that it wasn't a cybersecurity incident," he said. The Cabinet minister said there would be an independent review into what happened and a report is expected in the coming days.

"The system was fixed yesterday (Monday) afternoon and things are getting back to normal but there's obviously some disruption that's going to continue today for people, and I know thousands of people have been impacted," he told 'GB News'. "Airlines will be stepping up, I hope, to their responsibilities to make sure that they get people back home, get them on an alternative flight and deal with food and drink and accommodation in the meantime," he said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Harper was in "constant dialogue" with all the industry participants and would be talking to airlines Tuesday.

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Greece wildfire scorches area bigger than NYC

REUTERS

Athens, August 29: A wildfire burning in northeastern Greece for 11 days has destroyed an area larger than New York City, the European Union-backed Copernicus Climate Change Service said Tuesday.

Fuelled by gale force winds and hot weather, the fire that began near the city of Alexandroupolis quickly spread across the Evros region, killing at least 20 people last week in Europe's deadliest blaze this summer. It turned swathes of lush greenery into scorched earth and destroyed homes and livelihoods.



In a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service said the fire had ravaged at least 808.7 square kilometres (312.2 square miles). New York City takes up 778.2 square kilometres (300.5 square miles). Copernicus said last week that the fire was the largest on European soil in years. All but one of the dead are presumed to have been irregular migrants who crossed over from Turkey, evading police in the forest.

Climate change may lead to 1bn premature deaths: Study

The oil and gas industry is directly and indirectly responsible for over 40 per cent of carbon emissions -- impacting the lives of billions of people, many living in the world's most remote and low-resourced communities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Climate change induced by human activity is likely to be responsible for the premature death of about one billion people over the next century, if global warming reaches two degrees Celsius, a study suggests. The oil and gas industry is directly and indirectly responsible for over 40 per cent of carbon

emissions -- impacting the lives of billions of people, many living in the world's most remote and low-resourced communities, the researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Energies, proposes aggressive energy policies that would enable immediate and substantive decreases to carbon emissions. It also recommends a heightened level of government, corporate and citizen action to accelerate the decarbonisation of the global economy, aiming to minimise the number of projected human deaths.

The researchers found the peer-reviewed literature on the human mortality costs of carbon emissions converged on the "1,000-ton rule," which is an estimate that one future premature death is caused every time approximately 1,000 tons of fossil carbon are burned. "If you take the scientific con-



sensus of the 1,000-ton rule seriously, and run the numbers, anthropogenic global warming equates to a billion premature dead bodies over the next century. Obviously, we have to act. And we have to act fast," said Joshua Pearce, a professor at the University of Western Ontario

in Canada.

Pearce hopes by changing and challenging the language and metrics of global warming, more policymakers and industry leaders will better understand the hard truths about the world's reliance on fossil fuels. "As predictions of climate

models become clearer, the harm we are doing to children and future generations can increasingly be attributed to our actions," said Pearce.

When this direct correlation is recognised, greenhouse gas emissions liabilities can no longer be ignored, the researchers said.

The study found that to limit these enormous future liabilities and save many human lives, humanity needs to stop burning fossil fuels as quickly as possible by following a more aggressive approach to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

"To be clear, predicting the future accurately is hard. The 1,000-ton rule is only an order of magnitude best estimate. The number of caused deaths will likely lie between a tenth of a person and 10 people per 1,000 tons. Regardless, the bottom line that we need to act fast is still crystal clear," Pearce added.

business



Our farmers will not only just be ann daata (food giver) but urja daata (energy provider)
NITIN GADHARI | UNION MINISTER

ONGC TO INVEST ₹2L CR IN ENERGY TRANSITION

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation will invest about ₹2 lakh crore to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2038, its chairman Arun Kumar Singh said. The firm will invest ₹1 lakh crore by 2030 in setting up 10gw of renewable energy capacity, green ammonia plant, and offshore wind energy projects. The remaining would flow thereafter to achieve Scope-1 and 2 net zero emissions.



of the day quote

The era before us is going to be a very uncertain era, a very challenging era. Putting up these 2 million cars itself will cost us something close to ₹45,000 crore. It depends how inflation goes but at the moment we estimate the cost about ₹45,000 crore for 2 million cars

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

There is a big commitment to the personal health business and when we think about our ambition of the consumers we want to reach, and the fact that we want to have the same impact, India plays a very important and evident focus for us

DEEPTHA KHANNA | EVP, PERSONAL HEALTH, ROYAL PHILIPS

The game for us (premium segment) is just starting. So if we look at market share, it will probably be around 4-5 per cent but that's because it is just the beginning for us

NIRANJAN GUPTA | HERO MOTOCORP CEO

BRICS+6 to control 30% of global GDP

The biggest impact will be on the share of global oil production that will increase to 40% from the current 18%, while their oil intake share will jump from 27% to 36%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 29: The addition of six new members to the BRICS grouping will see it controlling 46 per cent of the world's population and 30 per cent of its economic output, according to a research paper.

At the latest BRICS summit in Johannesburg last week, the present members - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - decided to add Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members of the grouping.

The new members will become part of BRICS effective January 1, 2024.

The acronym BRICS was originally coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economists led by Jim O'Neill. Later in December 2010, South Africa was added as the fifth member.

Currently, the five-member grouping is home to 40 per cent of the world's population which controls 26 per cent of the global GDP. But with the six new members (BRICS+6), their GDP share will jump to 30 per cent and share of population will go up to 46 per cent, Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the Chief Economic Adviser to State Bank of India, said in a note.

However, the biggest impact will be on the share of global oil production that will increase to 40 per cent from the current



18 per cent, while their oil intake share will jump from 27 per cent to 36 per cent, according to the note.

Similarly, their share in global merchandise trade will rise from 20 per cent to 25 per cent, and that of global services trade will increase to 15 per cent from 12, the note said, adding that their share in the global forex reserves will increase by 600 bps to 45 per cent. Ghosh stated that the new grouping will lead to the rise of a new Global South as BRICS+6 will offer a credible alternative to the hegemony of the Global North when it comes to global affairs, trade, currency and energy security.

He noted that BRICS+6 will be a game-changer as the terms of global trade will get rewritten as the new grouping could be the lynchpin of a new global order. However, even after the

new addition, China and India will continue to contribute 74 per cent of the overall GDP of the grouping, it said.

Currently, China controls 70 per cent of the BRICS GDP while India's share is 13 per cent. This will fall to 62 and 12 per cent, respectively, after the new members join. Brazil's share will remain unchanged at 7 per cent.

BRICS+6 and G20 (Group of 20 largest economies) have their share in the global population at 3.7 billion and 5.1 billion, while that of GDP is USD 29.2 trillion and USD 70.4 trillion, and forex reserves at USD 5.5 trillion and USD 9.4 trillion, respectively.

On the massive increase in the share oil trade - Saudi has the second largest oil reserves after Russia - the oil math will be the potential game changer for payment system and price discovery, says the report.

BIZ BUZZ

Khimji commemorates Chandrayaan-3 triumph

Bhubaneswar: Khimji Jewellers, a symbol of trust and excellence in the jewellery industry, unites with the nation to honour India's remarkable achievements in space exploration with Chandrayaan-3. At their Flagship Store at Janpath Road, Saheed Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Khimji Jewellers has put up a selfie zone for Chandrayaan-3, inviting customers to capture their enthusiasm and pride in this accomplishment by taking selfies against the celebratory setup. This initiative aims to make this historic moment as a cherished chapter in every individual's life story. Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers, expressed his admiration for the achievements, stating, "We take immense pride in our nation's accomplishments, and Chandrayaan-3's success is a testament to India's scientific prowess. At Khimji Jewellers, we are committed to honouring these milestones that define our nation's legacy. This accomplishment offers our esteemed customers an opportunity to share in this remarkable journey and make it a cherished part of their life's story." Khimji Jewellers understands the significance of achievements that shape the nation's identity. As a brand deeply rooted in tradition and excellence, Khimji Jewellers acknowledges and celebrates the collective efforts that have led to the success of Chandrayaan-3. The mission's success symbolises the spirit of dedication and determination that resonates with the values upheld by Khimji Jewellers throughout its legacy.



New offerings from realme



Bhubaneswar: realme, the most reliable smartphone service provider, Tuesday announced the launch of four revolutionary products, the newest addition to its "Hero" number series and AIOT segment - realme 11 5G, realme 11x 5G, realme Buds Air 5 & realme Buds Air 5 Pro. These groundbreaking devices represent an impeccable combination of cutting-edge features and ingenious design and are crafted to enhance your experience like never before. Commenting on the occasion realme spokesperson said, "realme has always been at the forefront of product innovation, providing users with cutting-edge technology and features that embrace a revolutionary user experience. We are excited to now introduce the realme 11 series 5G and realme Buds Air 5 Series into our diverse range of AIOT lineups, a testament to our unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence. With the launch of four revolutionary products we're all ready to set new benchmarks in the smartphone & AIOT industry." Talking about the partnership, Kailash Lakhani, Founder and Chairman of AIMRA (All India mobile Retailers Association) says, "AIMRA is truly honored to partner with realme, a technology pioneer who understands and caters to the needs of customers. realme and AIMRA share the goal of enabling the mobile retail ecosystem and providing our loyal customers with a seamless experience. Setting a benchmark in the industry, the newly launched 11 5G series is an exceptional smartphone that embodies power packed features like the segment's best 108 MP main camera that supports the segment's largest 3x in-sensor zoom. It also features segment's fastest 67W SUPERVOOC Charging solution along with a massive 5000mAh battery."

SHORT TAKES

Axis Bank launches paid savings a/c

Mumbai: Moving towards subscription-based accounts, Axis Bank Tuesday launched a paid savings account where the customer will not be charged for many services and will not be required to maintain a minimum balance. Customers will be charged ₹150 per month or the discounted ₹1,650 per year for what has been christened as "Infinity Savings Account" by the third largest private sector lender. At present, a majority of the banks insist on a minimum balance for having a savings account, and charge holders a fee whenever the balance drops below the threshold.

PLI for automotive sector extended

New Delhi: The government has decided to extend the ₹25,938-crore production-linked incentive scheme for the automotive sector by one year, Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said Tuesday. Post extension, the five-year scheme, originally in place from 2022-23 to 2026-27, will be active until 2027-28. At present, incentives are applicable under the scheme for determined sales of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products (vehicles and components) manufactured in India from 1 April 2022 onwards for a period of five consecutive years.

Ferns & Petals joins ONDC

New Delhi: Leading gifting brand Ferns N Petals (FNP) on Tuesday said it has joined government-initiated platform Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). FNP's D2C catalogue is now accessible to buyers through the ONDC Network and will enable the visibility of its over 400 retail stores across all buyer applications, a joint statement said. The integration of FNP and ONDC empowers the company to showcase its premium products across diverse digital platforms. "This expansion enhances our outreach, facilitating the delivery of joy to a multitude of customers, thereby reinforcing our mutual objective," Chirantan Sharma, AVP Product FNP, said. "Their joining also reiterates the value major brands are seeing in joining ONDC Network and furthering their growth opportunities," ONDC MD & CEO T Koshi, said.

Stocks close higher for 2nd day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 29: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains as metal and power and select financial shares advanced.

Losses in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Airtel, and foreign fund outflows restricted gains, analysts said. Rising for a second straight day, the BSE Sensex rose by 79.22 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 65,075.82, tracking firm global markets. During the day, it jumped 232.43 points or 0.35 per cent to 65,229.03. The NSE Nifty gained 36.60 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 19,342.65.

From the Sensex pack, Jio Financial Services Ltd jumped 4.72 per cent. Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, JSW Steel, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, HCL

Technologies and HDFC Bank were among the major gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.69 per cent and midcap index gained 0.45 per cent.

Among the indices, commodities jumped 1.73 per cent, realty gained 1.61 per cent, utilities climbed 1.15 per cent, metal (1.12 per cent), power (1.10 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.79 per cent).

FMCG, telecommunication and bankex were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains. European markets were trading in the green.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.63 per cent to USD 84.95 a barrel.

SEBI issues cyber security guidelines

Rules to enhance cyber resilience framework of market infrastructure institutions such as stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 29: SEBI has issued guidelines for strengthening the existing cyber security and cyber resilience framework of market infrastructure institutions such as stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories.

"Market infrastructure institutions (i.e., stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories) are systemically important institutions as they, inter-

alia, provide infrastructure necessary for the smooth and uninterrupted functioning of the securities market. As part of the operational risk management, these market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) need to have a robust cyber security framework to provide essential facilities and perform systemically critical functions relating to trading, clearing and settlement in the securities market," SEBI said.

It is also important that MIIs establish and continuously improve their information technology (IT) processes and controls to preserve confidentiality, integrity and availability of data and IT systems, the market regulator said. With the change in market dynamics in the Indian securities markets, the interdependence among the MIIs has seen significant increase. Considering the interconnectedness and interde-



pendency of the MIIs to carry out their functions, the cyber risk of any given MII is no longer limited to the MIIs owned or controlled systems, networks and assets, SEBI said.

As per the guidelines, MIIs shall maintain offline, encrypted backups of data and shall regularly test these backups at least on a quarterly basis to ensure confidentiality, integrity and availability. MIIs shall maintain regularly updated "gold images" of critical systems in the event they need to be rebuilt. This entails maintaining image "tem-

plates" that include a pre-configured operating system (OS) and associated software applications that can be quickly deployed to rebuild a system, such as a virtual machine or server.

MIIs should explore the possibility of retaining spare hardware in an isolated environment to rebuild systems in the event starting MII's operations from both primary data centre (PDC) and disaster recovery site (DRS) are not feasible.

The MIIs should also try to keep spare hardware in ready to use state for delivering critical services and such systems shall be updated as and when new changes (for example OS patches, security patches) are implemented in the primary systems. This spare hardware should regularly undergo testing in line with response and recovery plan of the MIIs.

Disney gambles on free cricket to turn tables in streaming war

DISNEY'S WOES ARE A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT THE INDIAN MARKET WHERE EXPECTATIONS ABOUT A SWELLING MIDDLE-CLASS ARE OFTEN FRUSTRATED BY DEEPLY COST-CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS

REUTERS

New Delhi/ Los Angeles, August 29: Walt Disney is attempting to revive the fortunes of its streaming business in India by offering free cricket on smartphones, betting that the strategy will boost advertising revenue and offset the impact of a subscriber exodus.

The India streaming operations, which were Disney's biggest last year globally by users, posted a loss of \$41.5 million on revenue of \$390 million for the year to March 2022, its last disclosed results.

With subscriber exits accelerating and slashing the user base by a third between October last year and July, the Burbank-headquartered entertainment giant's financial performance in the country is only expected to come under more pressure.

Disney's woes are a cautionary tale about the Indian market where expectations about a

swelling middle-class are often frustrated by deeply cost-conscious consumers.

The company acquired Indian streaming service Hotstar when it paid \$71 billion for some 21st Century Fox global assets in 2019. With the streaming rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the world's richest cricket league, in the bag, Disney made cricket on Hotstar a paid service in 2020 and was confident about garnering up to 100 million users within years.

But Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani snatched IPL rights away in a \$2.9 billion bid last year, and then streamed games for free. Soon, Disney subscribers fled - out of 61 million users in October, roughly 21 million had left by July.

DISNEY INDIA WOES
Disney internally recognises it misjudged Indians' willingness to pay - people signed up for Hotstar when it had IPL, but didn't stick around to buy more



premium plans to watch other content, two Disney sources told Reuters. "We were bullish on Indian subscribers' propensity to pay. That's not worked out," said one of the sources. "Free cricket is the only bullet left."

The company will stream live matches of the Asia Cup from Aug. 30 as well as the World Cup in October-November that users of 600 million smartphones in the cricket-mad nation can watch without paying anything.

Entertainment for around \$1.5 billion, a source said.

The company has assessed that going back to the free-cricket model on mobile phones and tablets is the strategic pivot needed to shore up revenues. It calls the move a new "hybrid model" to drive advertising revenues by raising smartphone viewers, while targeting new subscribers for the Hotstar TV app where cricket will remain under paid plans. This strategy is about "how we build a model which will allow us to drive two revenue streams more meaningfully," Sajith Sivanandan, head of Disney+ Hotstar, said in an interview, adding Disney was confident its user base will grow in the years ahead.

Making cricket free on mobile will help "450 million-plus customers to tune in" over 48 days of the 50-over World Cup that is being hosted by India, compared to 300 million in the last World Cup in 2019, stated a "Festival of Cricket 2023" Disney presentation created for advertisers and seen by Reuters.

The company is eyeing a new record of 50 million concurrent viewership during the World Cup, double the 2019 number, the document added. That will also be 56% higher

than what Ambani's JioCinema clocked during this year's IPL finals in May.

Sivanandan said the company would target advertisers with budgets as low as 200,000 rupees (\$2,421). Another new initiative would be interactive ads connecting watchers to a brand's WhatsApp chat to enable purchases of the products.

The Disney document showed a new deal struck with Coca-Cola for boosting subscriptions. QR codes on an estimated 400 million Coke bottles will offer a Hotstar trial, with Disney hoping 80,000 people will then take paid plans.

LOW AVERAGE REVENUE
There is no guarantee, though, that Disney's strategy pivot will succeed.

Daoud Jackson, a senior analyst specialising in streaming businesses at UK research firm Omdia, said free cricket was not a sure shot winner as companies pay billions of dollars to get streaming rights but commensurate advertising revenue takes many years to materialise.

While India's middle class is massive, the broad user base in the world's most populous country "narrows sharply" when it comes to paying users, VC firm Blume Ventures said in April.

Djoko ensures top ATP spot

NYPD'S WARNING

New York: Beware, the US Open is a no-drone zone. The New York Police Department warned Monday on the Grand Slam event's opening day that it has a zero-tolerance policy toward drones buzzing the tournament, and any seen hovering over Flushing Meadows will be taken out immediately. Exactly how was not specified, with NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism Rebecca Weiner saying only that the department "will be deploying our counter-drone capabilities." In the past, police have taken out problem drones by jamming their radio signals. In 2015, a drone buzzed the court during a nighttime women's match at Louis Armstrong Stadium and crashed into an empty section of seats. No one was injured. Weiner warned that anyone caught flying drones this year risks possible arrest and having their equipment confiscated.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, August 29: Novak Djokovic is back at the US Open and will now be back at No.1 in the rankings. Djokovic made a winning return after missing the tournament last year, rolling to a 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Alexandre Muller Monday night. The 23-time Grand Slam champion had to wait through Coco Gauff's three-set victory to open the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium, followed by an opening-night ceremony marking 50 years of equal prize money at the US Open.

"Well, I knew it was going to be a late night for me, late start of the match," Djokovic said. "Nevertheless, I mean, I was excited to go out on the court. I didn't care if I started after midnight because I was looking forward to this moment for a few years, to be out on the biggest stadium in our sport, the loudest stadium in our sport, playing the night session."

Djokovic was not allowed to travel to the US last year because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19. Monday was his first match in Flushing Meadows since falling to Daniil Medvedev in the 2021 final, a loss that prevented the Serbian from completing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969.

The No.2 seed took the first set in just 23 minutes and won the first eight games before Muller finally got on the board, raising his arms in triumph after cutting



US OPEN HONOURS KING

New York: After a rousing tribute from former first lady Michelle Obama, Billie Jean King Monday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the US Open becoming the first sporting event to offer equal prize money to female and male competitors, promising never to stop fighting to maintain that hard-won progress. "While we celebrate today, our work is far from done," King said in a speech to a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd between night matches. Echoing a quote from Coretta Scott King, she said: "Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and you win it in every generation." Obama, who earlier sat in the stadium with her husband, former President Barack Obama, introduced the 79-year-old tennis legend by recalling how King, as the defending US Open champion in 1973, rallied her fellow women players to threaten a boycott of that year's tournament unless women got the same pay as men. It was announced that summer that the men's and women's US Open champions would each receive USD 25,000. It would take 34 years before all the other Grand Slam events followed suit. This year, the U.S. Open winners will each receive USD 3 million, with total player compensation rising to USD 65 million.

it to 2-1 in the second set.

"I think the performance explains how I felt tonight, particularly in the first two sets. It was kind of lights-out tennis really, almost flawless, perfect first

set," Djokovic said. "I've probably had the answer for every shot he had in his book."

SAKKARI BOTHERED

New York: Even while she was rolling on the court, Maria Sakkari was bothered by the smell of something off. "It was weed," Sakkari said. The No.8 seed from Greece was eliminated from the US Open in the first round Monday with a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Rebeka Masarova, a match she seemed in control of until she mentioned the smell toward the chair umpire during a changeover. Sakkari was leading 4-1 in the first set on Court 17 at that point. "The smell, oh my gosh," Sakkari said. "I think it's from the park." Sakkari said the smell of marijuana didn't affect her while playing. She had practiced on the same court Sunday and already had noticed it then. Nick Kyrgios complained about smelling marijuana during a match last year, saying afterward he is asthmatic and the smell probably wasn't good for him when he was running around.

Djokovic improved to 17-0 in first-round matches at the US Open and assured he will regain the No. 1 ranking on Sept. 11. Because he couldn't play last

year and had no rankings points to defend, Djokovic needed only get to the second round to guarantee he would take the top spot back from Carlos Alcaraz. It will be Djokovic's 390th week atop the rankings, extending his own record.

CONCERNS OVER THE KARNATAKA MAN'S WC AVAILABILITY

Rahul to miss opening two Asia Cup matches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 29: Wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, was Tuesday ruled out of the first two matches of the upcoming Asia Cup due to a "niggle" not only delaying his much-anticipated return to the Indian team but also raising doubts about his availability for the ODI World Cup, starting October 5.

India take on Pakistan in their tournament opener September 2 followed by Nepal September 4, the two games that Rahul will be missing as he will join the team during the Super Four phase of the tournament.

The niggle is unrelated to the thigh injury that kept him out of action for months and also required a surgery. He was named in the squad for the tournament, starting Wednesday and is India's first-choice wicketkeeper. "KL has had a good week with us. He is playing well. He is progressing really well but he will be unavailable for the first part for the Kandy leg of the trip. He will be unavailable for the first two games," India head coach Rahul Dravid said at the pre-departure presser. The coach added that Rahul will be staying back at the NCA (National Cricket Academy) and a call on his participation in the tournament will be taken September 4.

"The NCA will be looking after him for the next few days while we are travelling. We will reassess on the 4th (September) and take it from there. But signs are looking good," Dravid added. It must be noted that by

PANT VISITS CAMP

Alur: Stationed at the NCA here for his recovery and rehabilitation work, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant made a visit to India's training camp ahead of the Asia Cup. Pant, who is on a long comeback trail with no set timeline of return, is making strong recovery from the injuries suffered in a horrific car accident last December. In a video shared by the Indian cricket board on social media, Pant can be seen grinning ear to ear as he enters the field and meets his teammates Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul Thakur, before heading for a chat with the head coach Rahul Dravid. Recently, the explosive batter was seen batting in a recreational event here during the Independence Day.

September 5, BCCI will have to submit the list of 15 players for the World Cup and have a chance to alter names till September 27.

In Rahul's absence, Ishan Kishan is likely to don the wicketkeeper's gloves as the other option - Sanju Samson is only a travelling reserve and technically not a part of 17-member squad. However, where Kishan is slotted in the batting order would be interesting to see. "It's just two less games from our perspective. KL is batting well. Slightly more cautious approach leading into the World Cup. He will have a few match simulations over the course of the next few days in the middle."

"We are hoping it will be only two games that he misses and he will be back for the later stages. We also have an Australia series," Dravid added.



India rout Bangladesh 15-1 in men's Qualifier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Salalah (Oman), August 29: India crushed Bangladesh by a massive margin of 15-1 in the men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier contest, here Tuesday.

While Maninder Singh was the leading scorer with four goals, Mohammed Raheel netted three whereas Sukhvinder, Gurjot Singh, and Pawan Rajbhar hit two goals each. Mandeep Mor and Dipsan Tirkey scored one goal apiece. On the other hand, Sawon Sarwar (2nd) scored the solitary goal for Bangladesh.

India began on a dominant note, allowing Pawan Rajbhar to penetrate the opponent's box early on. While Bangladesh denied him a scoring opportunity, they counter-attacked with Sarwar (2nd) netting the opening goal of the encounter.

However, India levelled the scores immediately with Raheel (2nd) providing the equaliser. In the eighth minute, skipper Mor put India in the lead, which was instantly followed by goals from Tirkey (9th) and Maninder (10th).

Gurjot (13th) scored the fifth goal. Sukhvinder (13th) and Raheel (15th) struck one goal each to take India to 7-1 at the half-time. Maninder (18th) found the back of the net to make it 8-1. Less than a minute later, Rajbhar (19th) also entered the score-sheet with India's ninth goal.

India continued to overwhelm Bangladesh with possession and pressed deeper into the opponent's half. Sukhvinder's (22nd) strike propelled India into double figures in the goal tally, as his effort from near the halfway mark was successful.

A minute later, Gurjot (23rd) beat the Bangladeshi keeper once again for India's 11th goal. In the following minute, Raheel (24th) produced a reverse hit to complete his hat-trick.

Rajbhar (26th) hit the back of the net to ensure the flurry of goals continued for India, as with a couple of minutes left, Maninder (28th and 30th) also completed his hat-trick. India will take on Oman, followed by a clash against Pakistan, Wednesday.



Mirabai decides not to lift at Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: Mirabai Chanu will not leave the barbell at the World Championships next week but in order to be eligible for the Paris Games, the star Indian lifter will mark her attendance at the compulsory Olympic qualifying event by completing the necessary formalities.

The Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, who competes in the 49kg weight class, has decided to prioritise the Asian Games, being held less than 20 days after the Worlds, instead as a medal in the continental event is the only silverware missing from her trophy cabinet.

"There is very less time between the Asian Games and the World Championships. Since there is compulsory participation at the Worlds, we have decided that Mirabai will only travel to Riyadh and give the body weight."

"She will complete all the mandatory protocols like give the dope test, if required. But she will not lift any weight. She is only going there to participate," head coach Vijay Sharma told PTI.

Having won the World



Championships in 2017, ideally Chanu would have skipped the event this year but under the 2024 Olympic qualification rules, a lifter has to compulsorily compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup.

As per the International

Weightlifting Federation (IWF) rulebook, a lifter doesn't have to complete a lift but only need to attend the weigh-in to mark his/her presence at the Worlds. The global event is scheduled from September 4 in Riyadh while the Asian Games in Hangzhou begins September 23.

Prannoy achieves career-high World No.6 in rankings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 29: On a high after his maiden World Championship bronze medal, Indian shuttler HS Prannoy soared to career-high world ranking of No.6 in the latest BWF rankings published Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Kerala shuttler, who eliminated World No.1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen en route to his maiden World Championships bronze, rose three spots with 72437 points in his kitty. He is also the only Indian shuttler, who has maintained a top-10 rank since December last year.



Among other Indians in the men's singles, Lakshya Sen's ranking dropped by one place, making him the World No.12, while Kidambi Srikanth maintained his position at 20th despite a making a first-round exit at the World Championships.

In women's singles, former world champion PV Sindhu, who also made an opening-round exit at the Worlds, moved one spot to secure 14th rank.

In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty maintained their World No.2 ranking, although they lost in the quarterfinals of the World Championships going down to Kim Astrup-Anders Rasmussen.

The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced two places in the rankings, securing the 17th spot in the world rankings.

CM HONOURS ATHLETES WITH BIJU PATNAIK SPORTS AWARDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 29: On the occasion of National Sports Day, celebrated annually on the birth anniversary of the hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, Odisha recognised and honoured outstanding contributions to sports and games.

In a grand award ceremony held here, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presented the prestigious Biju Patnaik Sports Award to cyclist Swasti Singh for her exceptional performance in the field of sports. She was also presented a cash award of ₹2.00 lakhs as a token of appreciation and encouragement for her continued pursuit of excellence in sports.

The CM also acknowledged

other eminent personalities who have made remarkable contributions to the sports arena. Hockey coach Peter Tirkey and football coach Rajendra Prasad Singh were conferred with the lifetime achievement award, a testament to their unwavering dedication and guidance in shaping the future of young sportsperson. Each coach was presented with a cash award of ₹3 lakhs in recognition of their outstanding careers.

The realm of coaching and sports journalism was also celebrated during the ceremony. Coach Pradeep Kumar Sarangi and sports journalist Ajay Kumar Das were felicitated with the Biju Patnaik Sports Award for Excellence in Coaching and Biju Patnaik Award for Excellence in



Sports Journalism, respectively. Their invaluable contributions have played a pivotal role in shaping the sports landscape of Odisha. Each awardee received a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.

Odisha Police were awarded Biju Patnaik Award for sports

promotion for the organisational efforts towards promotion of sports and providing jobs for sports persons.

Para badminton player, Deep Ranjan Bisoyee was named the Best Para Sports person of the year and was presented with a

cash award of ₹1 Lakh. Sabita Toppo, an upcoming athlete with immense potential, was celebrated as the Best Upcoming Athlete and was awarded ₹1 lakh.

The crucial role played by technical officials was also highlighted during the event. Brigadier Bibhu Bhushan Nayak was felicitated with ₹1 lakh in recognition to his contribution to the sporting ecosystem.

Late Saroj Kumar Das, and Late Sudarshan Swain have displayed remarkable courage and valour in the most challenging circumstances, serving as shining examples of bravery for our society. Chief Minister Patnaik honoured their sacrifice with the Bravery Awards, which was received by their family members.