



Shraddha's clarifications
Shraddha Kapoor explains reasons why she has never collaborated with three Khans - Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir - of the film industry

LEISURE | P2



Historic visit
PM Narendra Modi begins a historic visit to Kyiv under the shadow of war to hold talks with the Ukrainian President

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Trade in HI
The US emerges as India's top trading partner during January-June this year, while the country records its highest trade deficit with China

BUSINESS | P11



Season's best
Neeraj Chopra achieves his season's best throw by hurling the javelin to a distance of 89.49m at the Diamond League meet in Lausanne

SPORTS | P12

DGCA slaps ₹90 lakh penalty on Air India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 23: Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of ₹90 lakh on Tata Group-owned Air India for operating a flight with non-qualified pilots.

Besides, the watchdog has slapped fines of ₹6 lakh and ₹3 lakh on Air India's Director of Operations Pankul Mathur and Director of Training Manish Vasavada, for the lapse.

In a release, the DGCA said the pilot concerned has been warned to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future.

"Air India Ltd operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications," it said. **P8**

RG Kar: CBI to probe financial irregularities

AGENCIES

Kolkata, August 23: The Calcutta High Court Friday ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital during the tenure of its former principal Sandip Ghosh from a state-constituted SIT to the CBI.

The CBI also got permission from another city court to conduct a polygraph test on Ghosh and five others in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a post-graduate trainee inside the hospital earlier this month.

Ghosh was removed from the post of the principal of the RG Kar Hospital after the rape and murder that sparked nationwide outrage and cease work by junior doctors in the facility which is still continuing. The HC's decision to transfer the case to CBI came in response to a petition by a former deputy superintendent of the facility, Akhtar Ali, who sought ED probe into alleged financial misconduct at the institute during the tenure of Ghosh. **P9**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our leader was eager to meet his countrymen. He's going abroad

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	81086.21 ↑ 33.02
NIFTY	24823.15 ↑ 11.65
DOLLAR	83.82 ↓ ₹0.10
EURO	93.50 ↑ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹71,810 ↑ ₹616
SILVER	₹ 84,900 ↑ ₹1164

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.9°C	31.0°C
Min Temp	25.8°C	25.0°C
Humidity	86%	91%
Rainfall	0.1mm	1.4mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

27 INDIANS KILLED AS BUS PLUNGES INTO NEPAL RIVER



RESCUE OPS: Security personnel work to rescue the injured after a bus carrying Indian passengers to Kathmandu from Pokhara plunged into a river in Tanahu district of Nepal, Friday. **PIC: REUTERS**

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, August 23: At least 27 Indian pilgrims, all from Maharashtra, who arrived in Nepal for a 10-day tour were killed and 16 others injured after their bus veered off the highway and fell into a fast-flowing river in central Nepal, Friday.

Police said the bus from Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh carrying 43 persons, including the driver and two helpers, was heading towards Kathmandu from Pokhara when it met with the accident in Aanboo Khaireni area along the Marsyangdi river in Tanahu district around noon.

While 16 people died on the spot, 11 succumbed to their injuries during treatment. Armed Police Force Deputy Spokesperson Shailendra Thapa told PTI. The 16 people, who sustained injuries, have been airlifted to Kathmandu and admitted at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, he added.

According to a report in 'MyRepublica', the passengers onboard the bus were part of a group of 104 Indian pilgrims, who arrived in Nepal from Maharashtra in three buses two days ago for a 10-day tour of the Himalayan nation. "The victims were from Varangaon, Daryapur, Talvel and Bhusaval in Jalgaon district, 470 km from Mumbai. After visiting Pokhara for two days, all three buses left for Kathmandu Friday morning," it said.

Subhadra: 1cr to get ₹10K/yr

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 23: Over one crore women in the state, aged between 21 and 60, will receive ₹10,000 annually in two instalments for five years beginning 2024-25 fiscal under Subhadra Yojana, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Assembly while announcing the scheme's standard operating procedure (SOP), Friday.

Majhi made the announcement in the House after the Cabinet approved the scheme Thursday. The initiative is set to run from the 2024-25 fiscal to 2028-29, with a budgetary allocation of ₹55,825 crore, he said. "Subhadra Yojana aims to significantly improve the lives of over one crore women by offering financial support. It will be available to all eligible women aged between 21 and 60. Each beneficiary will receive ₹10,000 per year in two instalments of ₹5,000 each - one on Rakhi Purnima and the other on International Women's Day," Majhi said, adding that over five

SOP OUT

- Women from financially sound families, government employees and taxpayers are not eligible for the scheme
- 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital transactions in each GP and ULB will get an extra incentive of ₹500
- Funds will be deposited directly into the beneficiary's bank account through Aadhaar Payment Bridge System

years, each eligible woman will receive a total of ₹50,000.

To ensure transparency, funds will be deposited directly into the beneficiary's bank accounts through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS). Beneficiaries will also receive a Subhadra debit card, he said. Additionally, in an effort to promote digital transactions, 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body will re-

ceive an extra incentive of ₹500, the CM pointed out.

Emphasising the government's commitment to 'Antyodaya', Majhi said that women from economically sound families, government employees and taxpayers will not be eligible for the scheme.

"Women receiving ₹1,500 or more per month or ₹18,000 or more per year from any other government scheme will also be excluded," he added.

To apply for the benefits, women can fill forms available for free at Anganwadi centres, block offices, Mo Seva Kendras and Jana Seva Kendras. A call centre will also be established for the scheme, the CM said.

Majhi said the Women and Child Development department will create a 'Subhadra Society' to oversee the programme's implementation and monitoring.

Expressing confidence that the scheme would fulfil the government's promise to the people, Majhi called for active cooperation to ensure no deserving woman is overlooked. **P3**

5-year Sebi ban on Anil Ambani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Sebi has barred industrialist Anil Ambani and 24 others from the securities market for five years on charges of diversion of funds from Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), official sources said, Friday.

Additionally, Sebi has imposed a penalty of ₹25 crore on Ambani and restrained him from serving as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or Sebi-registered entity for five years.

Besides, a fine ranging ₹21 crore to ₹25 crore have been levied on 24 entities. Also, the regulator barred RHFL from the securities market for six months and slapped a fine of ₹6 lakh on it.

An email sent to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group company remained unanswered. After receiving multiple complaints alleging diversion/siphoning of funds of RHFL, Sebi conducted an investigation for FY 2018-19 to ascertain any regulatory violations.

In its probe, Sebi found that Anil Ambani, with the help of RHFL's KMPs - Amit Bapna, Ravindra Sudhakar and Pinkesh R Shah - have orchestrated a fraudulent scheme to 'siphon off' funds from RHFL by disguising them as loans to entities linked to him.

State mulls blanket ban on dance bars

- Liquor shops will be prohibited near religious institutions, schools, and colleges
- The state government plans to demolish illegal liquor shops that were permitted under the previous administration

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 23: Amid demands for his resignation following the recent liquor-related deaths in Ganjam district, Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Friday said the government is considering a complete ban on dance bars throughout the state.

Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly after a debate on the Ganjam liquor deaths, Harichandan said, "The government is contemplating closing all dance bars as they conflict with our Odia Asmita (cultural pride). The presence of women dancing in these bars does not align with our culture and tradition."

His remark follows recent appeals from former dance bar workers in the City here, who requested the government to reinstate permits for licensed foreign liquor shops to host dance performances. The ruling BJP had previously criticised the previous BJD government for undermining Odia culture by giving

licenses to dance bars in the Capital city.

Harichandan also outlined plans for the upcoming Excise policy, which will align with 'Odia Asmita'.

He said liquor shops will be prohibited near religious institutions, schools, and colleges. Furthermore, the state government plans to demolish illegal liquor shops that were permitted under the previous administration.

Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati supported the minister's stance, asserting that dance bars should be shut down to protect the lives of youth and students.

He also emphasised the need to relocate liquor shops away from religious and educational institutions and close illegal units in rural areas.

Meanwhile, the Assembly witnessed ruckus, with Opposition BJD and Congress demanding the scalp of the Excise minister. **P3**

World's first mRNA lung cancer vaccine trial starts

AGENCIES

Washington, August 23: Doctors have begun trialling the world's first mRNA lung cancer vaccine in patients, as experts hailed its 'groundbreaking' potential to save thousands of lives.

Lung cancer is the world's leading cause of cancer death, accounting for about 1.8m deaths every year. Now experts are testing a new jab that instructs the body to hunt down and kill cancer cells - then prevents them ever coming back. Known as BNT116 and made by BioNTech, the vaccine is designed to treat non-small

cell lung cancer (NSCLC), the most common form of the disease. The phase 1 clinical trial, the first human study of BNT116, has launched across 34 research sites in seven countries: the UK, US, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Spain and Turkey.

The UK has six sites, located in England and Wales, with the first UK patient to receive the vaccine having their initial dose Tuesday. Overall, about 130 patients - from early-stage before surgery or radiotherapy, to late-stage disease or recurrent cancer - will be enrolled to have the jab alongside immunotherapy. About 20 will be from the UK.

Outrage as minor gangraped in Assam

AGENCIES

Guwahati, August 23: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped by three persons in Assam's Nagaon district, triggering massive protests by people on the streets, sources said, Friday. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma promised that stern action would be taken against the perpetrators.

The girl was allegedly assaulted and raped by three persons while she was returning home from her tuition on her bicycle in Dhing area around 8 pm Thursday, police said. The perpetrators came on a motorcycle and surrounded the girl, who was then allegedly raped



by them and left in an injured and unconscious state on the roadside near a pond. The Class X student was later rescued by locals, who informed the police.

She was initially taken to a health centre in Dhing and later shifted to a hospital in Nagaon. "The criminals who dared to commit such a heinous crime

against a minor girl of Dhing will not be spared by the law. I have directed the DGP and Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika to rush to Dhing and take the toughest action," Sarma told reporters in Hailakandi.

The police said that one person had been already arrested and another detained. Meanwhile, people from all the communities hit the streets Friday morning demanding the arrest of the culprits.

Shopkeepers downed the shutters of their business establishments and social and political organisations demanded stringent action against the culprits and security for women and girls.

leisure

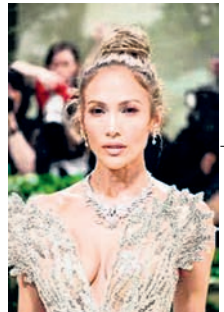


SABRINA CARPENTER LIVES IN FEAR OF TROLLS

Pop star Sabrina Carpenter has admitted she lives in fear of being cancelled by online trolls because she is convinced they are all ready to brand her a 'terrible person' if she says something wrong.

JLO WANTS TO GO BACK TO HER MAIDEN NAME

Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez wants to go back to her maiden name. The artiste filed for divorce from her husband Ben Affleck, 52, on Tuesday, August 20, after two years of marriage. However, it's now revealed that she has sought the court's permission to drop her husband's last name from official documents.



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ARIES

Think positive today and watch the world around you changing. Regardless of how difficult things may seem, Ganesha advises you to take it without getting upset. If you set your mind to something, you can do it. You have the Midas touch today, so it is a good time to introduce a new strategy.

TAURUS

Ganesha urges you to be prepared for setbacks and disappointments today. Your efforts may end in being a waste of precious time and energy. The results you get are likely to be far below your expectations. Falling short of your target is likely to weigh you down with stress and anxiety.

GEMINI

You will be in a state of heightened sensitivity today. Therefore you need to curb down on your emotions. You will be able to successfully express your feelings to someone, and your feelings will play a vital part in your life, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Ganesha suggests you not to be sentimental or hasty. Try to handle things deftly in stead of dodging bad episodes or turning a blind eye to them. You will give priority to domestic and private life in stead of career or business aspects.

LEO

You will feel more emotional today and share your feelings with your friends and near ones. For those who are searching for a life-partner, this might be the time when you will get hitched. You will develop a new perspective on some issues in the office. Your day will be different than normal, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Ganesha predicts that you will be rewarded today for all the good work done earlier. You will prefer to manage things in your own way, rather than taking orders from others. However, Ganesha advises you not to throw your weight around, but to stay calm and composed.

LIBRA

Nothing comes for free – keep this in mind as you may have to pay your dues for the success you desire today, especially if it is a new project that you have undertaken. Be prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and effort in your endeavours. Spare money can be used to purchase new assets that may pay dividends in the future. Either that, or put it in a bank. In short, Ganesha advises prudence in money matters.

SCORPIO

In all probability, your mood is extremely hawkish today. Your belligerence may even put off Lady Luck for the time being. Ganesha advises you to stay away from confrontations and troubles of any kind. The evening, however, promises to be relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS

Lady luck is all smiles for you today, predicts Ganesha. Suddenly, you feel like multi-tasking and becoming a jack of all. This is likely to keep you busy, almost throughout the day. If need be, your colleagues and peers will lend a helping hand.

CAPRICORN

You are in hot water, but do not lose hope during these turbulent times. Maintain a calm head over your shoulders and deal with the problems, guides Ganesha. Also, do not jump to conclusions or be argumentative with the people around you, as you may end up being at the losing end.

AQUARIUS

You will not need a reason to party today. Be it the news of a friend getting married or you buying a new car, you are in a mood to celebrate life like anything! Apart from this, you will have a smooth sailing through out the day, foresees Ganesha.

PISCES

A day of mixed fortunes awaits you, where taking risks could prove to be your undoing, or provide you with handsome returns, says Ganesha. This is because you could come out on top by treading cautiously, but uncalculated risks will probably throw your calculations out of gear.

Shraddha on choosing 'path of an outsider'

Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor is currently the talk of the town. The actor, who plays the female lead in *Street 2*, found massive success with Amar Kaushik's horror-comedy, which is marching towards the Rs 400-crore mark in just a week. However, Shraddha did not always have a smooth career, with her initial films failing at the box-office. On Throwback Thursday, here's looking back at the time when Shraddha said that she feels like she's chosen the 'path of an outsider' and that she does not have banner-backing. In an old interview with Zoom, Shraddha Kapoor said that she carved out a career for herself instead of getting everything on a platter. "Somewhere, I have had my own journey of sorts," she had said, adding, "I don't think that I have any one particular banner backing as such. So, somewhere I feel like I have taken my own route or path."

She then added, "I feel that the appreciation that has come my way, be it *Aashiqui 2* or *Ek Villain*, I feel like I have taken the route of an outsider and I feel good about it." Shraddha Kapoor made her debut with 'Teen Patti' and went on to feature in 'Luv Ka The End', which also starred Taha Shah Badusha. Both the films failed.



'Movie-viewing is a ritual in south'

Mumbai: With the exception of *Street 2*, Hindi films have struggled at the box office for months this year. While 2024 has been challenging for most Indian film industries, there's a growing perception in Hindi-speaking regions that regional cinema is outpacing Bollywood in producing successful films. When asked about this in a recent interview, *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba* actress Taapsee Pannu remarked that the ratio of hits to flops is fairly consistent across all film industries.

In an interview with a news agency, when asked why southern film industries seem to be doing better than Hindi film industries, Taapsee explained that audiences in Hindi-speaking states are primarily exposed to successful southern films and are often unaware of those that leave theatres within the first week. Taapsee then noted that the movie-viewing culture in the south differs significantly as compared to Hindi and said that in south, "movie viewing is almost like a religious activity. People are movie lovers. It's a ritual there." She said, "It is relatively difficult to pull out a Hindi movie viewing audience from their houses to go and watch the film."

On the work front, Taapsee recently appeared in *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba* and *Khel Khel Mein*.



Ayesha deactivates instagram account

Mumbai: Earlier this year, Ayesha Takia – who was seen in films like *Dil Maange More*, *Dor*, *No Smoking*, *Wanted*, *Salaam-E-Ishq* and *Paathshaala* – was spotted with her son at Mumbai airport after a long time. The former actor had slammed trolls for 'dissecting her looks' at that time. Ayesha is once again grabbing attention for her looks, and this time, she has deactivated her account after facing a fresh round of trolling amid 'plastic surgery' rumours.

After she posted a glimpse of her ethnic blue and golden saree look on August 19, a section of social media users said that Ayesha looked almost unrecognisable after having 'undergone plastic surgery'. Amid all the chatter around her 'new look', the actor's Instagram account is now deactivated.

Ayesha is yet to issue a statement, unlike in February this year when she schooled people who were obsessing over her appearance and insinuating that she was looking to make a comeback in films.



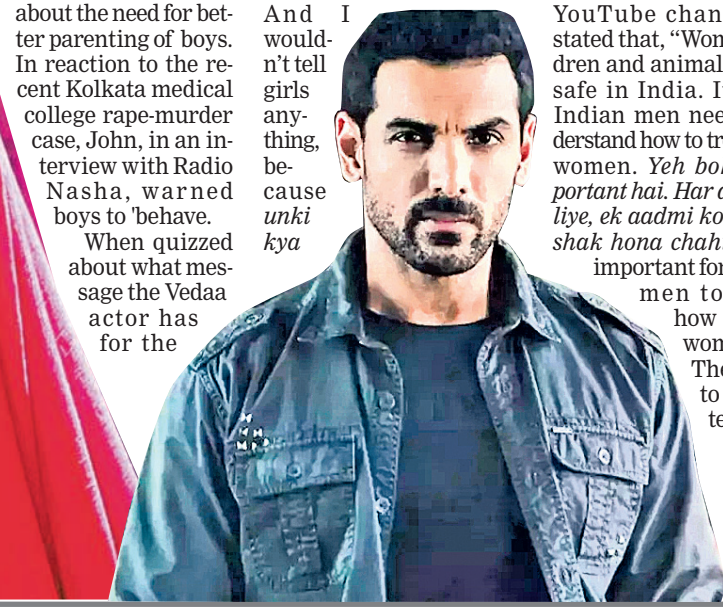
John warns men to 'behave'

Mumbai: John Abraham never hesitates to speak his mind when it comes to commenting on issues concerning society. The actor recently spoke about the need for better parenting of boys. In reaction to the recent Kolkata medical college rape-murder case, John, in an interview with Radio Nasha, warned boys to 'behave'.

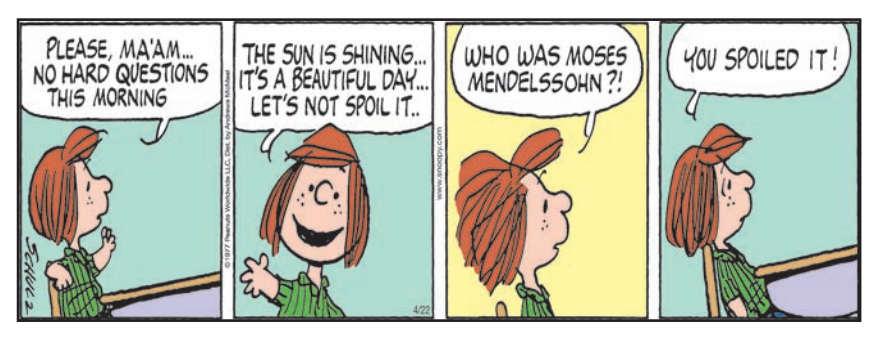
When quizzed about what message the Vedaa actor has for the

country's youth in the present times, John said, "I'll tell the boys to behave, otherwise I'll tear them apart. Honestly, I just expect better upbringing, on a serious note. And I wouldn't tell girls anything, because unki kya

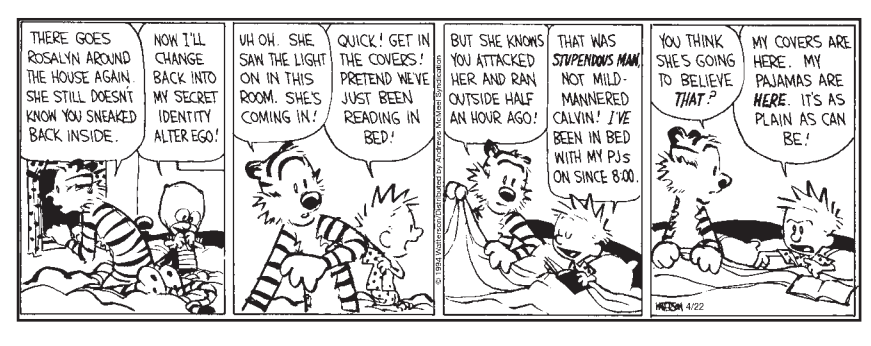
galti hai (what fault is it of theirs)? I think parents have to tell boys to behave. More power to the girls." The actor, in a previous podcast with Ranveer Allahabadi for his YouTube channel and stated that, "Women, children and animals are not safe in India. It is sad. Indian men need to understand how to treat their women. *Yeh bohot important hai. Har aurat ke liye, ek aadmi ko ek rakshak hona chahiye* (It's important for Indian men to learn how to treat women. They need to be protectors)."



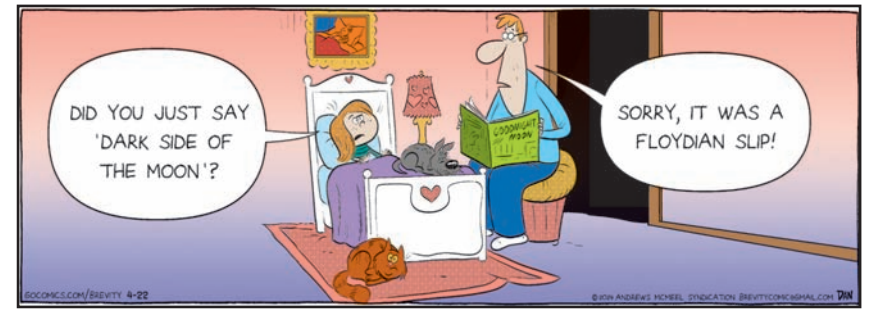
PEANUTS



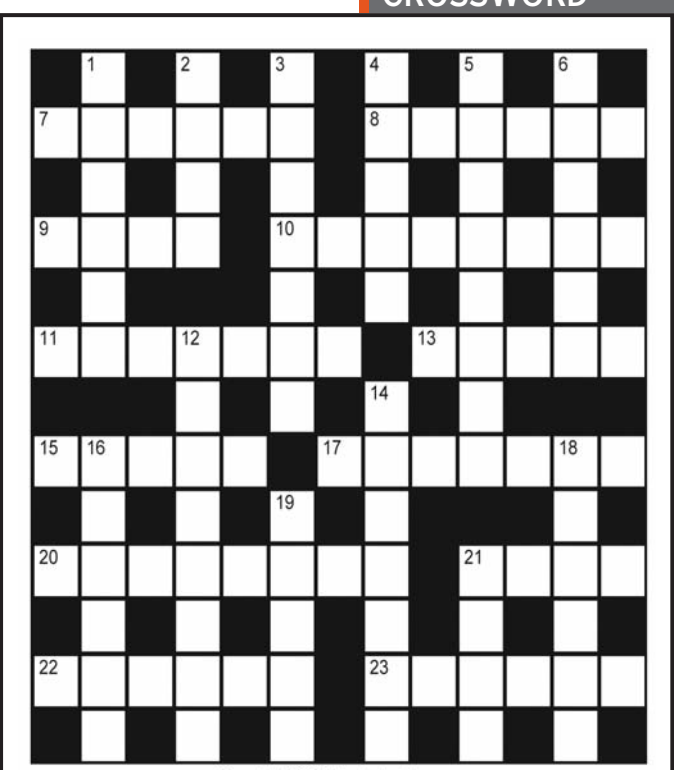
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



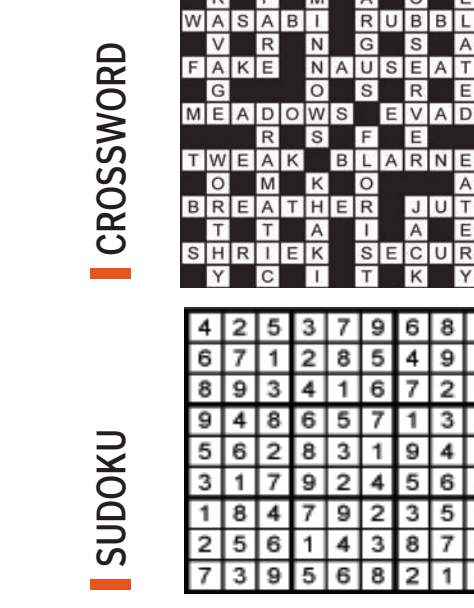
- Across
- 7 Bouffant, e.g.
 - 8 Vessel holder
 - 9 Bordeaux, for one
 - 10 Eruption
 - 11 Space traveller
 - 13 Flowering shrub
 - 15 Analyse
 - 17 Like some candles
 - 20 Film coating
 - 21 They're spotted in casinos
 - 22 Uranus, e.g.
 - 23 Collar
- Down
- 1 Cast out
 - 2 Impulse
 - 3 Eyeglass
 - 4 Ballroom dance
 - 5 Dangerous arachnid
 - 6 Musical composition
 - 12 Chao Phraya locale
 - 14 Tabloid topic
 - 16 Comparison
 - 18 Overage
 - 19 Tableau
 - 21 Small boat

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

SOW TIME

Farmers planting rice saplings in a paddy field near Pipili bypass road on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Friday



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Oppn guns for Excise Minister's scalp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 23: There was ruckus in the Odisha Assembly for the fourth day in a row Friday with Opposition BJD and Congress demanding the resignation of Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan over liquor deaths in Ganjam district.

As soon as the House assembled for Question Hour at 10.30 am, Opposition MLAs of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress trooped into the Well and raised slogans demanding the resignation of the Minister. They held the BJP government responsible for the spread of spurious liquor in Ganjam and other parts of the state.

My department will completely demolish the illegal liquor network across the state within a year

PRITHIVIRAJ HARICHANDAN | EXCISE MINISTER

The state government has already announced an RDC (revenue divisional commissioner) probe into the liquor deaths as demanded by the BJD, but the regional party demanded the Excise Minister's removal on moral grounds.

At least two persons died and 13 others were under treatment at MKCG Medical College Hospital in Berhampur after consuming spurious liquor at



Two BJD MLAs attempt to climb Speaker Surama Padhy's podium during the pandemonium over Ganjam liquor deaths, Friday, forcing her to adjourn the House

Chikiti in Ganjam district Monday night.

While the Opposition members were staging an agitation in the House, two BJD MLAs attempted to climb on to Speaker Surama Padhy's podium, forcing her to adjourn the House till 11.30 am. The women MLAs of the Opposition party also tried to forcibly enter the Speaker's podium through the staircase.

As the House resumed at 11.30 am, Zero Hour was held and both government and Opposition agreed to hold a debate on the issue.

While replying the debate in the House, Harichandan vowed that his department would completely demolish the illegal liquor network

The government is claiming a lot of things, including action against liquor mafia. But in reality, the current dispensation can do little except changing names of the previous government's schemes

PRAMILA MALLIK | OPPOSITION CHIEF WHIP

across the state within a year.

"We have already started working in this direction and identified the illegal liquor joints and their origins," the Minister said, adding that the racket involved in the activities would be booked.

The Minister also narrated how the government promptly reacted to the case and provided all treatment to the affected people

even though two of them died in the ICU. He claimed that the condition of 13 other affected people were stable.

Referring to allegations by some members that liquor shops have come up near educational and religious institutions, the Minister said they would be shifted. He alleged that the previous BJD government violated rules and allowed liquor shops near schools and temples. "There will be no political patronage to the liquor traders now," he said.

The Minister also informed the House that the government has launched a drive to ban illegal liquor joints across the state.

As many as eight members from both the Treasury and Opposition benches participated in the debate. There were exchange of words between the ruling and Opposition members during the debate.

However, both the BJD and the Congress members walked out of the House after rejecting the Minister's statements.

"The government is claiming a lot of things, including action against liquor mafia. But in reality the current dispensation can do little except changing names of the previous government's schemes," Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik said, while alleging a nexus between the government and the liquor mafia.

Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam said, "The Excise Minister should

tender his resignation on moral grounds after the death of two persons in the liquor-related incident. Instead of regulating spurious liquor, there is a flood of illicit alcohol across the state."

"We are forced to stage an agitation in the House as the government has failed to answer questions on illicit liquor trade. This issue is not limited to one area but affects the entire state. Our protest will continue," Congress MLA Pabitra Saunta said.

BJP MLA Purna Sethi slammed the Opposition over disruptions since beginning of the second half of the session Tuesday.

"This is simply indiscipline. They (Opposition) have no interest in taking up people's issues. Their only intention is to stall the proceedings. They continued creating ruckus despite the government agreeing to their demand for an RDC probe into the hooch tragedy," Sethi said.

Defending the Excise Minister, the Treasury bench members pointed out that Harichandan had visited the affected people at the hospital and made arrangements for their treatment. The government has suspended two excise department officials and also transferred the excise superintendent of Berhampur; they added.

They said that the state government has launched a drive against illegal liquor sale and arrested more than 100 people.

Odisha's unemployment rate surpasses nation's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 23: Odisha had an unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent, which was higher than the national average of 3.2 per cent, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain told the assembly Friday.

In a written reply to BJD MLA Dhruva Charan Sahoo, Swain said Odisha was in the 21st position among all states and Union Territories in the unemployment rate as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

While the unemployment rate in the state's rural areas was 3.6 per cent, it was 6.2 per cent in the urban areas, he said.

There were 11,04,229 youths - 3,86,699 females and 7,17,530 males, who registered themselves with different employment exchanges in the state till May 31, 2024, he added.

The highest number of 1,37,986 people registered at the special employment exchange for SC/ST. A total of 57,855 people registered with the employment exchange in Puri, followed by 54,001 people with the exchange in Berhampur in Ganjam district, 53,842 in Kendrapara, 53,084 in Balasore and 52,169 in Rourkela in Sundergarh district.

Only 8,401 people have got em-



ployment through the state's Skill Development and Employment Exchange over the last 10 years, the minister said.

Swain said that to create employment opportunities, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) has been organising job fairs.

Between 2008-09 and 2023-24, 412 job fairs were organised and appointment letters were given to 2,05,980 people, he said.

The OSDA in partnership with reputed private organisations has undertaken a placement-linked training programme, through which employment was given to 3,964 people during 2022-23 and 3,922 people in 2023-24, he added.

The state government has also created opportunities for 21,140 youths through various employment and self-employment training programmes. It also provides pre-recruitment training to youths for their selection in the Army, Swain said.

Naveen slams BJP govt over Subhadra Yojana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 23: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik Friday criticised the BJP government for not including all women of Odisha under the 'Subhadra Yojana' as part of its 'guarantee' during elections.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the Yojana, which entitles financial assistance of ₹10,000 annually in two equal instalments to over one crore women in the state.

Hours after that, Patnaik said in an X post: "The BJP had given a 'guarantee' to give ₹50,000 to each woman. They said ₹50,000 during the election. But now they are paying only ₹5,000. They said

all women, and now only one in three women will get the benefits. Is this BJP's guarantee to mothers?"

About 2.25 crore women out of the 4.5 crore population were expected to be involved in this scheme but, according to the government, only 70 lakh women will benefit, the BJD president said in the post written in Odia.

The former chief minister said, "The mothers were hopeful that they would be investing the assistance money in business or other work. However, only ₹5,000 in 6 months... What will they do with such a meagre amount ie, ₹800 a month?"

The BJP government borrowed ₹50,000 crore to implement the several guarantee schemes, he claimed.



UP IN ARMS: Members of Odisha Nursing Employees' Association hold a rally at Lower PMG over fulfillment of their 10-point charter of demands, in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Govt to spend ₹7,830cr on pensions every year

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 23: The state government will spend ₹7,830.08 crore every year on social security pensions to widows, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, Minister Nityananda Gond informed the Assembly Friday.

Gond, the Minister of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, said in reply to a question in the Assembly that the government was now providing such pensions under two schemes -- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Madhu Babu Pension Yojna (MBPY). While there were 36.75 lakh beneficiaries under MBPY, 20.33 lakh people get benefits of NSAP, he said.

Strict tenant verification for landlords soon: Panda

DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 23: In the backdrop of the sensational SIM box recovery case - having cross-border links - which exposed the lacunae on part of the City police in maintaining records of tenants living in private properties, twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda Friday said a plan is underway to initiate strict action against landlords if they failed to share detailed information about tenants with police before renting out their premises.

Sources in the police said though the plan is at a nascent stage, clear guidelines to landlords, including flat and house owners, will be communicated soon.



As per an earlier order issued by former police commissioner Rajendra Prasad Sharma in March 2015, landlords sharing wrong information about their tenants with the police could face jail terms extending up to six months, along with a cash fine of ₹1,000.

In a report February 5 this year, Orissa POST had underscored the inefficiency of the Property Offence Prevention and Detection (POPD) unit - a dedicated cell to maintain a strict

tenant verification module at police stations - had resulted in a spate of offences by dubious tenants in the City. These anti-property offence units, launched in 2021 across 23 police stations, man-

dated compulsory verification of tenants' criminal antecedents from their native police stations before landlords let out their homes. The specialised units are supervised by Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACPs) in their respective zones, assisted by a SI-rank officer, to monitor the crime-graph across local

police stations.

The Orissa POST report, with detailed inputs from DCP Prateek Singh, had highlighted that a proper mechanism was still to be in place which could maintain personal details of each tenant in the City.

In March 2015, Sharma made an announcement that every landlord must furnish the necessary details of tenants before local police stations. He said the landlords must submit the complete information about their tenants in a declaration form to the concerned police station every two months. For senior citizens, or those having problems in visiting police stations, he had suggested them to provide the information through e-mails.

SIM Box: 2-day police remand for accused

DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 23: A day after twin city Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda divulged that the SIM boxes set up here and in Ranchi were directly controlled from Dhaka, a local court Friday granted police additional two-days custody of the solitary accused arrested in the case, so far.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Bhubaneswar Prateek Singh said accused Raju Mandal will be thoroughly interrogated by a special squad of the City police, NIA sleuths and Department of Telecom (DoT) officials during his custody to ferret out more details in the crucial investigation. Earlier, the police had obtained five days remand of Mandal following his arrest August 17.

Notably, the Commissionerate Police had sought a week's remand of Mandal in the court to facilitate his intensive interrogation in this case amid suspicion that the conduits of the racket which has its tentacles spread across several countries were involved in cyber fraud or terrorist activities.

The cops have also accessed the Call Data Records (CDR) of the SIMs which Mandal used in the SIM boxes. "DoT Officials have shared data of over 1,200 seized SIMs with us," he added.

An officer from Laxmisagar police station, which had detected the case, said the landlord who rented out his house to Mandal in Mahadev Nagar area has also been called for questioning in the case. "The quizzing of the landlord is likely to help us identify the persons who visited Mandal as well as their role, if any, in the case," he added.

NATIONAL SPACE DAY

'Need to develop scientific temperament in young minds'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 23: In order to commemorate the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission, with the safe landing of Vikram Lander, and deployment of Pragyan Rover on the lunar surface August 23, 2023, Regional Science Centre (RSC) here celebrated National Space Day (NSD) Friday.

RSC organised various events for the students and visitors to recall the achievements and contributions of the scientists in space science and technology.

On the occasion, an exhibition, 'Moon Mission' was setup at RSC to explore the success story of ISRO's Moon Mission programme 'Chandrayaan'.

The day commenced with the inauguration of the exhibition by cosmologist and founder di-



rector of Pacif Institute of Cosmology and Selfology Shibesh Kumar, who also conducted an interactive session on 'Cosmic Curiosity: Astronomy, Telescopes and Developing Scientific Temper'.

Kumar helped the participating students understand the basics of the solar system and planetary motion. He also emphasised the need to develop a scientific temperament among the young minds. The programme included demonstration of different types of telescope and activity on telescope making.

Project coordinator Kapil Jain assured to continue to such initiatives for educating the young minds about space sciences. Students from various institutions, including Mother's Public School and University High School, Vani Vihar took part in the event.

NSD was also celebrated at Odisha Space Research Application Centre (ORSAC) here, Friday in presence of Science and Technology (S&T) Minister Krushna Chandra Patra.

S&T Principal Secretary Chithra Arumugam joined the programme as guest of honour and spoke on this year's theme 'Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga'.

On the occasion, Patra planted a sapling at ORSAC premises and felicitated the participating students in quiz competition.



PLANT FOR LIFE: Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra planting a sapling at Odisha Space Research Application Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday on the occasion of National Space Day
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

908-yr old kalingan inscription found in AP

Bhubaneswar:

A 908-years old inscribed stone pillar was discovered by the members of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Odisha chapter at the Tripurantaka Swamy Shiva temple of Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh (AP) recently. The ancient archaeological remain was discovered, by the INTACH Odisha heritage survey team, who is also undertaking documentation of Kalingan historic sites, found in present day AP. Project coordinator Deepak Kumar Nayak had shared the photographs of the inscribed slab to K Munirathnam Reddy, director of Epigraphy, Archeological Survey of India Mysore circle. Munirathnam deciphered the inscription and had sent an ASI team, headed by MVR Varma for further investigation. The decipherment will soon be published in ASI's epigraphical journals. Commenting on the discovery, Nayak said, "The inscription is written in Telugu and Sanskrit languages using Telugu script, dated in saka year 1038 Kartika sukla 12 that equals October 20 Friday, 1116 CE." "The above inscription is of the time period of great eastern Ganga king Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva who ruled over Kalinga from year 1077 to 1150 CE," said Bishnu Mohan Adhikari, an epigraphist and researcher from Parlakhemundi, who was also a member of the survey team.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Indrani Sutar, D/o - Suresh Chandra Sutar, resident of Ward No. 9, At/PO - Bonth, PS - Bonth, Dist - Bhadrak, PIN - 756114, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No. 6363 dtd. 23.08.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Indrani Bindhani for all future purposes.

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC, MALKANGIRI I, Bijaya Panda, age 47 years, Son of Baikuntha Panda, resident High-tech Colony, Malkangiri, P.O./P.S./Dist.- Malkangiri do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows. That, my actual name is Bijaya Panda but I changed it from BIJAYA PANDA to BIJAY KUMAR PANDA. That, Bijaya Panda and Bijay Kumar Panda is one and same person and Bijay Kumar Panda is regularize in all purposes. That, I swear this affidavit in order to publicity my name as Bijay Kumar Panda in local daily newspaper.

ICAR-CIFA holds training session on aquaculture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 23: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) organised an awareness and training programme on freshwater aquaculture for schedule caste (SC) farmers at Pakanagaon village of Phulbani block in Kandhamal district, Friday.

Joining as chief guest, Kandhamal Lok Sabha MP Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi highlighted the potential for aqua tourism in Ratanga and Phiringia villages, advocated for organic fish production in the region and to reduce reliance on chem-



ically treated fish from Andhra Pradesh.

Panigrahi also encouraged the attendees for initiating Fish Farmers Producers Organisations (FFPOs) and discussed the benefits of availing

PM Vishwakarma Yojana'. Kandhamal ADM Ashok Kumar Bhoi proposed setting up an FRP-carp hatchery and improving market linkages to boost local fish sales.

The training featured presentations from ICAR-CIFA experts, including SK Sahoo, DP Rath, and SK Mohanty. The experts collectively emphasised the benefits of advanced aquaculture technologies for improving productivity. ICAR-CIFA principal scientist SN Sethi discussed the role of gambusia fish in controlling mosquito-borne diseases like brain malaria and dengue.

The event concluded with Rath expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors, recognising the valuable exchanges and insights shared throughout the sessions. The programme attracted around 250 local farmers from nearby villages.

CARE Hosp integrates AI, robotics in ortho surgery



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 23: CARE Hospitals here, hosted an exclusive event at a city hotel Friday, to discuss the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics in orthopedics surgery.

The event gathered industry leaders, esteemed medical professionals, and patients who have benefitted from cutting-edge AI and robotic-assisted surgeries at the hospital. The discussions highlighted about the technological advancements which have revolutionised patient care and outcomes in orthopedics.

Member of Parliament Bajajant Panda attended the programme as chief guest and emphasised the critical role of AI and robotics in Indian healthcare sector.

"The integration of AI and robotics in orthopedics is not just a technological advancement but a leap towards more precise, efficient, and patient-centric healthcare. India is poised to be at the forefront of this medical revolution, setting new standards in patient care globally," Panda said.

Hospital chief operating officer Kishlay Anand remarked on the hospital's commitment to adopt innovative technologies for improved patient outcomes and said, "At CARE Hospitals, we are proud to be early adopters of AI and robotic technologies in orthopedic surgery. This is part of our continuous effort to provide the best possible care to our patients, ensuring quicker recovery times, minimal complications, and overall enhanced patient satisfaction."

The event also featured testimonies from patients who have had undergone AI and robotic-assisted orthopedic surgeries at the hospital. They shared their experiences and improvements in their health and mobility, underscoring the life-changing potential of these technologies.

'Silk India-Wedding Collection' sale in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 23: The Orissa Art and Craft Committee (OACC) inaugurated an exhibition-cum-sale, 'Silk India - Wedding Collection' at a City hotel here, Friday. The event was graced by Ollywood actress Sivani Sangita.

OACC was founded by a group of artisans, designers, social activists, academicians and environmentalists in an attempt to promote traditional craftsmanship in silk and cotton weaving.

The exhibition-cum-sale will continue till August 31 from 10.30am to 8:30pm at The New Marriion hotel near Janpath.



The exhibition features over 50,000 varieties of handcrafted products from artisans and designers across 14 states, including Assam, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Odisha.

Organiser of the event Manas Acharya emphasised the social

objective of the exhibition and stated, "Our main aim is to promote the exquisite traditional skills and creations of the weavers, encouraging them to remain contemporary and economically relevant. We also strive to provide direct market access to weavers, eliminating middlemen and merchants."

"One can explore a wide variety of items, such as Coimbatore silk, Muga silk from Assam, Bangalore silk, crepe and georgette sarees, raw silk materials from Karnataka, and many more," he added.

Ratna Bhandar empty chests, almirahs shifted



Justice Biswanath Rath and other committee members in front of Srimandir Lion's gate

AGENCIES

Puri, August 23: Empty iron chests and almirahs were shifted from the Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Lord Jagannath temple in Puri to a room near Niladri Vihar museum located on the premises of the 12th-century shrine, a senior official said.

Jewellery and other precious items stored in those containers were shifted to temporary strong rooms inside the temple in two phases in July when the Ratna Bhandar was re-

opened after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure.

Following the standard operating procedure (SOP), the empty iron chests along with iron and wooden almirahs were shifted in presence of Justice Biswanath Rath, chairman of an empowered committee, said Arabinda Padhee, an IAS officer and chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

A portion of the wooden door of the outer Ratna Bhandar had to be chiselled for the removal of empty iron chests and later, the door was repaired, he said.

The entire proceedings were videographed. After completion of shifting of the empty chests and almirahs, both the inner and outer chambers of the treasury were sealed. Similarly, the room where those containers were stored was also locked and sealed, Padhee told media persons.

IMD forecast rainfall for next four days

IMD REGIONAL CENTRE HAS ADVISED FISHERMEN NOT TO VENTURE INTO THE SEA OFF THE COAST AND THE BAY OF BENGAL TILL AUGUST 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 23: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts of the state for the next four days, following the formation of a low-pressure area and a cyclonic circulation.

Speaking to reporters here, IMD regional centre director Manorama Mohanty said the low-pressure area lies over northern parts of West Bengal and its neighbourhood and it will



move towards Jharkhand. A cyclonic circulation has also formed over the Bay of Bengal, she said.

Under the impact of the two, several parts of the state are likely to witness heavy to very

heavy rainfall in the next four days, Mohanty said.

The local weather office issued an orange warning (be prepared) for Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, and Keonjhar districts

for Saturday.

It has issued yellow warning (be updated) for Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Subarnapur, Bolangir, Nuapada, Bargarh, Malkangiri, Koraput, and Nabarangpur districts for Saturday.

The IMD centre has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea off the state coast and the Bay of Bengal till August 25.

In view of the heavy rainfall forecast, the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) has asked all district collectors to keep their administrative machinery ready to face any eventuality.

From June 1 till date, the state has received an average rainfall of 734.6mm against the normal 831.8mm.

During the period, Malkangiri district received excess rainfall. While 18 districts received normal rainfall, while the remaining 11 were in the deficient category.

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RIVERBED RESERVOIR PROJECTS IN LIMBO

Ex-CM Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stones for construction of 19 riverbed reservoirs in 13 districts through video-conferencing January 20

Khairamal under Kantamal block in Boudh district.

The former BJD government had planned to strengthen irrigation to the farmlands and thereby, augment the farmers' income through construction of large reservoirs on riverbeds sans any displacement of water.

Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stones for construction of 19 riverbed reservoirs in 13 districts through video-conferencing in the presence of thousands of farmers and women, January 20, this year. The then state government had claimed that funds worth ₹4,600 crore will be spent for the purpose. However, the projects have failed to make any headway due to delay by the state government.

Meanwhile, eight months have passed since laying of foundation stones but the state government is yet to float tenders for the projects. Sources said the state Water Resources department is conducting soil test for preparation of designs and estimates for the projects. This has sparked widespread resentments among the residents.



Sources said the state government had decided to construct riverbed reservoirs or Integrated Storage Structures (ISS) in Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Bargarh, Boudh, Kalahandi, Sundargarh, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Khurda and Keonjhar districts following proposals from the residents of various districts.

The Water Resources department had then claimed that funds worth ₹1,950 crore will be spent for the construction of Subarnapur and Boudh projects.

The plans were envisioned at a time when Mahanadi water

flow had reduced to a great extent during non-monsoon seasons after the Chhattisgarh government constructed multiple barrages on the upstream. The river also remains dry in summer season. Realising this, the state government had earlier prepared a master plan to make proper use of the water of Mahanadi and its distributaries.

As part of this move, the state government had decided to construct multiple barrages on the Mahanadi in 2017. A preliminary survey was conducted and the technical advisory committee (TAC) also gave approval to this

decision.

However, the state government made inordinate delay in implementing the project. The state Budget of 2023-24 FY had mention of the Subarnapur and Boudh projects. The Water Resources department also prepared a detailed project report. Tender was invited for the projects for engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) on contract basis after the projects received administrative approvals. However, the state government suddenly cancelled all the tenders for reasons best known to it.

Though it is claimed that a survey is underway for inviting tenders on P-1 mode, several months have passed without any visible headway.

Meanwhile, this has intensified politics in the areas as some claimed that the projects were announced only to gain votes for the 2024 elections.

Locals have demanded that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who is also in charge of Water Resources department, should take steps for implementation of the projects at the earliest.

Bull gores woman to death

Sambalpur: A sexagenarian woman died Friday after being attacked by a bull at Lajia village under Naktideul block in Sambalpur district. The deceased has been identified as 60-year old Jambubati Behera. Sources said a bull attacked Jambubati while she was walking on the village road and gored her with its horns. A critically injured Jambubati was rushed to Rairakhole Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Police filed a case of unnatural death in this regard and sent the body for post-mortem. The body will be handed over to the family after post-mortem, they said. The incident sent a shockwave in the locality.

FORM No. 13
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
C-71, SECTOR-7, CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA
O.A No. 15 of 2024

Bank of Maharashtra, Bhubaneswar Branch,
N.B. Tower, Plot No.: 2260, Nayapalli,
Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda ...Applicant

... Versus ...

M/s. Blue Berry Hotel & Resorts and others ...Defendants

To

- M/s. Blue Berry Hotel and Resorts, Prop.: Bimohan Parhi** of Plot No.: 42, Unit No.: IV, Madhusudan Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda-751002.
- Bimohan Parhi, S/o:** Kishore Kant Parhi, Flat No.: C/22, Utkal Royal Residency, Goutam Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.:Khurda-751001.

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

Take notice that the applicant has instituted an **OA No. 15/2024** in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of **Rs.72,11,831/-** only together with current interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants is therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within **30 days** from the publication or on **18/10/2024** at **10.30 A.M.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.

Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this **14th day of August 2024.**

Sd/- (Nikhila Ranjan Pati)
REGISTRAR

Contraband seized during raid at Bolangir District Jail

College girl dies of rare disorder



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 23: A police team comprising Bolangir Superintendent of Police (SP) Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo, along with nine other senior police officers and two platoons of police force, conducted a surprise raid inside the Bolangir District Jail Friday and seized tobacco and other intoxicants.

On the instruction of SP Khilari, a team from Town Police Station carried out the raid early Friday morning two days after a group clash took place inside the prison premises.

During the raid, police searched 12 wards or cells, kitchen, toilets, washing area, and other locations within the jail. Various contraband items including bidi (local cigarettes), cigarettes, cannabis, two lighters and a trimmer were seized. The discovery of these illegal items inside the cells has raised serious concerns about how they were smuggled in.

SP Khilari stated that a thorough investigation will be conducted, and the higher jail authorities will be informed about the findings.

The Bolangir District Jail currently



houses many notorious criminals and there have been reports of frequent fights inside the jail. Recently, a notorious criminal Bablu Mahananda was reportedly attacked by two other inmates, Chotu Khan and Vishal, alias Vicky Suna. The jail superintendent had acknowledged this incident.

Some criminals are even believed to be controlling criminal activities in Bolangir town and other parts of the district from within the jail. Allegations have surfaced that criminals are using mobile phones to extort money, engage in land mafia activities and intimidation. It is alleged that certain jail officials are hand in glove with the criminals lodged inside the jail and are engaged in illegal activities.

SP Khilari assured investigation into all aspects. When questioned, Jail Superintendent Sarveshwar Sahu mentioned that a trimmer was provided in the jail's saloon and the investigation will determine how it ended up inside the cells.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, August 23: In a tragic incident, a meritorious college girl of Taharpur village under Rupsa police limits in Balasure district died of a rare disease, Thursday night.

The deceased was identified as Sasmita Das, 20, daughter of Sukanta Das in Taharpur village. Sasmita was a third year student of Kalinga College of Art at Bhubaneswar.

According to sources, Sasmita had come to her village last Saturday to celebrate Raksha Bandhan festival. However, she suddenly fell sick Sunday and was admitted to Balasure district headquarters hospital. As her condition deteriorated she was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack Sunday night.

She was diagnosed with GBS (Guillain-Barré syndrome) disease, a rare neurological disorder that causes nerve damage and undergoing treatment at the hospital. However, she succumbed to the disease Thursday night.



With the untimely death of their only child, Sasmita's parents have been shattered. A pall of gloom descended in the locality after the news of the girl's death spread.

Rourkela denizens await restoration of fallen statue

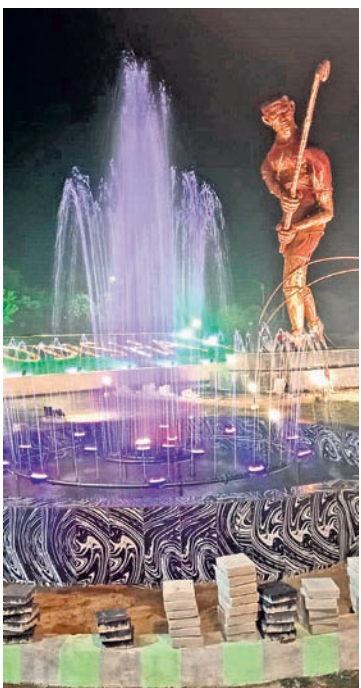
RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 23: The much celebrated statue of a hockey player, widely believed to be Major Dhyana Chand, was erected in the Steel City ahead of the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup. Even a road sign existed at the spot mentioning 'Dhyana Chand Square'. However, the 40-foot tall statue came crashing June 11 in the same year, shortly after the event.

Amid a chorus for restoration of the statue, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has now promised that a replica of the Hockey World Cup will soon come up at its place.

Rourkela residents rue the fact that there is neither any word nor concern from the administration regarding the statue which was once one of the most photographed spots in the state. "I am really shocked that the administration is not at all serious about the statue which was once one of the most visited spots in the city. Nowadays the spot looks empty and ugly," said Srishti Das, a resident of Chhend. The investigation report on the 'fall of the statue' never saw light of the day.

Reacting to this, former District Congress Committee (DCC) presi-



dent Rashmi Ranjan Padhi said, "This was a big scam and nothing else. Where is the report? What happened to it?" Asked what happened to the statue, he said, "After lying there for

some time, it was shifted to the garbage dumping site near BPUT and it was reportedly sold to a scrap dealer." "To cover up their misdeeds, the administration said it was going to erect a replica of the Hockey World Cup," Padhi said.

Major Dhyana Chand's son and member of the lone world cup winning team of 1975, Ashok Kumar, who was here June 16, 2023, had said, "I had initially heard it was the statue of my father and got to know about its fate recently. Whether it belonged to my father or was just a hockey player's statue, this should not have happened in the nursery of the game and especially when the state government is doing so much for the game."

This was one of the most visited and photographed spots of the Steel City. "I had done so many reels there and those went viral. Now when I see the place, I really feel sorry," said a girl.

Sudipta Nath, an official of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) said, "The statue will be installed very soon. This time it is the replica of the Hockey World Cup, made from the combination of aluminium and iron. A Bhubaneswar-based agency is doing the project at a cost of ₹16 lakh."

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House,
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POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Nayagarh Branch for the amount stated below with interest thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.**

NAYAGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property/ies
Borrower: Mr. Gunanidhi Dakua, S/o- Sri Narayan Dakua / Co-Borrower: Mr. Rakesh Kumar Dakua, S/o- Gunanidhi Dakua / Guarantor: Mr. Purna Chandra Mohapatra, S/o- Rakesh Mohapatra, All are At: Balikudia, PO: Barapalli, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752070.	₹ 11,44,188.72 + interest & expenses thereon	29.05.2024 / 21.08.2024	All the part and parcel of Land / Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 257/153, Plot No.: 13, Area: Ac.0.07dec., KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Balikudia, PS: Itamati, SRO: Nayagarh, Tehsil: Nayagarh, Dist.: Nayagarh, standing in the name of Gunanidhi Dakua . Bounded by- North: Danda, South: Nij, East: Kirtan Muduli, West: Akura Pradhan.

Date: 23.08.2024
Place: Bhubaneswar

Authorized Officer,
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CBI's New Face

The recent move by the government to induct Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers into the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has sparked some discontent within the Indian Police Service (IPS) ranks. Traditionally, the CBI has been the stronghold of IPS officers or its own cadre recruited at the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) level. However, this shake-up aims to leverage the specialised expertise of IRS officers in tackling the surge of financial fraud cases.

Recently, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) appointed five IRS officers to the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) in the CBI. These officers, from the 2014 and 2016 batches, are expected to serve for a five-year tenure. The government's rationale is clear: with economic offences on the rise, the CBI needs personnel with a deep understanding of financial matters. The IRS officers, with their background in handling complex tax and financial issues, are seen as the right fit for this challenge.

Moreover, an IRS officer from the 2017 batch, Vijendra Kumar, who was already serving as a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the CBI, had his tenure extended by another year. This move further signals the government's intention to integrate IRS expertise into the CBI's operations.

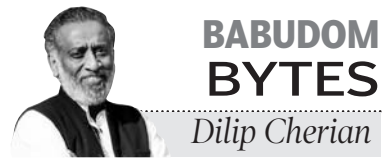
This decision, however, hasn't sat well with the IPS lobby, which views it as an encroachment on their traditional domain. While protests of any kind are necessarily muted at the moment, DKB has picked up some sounds that indicate there is a growing concern that the IRS, having already established a foothold in agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), is now making inroads into the CBI. For the IPS, this shift could mean reduced opportunities in premier investigative agencies—a bitter pill to swallow for a service that has long prided itself on its role in maintaining law and order.

Lateral entry gets full-frontal pushback

The Centre's decision to cancel advertisements for the lateral entry of 45 officers at the Joint Secretary, Director, and Deputy Secretary levels highlights the growing tension within the ruling coalition. Pressured by allies like the Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party, and a re-energized Opposition, the government urged the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to withdraw the advertisement. The move was prompted by concerns over reservation norms and the need to ensure social equity.

The lateral entry scheme launched by the Modi government in 2018 aimed to bring private sector talent into government roles. However, the initiative has faced significant challenges, especially regarding the lack of reservations for SC, ST, and OBC communities. This issue has drawn criticism not only from the opposition but also from within the NDA itself. The first batch of lateral entrants, recruited in 2019, has seen multiple high-profile exits, casting doubt on the scheme's effectiveness. Despite these setbacks, five lateral entrants continue to serve, though the scheme's future remains uncertain.

With policy rollbacks coming in thick and fast, Modi may necessarily need to take a pause and rethink the changing political landscape. In a coalition government, balancing the demands of allies while pursuing reform is a tricky task, and recent events suggest that the Modi government is feeling the strain.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Telangana police chief's order sparks debate

A recent order from the Telangana DGP's office has sparked criticism across various cadres. The directive instructs around 16 IPS officers, currently awaiting posting orders (APO), to sign in and out of an attendance register in the officer's waiting room each day. They are also required to be on standby for any urgent assignments from the DGP.

This order has been met with surprise and disapproval, particularly among IPS officers from other states. Many see it as not only unprecedented but also damaging to the morale and dignity of the officers involved. While adherence to rules is crucial, an overly bureaucratic approach can hinder problem-solving in complex situations, they say. The concern is that this new order signals a lack of trust, which could undermine the smooth functioning of the police force.

However, it appears the state DGP felt compelled to issue this order due to practical issues. Reports suggest that many APO officers were residing in Hyderabad rather than at their designated headquarters, leading to concerns about their availability for duty. While some believe there were better ways to address this issue—such as advising officers to stay at the IPS guest house in Vijayawada—the chosen approach has nonetheless drawn significant criticism.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow
HELLEN KELLER
- Science is not only a disciple of reason but, also, one of romance and passion.
STEPHEN HAWKING
- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
THOMAS A EDISON

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1572:** The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, plotted by Catherine de' Medici against the French Huguenots, was carried out by Roman Catholic nobles and other citizens.
- 1814:** During the War of 1812, British forces captured Washington, D.C., and burned various government buildings, notably the Capitol and the Executive Mansion (now known as the White House).
- 1932:** American aviator Amelia Earhart took off from Los Angeles, and, when she landed in Newark, New Jersey, the following day, she became the first woman to complete a solo nonstop flight across the United States.

LOL

Blonde avoiding trees

A State Trooper pulls a car over on a lonely back road and approaches the blonde lady driver. "Mam, is there a reason that you're weaving all over the road?" The woman replied, "Oh officer, thank goodness you're here!! I almost had an accident! I looked up and there was a tree right in front of me. I



swerved to the left and there was another tree in front of me. I swerved to the right and there was another tree in front of me!" Reaching through the side window to the rear view mirror, the officer replied, "Ma'am... that's your air freshener."



Clemens Fuest and Maria Waldinger

ADAPTATION EFFORTS FACE NUMEROUS OBSTACLES, INCLUDING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE TRAJECTORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

ADAPTATION IMPERATIVE

FOCUS CLIMATE POLICY

Climate-policy debates tend to focus on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. This makes sense, given that GHGs are the primary cause of climate change. But global warming is expected to continue even under the most optimistic scenarios, implying an urgent need for comprehensive strategies to minimize the economic costs, public-safety risks, and health threats associated with the escalating climate crisis.

While some experts argue that full adaptation is impossible, owing to the significant risks posed by global warming, this view is misleading. Admittedly, adaptation alone cannot offset the worst effects of climate change, and current efforts to reduce global GHG emissions must be ramped up. But overlooking the need to develop, implement, and invest in strategies aimed at protecting businesses, households, and communities from the inevitable consequences of a warming planet would be profoundly irresponsible.

Flood protection is a prime example. As inundations become more frequent and severe, restoring floodplains and other proactive measures have become increasingly important. Long-term adaptation should also play a central role in post-disaster reconstruction projects. Instead of repeatedly repairing damaged houses, for example, it might be more prudent to rebuild them in less flood-prone areas.

Adaptation efforts are only as effective as the mechanisms to finance them. While many taxpayers understandably support funding reconstruction efforts, doing so can create incentives for construction in vulnerable areas. Instead, these funds would be better spent on measures that protect communities against future flooding, not just building new houses in



While reducing Green House Gas emissions is necessary, adaptation is equally important to ensuring that the world's most vulnerable populations do not bear the brunt of the most devastating effects of climate change

safer areas, but also investing in targeted research and innovation aimed at helping sectors affected by climate change, particularly agriculture, adapt to the threat.

Increasingly dangerous heat waves also underscore the urgent need for adaptation measures. Although record-breaking temperatures pose significant health risks, particularly for the elderly, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing conditions, countries like Germany are still reluctant to invest in air conditioning systems and other cooling methods. But such systems do not require fossil fuels; they can be powered by solar energy, which is abundant during hot periods.

Extreme heat is especially risky for outdoor workers, highlighting the need to update occupational health and safety laws. Companies must be required to have measures in place to protect their employees, such as providing shaded areas and

access to drinking water.

Given that low-income earners often work in high-risk conditions, climate adaptation offers far-reaching social benefits. The ability to implement such measures is, however, largely restricted to households, municipalities, regions, and countries with sufficient financial resources and technical expertise. Without adequate adaptation strategies and financing mechanisms, impoverished individuals and communities will disproportionately bear the brunt of climate change, further deepening economic and social disparities both locally and globally.

In principle, households and companies should approach adaptation like any other investment decision. Instead of pursuing every option, they should focus on those that offer the greatest value, similar to how an entrepreneur would evaluate various expenditures.

To be sure, adaptation efforts face numerous obstacles, including uncertainty about the future trajectory of climate change and the high costs associated with modifying existing structures and processes. Moreover, the scarcity of information on effective adaptation measures and how they could be implemented within current legal frameworks could drive up costs. All of this could depress investment in adaptation, especially since the benefits may be realized only in the medium to long term.

Nevertheless, both governments and the private sector must make climate adaptation a top priority. By anticipating risks and taking proactive steps to adjust their operations, companies could reduce implementation costs. Meanwhile, policymakers must invest heavily in building resilient infrastructure, supporting research and innovation, and disseminating vital information to households, businesses, and local authorities to help them prepare for various climate-related challenges, including floods, heat waves, and other extreme weather events.

Adaptation is not just a practical necessity; it is a moral imperative. While reducing GHG emissions is necessary, adaptation is equally important to ensuring that the world's most vulnerable populations do not bear the brunt of the most devastating effects of climate change. By placing adaptation measures at the heart of climate policies, alongside mitigation, we can create a future that is both resilient and equitable.

Clemens Fuest, President of the Ifo Institute, is Professor of Economics at the University of Munich. Maria Waldinger is a climate economist at the Ifo Institute in Munich.

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SPECTRUM INDO-JAPAN TIES

2+2 summit affirms special partnership

India and Japan held their 2+2 Dialogue Tuesday in New Delhi. The Japanese delegation consisted of Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defence Minister Kihara Minoru as India was represented by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh. Although, Japan is going through a change of leadership, the critical 2+2 summit took place which shows the importance Tokyo attaches to New Delhi. It also underscores the necessity of strengthening the India-Japan axis for peace, security and prosperity of India-Pacific region. The necessity multiplies in view of the beligerence from Beijing that threatens security of the region.

Recall that Quad was created at the behest of Japan to secure India-Pacific against increasing threats from China. To be sure, Quad has put a hold on Chinese intentions at least for the time being. India and Japan having bigger stakes in the region will have to come even closer in order to consolidate Quad and eventually counter China's aggression on their respective borders. This was reflected in the remarks made by Indian EAM. "In a more volatile and unpredictable world today, there is a need for reliable partners with whom there

are substantial convergences."

The issues discussed in the meeting included defence and security cooperation which was the forerunner and the India-Pacific. Under defence and security, a key point of deliberation was the transfer of Japan's United Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) and related technologies to India. UNICORN is a stealth technology that will be fitted onboard Indian naval ships. The two sides explore future cooperation in the area of ship maintenance in India.

The ministers also acknowledged and appreciated the successful completion of collaboration on Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV)/Robotics.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to continuing bilateral and multilateral defence exercises including "Dharma Guardian", Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) and Malabar.

Furthermore, Japan expressed solidarity with India on terrorism that it faces continually. The summit unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and called for bringing the culprits of 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot and other such attacks to justice. They also called for concerted international actions against all UN-

listed terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and their proxy groups.

On India-Pacific, the ministers highlighted their shared strategic vision towards a free and open India-Pacific. They expressed their strong support for ASEAN's unity and full support for ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

Both countries share a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership which is now in its tenth year and is based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and rule of law. For the sake of quicker and smoother implementation of this partnership, the 2+2 Dialogue initiated by Prime Minister Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

It is during Shinzo Abe's tenure which was the longest as the Prime Minister, the India-Japan relations really consolidated. The partnership has become almost indispensable given the vulnerable security landscape in the India-Pacific.

India-Japan relations go back a very long way in history, dating back to centuries. There have been multiple points of contact through culture, business, religion and so on. But what is relevant today is the evolution of the

relation during the Congress regime after independence and later under the UPA. The bilateralism took a dramatic turn towards the consolidation under the tenure of Prime Minister Modi in India and Shinzo Abe in Japan. The kind of inter-personal relationship, both leaders developed contributed to the most remarkable deepening of the India-Japan relationship.

In building the partnership between India and Japan, defence and security seem to have taken the centre-stage. But the economic complementarities between both the countries cannot be missed. When it comes to enhancing economic fundamentals, both parties benefit. Bilateral relations in international politics are seldom viewed as a zero-sum game. Japan's technology and investment has the potential to help India upgrade its infrastructure and manufacturing sector as India's growing consumer market and investment requirements offer immense opportunities for Japan's economy. Leaders on both sides are surely aware of this opportunity.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism

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DK Giri

INDA-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP HAS BECOME INDISPENSABLE GIVEN THE VULNERABLE SECURITY LANDSCAPE IN THE INDIA-PACIFIC

Call for castration

Sir, India is slowly becoming a country of rape and molestation, and women are not safe in the Indian sub-continent as more and more cases of rape is heard from every nook and cranny of the country. It is a matter of shame, and the name of the country goes to toss when tourists come to India for sightseeing in Goa or Kerala, or any other parts of the nation. Rape is undoubtedly a heinous crime and an issue of great concern in India today. Despite enacting new laws with stringent punishments and setting up fast-track courts, things have not changed much. With more rape cases coming to the fore, a few questions always come to mind. Is it only perverted individuals who are responsible for rape cases, or is it that our criminal justice system is inept? The question that follows is even more thought-provoking. Is it not the delay in legal proceedings that makes criminals feel that they will not be convicted in their lifetime? Amidst all this, a strong voice has also been raised to introduce chemical castration as a punishment for the rapists, which has already been accepted in various US states and many countries in Europe. Is it time to make a move?

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Tough road ahead for Vijay

Sir, With Tamil actor Vijay entering the political ring of Tamil Nadu with his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) party, the southern state is all set to witness 'mega-masala-packed scenes in the upcoming 2026 election. Apart from his fans, it has to be seen how Vijay is going to handle and get the support of the mass that has always supported Dravidian ideology and leaders. While national parties with popular leaders could not cause any ripples, as was seen in the recent elections, it is better if Vijay comes up with some novel plans with his fan clubs to mitigate the sufferings of the poor and the downtrodden. And then win their trust and make them understand that he is very much there in the political arena, ready to speak for them. He has to learn from actors-turned-mass leaders like MGR, Sunil Dutt, NTR, and Jayalalitha, who fought it alone with the support of the commoners.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Gyanvapi mgmt against Wazukhana ASI survey



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, August 23: An ASI survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque Wazukhana is not permissible as there is a Supreme Court order that the area should be preserved, the mosque management committee has told the Allahabad High Court.

The Anjuman Intezamia Committee Thursday filed a counter-affidavit before the Allahabad HC in the matter seeking a survey of the Wazukhana (or ablation area) by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

It has been stated in the counter-affidavit that the matter relating to Wazukhana and 'Shiv Linga' is already pending before the Supreme Court and there is a stay order operating that the area be preserved, and the responsibility for its safety and security has been handed over to the District Magistrate, Varanasi. "Hence, any further action is not permissible. Instead, the petitioner should approach the apex court to seek clarification of its 2022 order," the counter-affidavit said.

"In this backdrop, the District Judge, Varanasi has rightly rejected the application of Hindu side on October 21, 2023 seeking an ASI survey of the Wazukhana area except for the Shiva Linga inside the Gyanvapi mosque, as the matter is covered by the apex court's interim orders arising out of the same suit," added the affidavit.

Taking the affidavit on record, Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal granted two weeks' time to the

petitioner counsel to file a rejoinder affidavit and fixed September 9 as the next date of hearing.

In the present civil revision, petitioner Rakhi Singh has challenged the Varanasi district judge's order dated October 21, 2023, whereby he had refused to direct the ASI to undertake a survey of the Wazukhana area except for the Shiva Linga inside the Gyanvapi mosque.

Rakhi Singh is one of plaintiffs in Shringar Gauri worshipping suit pending before the Varanasi court.

In her revision, Rakhi Singh has pleaded that the survey of the Wazukhana area is necessary in the interest of justice. It shall benefit the plaintiffs and defendants alike and help the court arrive at a just decision in the suit.

Earlier, petitioner's counsel had argued that the ASI survey of the Wazukhana area is necessary so that the religious character of the entire property could be determined.

It was also argued that it is possible to survey the Wazukhana area (except for the 'Shiva Linga') using non-invasive methods as directed by the Supreme Court.

The ASI has already conducted a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi complex in Varanasi and submitted its report to the District Judge.

The ASI had conducted a survey in accordance with the July 21, 2023 order of the Varanasi District Judge to determine if the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

AMMA welcomes Hema Committee report

The Malayalam film industry wants implementation of recommendations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, August 23: Breaking its silence on the sensational Justice Hema Committee report on the condition and sexual exploitation of women in the Malayalam film industry, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) Friday welcomed the findings and sought implementation of its recommendations.

Addressing the media at the AMMA office here, General Secretary and popular actor Siddique noted that they have been accused of staying silent and that there has been no response from the AMMA on the report.

"What happened was that we were all busy with a charity show and it got over early on Thursday morning. Then, we had a meeting of our office bearers who were all in different locations. We never ran away," he said.

"This report is not against AMMA. We wholeheartedly welcome the report and its findings. We want the recommendations to be implemented. Two years back, state Minister of Films Saji Cheriyan called us for a meeting based on the report and we gave our suggestions," said



Siddique.

"We have never opposed the release as it is the state government's brief. All should understand a majority of the women actors are our members and as and when the recommendations are implemented, our own members will be the beneficiaries. The problem is that the media is putting AMMA in the dock for no reason and that hurt us," he added.

"I have been in the industry for the past four decades and I can say with absolute conviction no power group, as mentioned in the report, exists because this is a film industry and no such groups can exist, neither there is a casting couch... We have no qualms that if there is any crime anywhere, it has to be probed and we

"I have been in the industry for the past four decades and I can say with absolute conviction no power group, as mentioned in the report, exists because this is a film industry and no such groups can exist, neither there is a casting couch... We have no qualms that if there is any crime anywhere, it has to be probed and we want to book the wrongdoers if there are any"

SIDDIQUE | GENERAL SECRETARY, AMMA

want to book the wrongdoers if there are any," Siddique said.

"Our topmost actors Mammooty and Mohanlal met the committee and mostly faced questions about the professional fees and such issues. Many of our women members were not asked to appear before the Hema Committee," he maintained.

Senior actress Joemol, who is also an office bearer of the AMMA, said she has had no bad experiences in the industry at all.

AMMA Vice President and popular comedy artiste Jagdeesh, another veteran in the industry for the past four decades, said he welcomes the report.

"Now that the findings are out, let a probe take place and no one in the industry can take a different position. If a wrong has been done, let the law take its course. If these things are happening in our industry, then a correction should take place and these things should never hap-

pen at all," he said.

"Now the matter is sub-judice as the High Court has asked for the unedited version and if there are wrongdoers, then they should be punished... that is my view and that of the AMMA. We will wait for their response. If there are names, let the names come out and appropriate action will be taken. The report's delayed release could have been avoided, had it come five years back, it would have been really nice," Jagdeesh added.

The AMMA's response comes a day after the Kerala High Court admitted a PIL for registering a criminal case on the findings of the Hema Committee. The report contained explosive information on the way a powerful group consisting of top actors and others in the Malayalam film industry has been working.

On Friday, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan wrote to CM Pinarayi Vijayan and also to the Minister of Culture and Films Saji Cheriyan demanding that a special investigation team of the Kerala Police, led by a female IAS officer, should probe the sexual exploitation of women in the film industry.

Now all eyes are on the High Court which asked the state government on the need to keep the report received by the Vijayan government in 2019 without any follow-up action and asked for the unedited version of the report. The case will now be heard September 10.

Police book man for 'pronouncing' triple talaq to wife for praising Modi, Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), August 23: Police have booked a man and seven members of his family for allegedly pronouncing triple talaq to her after she praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister for the development of Ayodhya.

Earlier, he had also beaten her and hurled hot 'dal' at her; Maryam alleged in her complaint to police in Bahraich where her parents live. The family of the husband, who lives in Ayodhya, allegedly also tried to strangle her on the day the man pronounced instant triple talaq.

"I am a resident of Mohalla Sarai, Thana Jarwal Road in Bahraich. On December 13, 2023, I was married to Arshad, son of Islam, a resident of Mohalla Delhi Darwaza of Kotwali Nagar, Ayodhya. My father got me married with the consent of both the parties and by spending more than his means," the woman is heard saying in a video clip that has surfaced online.

"After the marriage, when I went out in the city, I liked the



roads of Ayodhya Dham, the beautification, the development and the atmosphere there. On this, I praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in front of my husband," she said in the video.

Following this, Maryam's husband, Arshad, got angry and sent her to her maternal home in Bahraich. After some relatives intervened, she returned to Ayodhya to live with her husband, Jarwal Road Police Station Incharge Inspector (SHO) Brijraj Prasad said.

However, Arshad hurled abuses at the chief minister and the prime minister and gave her triple talaq by uttering "talaq, talaq, talaq", SHO said.

Maryam further alleged that her mother-in-law, younger sister-in-law and brothers-in-law tried to strangle her. Her husband also beat her on the day he pronounced triple talaq to her.

Based on her complaint, eight people, including the woman's husband Arshad, mother-in-law Raisha, father-in-law Islam, sister-in-law Kulsum, brother-in-law Faran and Shafaq, sister-in-law Simran, were booked in the case, police said.

A case has been registered under assault, abuse, threat and Dowry Prohibition Act and Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, he added.

RARE OCCURRENCE

Spouse set to succeed husband as Chief Secy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 23: Kerala's outgoing Chief Secretary Dr V Venu will, August 31, hand over the post to his wife Sarada Muralaiedharan.

Decks for this unique transition were cleared Wednesday as the cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, cleared the appointment of Muralaiedharan in its weekly meeting.

Even though in the past in Kerala, there have been couples who have both held the top bureaucratic post, this is the first time when one succeeds another. Venu, a medical doctor by qualification, and Muralaiedharan both belong to the 1990 IAS batch.

This post would have missed them had Dr Manoj Joshi, who was the senior-



most bureaucrat in June 2023 but was on central deputation, returned to Kerala. Since Joshi preferred to remain in Delhi, the next seniormost official was Venu and he was appointed the Chief Secretary in June last year. Joshi will serve till 2027.

Expressing happiness she said she was extremely lucky to see how the Chief Secretary works at close quarters as it was her husband who was holding the post before she takes over. "This is a rare chance and I saw everything and the challenges that lie ahead. We used to discuss things also," Muralaiedharan said.

Kerala to set up first robotics park in Thrissur

Kochi: Kerala will set up its first robotics park in Thrissur, heralding a new chapter that will boost innovation, collaboration and growth in the field of artificial intelligence, Minister for Industries P Rajeev said Friday. At a Robotics Roundtable organised here, Rajeev said the project will have four sections. It is to be built on a 10-acre plot in the central Kerala town with the help of district panchayat. Rajeev also informed that the state government will conduct the Global Investors Meet February 21 and 22 next year in the city. The roundtable was organised at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Bolgatty Island by Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) in association with the Department of Industry and Commerce. Noting that the Robotics Roundtable was the beginning of the journey of the state to transform the society into a hub of hi-tech manufacturing technology industries, the minister said the Global Investors Meet will be the culmination of the precursor events, including roundtable series focusing on 12 sectors.

School dropout's book now taught in universities

Dhanuja, though happy that many now accept her as a writer, still believes that her caste and her upbringing may not let people treat her equally to other well-known writers in Malayalam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 23: Dhanuja Kumari spends her days walking through the narrow streets of Ravi Nagar in Ambalamukku here, calling out to the residents: "Chechi, we've come to collect plastic waste."

Dressed in a green overcoat over a pale yellow churidar, she carries a plastic sack as she visits each doorstep.

At 48 years, Dhanuja looks much older with stress marks etched on her face, but she always wears a happy smile.

Dhanuja dropped out of school in the 9th standard when her parents married her off to a 19-year-old 'Chenda' (a famous Kerala percussion instrument) artist.

The spent years living in Chengalchoola, a slum in Thiruvananthapuram, facing many struggles. But these challenges would later shape her jour-

ney as a writer. She penned a book recounting her struggles as a slum dweller, and it is now part of the curriculum for BA students at Kannur University and MA students at Calicut University.

The book, "Chengalchoolayile Ente Jeevitham" ("My Life in Chengalchoola"), is now in its fifth edition.

"I am not an imaginative writer. What I have written is what life gave me in Chengalchoola. I do not think it is literature, but my life," Dhanuja Kumari told PTI, sitting in her one-room house in Rajaji Nagar, earlier known as Chengalchoola.

Her house is built using tin sheets erected on four rows of cement hollow bricks, with a roof made of similar tin sheets. The house has no windows and has a small area for cooking and washing. An automatic top-loading washing machine is the most expensive piece of equipment in her house.

Sitting on her queen cot, which occupies almost 90 per cent of the space in her one-room house, Dhanuja recalled how she became a writer.

"Our colony was notorious at that time, and we will be writing police petitions almost every day. They used to call me to write petitions, as I used to write them elaborately. That is what helped



me sharpen my language," Dhanuja said, with a smiling face as always.

Dhanuja had a troubled childhood, with her parents quarrelling between them regularly.

"They had small issues, but sometimes they stopped seeing each other for a year or more. So they had sent me to a Christian convent, where I stayed and studied," she said, recalling that a practice the convent insisted all students follow was her introduction to writing.

"The convent teachers asked us to write down whatever we had done during the day in a small notebook. The bad things we did and the good things we did. Those were my first writings," Dhanuja said. She continued doing the same when she moved into the present single room house along with her husband at the age of 14.

"My husband was just 19, and we were not mature enough to run a family. There were so many

problems, and the discrimination we faced on the basis of caste and our life in the colony was too difficult to bear. I wrote all my pains, experiences, and little happiness we had in between," Dhanuja said.

As she grew up, she continued to be active in society and wanted people to have a different view of her colony and its people.

She fought fiercely for the rights of the colony people to have a dignified life. "I used to tell everyone—the social workers, the researchers who visited our colony—that they were only interested in their study materials and not in our lives. I used to give public speeches. Hearing this, a noted writer, Vijila, prompted me to compile my writings as a book."

She published the book when she was 38 years old, which was very well accepted by the readers, and the universities have now included it in their curricula.

Dhanuja is writing the second part of her book. "This book again would be my experiences. I do not know how to write in the language of literature," Dhanuja said.

Apart from newspapers and children's books, Dhanuja never got a chance to read Malayalam literature. "I had no opportunity to get those books, and my language is still the language of

a class 9 dropout," she said.

Now Dhanuja is heading a women's collective in Rajaji Nagar called 'Wings of Women', where they have their own library and engage in social activities.

Dhanuja, though now known to many as a writer, has no issues in her profession as a 'Haritha Karma Sena' worker, who collects waste from houses.

"It is my profession, and I do it with passion. It is my livelihood. There are different kinds of people, and their attitudes would also be different. I go to their houses as a worker, so I behave accordingly," Dhanuja said as she continuously directed her team members at work.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, GANJAM-II, BERTAMPUR
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.: GMID-II/03/2024-25
 E-mail: mi2_exe.engr@yahoo.co.in, Ph.No.- 0680-2290475
 Ltr.No.2896 Date:13.08.2024

Name of Work	Civil Construction Works
No. of Works	4 (Four) Nos.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 38.30 lakh to 49.32 lakh
Tender Paper Cost	Rs. 6000.00 (for estimated cost below 50.00 lakh)
Period of Completion	04 (Four) to 06 (Six) Calendar Months
Class of Contractor	"C" & "B"
Availability of bid documents	From 27.08.2024 at 10.00 AM to 09.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
Period of receipt of bid through online	From 27.08.2024 at 10.00 AM to 09.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM Through Online.
Mode of Payment	Online
Date of opening of bid documents for double cover system	10.09.2024 at 11.30 AM
Date of Lottery (if required)	Shall be intimated through website and E-mail specified for the purpose in e-tendering process.
Digital signature	The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website- http://dowr.orissa.gov.in .	
Name & Address of the OIT	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Ganjam-II In front of Deapal School, Engineering School Road Bertampur, Dist-Ganjam, PIN-760010 E-mail: mi2_exe.engr@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the E-Procurement market place: http://tendersorissa.gov.in .	
Sd./ Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Ganjam-II, Bertampur	
OIPR-32043/11/0004/2425	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-216:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH
 E-mail: eerw_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No - 06658-222121

e-Procurement Notice
IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. EEPITNG-Online-02/2024-25

1. Name of Work	Construction of Building Works			
2. Total No. of Work	01 (One) Building Work			
3. Time for Completion	01 (One) Calendar Months			
4. Approximate estimated cost	60.41 Lakh.			
5. Mode of Submission of tender	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in			
6. Other details are as follow				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for Bidding	Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	EEPT-NG-Online-02/2024-25	28.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	10.09.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.09.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
Technical Bid		Financial Bid		
11.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.		The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later		

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
 • Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.
 OIPR-25154/11/0002/2425 **Sd./ Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Patnagarh**

of the day quote

Does the Congress support the National Conference's promise of a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir?

Do Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party support the JKNC's decision to restore Article 370 and 35A, and thereby pushing Jammu and Kashmir back into an era of unrest and terrorism?

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

A home ministry official told me that the government has decided to give three persons Z plus security and I was one of them. I asked who the other two were. I was told RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Union home minister Amit Shah

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) CHIEF

On this day a year ago, the great scientists of the country, with their unique talent, extraordinary skills and tireless hard work, successfully soft landed 'Chandrayaan-3' on the Moon, creating a new and historic record in the field of space research, making Mother India proud

YOGI ADITYANATH | CM, UTTAR PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

4 labourers killed as roof collapses

Mhow (MP): Five persons -- four labourers and their contractor -- were killed after the roof of an under-construction cottage at a resort collapsed in Indore district amid heavy rains, a police official said Friday. The incident occurred at Choral village in Mhow tehsil, about 40km from the district headquarters, Thursday night when four labourers and their contractor were sleeping under the freshly laid concrete slab, which suddenly came crashing down, trapping them, he said.

Teenager drowns in waterlogged road

New Delhi: A 15-year-old boy drowned in a waterlogged road near The British School in central Delhi's Chanakya Puri area following heavy rain in parts of city Friday, officials said. The deceased, Sourabh, lived with his family at the Vivekanand Camp in the same area, the police said. According to the police, Sourabh and some of his friends were playing in the rain on the waterlogged road near the British School when he accidentally ventured into deep water and drowned.

2 killed, 17 injured after bus overturns

Jaipur: Two people were killed and 17 injured when the bus they were travelling in overturned in the Maroth area of Rajasthan's Deedwana-Kuchaman district Friday, police said. The bus was on its way to Khatushyam temple in Sikar from Chittorgarh when the accident occurred. The dead have been identified as Umashankar Kumawat (36) and Prem Devi Meena (35). The injured were admitted to a local hospital, the police said.

Leopard kills farmer in UP

Bijnor (UP): A 45-year-old farmer has been killed by a leopard in Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor district, a forest official said Friday. The incident took place in the Haldaur forest area Thursday evening, when Piyush, a resident of Jalalpur Hasna village, was working in his farm, Forest Ranger Mahesh Gautam said. Gautam said Piyush's body was found in a bush near his farm. "Cages are being installed in the area to catch the animal," the ranger said.



As many as 750 farmers died during the agitation (at the Delhi border). A Congress government will be formed with people's blessings after one month (in Haryana). Within 30 days of assuming charge, all 750 (farmers) will be given martyr status and their next of kin a job

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONG LEADER

RAILWAY SAFETY COMMISSION HQ SHIFTED TO NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has shifted the office of Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety from Lucknow to New Delhi, an official memorandum said. According to sources, the decision has been taken to have better and efficient coordination with the various government departments and agencies



EXCISE POLICY CASE

CBI justifies Kejriwal's arrest in SC

THE FEDERAL AGENCY SAYS THAT KEJRIWAL'S ACTIONS WERE NOT ONLY ILLEGAL BUT ALSO PART OF A LARGER CONSPIRACY INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES AND MISUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday defended in the Supreme Court the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying it was necessary as he chose to remain "evasive and non-cooperative" in his replies to questions about his role in the alleged excise policy scam.

In its detailed affidavit filed in response to Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the central agency, the CBI alleged all critical decisions in the formulation of the now-scrapped excise policy were taken at his behest with the connivance of the then deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia.

Claiming that Kejriwal was attempting to "politically sensationalise" the case, the CBI said he was involved in the criminal conspiracy in the formulation and implementation of the excise policy, and his arrest June 26 was necessary for a just conclusion of the probe as he was "purposely derailing" the investigation.

"The necessity to arrest also arose based on the materials on record and since the petitioner chose to remain evasive and non-cooperative during his examination June 25," the affidavit said.

The CBI's affidavit was taken on record by a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, which posted the matter for further hearing September 5.



ther hearing September 5.

"It is most respectfully submitted that the influence and clout of the petitioner is evident, and he commands influence not only over the Government of GNCT of Delhi being the Chief Minister, but also over any or all relevant decisions, activities concerning the Aam Aadmi Party, being its supreme and national convenor. He enjoys a close nexus with the officials and bureaucrats," the agency said.

It added Kejriwal has also been confronted with sensitive documents and statements of witnesses during his custodial interrogation, and having such knowledge, he is likely to influence the witnesses.

The federal probe agency said Kejriwal was not entitled to par-

ity with the other co-accused considering his role in the criminal conspiracy in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, more specifically when any or all decisions of the government and the party were taken only as per his directions.

It said the July 12 order granting interim bail to Kejriwal in an excise policy case related to alleged money laundering has no bearing on the CBI's case in which he stands accused of corruption.

"As far as the averments regarding interim bail on medical grounds is concerned, it is humbly submitted that regarding the ailments, the treatment can be provided at the Tihar Jail hospital or any of its referral hospital as per jail rules & man-

SC defers bail plea till Sept 5

The Supreme Court Friday deferred till September 5 hearing on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging the arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam. A bench of justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two days' time to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said the CBI filed a counter affidavit in only one of the pleas and it was served upon them at 8 pm Thursday. ASG SV Raju said they will file the counter in another plea in one week. The bench then posted the matter for further hearing September 5.

uals, which is being already done. No case has been made out by the Petitioner to be released on medical bail, which ought to be granted only if the treatment is not possible in the jail," it said.

The CBI said though Kejriwal does not hold any ministerial position, it has emerged over a period of time that all critical decisions in the formulation of the now scrapped excise policy were taken at his behest with the connivance of the then deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who held the excise portfolio.

AI penalised for flying with non-qualified pilots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Aviation watchdog DGCA has imposed a penalty of Rs 90 lakh on Tata Group-owned Air India and has also suspended the airline's director of training for six months in connection with a flight that was operated with non-qualified pilots.

Besides, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has slapped fines of Rs 6 lakh and Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of Operations Pankul Mathur and Director of Training Manish Vasavada for the lapse. In a release Friday, the regulator said the pilot concerned has been warned to exercise caution to prevent such occurrences in future.

"Air India Ltd operated a flight commanded by a non-trainer line captain paired with a non-



line-released first officer which has been viewed by the regulator as a serious scheduling incident having significant safety ramifications," the release said.

For the violations, DGCA has imposed a fine of Rs 90 lakh on Air India, Rs 6 lakh on the Director of Operations and Rs 3 lakh on the Director of Training. Also, the Director of Training has been suspended for six months.

After the incident came to its notice through a voluntary report submitted by the airline July 10, the regulator investigated the operations of the carrier, including examination of docu-

mentations and spot check of the scheduling facility.

"Based on investigation, it was prima facie revealed that there are deficiencies and multiple violations of the regulatory provisions by several post holders and staff, which could significantly affect safety," the release said.

DGCA also said the flight's commander and the post holders of the airline were provided an opportunity to explain their position through show cause notices issued July 22.

The reply submitted by the concerned persons failed to provide satisfactory justification. As such, DGCA has initiated enforcement action in terms of provisions of the extant rules/ regulations and imposed the above penalty, the watchdog noted.



A farmer runs with his bulls during the 'Nangrani' festival, the traditional bull racing event, in Ratnagiri

VEHICULAR POLLUTION

Real-world emissions much higher than lab tests, study shows

THE STUDY, CONDUCTED WITH TECHNICAL ANALYSIS BY THE GLOBAL THINK TANK INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON CLEAN TRANSPORTATION, REVEALED THAT NITROGEN OXIDE (NOX) EMISSIONS FROM BS-VI PRIVATE CARS WERE 81 PER CENT LOWER THAN THOSE FROM BS-IV CARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Real-world vehicle emissions are much higher than laboratory tests suggest and CNG vehicles, once considered a cleaner alternative, actually emit high levels of nitrogen oxides, according to a new study.

Conducted as part of The Real Urban Emissions (TRUE) Initiative in collaboration with authorities in Delhi and Gurugram, the study utilised non-intrusive remote sensing technology to measure the emis-

sions of on-road vehicles.

The study, conducted with technical analysis by the global think tank International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), revealed that nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from BS-VI (Bharat Stage) private cars were 81 per cent lower than those from BS-IV cars. Similarly, BS-VI buses produced 95 per cent lower NOx compared to BS-IV buses.

The study also found that compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle fleets emitted high levels of NOx, challenging the narrative of



CNG being a "clean" alternative fuel.

For example, Class II light goods vehicles emit up to 14.2 times their NOx lab limits while taxis emit four times the amount.

This also means that to improve air quality, it is crucial to focus on the actual emissions from vehicles on the road, not just their lab results.

Commercial vehicles, such as taxis and light goods vehicles, emit much more NOx than private cars, even if they meet the same emission standards.

"It is evident that real-world emissions from transport vehicles differ significantly from their laboratory values. For the first time in India, we have collected substantial emissions data

Reservation issue

BJP adopts anti-SC/ST stance, alleges Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 23: BSP chief Mayawati Friday attacked the BJP and the INDIA bloc, alleging that while the ruling party has adopted an anti-SC/ST stance over the issue of sub-classification and identifying creamy layer for reservation within the communities, the Opposition coalition's silence on the matter is proving to be "fatal".

Earlier this month, a seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud ruled in a 6:1 majority judgement that state governments were permitted to sub-classify communities within the SC list based on empirical data.

Supreme Court judge Justice BR Gavai had also said states must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer, even among the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST), and deny it the benefit of reservation.

In posts on X in Hindi, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati said, "It is very sad and worrying that the (BJP-led) Centre has not yet taken any concrete steps to restore the old system as per public expectations against the Supreme Court's decision of August 1, 2024, to implement the new rule of classification and creamy layer in SC/ST reservation."

Claiming that the Centre was not serious about the issue, she said, "First the weak advocacy in the court, and now, the failure to bring the Constitution Amendment Bill for it proves that the BJP's anti-SC/ST reservation attitude is still intact with



First the weak advocacy in the court, and now, the failure to bring the Constitution Amendment Bill for it proves that the BJP's anti-SC/ST reservation attitude is still intact with the same intensity

MAYAWATI | BSP PRESIDENT

the same intensity."

Accusing the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), Mayawati said, "The silence of the Congress, SP and their INDIA bloc in this matter is equally fatal. It shows their interest in the welfare and upliftment of SCs and STs, she said.

The interest of these SCs and STs is safe only in the Ambedkarite BSP, Mayawati asserted.

A one-day nationwide strike was called August 21 by some Dalit and tribal groups against the Supreme Court's decisions.

The strike call, however, had little impact on normal life in Uttar Pradesh as shops remained open and business went on as usual in large parts of the state amid tight security arrangements.

While Delhi struggles with dirty air, a visible killer hanging over the city, TRUE has shown that this less visible but still deadly fuel is not the solution. For health and for the climate, the answers to dirty air lie in switching to walking, cycling, and shared electric mobility

SHEILA WATSON | DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FIA FOUNDATION

from motor vehicles on the road. It is crucial to remember that what impacts our air quality is not the laboratory emissions but the pollutants released by these vehicles in operation," said ICCT India Managing Director Amit Bhatt.

"Therefore, it is time to rethink our emissions testing regime and aggressively push for the adoption of zero-emission vehicles," he added. FIA Foundation Deputy

Director Sheila Watson said the research clearly showed India and the rest of the world that CNG was not the clean alternative fuel that was promised.

"While Delhi struggles with dirty air, a visible killer hanging over the city, TRUE has shown that this less visible but still deadly fuel is not the solution. For health and for the climate, the answers to dirty air lie in switching to walking, cycling, and shared electric mobility," she said.

The report's release is timely, given the recent directive from the Supreme Court to finalise the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 170 and implement remote sensing in the National Capital Region.

AIS 170 will set the technical parameters for remote sensing devices and equip authorities with the necessary resources to measure vehicle exhaust in real time.

national

of the day quote

We are people who keep promises. My sisters (beneficiaries) received money in their bank accounts two days before the Raksha Bandhan

The work of preparing pension documents for the elderly has been stopped in Delhi for the last six years. Old age pension was not given to even a single elderly person

The scheme (Ladki Bahin Yojana) is to empower women, not to influence voters

X POST OF THE DAY

Muslims gather for registration of LadkiBahinYojna by NDA gvt in Maharashtra. Now the question is, will they vote for NDA to get the benefits of this scheme? The answer is No. Then why are they filling forms? -Because they're smart. If NDA wins they'll have money, if NDA loses they'll have power.

SHORT TAKES

Balcony collapses; 40 children injured

Barabanki (UP): At least 40 children were injured, five of them seriously, after a portion of the first-floor balcony of their school here collapsed Friday, police said. The children are being treated at the district hospital. The condition of five students is stated to be "critical", Barabanki Superintendent of Police (SP) Dinesh Kumar Singh said. Singh said the incident took place at the Awadh Academy School, a private institution, when a large number of children gathered on the first-floor balcony while going down to attend the morning assembly.

5 killed, 40 injured as bus overturns

Pandhurna (MP): Five persons were killed and about 40 injured when a private bus carrying them to Hyderabad from Bhopal overturned in Madhya Pradesh's newly-formed Pandhurna district, forming Maharashtra, police said Friday. The bus flipped over after hitting a divider at Mohit Ghat around 10 pm Thursday. Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Brijesh Bhargava told. He said three passengers died at the scene, while two succumbed to their injuries at a hospital in Nagpur, about 60 km from the accident spot.

Couple killed as car falls into river

Shimla: A couple was killed and their one-year-old daughter is feared dead after their car skidded off the road and plunged into the Pabbar River here, police said Friday. The accident occurred Thursday evening in the Bhalu Kyar area near Jhalta village when they were returning home, police said. The victims were identified as Susheel Kumar (29) and his wife Mamta (27). According to the preliminary investigation, Susheel was driving the car when he lost control and plunged into the river, they said.

NATIONAL SPACE DAY

Prez Murmu voices concern over increasing space debris

The president appreciates the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Operations Management Facility, which ensures continuous progress of space research activities



New Delhi, August 23: President Droupadi Murmu Friday voiced concern over increasing space debris as a result of numerous satellites being placed in orbit and lauded ISRO for setting itself a target to make future space missions debris free by 2030. Murmu was speaking at the maiden National Space Day cel-

ebrations to mark the first anniversary of the landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 project. "Space debris can cause problems for space missions," she said during the event at Bharat

A comprehensive intervention is essential to strengthen Judiciary in countries like India. Around five crore cases are pending before various courts of the country

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

GOVIND MOHAN TAKES CHARGE AS UNION HOME SECRETARY

Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan Friday took charge as the Union home secretary following the retirement of incumbent Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of Sikkim cadre, was serving as Union culture secretary before being appointed as Union home secretary last week



ED begins probe into Jharkhand land 'scam'

Ranchi/New Delhi, August 23: The ED has launched a probe into allegations of a terror-financing link to its ongoing land "scam" case investigation in Jharkhand, official sources said Friday. The federal agency has summoned one Babloo Khan for questioning August 26 at its zonal office in Ranchi, taking cognisance of a Delhi Police Special Cell action Thursday during which the cops claimed to have busted an al-Qaeda terror module after arresting 11 people and detaining three others from Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The police had said in a statement that the module, according to its current state of operations, was being led by one Dr Ishtiyaq of Ranchi, and aspired to declare 'khilafat (caliphate)' and execute serious terror activities within the country.



The Enforcement Directorate (ED), the sources said, found that Babloo Khan was a relative of its two arrested accused in the Jharkhand land "scam" case -- Afsar Ali, an employee of RIMS (Ranchi), and Talha Khan. An analysis of "evidence and documents" showed that Babloo Khan was also allegedly linked to Ishtiyaq through a nursing home in Ranchi's Bariatu area, they said. The agency had said in its charge sheet filed in the case that its investigation found "Afsar Ali was one of the masterminds behind the above stated (land) fraud". "He is involved in preparing several fake deeds of properties situated in Ranchi and its suburbs from the office of the Registrar of Assurances, Kolkata, in order to acquire and dispose lands in an illegal manner," the agency had claimed. Babloo Khan has been summoned for questioning and his statement will be recorded by the investigating officer in the land "scam" case when he deposes August 26, the sources said.

MUDA ISSUE

Congress leadership backs Siddaramaiah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: Days after the Karnataka governor granted sanction for the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority case, the Congress' top leadership Friday expressed its backing for him and alleged that the Centre had unleashed a systematic assault through a "puppet governor" to destabilise an elected government.

Kharge and Gandhi had a detailed interaction with the chief minister and the deputy chief minister as well as senior Karnataka ministers, Surjewala told reporters after the meeting. "The current political situation in Karnataka was discussed in detail. The chief minister and the Pradesh Congress Committee president and deputy chief minister briefed the Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on how a systematic and designed assault has been unleashed through the office of a puppet governor as part of a sinister conspiracy designed to destabilise an elected government," he said.

"Frustrated by a decimating defeat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the entire BJP leadership are now hiding behind the governor to attack the Congress government in Karnataka. This is not an attempt to dislodge or destabilise the Congress government of Karnataka but in truth... this is a sinister design to attack the five Congress guarantees by which we are transferring Rs 53,000 crore every year directly in the bank accounts of the people," he said.

Surjewala alleged that the BJP had been attacking the Congress guarantees benefiting the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes, backward classes and minorities for the past year.

RG KAR INVESTIGATION

CBI assigned financial irregularities probe

Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directs the CBI to submit a progress report on the investigation within three weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 23: The Calcutta High Court Friday ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital during the tenure of its former principal Sandip Ghosh from a state-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the CBI.

The central agency also got permission from another city court to conduct a polygraph test on Ghosh and five others in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a post-graduate trainee inside the hospital earlier this month.

Ghosh was removed from the post of the principal of the RG Kar hospital after the rape and murder that sparked nationwide outrage and cease work by junior doctors in the facility which is still continuing.

The high court's decision to transfer the case to CBI came in



response to a petition by a former deputy superintendent of the facility, Akhtar Ali, who sought a probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into alleged financial misconduct at the state-run institute during the tenure of Ghosh.

Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directed the CBI to submit a progress report on the investigation within three weeks. The court will hear the matter for September 17 to review the report and has ordered that the case diary and other documents be handed over to the CBI by 10 AM Saturday.

Claiming urgency, Ghosh's lawyer moved a division bench presided by Justice Harish Tandon against the order of the single bench.

The division bench, also comprising Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, however, refused to grant any urgent hearing of his

prayer.

The CBI, meanwhile, also secured the leave of ACJM Sealdah to conduct a polygraph test on Ghosh and five others in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the RG Kar medic which the agency is already probing on a Calcutta High Court order.

Besides Ghosh, four doctors, including an intern, and a civic volunteer posted at RG Kar hospital would go under the lie detector test, an officer said.

The agency has also received the court's nod to carry out the polygraph test on the arrested Kolkata Police civic volunteer; the prime accused in the case.

The accused was produced in court Friday following the completion of his police custody and was remanded in judicial custody for 14 days, the officer said.

The agitating junior doctors at RG Kar hospital conveyed that they would continue with their stir and cease work that has now surpassed a fortnight and crippled public healthcare services in West Bengal.

CBI officers, meanwhile, told PTI that they are concentrating on how the crime was executed without any hindrance in the facility's seminar hall where the door's tower bolt was found broken.

Four Nepalese killed, one swept away in Ganga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rudraprayag/Dehradun, August 23: Four labourers from Nepal were killed early Friday in a landslide in Rudraprayag district, while one person was swept away in the Ganga in Haridwar district as heavy overnight rain lashed various parts of Uttarakhand.

Landslides triggered by heavy rain also blocked the national highways to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Yamunotri. Water and slush from a flooded

HEAVY RAIN LASHES U'KHAND

Pathri Rau river entered about 70 homes Thursday night in Hari Akshay Nagar Phase 1 near Roorkee and broke the colony's boundary wall, the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) here said.

The waters of the river also damaged the crops, it said. More than half a dozen houses were also damaged by heavy rain Friday in Genvli village in Banganga area of Tehri district, the SEOC said.



Four labourers from Nepal died in a landslide caused by heavy rain near the helipad in Phata village on way to Kedarnath. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has recovered their bod-

Rising water reservoir levels across India: CWC

The report also notes that certain areas, particularly in the northern region, are facing lower-than-normal storage levels, which could impact water availability in the coming months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: The overall water-storage levels across the country's major reservoirs have improved significantly compared to last year but certain areas, particularly in the northern region, are facing lower-than-normal storage levels, which could impact water availability in the coming months, according to official data.

all water-storage levels have improved significantly compared to last year.

According to the bulletin released Friday, the live storage available in these reservoirs is 130.800 billion cubic metres (BCM), which is 72 per cent of the total live storage capacity.

However, the report also notes that certain areas, particularly in the northern region, are facing lower-than-normal storage levels, which could impact water availability in the coming months.

This marks a notable increase from the 114.657 BCM recorded



during the same period last year, indicating that the current storage is 114 per cent of last year's level and 112 per cent of the average storage over the last 10 years. The report highlights regional variations in water-stor-

age levels, with some areas experiencing better storage than others. In the northern region, which includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, the storage levels are below normal, with reservoirs holding

only 53 per cent of their capacity. This is a significant drop from the 84 per cent recorded last year. Conversely, the southern region, covering states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, shows a more positive trend, with reservoirs at 80 per cent capacity, a substantial improvement from the 52 per cent recorded during the corresponding period last year.

The eastern region, comprising states such as Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, also reported an increase in the water-storage levels. The reservoirs in this region are currently at 60 per cent capacity, a marked improvement from the 43 per cent recorded last year.

Similarly, the western region, which includes Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa, has seen

an increase in the storage levels, with reservoirs now at 74 per cent capacity, up from 69 per cent last year.

In the central region, which includes Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the reservoirs are currently holding 76 per cent of their total capacity, reflecting a moderate improvement from the 73 per cent recorded during the same period last year.

This region's storage is also higher than the 10-year average, which stood at 68 per cent.

The CWC report concludes that the overall storage position across the country is better than both last year and the 10-year average, which is a positive sign for water availability in various sectors, including agriculture, hydroelectric power generation and drinking water supply.

international

of the day quote

There is no reason for us to be unfriendly with India unless the country behaves in a way that forces the people of Bangladesh to doubt their intentions

ABDUL MOYEEN KHAN | FORMER CABINET MINISTER, BANGLADESH

Our aim is that we hope for peaceful development across the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan is a country that ardently loves peace. Taiwan's people are kind

LAU CHING-TE | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

Democracies can't function without a strong, independent and non-corrupt judicial branch

ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | PRESIDENT, MEXICO

SHORT TAKES

Pak seeks \$4bn loan from ME

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan is in talks with banks in the Middle East to borrow approximately \$4 billion to meet its external financial commitments for the current fiscal year, as part of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) currently pending for IMF's approval. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team had a virtual meeting with Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank, Thursday, the Dawn newspaper reported Friday. On Wednesday, a similar interaction was held with Mashreq Bank President and Group CEO Ahmed Abdelaal.

SKorea doctors warn Covid surge

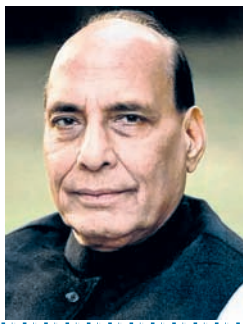
Seoul: South Korea's medical association warned Friday that a spike in Covid-19 cases and an ongoing strike by trainee doctors could cripple hospital emergency rooms next month at a time when many doctors will also be off due to a public holiday. The government has, however, disputed the risk of ER closures cited by the Korean Medical Association (KMA) and said it was providing additional support where needed.

Monsoon floods kill 15 in B'desh

Dhaka: Monsoon rainfall-triggered floods in deltaic Bangladesh and upstream Indian regions killed at least 15 people and affected over four million others in this country, posing a huge administrative challenge to the newly installed interim government amid a political transition. Several rivers are flowing above the danger mark, particularly in north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh inundating many cities and towns apart from several hundred villages killing people, damaging the infrastructures and disrupting communication lines.

4 hostage-takers killed in Russia

Moscow: Snipers from Russia's National Guard Friday killed four inmates who had stabbed four prison guards to death and briefly held others as hostages while declaring allegiance to the Islamic State group. The Federal Prison Service said that four inmates took eight prison guards and four inmates hostage. It said they stabbed four of the guards, three of whom died on the spot and the fourth one later died at a hospital. The agency said three other guards were hospitalised with injuries.



India and the US are the two forces which can bring peace, prosperity and stability in the world

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER, INDIA

HASINA'S DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT REVOKED

Bangladesh's interim government has revoked ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's diplomatic passport along with all members of the former Cabinet



Modi's historic Ukraine visit

The Prime Minister's visit to Kyiv is seen as a balancing act as his trip to Russia triggered anguish among the Western countries

AGENCIES

Kyiv, August 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a historic visit to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv under the shadow of war to hold talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in what is being seen as a reflection of India's concerns over the continuing conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

It is the first-ever visit to Ukraine by an Indian Prime Minister after Ukraine became independent in 1991, and his trip comes amid Kyiv's fresh military offensive in Russia's western Kursk region.

On his arrival following a nearly 10-hour train journey from Poland, Modi was accorded a warm welcome by members of the Indian community at the Hyatt Hotel.

Zelenskyy warmly hugged and shook hands with Modi at



- Indian PM's visit is first in modern Ukrainian history
- Kyiv sees visit of Indian PM as 'extremely important'

the exposition. The Prime Minister's visit to Kyiv is expected to last for around seven hours. "Reached Kyiv earlier this morning. The Indian community accorded a very warm welcome," Modi said on 'X' shortly after reaching the Ukrainian capital. Modi is holding both one-

and delegation-level talks with Zelenskyy with a focus on bringing peace and stability to Ukraine and the larger region.

The Prime Minister's visit to Kyiv comes nearly six weeks after his high-profile trip to Moscow and it is seen as a balancing act as the Prime Minister's trip to Russia triggered anguish among the Western countries.

Modi also told Zelenskyy that India believes in a human-centric approach to find a solution to the conflict in Ukraine.

India's Narendra Modi urged President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to sit down for talks with Russia to end the war in Ukraine and offered to act as a friend to help bring peace as the two leaders met in wartime Kyiv. "The road to resolution can

TRIBUTE TO GANDHI'S STATUE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday underscored the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's eternal message of peace in building a harmonious society, as he paid floral tribute to the statue of the iconic Indian in 'Oasis of Peace' park in Kyiv. "Paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Kyiv. The ideals of Bapu are universal and give hope to millions. May we all follow the path he showed to humanity," Modi wrote on X.



Visit to Martyrologist Exposition on kids



A warm hug, a silent prayer with folded hands and a small toy. That was how Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday honoured the memories of children who have lost their lives in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Soon after reaching the Ukrainian capital here from Poland, Modi was greeted by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the multimedia Martyrologist Exposition on children at the National Museum of History of Ukraine here.

only be found through dialogue and diplomacy. And we should move in that direction without wasting any time. Both sides should sit together to find a way out of this crisis," Modi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also presented four

BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes to the Ukrainian government.

The statement said each BHISHM Cube consists of medicines and equipment for the first line of care for all kinds of injuries and medical situations.

WHO makes move to step up inoculations in Africa

REUTERS

London, August 23: The World Health Organization said Friday its partners such as Gavi and Unicef can start buying mpx vaccines before they are approved by the UN health agency, in a bid to get inoculations to Africa faster as the continent battles an escalating outbreak of the virus.

Traditionally, organisations like Gavi, which helps lower-income countries buy vaccines, can only start purchasing shots once they have approval from the WHO. But the rules have been relaxed in this instance to get talks moving, as the WHO's approval is due in a few weeks.

Two vaccines, made by Denmark's Bavarian Nordic and Japan's KM Biologics, are already approved by regulators around the world, including the US and Japan, and have been in widespread use for mpx since 2022. Around 1.2 million people have had Bavarian Nordic's vaccine in the US alone. The WHO is expected to grant an emergency licence to the shots in September.

Mpx, a viral infection that spreads through close contact and is usually mild but can kill, was declared a public emergency



of international concern by the WHO last week after a new offshoot of the virus spread quickly in Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond.

Earlier this month, the WHO asked vaccine manufacturers to submit information so it could accelerate its approval process, and grant an emergency licence by mid-September.

However this week, one of the vaccine manufacturers, Bavarian Nordic, said it needed orders immediately from organisations like Gavi and the WHO to make more shots this year, raising fears that lower-income countries could miss out or be forced to rely once again on precarious donations from high-income countries, as happened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some donated mpx vaccines are due to arrive in Africa next week, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

ISRAELI STRIKES KILL 6 FIGHTERS, 1 CHILD

AGENCIES

Beirut, August 23: Israeli airstrikes across southern Lebanon Friday killed at least six fighters and one child, according to security sources, as armed group Hezbollah responded with artillery rounds and rockets across the border.

The Israeli military has been trading fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah across Lebanon's southern border in parallel with the Gaza war, with hostilities ramping up recently amid fears that a full-scale regional war could erupt.

Israeli strikes on the southern Lebanese towns of Mays al-Jabal and Tayr Harfa Friday killed four Hezbollah fighters, according to the party's death notices and a security source.

Another fighter was killed in a separate strike outside Aitarun, according to the security source. It was not immediately clear if the combatant was a Hezbollah member.

A separate Israeli strike on the village of Aita, approximately 14 km north of the border with Israel, killed a Hezbollah fighter and a child, the security source told Reuters. Hezbollah identified the fighter killed in Aita as Mohammad Najem.

Harris accepts Democratic nomination for President

KAMALA HARRIS WARNS AMERICANS OF CONSEQUENCES OF PUTTING TRUMP BACK IN WHITE HOUSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chicago, August 23: Kamala Harris used her forceful presidential acceptance speech to present herself as a leader who could unite the country to chart a "new way forward" and warned Americans of "extremely serious" consequences of putting her Republican rival Donald Trump back in the White House.

Vice President Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, Thursday night accepted her party's presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, on the 10th wedding anniversary.

The 59-year-old leader walked on stage to thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the audience. Chants of "Yes You Can!" erupted before her remarks.

Taking the stage at the United Center in Chicago to accept her



nomination, Harris, who was a tough prosecutor in California before becoming US Vice President, said she is no stranger to unlikely journeys.

Vice President Harris outlined her plans for a "new way forward" if she's elected to be the 47th President of the United States.

"I will be a President who unites us around our highest aspirations. A President who leads and listens. Who is realistic, Practical and has common sense. And always fights for the American people. From the court-

house to the White House, that has been my life's work," Harris said. She laid out the consequences of electing former President Trump, 78, to a second term.

"In many ways, Donald Trump is an unserious man, but the consequences of putting Donald Trump back in the White House are extremely serious," she warned. She spoke about the "chaos and calamity" of his years in the Oval Office and also pointed to him questioning election results in 2020 when he lost his reelection bid to Biden.

Iranians who hacked Trump's campaign have deep expertise

THE ACCUSED IRANIAN HACKERS ARE WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN INTELLIGENCE DIVISION INSIDE IRAN'S MILITARY

REUTERS

Washington, August 23: The Iranian hacking team that compromised the campaign of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is known for placing surveillance software on the mobile phones of its victims, enabling them to record calls, steal texts and silently turn on cameras and microphones, according to researchers and experts who follow the group.

Known as APT42 or CharmingKitten by the cyber-

security research community, the accused Iranian hackers are widely believed to be associated with an intelligence division inside Iran's military, known as the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or IRGC-IO. Their appearance in the US election is noteworthy, sources told Reuters, because of their invasive espionage approach against high-value targets in Washington and Israel.

"What makes (APT42) incredibly dangerous is this idea that they are an organization that has a history of physically targeting people of interest," said John Hultquist, chief analyst with US cybersecurity firm Mandiant, who referenced past research that found the group surveilling the cell phones of Iranian activists and protesters. Some of them were imprisoned or physically threatened in the country shortly after being hacked.

A spokesperson for Iran's permanent mission to the United



Nations in New York said in an email that "the Iranian government neither possesses nor harbors any intent or motive to interfere in the United States presidential election."

Spokespeople for Trump have said that Iran is targeting the former President and current Republican candidate because they disfavor his policies toward Tehran.

HIGHLY TARGETED The APT42 crew that targeted

Trump has never been formally named in US law enforcement indictments or criminal charges, leaving questions about their structure and identity. But experts believe they represent a significant threat.

"The IRGC-IO is entrusted with collecting intelligence to defend and advance the interests of the Islamic Republic," said Levi Gundert, chief security officer for US cyber intelligence firm Recorded Future and a for-

mer Secret Service special agent. "Along with the Quds Force, they are the most powerful security and intelligence entities inside Iran."

In March, Recorded Future analysts discovered hacking attempts by APT42 against a US-based media group named Iran International, which British authorities previously said were the target of physical violence and terror threats by Iranian-linked agents.

Hultquist said the hackers commonly use mobile malware that allows them to "record phone calls, room audio recordings, pilfer SMS (text) inboxes, take images off of a machine," and gather geolocation data.

In recent months, Trump campaign officials sent a message to employees warning them to be diligent about information security, according to one person familiar with the message. The message warned that cell phones were no more secure than other devices and represented an important point of vulnerability,

said the person, who requested anonymity as he was not permitted to speak to the media.

The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment. The FBI and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence both declined to comment.

The Secret Service did not answer questions about whether the Iranian hacking activity could be intended to support physical attacks planned for the future. In a statement sent to Reuters, a Secret Service spokesperson said they work closely with intelligence community partners to ensure the "highest level of safety and security" but could not discuss matters "related to protective intelligence."

APT42 also commonly impersonates journalists and Washington think tanks in complex, email-based social engineering operations that aim to lure their targeting into opening booby-trapped messages, which let them takeover systems.

of the day quote

Indian steel market is hit by unfair imports and dumping amid a demand slump in China and the government needs to take action in a time-bound manner

NAGENDRA NATH SINHA | FORMER STEEL SECRETARY

Given the large population, the sector witnessed rapid surge in the last five years, attracting significant investment and global attention; our country is the world's 3rd largest fintech service provider with fintech adoption of 87 per cent compared to the global average of 64 per cent. India received 15 per cent of global fintech funding

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

We have seen some challenges there (SME platform). We request you to be extra careful as far as SME IPOs and fundraising are concerned because these small companies will become much, much bigger going forward

ASHWANI BHATTIA | WHOLE-TIME MEMBER, SEBI

We have seen some challenges there (SME platform). We request you to be extra careful as far as SME IPOs and fundraising are concerned because these small companies will become much, much bigger going forward

ASHWANI BHATTIA | WHOLE-TIME MEMBER, SEBI

SHORT TAKES

Foxconn infuses ₹1,200cr in its unit

New Delhi: Electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn has infused about ₹1,200 crore -- approximately \$144 million -- into its Karnataka-based Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd, the company said in a recent regulatory filing. The iPhone contract manufacturer's Singapore-based arm Foxconn Singapore Pte has bought over 120.35 crore stocks of Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt Ltd at ₹10 per share August 21. The Karnataka government in a statement last week said Foxconn is planning to invest ₹25,000 crore to establish a massive manufacturing plant near Doddaballapur that will create 40,000 jobs.

Ecos Mobility's IPO to open August 28

New Delhi: Chauffeur-driven mobility provider Ecos (India) Mobility & Hospitality Ltd Friday said it has fixed a price band of ₹318-334 per share for its ₹601 crore initial public offering. The initial share sale opens for public subscription August 28 and concludes August 30 and bidding for anchor investors will open for a day August 27, the company said in a statement. The company's maiden public issue is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.8 crore equity shares worth ₹601 crore, at the upper end of the price band, by promoters -- Rajesh Loomba and Aditya Loomba -- with no fresh issue component.

Adani promoter sells Ambuja stake

New Delhi: Adani Group promoter Friday divested nearly a 2.8 per cent stake in Ambuja Cements to investors like GQG Partners for ₹4,250 crore via open market transactions. The promoter sold the stake of Ambuja Cements as part of a regular adjustment of holdings they carry to keep stake across the ports-to-energy conglomerate at desired levels. Meanwhile, Rajiv Jain-backed GQG Partners purchased more than 4.39 crore shares, amounting to a 1.78 per cent stake in Ambuja Cements through bulk and block deals in two separate transactions. The shares were bought at an average price of ₹625.50 apiece, taking the combined deal value to ₹2,746.79 crore.

FIRST HALF OF 2024

US top trading partner

INDIA HAS HIGHEST TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 23: The US has emerged as India's top trading partner during January-June this year, while the country has recorded its highest trade deficit of \$41.6 billion with China during the period, according to think tank GTRI.

It also said the country's merchandise exports rose 5.41 per cent to \$230.51 billion during the first half of 2024.

"China topped the list with a substantial trade deficit of \$41.6 billion, as exports to China were \$8.5 billion, while imports reached \$50.1 billion during January-June 2024," it added.

The data analysis for the first half of this calendar year by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) showed India exports goods to 239 countries and out of these, 126 countries showed positive growth in exports. These nations account for 75.3 per cent of India's total exports.

Major countries with increased exports include the USA, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, and China. However, exports declined in 98 countries, which account for 24.6 per cent of India's exports, with notable declines in Italy, Belgium, Nepal, and Hong Kong.

"The US is India's top export partner. Exports to the US increased from \$37.7 billion in January-June 2023 to \$41.6 billion in January-June 2024, reflecting a growth of 10.5 per cent. The UAE saw a significant rise in exports, increasing from \$15.8 billion to \$19.7 billion, marking a 24.9 per cent growth," it said.

In the first half of 2024, China remained the largest import supplier, with imports increasing from \$46.2 billion to \$50.1 billion.

"In FY2024, China was India's top trading partner, just ahead of the US. However, from January



INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE (EXPORTS AND IMPORTS), INCLUDING BOTH MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES, REACHED A RECORD \$849 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2024, UP 5.8% FROM THE SAME PERIOD IN 2023

India should continue to focus on increasing product quality and supply chain competitiveness. Since every big country is into inward mode, India should not surrender its policy space especially in new issues in free trade agreements and IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework)

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

to June 2024, the US became India's largest trading partner, with total trade growing from \$59.4 billion to \$62.5 billion, a 5.3 per cent increase," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

China followed as the second-largest trading partner, with total trade rising from \$54.4 billion to \$58.6 billion, marking a 7.7 per cent increase.

The merchandise exports growth was pushed by sectors like iron ore, pharmaceuticals, precious stones, basmati rice, chemicals, and smartphones.

On the services front, exports grew by 6.9 per cent to \$178.2 billion, while the import imports grew by 5.79 per cent to \$95 billion.

It also said that during January-June 2024, the country's merchandise imports rose 5.47 per cent to \$345.3 billion.

India's peak demand grew at an average of 11GW for the last 10 years and going forward for the next 6 years, we expect that the demand is going to grow at an average of 15 GW per year

SRIKANT NAGPALALI | ADDITIONAL SECRETARY POWER

E-COMM EXPORT HUBS

The government has sought proposals from the industry to set up e-commerce export hubs (ECEH) in the country for examination, support, and hand-holding. Based on the proposal, further details, including software requirements for ECEH, to facilitate seamless and expeditious export clearances, will be firmed up, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has said in a trade notice



Sensex, Nifty edge up in volatile trade

BSE SENSEX AUGUST 23, 2024



Shares' longest rally in 2024 tempered by caution ahead of Powell's speech

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 23: Benchmark Sensex and Nifty edged up in volatile trade on Friday following buying in blue-chip stocks such as ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel amid mixed global trends ahead of the US Fed chair Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole Symposium.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 33.02 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 81,086.21.

In early trade, the benchmark declined 169.93 points or 0.20 per cent to a low of 80,883.26. Later, it bounced back 178.3 points or 0.21 per cent to hit a high of 81,231.49 but gave up gains towards the end.

The NSE Nifty edged up 11.65 points or 0.05 per cent to close at 24,823.15 registering gains for the seventh session in a row.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Motors, Sun Pharmaceutical,

Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra and JSW Steel were the gainers. Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Titan, Infosys, State Bank of India, Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank were the laggards.

Investors are exercising caution and awaiting Powell's signals for more insights on the interest rate path, Nair added.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.15 per cent, however the midcap index fell 0.66 per cent.

Among the indices, Services surged by 1.07 per cent, Auto by 0.93 per cent, Industrials by 0.26 per cent, capital goods by 0.23 per cent and Consumer Discretionary by 0.13 per cent. Realty, IT, Oil & Gas and Teck were among the laggards.

Stock of Anil Ambani led group stocks tumbled by up to 10 per cent after Sebi barred him and 24 other entities, including former key officials of RHFPL, from the securities market for five years for diversion of funds from the company.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,371.79 crore Thursday.

'Smart Anganwadi' by Hindalco



Bhubaneswar: Hindalco Industries Limited, the metals flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, has recently launched its Smart Anganwadi (Shishu Vatika) project across 16 Anganwadi centres in the Hirakud region of Sambalpur district in Odisha. Part of Hindalco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, this initiative aims to transform traditional Anganwadi centres into models of early childhood education meant to be enjoyable. Briefing on the project, Soumitra Roy, Unit Head of Hirakud FRP says, "The Smart Anganwadi project is a comprehensive initiative that focuses on changing the learning environment of Anganwadi centres. Hindalco has made extensive infrastructure upgrades, including the installation of windows, doors, and roof waterproofing, to ensure safe and comfortable spaces for young learners."

Workshop on PM Vishwakarma Scheme

Bhubaneswar: In order to give impetus to PM Vishwakarma Scheme and to create further awareness among the participants and publicity of the scheme, UCO Bank, Convenor, State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), Odisha have organised an awareness workshop August 23 at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. Bank officials, lead district managers, GM, DICs, PM Vishwakarma trainers, PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries and senior executives of related departments of central and state government participated in the meeting. At the outset Goutam Patra, GM & Convenor, SLBC, Odisha welcomed all the participants and gave a brief introduction of the scheme. D Prasanth Kumar Reddy (IAS), Director of Industries highlighted the importance and benefits of the scheme. Mahesh Kumar Choudhury, Special Secretary, MSME Department, Pragyanismita Sahoo, Director, Institutional Finance, Finance Department, Govt of Odisha, Priyanka Mallick, Deputy Commissioner, BMC, PK Gupta, Joint Director & HOO, MSME-DFO, B Ravi, Joint Director of Regional Directorate, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship joined as Guest of Honour and shared their view points.



DEMAND FOR SILVER, INVESTMENT

Investors bet the metal will give better returns than gold, leading importers said

REUTERS

Bangalore, August 23: India's silver imports are on course to nearly double this year due to rising demand from solar panel and electronics makers, and as investors bet the metal will give better returns than gold, leading importers said Friday.

Higher imports by the world's biggest silver consumer could give further support to global prices, which are close to their highest level in more than a decade. India imported 3,625 metric tons of the white metal last year.

This year's purchases could rise to between 6,500 and 7,000

Silver imports to double



tons due to the rising industrial demand, said Chirag Thakkar, CEO of Amrapali Group Gujarat, a leading silver importer.

India's silver imports in the first half of 2024 jumped to 4,554 tons from 560 tons a year ago, trade ministry data showed.

"There is a traditional demand for jewellery. People are also buying for investment purposes now that the duty cut has made silver more affordable," Thakkar told Reuters on the sidelines of the India Gold Conference.

India slashed import duties

on silver in July to 6% from 15%, a step aimed at tackling smuggling.

Thakkar said investment demand had been "phenomenal" in the first half of the year as people bought silver anticipating that it would give them a better return than gold.

Local silver futures hit a record high of ₹96,493 (\$1,151) per kilogram in May and are up nearly 14% so far in 2024, slightly exceeding a 13% increase in gold prices.

Due to depleted inventories in 2023, industrial silver buyers have been stockpiling the metal this year to guard against rising prices, said a bullion dealer at a silver-importing bank.

India imports silver mainly from the United Arab Emirates, Britain and China.

Ed-tech giant Byju's insolvency case fans employees' fears

ONCE A DARLING OF GLOBAL INVESTORS, BYJU'S BECAME POPULAR BY OFFERING ONLINE TRAINING COURSES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BUT IS NOW LOCKED IN A DISPUTE WITH US LENDERS SEEKING \$1BN IN UNPAID DUES

REUTERS

Bangalore, August 23: The insolvency of Indian education technology company Byju's threatens to be the biggest upset in a celebrated startup sector, unleashing a long battle by thousands of panic-stricken employees to recover dues and protect their careers.

Reuters interviews with dozens of its employees, parents of students and a review of WhatsApp chats show a growing sense of desperation as people plan to take the offensive against the company whose board stands suspended with assets frozen.

"A lot of people, including myself, have stopped taking classes because there's no point doing charity for the company anymore," Sukirti Mishra, 29, said on a conference call with Reuters held by about 60 employees of Byju's unit WhiteHat Jr.

Mishra, who once earned \$1,200 a month teaching mathematics courses, now faces the anger of parents after she halted

classes for their children, she said on the call attended by Reuters.

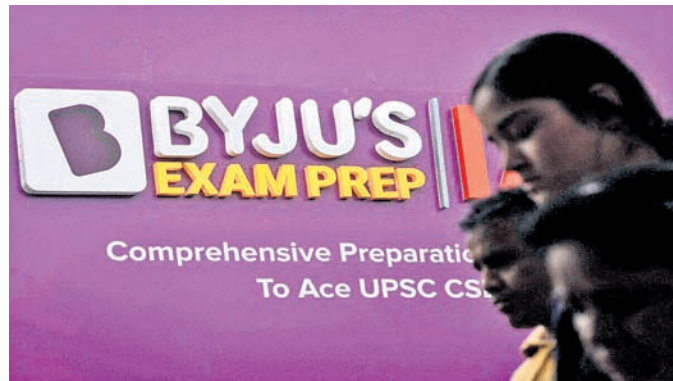
But she herself is struggling to pay medical bills and loans installments, after having gone unpaid for months.

Byju's, which is battling the insolvency move in court to try and regain control, did not respond to Reuters' queries. In court papers it has warned of a total shutdown of services as the insolvency proceeds.

India's Supreme Court Thursday declined to agree to Byju's request to halt the insolvency process which is ongoing due to the legal protest by the company's US lenders.

Since a court-appointed officer took charge of the company, about 3,000 of them have filed claims, providing bank statements as proof, said one senior company executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I guarantee this: When we regain control, your salaries will be paid promptly," company founder and former billionaire



After three months without pay, many of Byju's 27K employees are considering street protests or lawsuits

Byju Raveendran assured staff this week in an internal memo seen by Reuters.

Employees face a long road ahead as it could take months to find a new buyer, or liquidate Byju's assets. And the law gives

no guarantee that employees and teachers can recover all their dues in the end.

Byju's, started in 2011, has suffered numerous setbacks in recent months, from boardroom exits and criticism over delayed financial disclosures to an auditor resignation.

Investors such as Dutch technology investor Prosus accused Raveendran of mismanagement in disputes that became public, though the executive has denied wrongdoing.

FIRM WAS ONCE VALUED AT \$22BN IN INDIA
LENDERS' DISPUTE TRIGGERED INSOLVENCY CASE

ANXIETY IN WHATSAPP GROUPS

If the insolvency process continues, it is set to be the biggest among India's tech startups, a sector that has attracted the likes of SoftBank and Tiger Global over the years.

About 280 employees of Byju's have approached a state grievance panel to demand action on unpaid salaries, accusing the firm of not paying to the government the taxes it deducted from their salaries.

"We are deeply concerned about the company's financial stability ... our fear (is) that the company may be planning to shut down operations without settling our dues," they said in a letter August 5.

Reuters reporters were also invited to three WhatsApp groups with a total membership of more than 2,200 affected employees

and parents, all scrambling to recover their money.

The groups discuss possible next steps, trying to decide whether campaigns on social media, street protests or legal action will best help them.

Byju's, which offers services in 21 countries and has 150 million students as members, typically prices its programs from \$100 to \$300, many sold on loans.

To drum up attention, parents, worried mostly about clawing back their payments, have even discussed tagging former Byju's brand ambassadors, such as Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi.

"We should post on Instagram," said one user in the WhatsApp group for parents. "We can tag them and show them the reality."

For now, Raveendran is betting against the odds. "Our company is on the verge of reversing the negative business cycle that began two years ago, showing clear signs of recovery," he told staff in a memo Tuesday.

Season's best throw by Neeraj

STAR JAVELIN THROWER MOVES A STEP CLOSER TO THE DL FINAL IN BRUSSELS

AGENCIES

Lausanne, August 23: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the Diamond League (DL) here after producing a season's best effort of 89.49m from his last attempt in a gritty performance despite lingering fitness concerns.

The 26-year-old Neeraj was in fourth position till the fourth round before sending his spear to 85.58m in his fifth attempt. He saved the best for the last and his final throw measured 89.49m Thursday, a marginal improvement on the 89.45m achieved in the Paris Olympics a few days ago.

Neeraj was in danger of missing the sixth throw but his fifth round effort of 85.58m saved him. Only the top three after five rounds get their respective final attempts.

Two-time World Champion and Paris Olympics bronze-medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada won the event with a monster throw of 90.61m in the second round while Julian Weber of Germany took the third spot with 87.08m.

"The feeling wasn't great at first, but I am happy with my throw, especially the season's best throw on my last attempt. It was a tough start, but the comeback was really nice and I enjoyed the fighting spirit I showed," Chopra said after the event.

"Even though my early throws were around 80-83m, I pushed hard in the last two attempts finishing strong. Competing at this high level, it's important to stay mentally tough and fight through," added Neeraj.

Peters, who had struggled to



find form last year, led the competition here from beginning to end and he stamped his class with the 90m-plus throw in the last round. He has a personal best of 93.07m achieved in 2022.

With seven points from Thursday's second-place finish, Chopra is joint third alongside Weber in Diamond League standings with 15 points. Peters jumped to top spot with 21 points.

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who finished seventh (82.03m) Thursday, is in second

My first priority now is to regain full fitness. The groin issue is always at the back of mind and once it is taken care of, I know I can throw far again

NEERAJ CHOPRA

spot with 16 points. The top six qualify for the DL finals which will take place in Brussels September 14.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023

and finished second behind Vadlejch in the winner-takes-all Diamond League final in Eugene, USA, last year.

Chopra revealed later that an advice to 'stay relaxed' from his Kenyan counterpart Julius Yego proved decisively helpful in calming his racing mind before he pulled off his season's best effort.

"(Anderson) Peters threw 90m, my body didn't feel good but the fighting spirit was nice today (Thursday). I really liked my comeback. In

the last throw I didn't think too much, just gave my best," Chopra told the host broadcaster in the mixed zone.

"In the first throw, I thought 'I will do this, I will do that' but in the last throw, I did not. Also Julius Yego said 'relax, you will throw far'. I tried to relax and it paid off," Chopra added.

Chopra was asked as to how many more tournaments he will contest. "May be one or two competitions... I intend to participate in Brussels," Chopra said.

No clarity over Shah's successor

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 23: The numbers will favour Jay Shah to mount the saddle as the next ICC chairman but there is no clarity if he decides to join the world governing body, who will replace him as BCCI secretary.

Sources said Friday that Shah has the backing of 15 out of the 16 voting members in the ICC Board but has less than 96 hours to decide if he wants to make the move when he still has one year left in his second consecutive term as BCCI secretary. The new ICC chairman will take charge December 1, and the last date for filing nomination is August 27.

But there is a big question mark as to who will replace Shah in the BCCI since neither he himself nor the people close to him have yet divulged his immediate plans.

There are four persons who certainly have emerged front-runners in case Shah takes up the ICC role. They are Rajiv Shukla, Ashish Shelar, Arun Dhumal and the current BCCI joint secretary Devajit 'Lon' Saikia. Sources said Friday that Dhumal who is the current IPL chairman could be the man to replace Shah as he has the experience to run the board having successfully conducted the world's richest cricket league, the IPL.

What goes against Shukla, who has been in various positions in the BCCI, is that he is a Congress MP. The ruling dispensation at the Centre will certainly not like a Congressman to be at the helm of cricket affairs. In that case there is every possibility that Shukla may be handed over the role of IPL chairman while Dhumal becomes the BCCI secretary.



SHAH WILL HAVE TO FILE HIS NOMINATION FOR THE ICC POST BY AUGUST 27

4 EMERGE FRONT-RUNNERS TO REPLACE SHAH: RAJIV SHUKLA, ARUN DHUMAL, ASHISH SHELAR AND DEVAJIT SAIKIA

SHAH HAS SUPPORT OF 15 VOTING MEMBERS OF ICC IN CASE HE DECIDES TO CONTEST

However, one should not rule out Shelar also. The Maharashtra BJP heavyweight is the current BCCI treasurer and big name in MCA administration. Because of his influence within the BJP, he is in the mix. Shelar however, has always stated that politics is his first priority and one must remember that the secretaryship of the BCCI is a time consuming job.

Is there a chance that a completely new face gets the top job? "Obviously, it can happen as there are no hard and fast rules. But if you look at BCCI's power structure the president, secretary and treasurer are the three key posts," said a former BCCI secretary.

SHORT TAKES

Tendulkar to flag off Mumbai half-marathon

Mumbai: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar will flag off the Mumbai Half Marathon to be held here Sunday with around 20,000 participants set to take part including more than 6,000 women. Tendulkar will flag off key races of the event from 5:00am in the morning at the Bandra Kurla Complex. The 10K race will see the maximum participation with over 8,000 registrations while the 21K half-marathon will witness a field of 4,000 runners, including some elite athletes from Maharashtra and elsewhere. "We aim to promote running as a fitness avenue, bringing this vision to life. It's heartening to see a significant increase in registrations for the Mumbai half-marathon this year," Tendulkar said in a release.

Gundogan returns to Manchester City

Manchester: Premier League champions Manchester City have completed a one-year deal to resign Ilkay Gundogan from Barcelona. The player returns to Man City after having won five Premier League titles and one Champions League crown, during his first stint at the club. The midfielder spent seven hugely successful seasons at the Etihad before moving to the La Liga side in June 2023, just 16 days after captaining City to a historic treble with a victory over Inter-Milan in the Champions League final. My seven years at Manchester City were a time of pure contentment for me, both on and off the pitch. It was an exceptional period in my life," said Gundogan to Man City's media team.

Murder case filed against Shakib

Dhaka: Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been named as one of the accused in connection with an alleged murder that took place during the recent protests and violence in the country a report Friday in 'The Daily Star' said. Shakib is playing the Test series against Pakistan and is currently in Rawalpindi. The 37-year-old ex-Bangladesh captain, a former lawmaker in the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League regime, was among 147 people against whom charges have been filed for an alleged murder during the protests August 7. However, the report states that Shakib was not in Bangladesh August 7. He was in Canada playing a T20 league from July 26 to August 9 and before that he was in the US.

Brand value boost for 3 athletes

Neeraj, Bhaker and Vinesh's stocks have risen admirably after the Paris Olympics



Shooter Manu Bhaker's endorsement fees have seen a sharp hike after her achievements in Paris

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 22: The successes of some of the Indian athletes at the Paris Olympics have provided huge boosts to their brand values. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and shooter Manu Bhaker, both now have two Olympic medals. They are experiencing

the biggest surges in their brand values as per data provided by financial advisory firm 'Kroll'.

Neeraj won a silver at the Paris Olympics while Bhaker ended up with two bronze medals. She is the only Indian so far to win two medals in a single edition of the Games.

Neeraj however, has left all

the athletes way behind. His valuation is set to rise from USD 29.6 million to over USD 40 million (Rs 330 crore approximately). Prior to the Paris Olympics, the javelin thrower's brand valuation was similar to India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, but he is expected to eclipse him. It should also be stated here that Neeraj is also the highest valued non-cricketer among Indian sportspersons.

Bhaker, however, could be a sensation to watch out for in this regard. The 22-year-old shooter has recently signed a brand endorsement deal worth a whopping ₹1.5 crore with a soft drink brand.

As per data available, Bhaker's endorsement fees before the Paris Olympics was about ₹25 lakh per deal annually. Now, that figure has gone up significantly. Recently, Neerav Tomar, the CEO and MD of 'IOS Sports & Entertainment' which manages Bhaker, revealed to a national daily that around 40 brands had approached them for Bhaker's signature.

However, the most surprising development has been the demand for wrestler Vinesh Phogat. Despite failing to win a medal due to disqualification for being overweight on the day of the final, Vinesh's stock is also rising. There have been reports that her endorsement fee has gone up to ₹1 crore from the ₹25 lakh per deal per year.

Cspur boys, CDA girls shine in DAV chess



DAV Chandrasekharpur students who emerged winners in the U-17 category along with dignitaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 22: The boys' teams of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur and the girls' teams of DAV Public School CDA, Cuttack outsmarted their counterparts to shine at the two-day DAV Cluster Team Chess Championships which concluded Friday at the Utkal Karate School here. A total of 96 boys and 35 girls from different DAV Public Schools in the state participated in the thrilling event.

The main attraction of the tournament was Sattwik Swain (FIDE World Cup under-8 bronze medal winner) of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur. Even though he played in the under-17 category he comfortably won all his matches.

Among the guests present at the prize distribution and closing ceremony were Dr Prakash

RESULTS (TOP 2 TEAMS)

Under-14 (boys): DAV, Public School Chandrasekharpur, DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Under-17 (boys): DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, DAV, CDA, Cuttack

Under-19 (boys): DAV, CDA Cuttack, DAV, Chandrasekharpur

Under-14 (girls): DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Under-17 (girls): DAV, CDA Cuttack

Under-19 (girls): DAV, CDA Cuttack

Chandra Panigrahi, HOD, Sports, DAV Kalinga Nagar and Debasis Panigrahi, director Orissa State Chess Association. Incidentally Debasis was also the chief arbiter of the tournament.

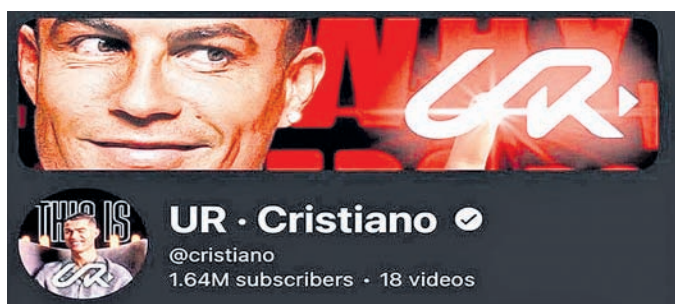
The top teams of each category qualified for the upcoming DAV Zonal Team Chess Championships, the dates of which will be announced later.

CR7 raking millions through YouTube

Footballer's new channel has already got 100 million hits in 2 days

AGENCIES

London, August 23: Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo continues to extend the boundaries of social reach, as his new YouTube channel 'UR - Cristiano' smashed several records within just one day of being launched. The footballer, who is already the most followed personality across different form of social media, has spread out his wings even more by starting to conquer the YouTube scene. Despite most videos being around one minute long, Ronaldo's channel breezed past one million subscribers in less than the duration of a football match. And there is



no doubt that CR7's new venture will also help him earn millions of dollars.

Since the time his YouTube channel was launched, Ronaldo has already put up 12 videos in less than two days. However, while the optimal YouTube video length is around 10 minutes, Ronaldo's staggering influence and popularity has ensured that even the small videos he has posted get millions of views.

Ronaldo has already hit in excess of 20 million views on three separate videos.

According to a research by 'Thinkfic', YouTube channels can make close to USD 6 per 1,000 views, taking the amount to a range between USD 1,200 to USD 6,000 per one million views.

Reports stated that already Ronaldo has crossed over 100 million views on YouTube. Along with his star attraction, ad rev-

enue and signed sponsorships as a result of the recent YouTube success, Ronaldo could have already earned well in excess of a few hundred million USD.

The Portuguese forward currently sits on over 30 million YouTube subscribers, featuring videos with his son Cristiano Jr and partner Georgina Rodriguez, on topics such as ranking his Euro goals, free-kick challenges or 'This or That' games.

It should be stated here that on the field Ronaldo has kept on scoring goals which is why his fan following is always on the ascendancy. Ronaldo scored 44 goals in the 2023-24 season for Saudi Pro League club Al Nassr. Despite a poor Euro 2024 - where he failed to score a single goal - Ronaldo has started off the 2024-25 season with three goals in three games.

Keonjhar, Odisha Police triumph



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 23: The Senior Women's Inter-District football tournament kicked off Friday in Bargarh with four matches being played. Two of the games were one-sided encounters while the two others were closely fought affairs.

In the first match of the day, Keonjhar eyes trounced Bolangir 13-0. Kuni Munda with four goals and Khunti Bhumia with three goals got hat-tricks in the game. The other goals were scored by Pinky Purty (73rd, 85th), Tarini Naik (24th, 46th), Ambruta Nayak (51st) and Kusum Munda (19th). In another game, Odisha Police

hammered Sundargarh A 10-0. Subhadra Sahoo with four goals and Manisha Naik with three goals were the star performers for the victorious side. The other goals were scored by Malati Munda and Bannya Kabiraj. To add to Sundargarh's woes Lija Jajaria scored an own goal.

In the third match of the day Jajpur overcame Balasore by the odd goal in three. In an exciting encounter Avilipsa Das got the winner for Jajpur in the 89th minute of the game. Lipi Kisan (19th) scored the first goal for Jajpur. Jharsuguda scraped past Khurda 1-0 with Dasami Oram getting the only goal of the game in the 32nd minute.