



Unfazed by criticism
Actor Kangana Ranaut says she's flattered by mimicry and makes films from her perspective, unbothered by opinions

LEISURE | P2



Ukraine's I-Day
A somber atmosphere pervades Ukraine's 33rd Independence Day Saturday, as the nation's war against Russia's aggression reaches a 30-month milestone

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Flagging concern
FMCG distributors raise concerns over 'rapid and unregulated growth' of quick commerce platforms, saying it needs immediate scrutiny

BUSINESS | P11



Dhawan bids adieu
Veteran India opener Shikhar Dhawan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket two years after he last donned the national jersey

SPORTS | P12

3 asphyxiated, another critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jamankira, August 24: Three persons were asphyxiated and another rendered critical while opening the centering panels of a newly-built septic tank at a house in Pukuda village under Phasimal panchayat of this police limits in Sambalpur district, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Basant Dehuri, 28, the house owner and two casual labourers Bharat Rana, 27, of the same village and Srikant Munda, 28, of Derunimal village.

Another labourer Siddhant Munda, 27, was rendered critical. He was admitted to the Sambalpur DHH. Jamankira police registered a case and sent the bodies for post-mortem to Kuchinda hospital.

Woman engineer found hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, August 24: A woman junior engineer was found hanging from the ceiling fan in her rented house at Thana Chhak under Bhogarai police limits here under mysterious circumstances, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Monalisa Hembram, 26, a native of Masinakathi village under Chandua police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Police seized her vanity bag, money purse and cell phone from the spot. After post-mortem, police handed over the body to family members in the evening.

Meanwhile, the officials have launched a manhunt to nab a youth who is suspected to be involved in the incident.

MORE P5

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm not worried about the shortage of judges anymore. There are enough bulldozers

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.0°C	31.0°C
Min Temp	25.6°C	24.5°C
Humidity	88%	92%
Rainfall	2.6mm	3.8mm

FORECAST
GENERALLY CLOUDY SKY WITH HEAVY RAIN



MIRACULOUS ESCAPE: Wreckage of the helicopter that was flying from Mumbai to Hyderabad after it crashed at Mulshi tehsil in Pune, Saturday. All four occupants, though injured, survived the crash, according to officials

Bulldozer action on liquor dens

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 24: A day after Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan announced there are plans in place to close all dance bars in the state, the Commissionerate Police Saturday moved in with bulldozers and demolished three illicit liquor manufacturing units at Salia Sahi, here.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said 11,500 litres of illicit alcohol and 50,000 litres of fermented alcohol (pocha) were seized from makeshift units under Maitri Vihar police limits. "Following a tip-off, three special teams led by an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), assisted by three IICs along with SIs and ASIs, arrived at the site and unearthed a secret chamber which was used to manufacture illicit alcohol," Singh said, adding that

eight persons have been booked in connection with the matter.

Sources in the Maitri Vihar police added that demolition took place in IDCO basti, Nayagarh place in IDCO basti, Nayagarh basti and Nayak basti in Salia Sahi area.

Similarly, the Excise department Saturday went on an overdrive and seized 20,957 litres of alcohol and 1,78,548 litres of 'pocha' from manufacturing units across the state.

"In the past four days, the Excise department has booked 1,377 persons under relevant sections of the Excise Act, while 845 have been forwarded to local courts after being booked by the local police," a senior Excise official shared.

Notably, the spurt in action against sale and manufacture

of illicit alcohol has come close on the heels of hooch tragedy in Chikiti area of Ganjam district, which claimed two lives while 20 were still undergoing treatment at a community health centre.

As a result of the mishap, Opposition leaders Friday created a ruckus during the Assembly proceedings and raised slogans demanding the resignation of Harichandan.

Asked about the crackdown, the minister said that his department would completely demolish the illegal liquor network across the state within a year.

"Liquor shops which have come up near educational and religious institutions will also be relocated," added Harichandan.

ASSURED PENSION FOR CENTRAL GOVT WORKERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: The Union Cabinet Saturday approved an assured 50 per cent of salary as pension for 23 lakh government employees who joined service under the National Pension System (NPS).

The NPS is applicable for government employees joining the service after April 1, 2004. It was based on the premise of contribution rather than defined benefit applicable for employees prior to the NPS.

Announcing Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said according to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), government employees will now be eligible to get 50 per cent of the average

basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before the superannuation as pension.

For this full pension or 50 per cent of pay as the pension, he said, the eligibility service length will be 25 years. However, he said, it would be proportionate for a lesser service period up to a minimum of 10 years of service.

NPS subscribers can now opt for the UPS, which offers assured pension applicable from the beginning of the next financial year.

Last year, the Finance ministry set up a committee under Finance Secretary TV Somanathan to review the pension scheme for government employees and suggest any changes, if needed, in light of the existing framework and structure of the NPS.

Doctor's rape and murder: Polygraph test on 7 begins

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Kolkata, August 24: The lie detection tests on the main accused and six others in the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital began Saturday, officials said.

The polygraph test on Sanjay Roy, the main accused, is being conducted in the prison where he is lodged, while the remaining six, including former principal Sandip Ghosh and four doctors who were on duty during the night of the incident and a civic volunteer, are undergoing the test at the agency's office in Kolkata, they said.

Ghosh arrived at the CBI's office at CGO Complex in Salt Lake Saturday morning for the ninth day consecutive day, and was then taken for the test, the officials said.

Those undergoing the lie detection test include two first-year postgraduate trainees, as investigators allegedly found their fingerprints inside a seminar hall at the state-run medical facility where the medic's body was discovered, an official said.

Cheetahs to roam free in Kuno forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: African cheetahs brought to India as part of the world's first inter-continental translocation of big cats will soon be released into the wild, nearly a year after they were returned to enclosures in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park for health check-ups and monitoring, according to officials, Saturday.

Officials told this agency that the Centre's Cheetah Project Steering Committee Friday decided to release the African cheetahs and their cubs, born in India, into the wild in a phased manner after the monsoon withdraws from central parts of the country.

"Members of the committee and NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) officials conducted field visits to Kuno and discussed the schedule for releasing the cheetahs. While adult cheetahs will be released into the wild in phases once the rains end, the cubs and their mothers will be released after December," an official said.

All 25 cheetahs - 13 adults and 12 cubs - are doing well, they said.

\$30 trillion economy a pipe dream

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of turning India into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 appears to fall far short with a report claiming that it will be possible only if 400 million women are added to the country's workforce by then. The study conducted by a Bangalore-based non-profit suggests that the goal of achieving the desired economy boom would necessitate nearly doubling the current female labour force participation rate (LFPR). However, with only 110 million women projected to join the labour force by then, falling short by another 145 million, the ambition looks far-fetched at the moment



2047, the report highlights the need for a substantial increase in female labour force participation to achieve this goal. According to the report, India requires an additional 400 million women in the workforce to contribute USD 14 trillion to the economy. This would necessitate nearly doubling the current

female labour force participation rate (LFPR) from 37 per cent to 70 per cent by fiscal year 2047.

With only 110 million women projected to join the labour force by then, an additional 145 million women need to be integrated to meet this target. The report reveals a stark disparity in job security and recovery between men

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: India requires an additional 400 million women in the workforce to contribute USD 14 trillion to the economy which would necessitate nearly doubling the current female labour force participation rate (LFPR) from 37 per cent to 70 per cent by fiscal year 2047,

according to a new report. Non-profit The Nudge Institute has unveiled a new report, Labour Force Participation Distillation Report, outlining a crucial element for India's economic future. The report is based upon Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) over the years. As the country aims to become a USD 30 trillion economy by

Earning ₹3cr for doing 'nothing': Amazon staffer

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 24: A senior Amazon employee recently revealed that he has been collecting a significant salary without contributing meaningful work to the company for over a year and a half. In his now-viral confession on the anonymous forum *Blind*, the employee disclosed that he joined the e-commerce giant after getting laid off by Google. He revealed that he holds the position of Senior Technical Programme Manager at Amazon and earns over \$370,000 (approximately

₹3.10 crore) for doing "nothing". He also wondered when his luck would run out as he explained his subterfuge.

"I joined Amazon 1.5 yrs ago after I was included in Google's layoff. I joined with the intention of doing 'nothing,' getting free money, and eventually getting put on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)," the employee wrote on *Blind*, a community where verified professionals can discuss all things work-related. He further said that during his tenure, he has only resolved seven support tickets and developed a single au-

tomated dashboard, which he claimed took three months to build, when in fact it was created in just three days using artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot ChatGPT.

Further, the employee said that most of his 8-hour workday is spent attending meetings. "My current day-to-day is saying no to other teams wanting to integrate with my team or have them own 95%+ of the integration work," he wrote.

The employee's post has taken the internet by storm, triggering a discussion online. While some users criticised the employee's actions, others argued that it reflected a broader issue within corporate structures.

"These people are ruining the game for everyone else that actually wants to work and earn

an honest day's work," wrote one user. "These persons are hurting themselves more than they are hurting their employer. Is there a worse torture than throwing away your limited time in life by pretending to be busy? Experience comes from doing, not by time itself. That's why some engineers with one year of work experience have 10 years of real expertise. The opposite also happens," said another.

"What. How is that possible? And why would anyone go down such a sad, boring path? What do they do all day? No goals?" added a third user.

leisure



DENZEL WASHINGTON HINTS AT RETIREMENT

Actor and award-winner Denzel Washington has hinted at retiring from the world of cinema after Ridley Scott's *Gladiator II* and said that there are very few films left for him to make that he is interested in, reports *deadline.com*.

JUSTIN, HAILEY ANNOUNCE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST BABY

Global pop sensation Justin Bieber and his wife, model Hailey Bieber, have welcomed their first child, a baby boy. Justin took to Instagram and made this announcement on Saturday morning. He posted a close-up picture of his baby's tiny foot and captioned it, "Welcome Home Jack Blue Bieber."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Old, fond memories will define your mood today, which will show up in the manner in which you deal with work, where your mellow side will be visible to others. You are also circumspect with money and tend towards saving it. Ganesh says people dealing in cash and money-lenders will benefit.

TAURUS
You may find yourself compromising against your will today, predicts Ganesh. Stand strong despite things going awry instead of feeling disillusioned due to poor results. Ongoing negotiations might come to a logical end and a few important decisions are likely to be delayed due to lack of proper information.

GEMINI
You have been ignoring a few problems that have been plaguing your family members for quite some time now. It's time you looked into the matter, says Ganesh. Respective of how difficult the challenges are, today you will emerge victorious.

CANCER
Your strange and unconventional behaviour doesn't always go down well with many people. If you think you are different, and maybe even better than others, it is advisable that you keep it under the wraps. The reason being that most people may not be able to understand you.

LEO
Some people have the world at their feet. And today, you are one of them, says Ganesh. With your gorgeous appearance and gregarious attitude, it is easy for you to open all doors with just a touch. So, you have the luxury to choose – either you entertain yourself through multiple avenues such as movies, theatre and music, or you be the entertainer with your superior performing skills.

VIRGO
Financial affairs will face a major obstruction today. Ganesh advises you to allow your mind to prevail over your heart. Take extraordinary care of your precious personal possessions, apart from your legal duties and new projects keeping in view their long-term effect on your mind.

LIBRA
It's a day of reaching new heights when it comes to finances. The cosmos favours moneylenders and stock marketeers. Call it the special touch that you give to all transactions monetary, but today you have the uncanny knack of raking in the moolah from all sources.

SCORPIO
Your energy levels are high as you gear up for new events. However, there are chances that these events may not meet your expectations. But, don't lose hope and get disappointed. Keep your spirits high. Implement the first lesson learnt in school: try & try till you succeed!

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is all set to expand with you making the most of your overseas contacts. Effective communication skills will help you sail through your tasks. And you are making all the right moves to become the leader of your pack.

CAPRICORN
Patience is tested when one is in trouble; your patience could be tried today. The trick is in keeping your composure, says Ganesh. Avoid getting into an argument or scuffle with those around you, as luck may not be on your side.

AQUARIUS
Get ready for a gala evening as you will party at the smallest excuse! You may toast a friend's success, or may be ecstatic about finding your lost pet. Otherwise it's the usual, says Ganesh. You plan a bit and march ahead successfully in your business or profession.

PISCES
Looking at your planetary positions for today, there is a likelihood that you will suffer from reversals in fortunes financially. Hence be wary when it comes to financial dealings.



Manisha decodes secret to happiness

Mumbai: Veteran actress Manisha Koirala has decoded the mantra to happiness and said that it involves a good sense of humour and a bad memory.

She took to Instagram, where she shared a picture with a friend of hers and said, "The secret to happiness is a good sense of humour and a bad memory." The actress looked every inch gorgeous in a champagne-coloured shirt paired with jeans and a Gucci bucket hat. Manisha is not looking into the camera as she poses along with her friend in San Francisco.

The actress was then seen relaxing in the pool, channelling her inner mermaid. The *Dil Se* actress even celebrated her birthday there with her friends. Manisha recently talked about how much travelling means to her. She had shared a reel in which she could be seen jetting off to someplace from the Mumbai airport.

Talking about her work, her latest outing was in the OTT series *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, in which she played the role of a brothel madam, Mallikajaan. **MIANS**

Rasika's biopic aspirations

Mumbai: After expressing her desire to portray poet and novelist Amrita Pritam in a film, actress Rasika Dugal said that she would also want to bring late star Meena Kumari's life on screen.

Talking about starring in a yesteryear star's biopic, Rasika told *IANS*, "I have played a central part in a biopic because it is an interesting space. How do you play somebody who everybody already knows a lot about and has an impression of. I have always wanted to play Amrita Pritam. To be Amrita Pritam in a biopic about her."

She added that it has been one long-standing desire. "I am hoping someone reaches and casts me. But if it was an actress, then I think it would be Meena Kumari," said the actress, who was honoured with the Diversity Champion award at the 15th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

On the work front, Rasika was last seen in *Mirzapur*, currently streaming on Amazon Prime, and *Shekhar Home*, which is currently streaming on JioCinema. **MIANS**

Sanya's tribute to mom at IFFM

Mumbai: Actress Sanya Malhotra has honoured her mother by wearing one of her mother's creations at the 15th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) for the premiere of her film *Mrs.*

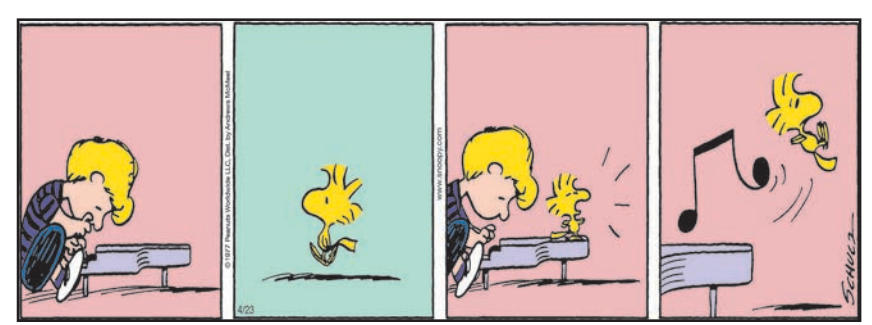
Sanya took to Instagram, where she shared some pictures of herself in a purple brocade outfit. She used colour blocking for contrast as she paired it with a red brocade overcoat. For the caption, she wrote, "This one's for you, Mumma. From a young age, my mother was my personal stylist, designing and stitching clothes for my sister and me. She devoted herself not only to raising us but also to keeping us fashionably updated."

"Instead, she poured all her creativity into dressing us beautifully—so much so that I still seek her advice before any big event. I wanted to honour her by wearing one of her creations at the Melbourne Film Festival for the screening of a film close to my heart, *Mrs.*," she wrote. She ended the caption by thanking her mother and said, "I live because you live, I am who I am because of you, and I belong only to you."

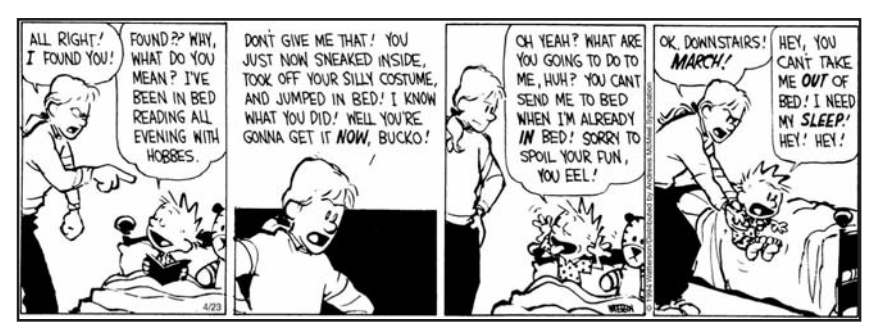
On the work front, Sanya will next be seen in *Baby John*, an action thriller directed by Kalees. **MIANS**



PEANUTS



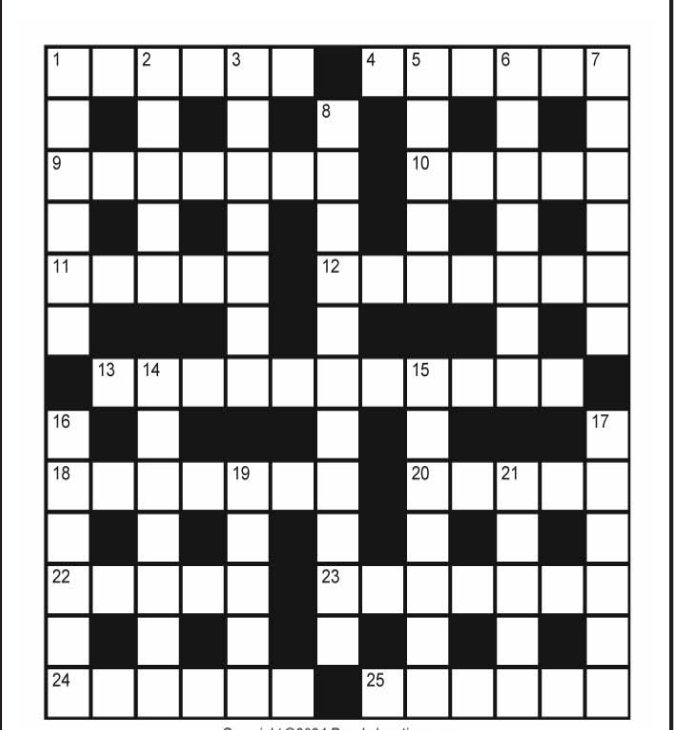
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



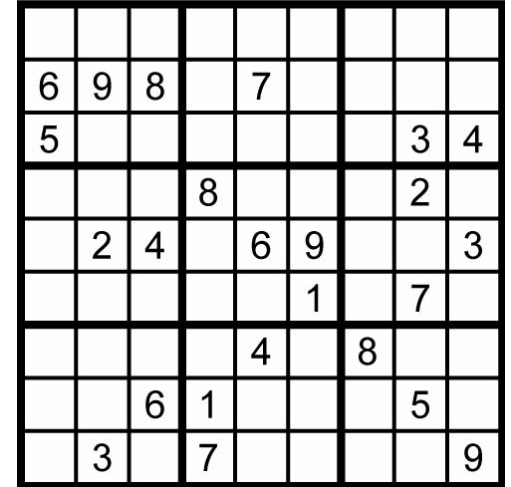
FUN post CROSSWORD



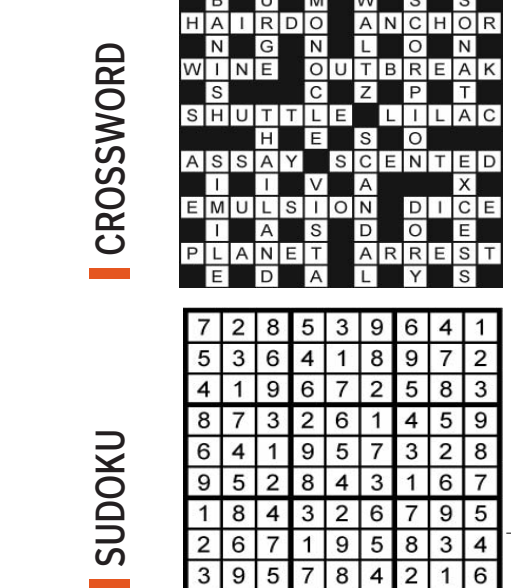
- Across**
- 1 Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera, *The _____*
 - 4 Dust coats
 - 9 One could be personal
 - 10 Kind of ray
 - 11 Gallic goodbye
 - 12 Esteem
 - 13 Angle (5,2,4)
 - 18 Consultant
 - 20 Mania
 - 22 Hemp necktie
 - 23 Like air conditioning
 - 24 Render harmless
 - 25 Back up
 - 3 Womaniser (3,4)
 - 5 Hot stuff
 - 6 Calculate
 - 7 Barrel make-up
 - 8 Upper crust
 - 14 Open-and-shut
 - 15 Savage
 - 16 Preserved
 - 17 Scale reading
 - 19 Scrooge's look
 - 21 Excuse
- Down**
- 1 Type of admiration society
 - 2 Work fabric

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

FINAL TOUCHES

A shopkeeper decorates an idol of Lord Krishna at Bajrakabati Road in Cuttack, Saturday, ahead of Janmastami festival



HOUSE DIN OVER QUOTA



Bhubaneswar, August 24: The state Assembly Saturday witnessed a noisy protest by Opposition Congress and BJP members over alleged denial of proper reservation for the ST, SC and OBC candidates in the admission into MBBS and BDS courses, following which the House was adjourned till 4 pm. The issue was raised by Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam during the Zero Hour where he alleged that the ST, SC and OBC students were losing several seats as the administration denied them "proper quota". He alleged that the STs, SCs & OBCs who constitute 94 per cent of the state's population could not get proper reservation as provided by the Constitution.

During Zero Hour, CLP leader Rama Chandra Kadam alleged that ST and SC students are losing around 300 seats due to improper quota, the OBCs lose around 376 seats

"Though the ratio of ST & SC population in the state is 38.75 per cent, they are given only 20 per cent reservation in the admissions. Similarly, the OBCs, who are 50 per cent of the state's population, could not get any reservation," Kadam pointed out. The Congress leader alleged that though OBCs are entitled to get 27 per cent reservation in admission to MBBS and BDS courses, they get nothing.

However, the government has kept a provision of 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker people of the general category who constitute only 6 per cent of the population, Kadam alleged. He alleged, while the ST and SC categories lose around 300 seats due to improper quota, the OBCs lose around 376 seats. The OBCs deserve a 27 per cent quota in the state. "Therefore, the admission process which starts from August 29 should be cancelled and issue a fresh notification after giving proper reservations for ST, SC and OBC category students," Kadam said. BJD member Arun Kumar Sahoo also expressed concern and demanded that the OBC students get at least 11.25 per cent reservation in admission as they are given in the recruitments. BJD member Tankadhar Tripathy, however, criticised the BJD and Congress for raising ST, SC and OBC issues with a vested political interest. "What the BJD government did for these categories during its 24-year rule in Odisha," Tripathy asked. Seeking a ruling from the Speaker, the Opposition members staged an agitation in the well of the House and raised anti-BJP slogans. As Speaker Surama Padhy's appeal to the agitating members failed to yield any result, she adjourned the proceeding till 4 pm in two phases.

Majhi slams Cong for joining hands with NC

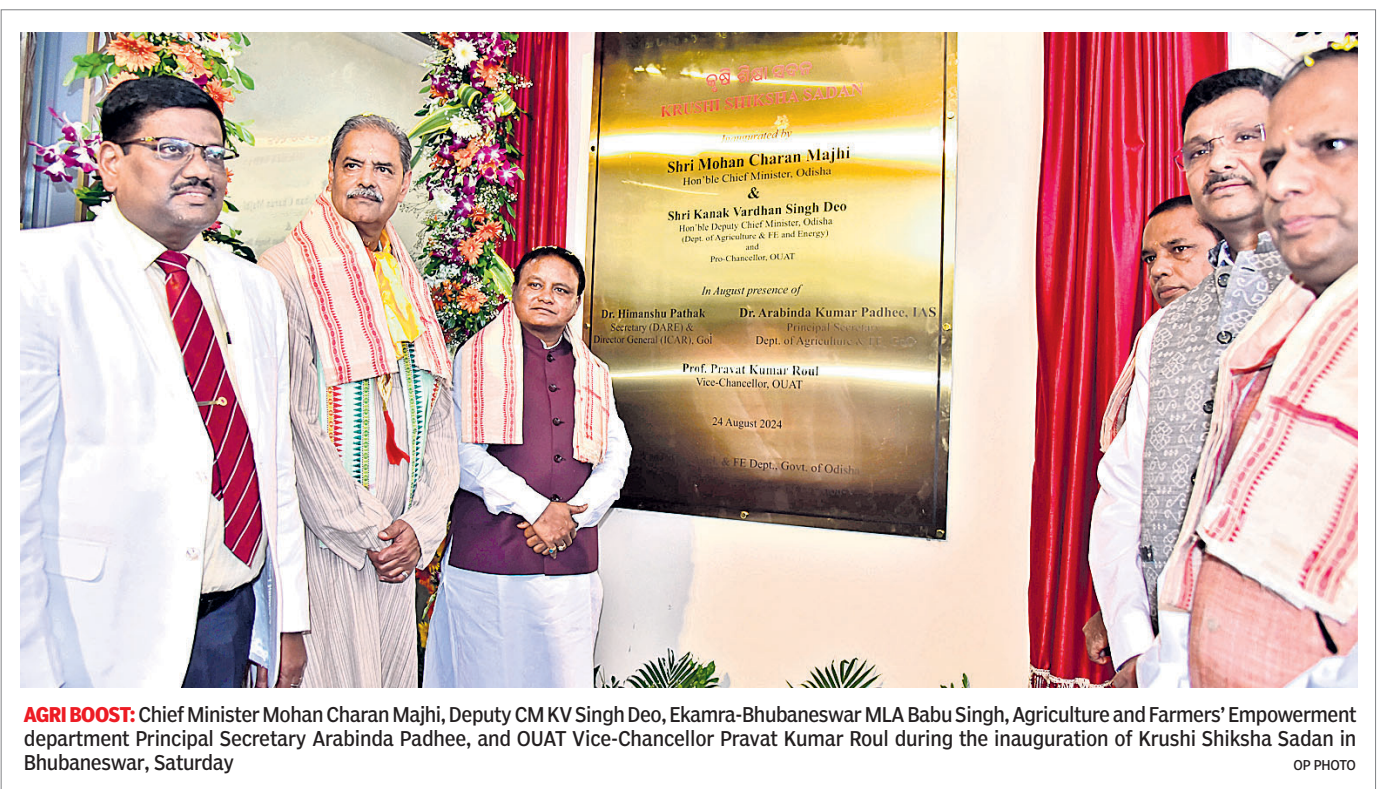
Bhubaneswar, August 24: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi slammed the Congress for joining hands with the National Conference (NC) ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Assembly polls, alleging that the grand old party is 'hungry for power'. He sought clarification from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi whether his party would support NC's promise for a separate flag in J&K. Majhi asked, "Will the Congress support the cross-border terrorism by opening trade with Pakistan? Will this not affect the local ecosystem?" The BJP leader sought clarification from the Congress on 'whether it supports the decision of the NC to give government jobs to people involved in terrorism and stone-pelting activities'. Majhi alleged that there was a conspiracy to end the reservation system by the Congress and its alliance partners. The CM also asked whether the Congress will support NC's plan to change the name of the 'Shankaracharya Mountain' to 'Takht-e-Sulaiman' and 'Hari Parbat' to 'Koh-e-Maran'.

₹5.86cr assets of ex-BMC engineer to be confiscated

Bhubaneswar, August 24: A special court here Saturday ordered the confiscation of assets worth ₹5.86 crore belonging to Subash Chandra Mishra, a former engineer with the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The Vigilance Directorate has filed a confiscation case that includes immovable assets such as two double-storey buildings, one single-story building, three plots of land, and movable assets including bank and insurance deposits, investments in shares, and gold ornaments weighing over 2.5 kg, all owned by the former BMC engineer. "He was charged by the Vigilance under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(e) of the PC Act, 1988, for possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income," Vigilance sources said. During the investigation, the properties unearthed by the Vigilance officials were attached, and the anti-corruption wing requested the authorised officer of the special court to confiscate them. After hearing the case, the court ordered the confiscation of the property acquired by the former BMC engineer. The state government enacted the Special Courts Act,

OFS officer held

Vigilance sleuths Saturday claimed to have arrested OSRTC Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer Bijaya Kumar Mangaraj after finding him in possession of disproportionate assets (DA) 162 per cent in excess of his known sources of income. Following allegations of possessing DA, five teams of Vigilance comprising eight DSPs, eight inspectors, nine ASIs and other supporting staff carried out searches at five locations related to the OFS officer Friday. During searches, the anti-corruption wing sleuths claimed to have found papers related to movable and immovable assets worth crores of rupees in the names of Mangaraj and his family members. In this connection, a case (18/24) has been registered at the Vigilance police station in Bhubaneswar against Mangaraj and his spouse under multiple sections of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018, it added. 2006 for the speedy trial and confiscation of properties of public servants who hold or have held high political and public offices and have accumulated huge properties disproportionate to their known sources of income through corrupt means. In all cases involving disproportionate assets (DA) against senior ranks, Vigilance is simultaneously initiating confiscation proceedings in special courts established for this purpose.



AGRI BOOST: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo, Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee, and OUAT Vice-Chancellor Pravat Kumar Roul during the inauguration of Krushi Shiksha Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Two BJD MLAs face censure motion

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Assembly adopted a censure motion against two MLAs of Opposition BJD for allegedly disrespecting Speaker Surama Padhy during a protest in the House Friday. Government Chief Whip Saroj Pradhan Saturday moved the motion against BJD MLAs Romancha Ranjan Biswal and Madhab Dhada, who were accused of attempting to climb onto the Speaker's podium with the help of other members. The BJD protest was in connection with the liquor tragedy at Chikiti in Ganjam district Monday - in which two persons



died and 20 more still battling for life - and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan. The motion was passed by voice vote when Opposition BJD and Congress members were raising slogans against the BJP government over quotas for ST,

Motion of censure? The motion to censure is a main motion expressing a strong opinion of disapproval that could be debated by the Assembly and adopted by a majority vote. SC, and OBC students in medical and technical institutions. Pradhan claimed the two BJD MLAs disrespected the Speaker by attempting to sit on her desk while wearing sandals. He described this as a 'disrespectful act' towards a woman Speaker. The Opposition, however, dismissed the allegations and accused the ruling BJP of diverting attention from the main issue. They reminded that BJP mem-

bers had previously thrown dal at the state's first woman Speaker during the previous government. Both Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling have not denied these past accusations. BJD lawmaker Ganeswar Behera criticised the BJP for shifting focus from the serious issue of spurious liquor deaths. "The BJD members were protesting against the spurious liquor deaths and seeking a ruling from the chair. The issue was very serious. The protest was not against any individual or Speaker, rather it was against the government's inaction," Behera said.

Start inspection & repair of Ratna Bhandar, ASI told

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Saturday wrote a letter to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to start the inspection work of the Ratna Bhandar of the 12th-century shrine in Puri before undertaking repair and renovation of the temple vault. SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee, in a letter to the ASI DG, urged the Central agency to take over the Ratna Bhandar and initiate its scanning and geophysical investigation using latest technology before starting the conservation, repair and restoration of inner and outer chambers. With both the inner and outer chambers of the treasury empty, the SJTA feels that the inspection works are required amid apprehensions about the presence of some secret tunnels or chambers inside the Ratna Bhandar. The SJTA has also urged the



ASI to conduct the necessary inspection work through IIT or CBRI-like institutions that have expertise in the field while ensuring no adverse impact on the 12th-century shrine. Once the necessary survey and inspection works are completed, the process for the repair works will begin, the SJTA mentioned in the letter. On Friday, all the seven empty iron chests and 'almi-

rahs' were shifted from the Ratna Bhandar to a room near Niladri Vihar museum located on the premises of the 12th-century shrine. Jewellery and other precious items stored in those containers were shifted to temporary strongrooms inside the temple in two phases in July when the Ratna Bhandar was reopened after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure. The empty iron chests along with iron and wooden almirahs were shifted in the presence of Justice Biswanath Rath, chairman of an empowered committee and other members of the panel. The entire proceedings were videographed, Padhee said, 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 said.

Trouble for Kutey, Singh over imputation cases

Bhubaneswar, August 24: The state government has issued memoranda to senior IPS officers DS Kutey and Ashish Kumar Singh over cases of imputation. It asked them to submit their defence in writing within 30 days, failing which inquiry will be held ex parte. The memoranda were issued by the Home Department to Singh August 6 and Kutey August 21. While Kutey was the special secretary to the then chief minister, Singh was in the former CM's security Now, both the officers are working as OSDs in the Home department. Both officers were very influential during the BJD government led by Naveen Patnaik. While Kutey was accused of interfering in the election matters and suspended, and later reinstated in the service as per the recommendation of the Election Commission of India (ECI), Singh allegedly misrepresented facts regarding his health and availed leave during the polls. The memorandum to Kutey said, "He is directed to submit within 30 days of the receipt of this memorandum, a written statement of his defence and also to state whether he desires to be heard in person."

Never take health tips from world's oldest people: Scientists

The death of the world's oldest person, Maria Branyas Morera, at the age of 117 might cause many to ponder the secrets of an exceptionally long life, but scientists say it could be best to avoid taking advice on longevity from centenarians themselves. According to the Guinness World Records website, Branyas believed her longevity stemmed from "order, tranquility, good connection with family and friends, contact with nature, emotional stability, no worries, no regrets, lots of positivity and staying away from toxic people". However, Richard Faragher, a professor of biogerontology at the University of Brighton, said that in reality scientists were still trying to work out why some people lived beyond the age of 100. Faragher said there were two main theories and they were not mutually exclusive. The first, he said, was that

some individuals were essentially just lucky. In other words, just because centenarians had certain habits, it did not mean those habits were driving their longevity - an error in logic known as "survivorship bias". "Merely because you have survived smoking 60 a day doesn't mean that smoking 60 a day is good for you," Faragher said. The second theory, he said, was that centenarians had specific genetic features that equipped them to live a longer life - in other words they were rendered more robust as a result of their genetics. Faragher said both theories, however, resulted in the same warning: "Never, ever take health and lifestyle tips from a centenarian." He added: "What you see with most centenarians most of the time - and these are generalisations - is that they don't take much exercise. Quite often, their diets are rather unhealthy,"



Tomiko Itooka pictured celebrating her 116th birthday in Ashiya, Hyogo prefecture, Japan, in May.

noting that some centenarians were also smokers. "This flies in the face of a lot of epidemiological evidence we have on how to extend your healthy life expectancy," he said, adding that one large study found that not smoking, taking exercise, drinking in moderation and eat-

ing five servings of fruit and vegetables a day could increase life expectancy by up to 14 years. "The fact that [centenarians] do many of these unhealthy things and still just coast through [life] says they're either lucky or typically very well endowed [genetically]," he said. "When was the last time you had a really positive mental attitude and toothache?" he said. Faragher added one problem was that when considering centenarians, there was a tendency to focus on things that might have aided their survival. "But

we don't consider the dis-empowering," he said. Prof David Gems, a geneticist at University College London, said that while sex was an important factor in longevity - with women ageing more slowly than men - he agreed luck was important, noting that one example was the natural variability in ageing rate. "I work on nematode worms which live for only a couple of weeks," he said. "The worms are genetically identical to one another, and they are kept under identical conditions, but the first worms die of old age at around 10 days, and the last at around 30 days." But while at an individual level a dose of luck could help explain why some people live beyond 100, experts say there are well-known factors that can help to improve life expectancy at a population level, including improvements in healthcare and hygiene.

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JAMMU & KASHMIR

TWO STATES



J&K polls: PDP releases manifesto

WILL SUPPORT CONGRESS-NC ALLIANCE IF THEY ACCEPT TO FOLLOW PDP AGENDA: MEHBOOBA MUFTI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 24: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Saturday released its election manifesto for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls with party president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti saying she would support the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance if they accept the PDP manifesto.



will extend support to the alliance in Jammu and Kashmir. Responding to a query, the former Jammu and Kashmir CM also said that there would not be any alliance after the elections with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "We had forged an alliance with the BJP to safeguard the identity of Jammu and Kashmir but when the decision has already been taken, the alliance with BJP on the basis of agenda is not possible now," she added.

Releasing the PDP manifesto, Mehbooba Mufti said that the issue (for the election) is neither about the restoration of Article 370, nor anything else. "It is a political issue which needs a political solution," Mufti said.

pletely support the Congress-NC alliance if they accept to follow their agenda, which includes the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Mehbooba Mufti said that power and seats do not matter for PDP but if the party's agenda is accepted, it

By traditional routes, the PDP

means the routes between the parts of Jammu and Kashmir across the Line of Control (LoC), the international border and the Line of Actual Control (LAC). It must be recalled that the PDP-BJP government headed by Mehbooba Mufti lost power in June 2018 when the BJP pulled out of the coalition government. The erstwhile state was then placed under the Governor's Rule. Later, the then Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the state legislative Assembly. On August 5, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated, following which Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh. The upcoming Assembly elections will restore an elected government and this election is being held after 10 years.

24 polling stns for Kashmiri migrants India's first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI-1' launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 24: The Election Commission (EC) has set up 24 special polling stations in Jammu, Udhampur and New Delhi to facilitate voting by Kashmiri migrants in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, a senior official said.

tors in Jammu and Udhampur to fill out Form-M has been removed, he said. Electors residing in zones and camps will be mapped to their respective polling stations in Jammu and Udhampur, the CEO added. The draft roll extracts, mapping migrant electors residing in various zones in Jammu and Udhampur to the respective special polling stations, will be published soon. Any additions, deletions or corrections will be allowed for a period of seven days, Pole said.

India's first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI-1' launched. "The demand for small satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is increasing in India," said Anand Megalingam, founder and CEO of Space Zone, in a company blog post, before the launch. This, he said, prompted "the company to focus on capturing the small satellite market while employing a Hybrid Propulsion system to ensure cost-effectiveness". Mission RHUMI was led by Mylswamy Annadurai, the Moon Man of India, former Director ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC), and Megalingam as its Mission Director.

which can be fine-tuned from 0 to 120 degrees, allowing precise trajectory control. The company also built an innovative, cost-effective, and eco-friendly descent mechanism that will ensure the safe recovery of rocket components. The RHUMI-1 rocket combines both liquid and solid fuel propellant systems which will not only improve efficiency and reduce operational costs but will also ensure environmental safety. The rocket's applications go beyond space exploration to areas such as agriculture, environmental monitoring, and disaster management, the company said.



People who were displaced from the Kashmir Valley and are residing in Jammu and Udhampur will not have to fill Form-M, as was done in the Lok Sabha elections, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said in a statement issued Friday.

Following this, the final photo electoral roll extracts will be published for each polling station, based on which migrant electors will be allowed to vote at these special polling stations like any other voter, by producing an Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or any of the 12 alternate photo identity documents notified by the EC, he said.

Migrants residing outside Jammu and Udhampur can now self-certify Form-M, instead of getting it attested by a gazetted officer or other authorities, Pole said.

Other key features of RHUMI-1 include its angle,

Kashmiri migrant voters residing in various relief camps in Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi, who have opted to cast their votes in person through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the election, can do so at 24 polling stations -- 19 in Jammu, 1 in Udhampur and 4 in Delhi, he said. Continuing with the historic decision taken by the EC during the Lok Sabha elections, the earlier requirement for migrant elec-

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It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders.

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national

'Bulldozer justice' must stop: Cong



For Congress, the caste census is the foundation of policy making

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: The Congress Saturday said "repeated targeting" of minorities in BJP-ruled states is deeply troubling...



If someone is accused of a crime, then only the court can decide his crime and punishment. But punishing the family of the accused as soon as the allegation is made, taking away the roof from their heads, not following the law, disobeying the court, and demolishing the house of the accused as soon as the allegation is made - this is not justice

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

Constitution, using bulldozing as a tactic to instil fear among citizens, Kharge said.

"Anarchy cannot replace natural justice - offences must be adjudicated in courts, not through state-sponsored coercion," he said.

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "If someone is accused

of a crime, then only the court can decide his crime and punishment. But punishing the family of the accused as soon as the allegation is made, taking away the roof from their heads, not following the law, disobeying the court, and demolishing the house of the accused as soon as the allegation is made - this is not justice," she said.

This is the height of barbarism and injustice.

There should be a difference between the lawmakers, the law keepers and the lawbreakers, she stressed, adding that governments cannot behave like criminals.

Following the law, Constitution, democracy and humanity are the minimum conditions of governance in a civilised society, Priyanka Gandhi said.

"One who cannot fulfil 'rajdhama' can neither work for the welfare of the society nor the country. Bulldozer justice is completely unacceptable, it must stop," she said.

The house of the man who allegedly indulged in violence during a protest against remarks by seer Ramgiri Maharaj was demolished Thursday. Ramgiri Maharaj had allegedly made objectionable remarks against Islam at Shah Panchale village in Sinner taluka of Maharashtra's Nashik district during a religious event some days ago.

Members of the Muslim community had organised a protest Wednesday, but it descended into violence, leading to injuries to two policemen and damage to several vehicles.

SNIPPETS

Kumari Selja rules out alliance with AAP

New Delhi: Ruling out the possibility of an alliance with the AAP for the Haryana Assembly polls, senior Congress leader Kumari Selja has said her party is strong in the state and will fight the elections on its own.

Nagarjuna's property demolished in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The government authorities Saturday demolished the N-Convention centre in Madhapur here, which is jointly owned by Telugu superstar Nagarjuna, for allegedly being constructed on encroached land on the Full Tank Level of the Tummidikunta lake.

ASSAM GANGRAPE

Accused flees police custody, drowns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 24: The prime accused in the rape of a minor girl allegedly escaped from police custody, jumped into a pond and died Saturday morning at Dhing in Assam's Nagaon district, police said.

The villagers of Borbheti, the family home of the accused, have taken a decision not to participate in his funeral prayers and not allow his burial in the village graveyard. Nagaon Superintendent of Police Swapneel Deka told reporters that the accused, who was arrested Friday, was taken handcuffed to the location where the crime was allegedly committed for a re-creation of the crime scene around 3.30 am.

The SDRF was immediately informed, a search operation was launched and his body was recovered after nearly two hours, he added. The policeman was also injured and admitted to a hospital, the SP said. The other two accused are still absconding and search was continuing with raids conducted at several places Friday night.

The 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three persons who came on a motorcycle and surrounded her while she was returning home from tuition on her bicycle at Dhing Thursday evening.

She was left injured and unconscious on the roadside near a pond, before being rescued by locals who informed police.

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of the day quote

We are dedicated to promoting growth through partnerships and are consistently exploring new collaborations to position India as a premier global supply chain hub

SHARVIL PATEL | ZYDUS LIFESCIENCES MD

At Amazon, we are invested in supporting businesses of all sizes, from small and medium businesses to emerging entrepreneurs to established brands. The fee reduction is directly in response to feedback from our sellers, especially small businesses

AMIT NANDA | DIRECTOR SELLING PARTNER SERVICES AT AMAZON INDIA

We are excited about bringing the most popular board game CATAN to India. Our customers will get to experience a Made in India product with international quality. CATAN is a great option for all above 10 years, as it stimulates strategic thinking and decision making

R JESWANT | FUNSKOOL INDIA LTD, CEO

SHORT TAKES

Hero Motors files draft papers for IPO

New Delhi: Hero Motors Ltd, the auto-components firm of the Hero Motors Company (HMC) Group, on Saturday filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise ₹900 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹500 crore and an Offer-For-Sale (OFS) of shares valued at ₹400 crore by promoters, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The OFS includes ₹250 crore worth of shares by O P Munjal Holdings, and ₹75 crore each by Bhagyoday Investments and Hero Cycles. The company may consider a pre-IPO placement of ₹100 crore. If such placement is completed, the fresh issue size will be reduced.

Cognizant's lawsuit against Infosys

New Delhi: IT major Cognizant's subsidiary TriZetto has slapped a lawsuit on Infosys in a US federal court, accusing the Bangalore-headquartered company of stealing trade secrets and information related to healthcare insurance software. Infosys, in a statement, denied all allegations. The company asserted it is aware of the lawsuit and will defend its position in the court. Cognizant in a lawsuit filed in Texas federal court has accused Infosys of illegally accessing data from TriZetto's software -- Facets and QNXT -- and using the same to develop and market a competing product. Cognizant offerings include TriZetto's Facets and QNXT, which healthcare insurance firms use to automate tasks. Teaneck, New Jersey-based Cognizant has the bulk of its employees in India.

Carraro India files DRHP for IPO

New Delhi: Carraro India Ltd, manufacturer of transmission systems for off-highway vehicles and other agricultural and construction equipment, Saturday filed draft papers with markets regulator for Sebi for its ₹1,812-crore initial public offering (IPO). The Pune-based company's initial share-sale is completely an Offer-For-Sale (OFS) by Carraro International S.E, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Since the entire issue is an OFS, all the proceeds from the IPO will go directly to the selling shareholder, rather than to the company.

Trent, BEL to be included in Nifty 50 index from Sept 30



DRUG FIRM DIVI'S LABORATORIES AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES PROVIDER LTI MINDTREE WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE BLUECHIP INDEX

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Tata Group retail firm Trent Ltd and state-run Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) will be included in the National Stock Exchange's benchmark index Nifty 50 from September 30, NSE Indices announced Friday. Drug firm Divi's Laboratories and technology services provider LTI Mindtree will be dropped from the Nifty 50 index. The Index Maintenance Subcommittee (Equity) of NSE Indices Ltd has decided to make these replacements in the indices as part of its periodic review. "These changes shall become effective from September 30, 2024," NSE Indices said in a statement.

Additionally, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd, Divi's Laboratories, JSW Energy, LTIMindtree, Macrotech Developers Ltd, NHPC and Union Bank of India will be included in Nifty Next 50 index. On the other hand, Berger Paints India, Bharat Electronics, Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd, Marico, SBI Cards and Payment Services, SRF and Trent will be excluded from the index. Further, changes have been announced in several indices including Nifty 500, Nifty 200, Nifty 100, Nifty Smallcap 250, Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Midcap 50. Separately, NSE Indices announced the exclusion of Tata Motors Ltd. 'A' Ordinary Shares - DVR from various indices, effective from August 30. This exclusion is due to the company's capital reduction scheme, which involves the cancellation of all 'A' Ordinary Shares (with differential voting rights) and their replacement with Ordinary Shares. As a result, Tata Motors Ltd. 'A' Ordinary Shares - DVR will be removed from the indices including Nifty 100, Nifty 200, Nifty 500 and Nifty Auto.

Indian telcos aim for 10% share in 6G patents in 3 yrs

TELECOM OPERATORS SEEK SUPPORTIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENTS TOWARDS THE PATH OF 100 PER CENT BROADBAND COVERAGE IN THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: Indian telecom players are targeting a share of 10 per cent of all 6G patents and one-sixth contributions to global standards in the next three years, an official statement said Saturday. Telecom industry players have proposed to systematically align research to 'India's needs' and put in place a vibrant 'Standards Community'. The proposal came up during the second meeting of Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) on Telecom



Service Providers (TSPs) which was chaired by union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Friday. "Industry leaders proposed systematically aligning research to 'India's needs' and put in place a vibrant 'Standards Community' targeting a share of 10 per cent of all 6G patents and one-sixth contributions to global standards in the next 3 years," the statement said. During the first SAC on telecom operators, certain focus areas were identified. Deliberations on international standards and India's share in

Intellectual Property and Standard Essential Patent (SEP), connectivity gaps in telecom and quality of telecom services were held in the meeting. "India has already taken various initiatives like launch of Bhart6G Vision and Bhart6G Alliance, patent and IPR support framework, commissioning of testbeds, etc., and country can aspire for achieving 10 per cent of all 6G patents and one-sixth contributions to global standards promoting India's needs. SAC proposed a 3-year roadmap for achieving it," the statement said.

Should brands take a stance on social, political issues

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER ENGAGING IN "BRAND ACTIVISM" ACTUALLY HELPS COMPANIES OVERALL, LEAVING MANY MARKETERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES HESITANT TO DO SO

Sydney, August 24: In the immediate aftermath of last month's shocking assassination attempt on US presidential candidate Donald Trump, search engine giant Google found itself in hot water. The reason? A technical issue with its auto-complete function. Search terms related to the assassination attempt appeared to be omitted from automated suggestions in Google's search bar. Conservative social media users were quick to pile on, accusing the tech giant of political bias and active censorship. These claims turned out to be unfounded -- a content modera-

tion feature was to blame -- but they were hardly new. Many tech companies, including Google, have long been perceived as left-leaning. But certainly not all of them. Elon Musk, chief executive of both X (formerly Twitter) and electric car maker Tesla, recently announced his full endorsement of Trump, who in turn declared his own support for electric vehicles. Getting political is nothing new for brands, and extends well beyond tech companies. It can range from taking a stance on key social issues to backing individual parties or candidates. But it is not clear whether engaging in "brand activism" actually helps companies overall, leaving many marketers and chief executives hesitant to do so. Taking a stand on issues that consumers care about can obviously help build stronger brand connections -- but what happens when a brand's political views don't align with those of its customers? Our previous research has found that consumers' political allegiance -- whether they iden-



tify as liberal, conservative or somewhere in between -- can affect their attitude towards brands that engage in activism. Much of this is in line with what you'd expect. Liberal-leaning consumers tend to like brands that promote progressive causes such as supporting immigration. Conservative consumers, on the other hand, generally like brands to either be silent on, or oppose, progressive issues.

However, both liberal and conservative consumers dislike brands that seem inauthentic in the position they support. That offers a cautionary tale to brands who might seek to "jump on the bandwagon" and performatively support a particular social issue. Brands that try to play both sides of the fence on a given social or political issue can end up alienating everyone.

Investments in the stock market are with eyes wide open, they know that it is fraught with risks and also know about the rewards

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE MINISTER

NEW APPLE LAUNCHES

Apple is planning its biggest product launch event of the year September 10, during which it will unveil the latest iPhones, watches and AirPods.



FMCG distributors flag growth of quick commerce platforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: FMCG distributors have raised concerns over the 'rapid and unregulated growth' of quick commerce platforms, saying it needs immediate scrutiny. In a letter written to Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, FMCG distributors' body AICPDF said this unchecked expansion of quick commerce platforms, which typically deliver goods within 10 to 30 minutes, is creating an 'uneven playing field', threatening the livelihoods of millions of small retailers and distributors who have been the backbone of India's retail sector for decades. The All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF) also suspected potential violations of FDI regulations by these quick-commerce companies and sought an immediate investigation into the operational models of these platforms. The rapid growth of quick commerce platforms like Blinkit, Zepto and Instamart has posed significant challenges to the traditional retail sector and the established fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) distribution network. "We are witnessing the erosion of small 'mom-and-pop' stores and a shift in the FMCG distribution landscape, as these platforms are increasingly being



appointed as direct distributors by major FMCG companies, side-lining traditional distributors," AICPDF said in the letter. While raising concerns regarding the compliance of foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations by the quick-commerce platforms, it said AICPDF suspects them of blurring the lines between the marketplace and inventory-based models. "The FDI rules clearly prohibit e-commerce entities operating under the marketplace model from holding inventory or exercising control over the inventory sold on their platforms. However, it appears that these

quick-commerce platforms may be engaging in practices that blur the lines between a marketplace and an inventory-based model, potentially violating FDI norms," it noted. It also requested the government to "initiate a thorough investigation into the operational models of these quick-commerce platforms to ensure compliance with FDI regulations" and to "implement protective measures for small retailers and traditional distributors to safeguard their interests and prevent monopolistic practices." AICPDF has urged the government to facilitate a dialogue between all stakeholders, in-

cluding representatives from the retail sector, FMCG companies and quick-commerce platforms, to establish fair and equitable business practices. It also appreciated Goyal's recent remarks, where he lambasted the e-commerce companies, questioning their business model that has been impacting small retailers in the country. Earlier this week, the Commerce and Industry Minister had questioned Amazon's announcement of USD 1 billion investment in India, saying the US retailer was not doing any great service to the Indian economy but filling up for the losses it had suffered in the country. He said that their huge losses in India "smells of predatory pricing," which is not good for the country as it impacts crores of small retailers. The quick-commerce market in India is currently valued at approximately USD 5 billion. Several FMCG companies, in their latest June quarter earnings, reported a high double-digit growth coming from quick-commerce in online sales. In the quick-commerce space, companies like Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy's Instamart have established a strong presence. Recently Ola, one of the leading players in the ride-hailing industry, announced entry into quick-commerce.

Govt cuts drawback rates on exports of gold, silver jewellery



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 24: The government has reduced the drawback rates on exports of gold and silver jewellery by more than half to adjust for the significant cut in import duties on these precious metals in the Budget. A notification regarding this was issued by the Department of Revenue. On the export of gold jewellery, the drawback rate has been brought down to ₹335.5 from ₹704.1 per gram of net gold content in the article. The rate of silver jewellery and articles of silver have been cut to ₹4,468 per kilogram of net gold content in an article.

The Duty Drawback Scheme refunds import duties and internal taxes, which are paid while importing goods, which are, in turn, used for manufacturing products for exports. In the Budget, the import duty on gold and silver to 6 per cent from 15 per cent. Through this notification, "duty drawback on gold and silver jewellery was reduced as the duty on gold and silver lowered in the budget." Federation of Indian Export Organisations Director General Ajay Sahai said. The gems and jewellery exports during April-July this fiscal contracted by 7.45 per cent to USD 9.1 billion.

