

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. A loan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesh, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

TAURUS
Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesh. Instead of trying to seek satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out. Your new looks will make you tremendously confident and impressive and will make others see you in a new light.

GEMINI
The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesh. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.

CANCER
It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesh. All you need is a little attitude adjustment.

LEO
A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual, however expectations from you at the work-front will increase.

VIRGO
Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesh advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is a fortunate day for starting new work. You will win the hearts of everyone with your amazing charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people.

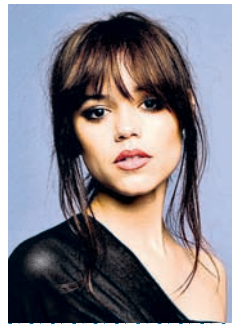
SCORPIO
Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

SAGITTARIUS
Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Not everyday is the same day. And, today is one of those days when you feel extremely confused, feels Ganesh. While you won't be able to get rid of negative emotions, your hard work will be paid off and lay a strong foundation for future. You'll not understand whether to feel good about your achievements or experience sadness of confusion.

AQUARIUS
There are no short-cuts to success. You know this very well and work you socks off to get what you want. Colleagues, friends and family - all of them will acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and achievements. Though you will be apprehensive about it, you will have to take some risks to bring the desired change in your life, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Interactions with those of the opposite sex will mark your day. It is also a good day to strike up friendship with those of the opposite sex. For those in love, today is a good day to spend time with your partner. For those looking for love, now is the best time to pop the question to that special someone you've secretly admired for long, says Ganesh.



JENNA ORTEGA: I HATE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Actress Jenna Ortega said that she was sent disgusting images of herself as a teenager and revealed the reason why she hates AI. In an interview, she said, "I hate artificial intelligence (AI). I was terrified by seeing dirty edited content of me as a child."

CHRIS HEMSWORTH SURPRISES AUDIENCE AT SHEERAN'S CONCERT

Actor Chris Hemsworth made a surprise appearance at Ed Sheeran's concert in Bucharest, Romania, and played the drums in front of an estimated 70,000 attendees. He was at Romania's National Arena to record an upcoming episode of season 2 of his Disney+ original series *Limitless with Chris Hemsworth*.



Kangana's view on alpha males

Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut has responded to a question on how she feels about the term 'alpha male', which is being widely used after the box office success of the 2023 film *Animal*.

In an interview, the *Queen* actress said that the term 'sounds like a great idea'. However, she said that people don't know what is in it, it's entirely and simply use it on a superficial level.

She also said Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Arjun, Bhishma Pitamaha, and Karna are all 'alpha males'. However, she added that people don't want to study their character, understand how they sacrificed, or even their mercy and austerity, the actress further said, "People resort to becoming alpha males to fool others with their wrong deeds. Such actions might make people enjoy themselves for some time, but they will fall face down. When you don't have understanding of something, you want to exploit that... If you are alpha male, then why are you being Raavan? Be Ram."

She added that if a person wants to

be an alpha male, then they should respect all women and fight against wrong. Instead, they indulge in hooliganism, misbehaviour, and harassment of women and added that everything has consequences.

AGENCIES

Katrina on working with Salman, Akki

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif has been lucky enough to star with the industry's top stars, from Akshay Kumar to Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Aamir Khan, among others. In a recent chat, the actress recently opened up about her experience working with Akki and Salman.

One of the major differences was the shoot timing. She noted that Akshay prefers early mornings, whereas Salman tends to start his day later. When working with Akki, she has to often request later call times, but with Salman, the schedule naturally begins later.

The *Tiger 3* actress added that she often has to ask Salman, "Please come early, no?" Despite their differences, she highlighted that while Salman may seem laid-back, he's always focused on the larger story of a film rather than just the scene at hand. On the other hand, Akshay is more inclined towards improvisation during scenes.

Nevertheless, Katrina emphasised that she doesn't focus on what her co-actors are doing. She arrives on set fully prepared, concentrating on her own work. She then integrates her preparation with the director's vision and collaborates with her co-actors accordingly.

On the work front, Kaif was last seen in *Merry Christmas* and will be seen next in *Je Le Zara*.

AGENCIES



Dua Lipa excited over India concert

New Delhi: Pop star Dua Lipa, who is set to headline the second edition of the Zomato Feeding India Concert in November, says she is looking forward to returning to the country after she sang in the New Year here.

The Grammy winner, known for songs such as *Levitating*, *Houdini*, and *Dance the Night*, shared a post on Instagram expressing her excitement for the upcoming show. "India, I'm coming back!! My trip at the start of this year was a beautiful reminder

of how much I love this place. The warmth and energy I felt from everyone I met there was amazing, and I can't wait to see you again to perform in November!!!!" Lipa wrote, alongside a series of pictures from her previous India visit and the announcement poster of the concert.

Last December, the 29-year-old was on vacation with her family in India, where they visited Jodhpur, Rajasthan, and New Delhi. Lipa will hold the concert on November 30 at BKC, Mumbai. Her Mumbai gig will also feature artists like Jonita Gandhi, Talwinder, and others.

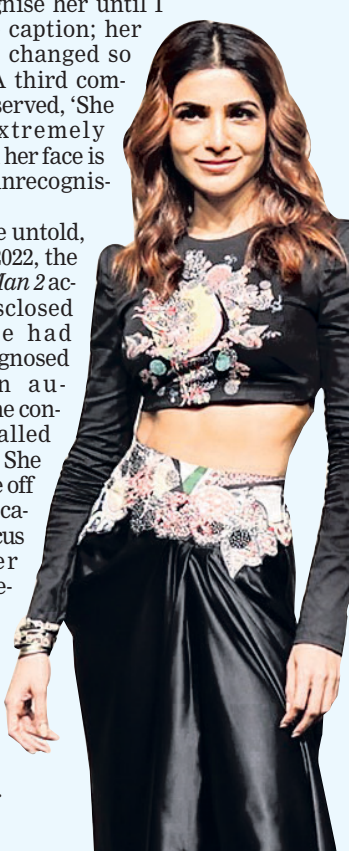
Sam's health sparks concern

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is gearing up for *Citadel: Honey Bunny*, made heads turn when she attended the event in her stunning black crop top outfit. However, the actress sparked concern among her fans with her noticeable 'transformation,' as some users pointed out her recent 'weight loss' in a video from the event.

A Redditor shared a clip of Samantha posing for photographers at the event, commenting, 'Is Samantha okay? This transformation doesn't seem healthy.' Several fans expressed their concerns in the comment section about Samantha's health. One fan remarked that the actress looked entirely unrecognisable, while others speculated that she had lost a significant amount of weight. 'What happened to her? She's not looking the same,' one fan noted. Another added, 'I didn't recognise her until I read the caption; her face has changed so much!' A third comment observed, 'She looks extremely lean, and her face is almost unrecognisable.'

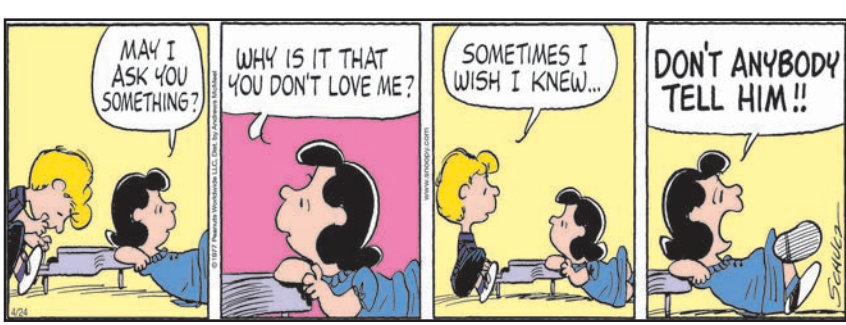
For the untold, back in 2022, the *Family Man 2* actress disclosed that she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called myositis. She took time off from her career to focus on her health, receiving treatment for the autoimmune disease myositis.

AGENCIES

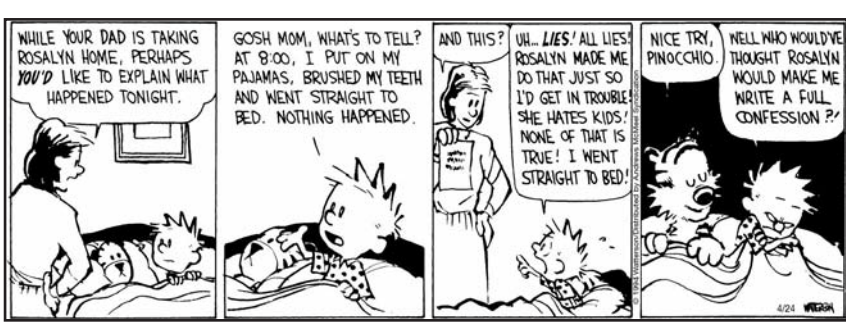


FUN post

PEANUTS



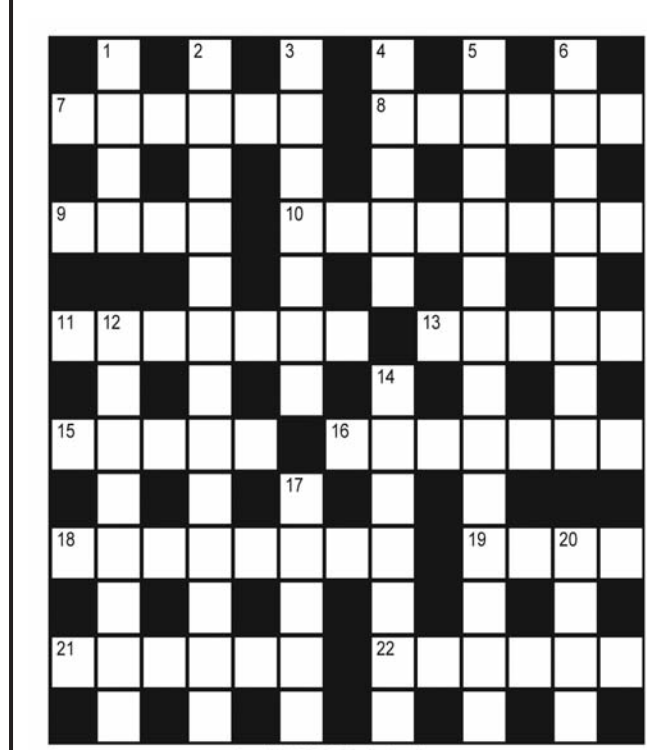
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



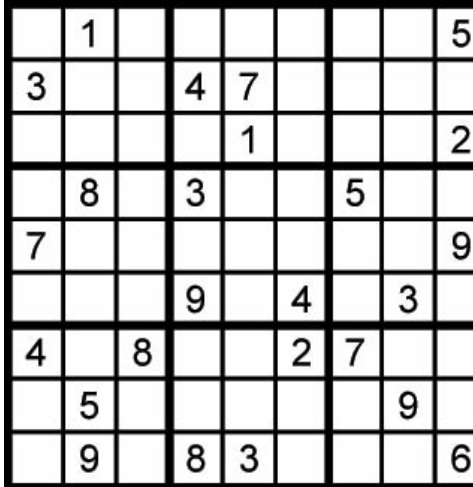
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 College award
 - 8 Double agents
 - 9 Trunk growth
 - 10 Farmer's brood
 - 11 Personal computer
 - 13 Kind of preview
 - 15 Anger
 - 16 Installment
 - 18 Camper's tool
- Down**
- 19 Archipelago part
 - 21 Dermatitis
 - 22 Washington State city
 - 1 Mostel of Fiddler fame
 - 2 Metal weapons (5,8)
 - 3 Nuclear ___
 - 4 Kind of nerve
 - 5 Canes (7,6)
 - 6 Basis for comparison
 - 12 Policeman's clue
 - 14 New Zealand flightless bird
 - 17 Parlour piece
 - 20 Gyro meat

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

HEALTH FIRST

Doctors carrying out tests on a resident of the millennium city at a health check-up camp for women organised at the Cuttack Club, Sunday



Mystery shrouds death of top ILS scientist

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Mystery shrouds the death of 57-year-old Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) scientist Sandip Kumar Mishra after the acclaimed cancer researcher passed away under suspicious circumstances at Capital Hospital, late Saturday.

Mishra lived in Satyanagar area of the City along with his family, said a source at ILS.

The Kharavel Nagar police Sunday lodged a case of unnatural death, and officials at the police station said further investigations are on.

Mishra's sudden death snowballed into a controversy after his family members dismissed reports indicating that the top scientist had committed suicide due to severe stress. "Mishra was admitted to the Capital hospital after he complained of nausea and acute breathing issues," said Mishra's sister-in-law, adding that he was declared dead several minutes after his admission.

Alleging foul play by hospital authorities that led to Mishra's untimely death, she said, "He ate KFC chicken and cold drinks



Friday which probably caused acidity or food poisoning in his stomach. On Saturday, he was rushed to Capital Hospital for treatment. Following the treatment, his condition became stable. Though the doctors recommended another day's rest, he refused and was adamant to go home. Accordingly, we bought him home. However, after a few hours, his health deteriorated and he started vomiting with severe diarrhea."

Meanwhile, speaking on the conditions of anonymity, an official at ILS said Mishra had been accused of sexual harassment by a female colleague in May this year. Later, the institute set up an Internal Complaints

Committee (ICC) to investigate the charges. It absolved Mishra of all charges due to his 'influential position', he alleged.

Mishra's colleagues said the scientist was 'acclaimed' worldwide for his exceptional research works, such as discovery of tumour suppressor gene in breast cancer. He had developed a drug called 'Artemisinin' from Estrogen Related Receptor beta (ERR) molecule and leaves and flowers of sweet wormwood plant (*Artemisia annua*), claiming it to be successful in curing breast cancer patients. He proved that the cancer cells migration and invasion can be restricted and controlled by Artemisinin in estrogen receptor positive (ER-positive) breast cancer cells. The study was accepted for publication in international journals by Biomed Central, BMC Cancer.

Before joining ILS Bhubaneswar as a scientist in July 2018, Mishra worked as an instructor with the Department of Neurosurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston at United States.

Mishra is survived by his wife and a son.



GREEN WARRIORS: Dharitri and OrissaPOST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with young environmentalists who participated in an interactive session, at the Press Club of Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. The event is a precursor to the Dharitri Youth Conclave scheduled to be held in the Capital city

'Use legislative devices to hold govt accountable'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 25: Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Naveen Patnaik Sunday asked Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLAs not to leave any stone unturned to use legislative devices for holding the government accountable.

Patnaik said this while addressing an orientation and training programme for newly elected BJD MLAs, which was also attended by senior lawmakers of the regional outfit.

The Odisha Assembly had organised the two-day orientation programme for MLAs July 17 and 18. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the programme while Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh was the chief guest of the valedictory session.

Opposition parties - BJD and Congress - boycotted the programme, citing "breach of protocol". Therefore, the BJD organised a separate training programme for its newly elected MLAs at the party headquarters here.

"The training programme organised by the Assembly had political connotations and did not give adequate respect and dignity to the chief minister in his own state. So, the BJD withdrew from the training programme organised by the assembly," Patnaik said.



While highlighting the importance of Opposition in the legislative assembly, Patnaik said, "BJD with 51 MLAs constitute a formidable Opposition. So, we must not leave any stone unturned to use those (legislative) devices for holding the government to account."

"Government in a democracy is of 'we the people' and Opposition also owes its mandate to 'we the people'. Therefore, Opposition is as important as the government. To make the Opposition more effective for holding the government to account we need to be always vigilant and active. In fact, a vibrant Opposition is the best protector of democracy," he told party MLAs.

Patnaik advised the newly elected BJD MLAs to be well-versed with rules, procedures,

The Odisha Assembly had organised the two-day orientation programme for MLAs July 17 and 18. BJD and Congress boycotted the programme citing 'breach of protocol'

parliamentary conventions, traditions, to discharge their duties as a legislator properly.

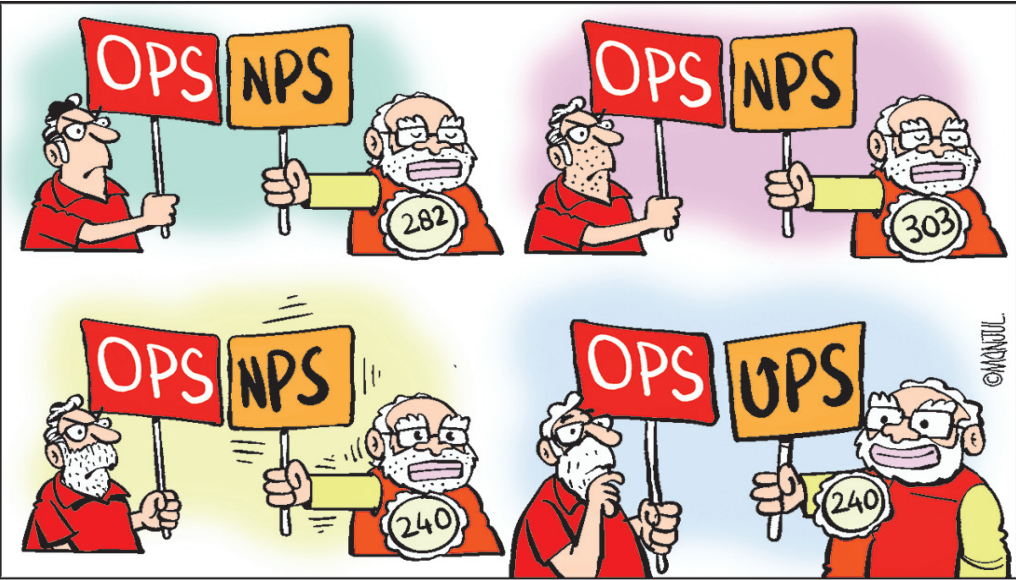
Quoting B R Ambedkar, the BJD president said that in a parliamentary democracy, government is accountable to the legislature while the presidential form of government is based on the stability of the executive without making it answerable to the legislature.

That accountability of the government to the legislature is exercised by asking questions, moving several motions such as adjournment and no-confidence motion, calling attention notice, special, etc, he pointed out.

"These are part of the several other legislative devices which should be used effectively by all of you to hold the government to account. Besides, you should make full use of zero hour in raising various issues of public interest," Patnaik told the new elected MLAs.

All the MLAs need to understand how to function within several committees of the legislature which are called mini-assemblies. All members need to play a very crucial role in fine tuning the scrutiny of several bills which are referred to those committees, Patnaik stated.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



5K chickens culled in Pipili

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 25: As many as 5,000 chickens were culled in Pipili in the last two days amid the bird flu scare in Odisha.

According to sources, a 13-member team has been constituted to carry out the mass killing of the infected birds in the area to prevent the spread of the viral infection to other parts of the state. As many as 20,000 chickens from 54 farms in Pipili will be culled in the next 15 days, officials said.

A decision in this regard was taken after the livestock inspector visited the spot and detected avian influenza virus in the area.

Meanwhile, resentment is brewing among poultry farmers as they demand adequate compensation before carrying out the mass culling of chickens.

The irate farmers threatened that not a single chicken would be allowed to be killed if they did-



n't get the compensation.

"I have borrowed money from different sources and invested Rs 3 lakh for poultry farming. If my chickens will be culled, who will give me the compensation," asked Sushant Kumar Das, a farmer.

On the other hand, the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department has assured that the farmers will be compensated as per the existing guidelines issued by the Central and State governments.

Cong reminds CM of BJP-PDP ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 25: A senior leader of the Odisha Congress Sunday reminded Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi that the BJP had forged an alliance with Jammu and Kashmir's People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 2015 and his attack on the Congress is "hilarious".

Biswaranjan Mohanty's assertion came a day after Majhi slammed the party for joining hands with the National Conference (NC) ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, alleging that the grand old party is "hungry for power".

"Teleprompter Chief Minister of Odisha who is running to Delhi to take orders on how to govern Odisha has found time to criticise the Congress Party

on the Kashmir issue," Mohanty said in a statement.

Demanding that the Congress explain its stand on Jammu and Kashmir, Majhi in a video message Saturday sought clarification from party leader Rahul Gandhi if his party would promote separatists by talking to Pakistan, instead of establishing peace by holding discussions with the people of the northern state.

Mohanty said, "I am not questioning him (Majhi) on his experience to speak on national issues but I would like to ask him: Has he forgotten the history of his own party?... Has he forgotten the BJP's alliance with PDP?"

After the 2014 Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir delivered a fractured mandate, the BJP and PDP

stitched an alliance and Mehbooba Mufti became the chief minister in March next year.

"Who visited Pakistan and started friendship bus which was followed by Kargil?" the Odisha Congress leader asked.

He was referring to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, during whose tenure Delhi-Lahore bus service began in 1999. Mohanty, however, did not mention the late BJP leader by name.

Mohanty said, "The truth is the chief minister is trying to divert public perception at a time when the Congress raised the issue of reservation and caste census in the Assembly. Instead of public posturing on issues like Kashmir, the Odisha CM should focus on the emergent issues of the state."

BJP discusses roadmap for Odisha in core committee meet

BHUBANESWAR: Senior leaders of the BJP met in Bhubaneswar Sunday and held discussions on a roadmap for the party in Odisha where it stormed to power around two and a half months back, routing the Naveen Patnaik government of 24 years. The core committee meeting was presided over by state BJP president Manmohan Samal, and attended by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs KV Singh Deo and Pravatī Parida, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, MPs Baijayant Panda, Sambit Patra and Pratap Sarangi, besides the party's in-charges Viay Pal Singh Tomar and Lata Usendi. Tomar said a political roadmap ahead of the membership drive, which would start September 1, was discussed at the meeting. The state BJP was targeting 1 crore memberships during the drive, party leaders said. Besides detailed discussions on the drive, the meeting also discussed the state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana under which Rs 50,000 would be given to each woman over a period of five years, they said. Discussions were also held on how to strengthen the organisation at the booth level across the state, they added.

Shaadi, Utsav ya Tyohar... Lijjat Papad Ho Harbar...

Karram Kurram... Kurram Karram...

Lijjat PAPAD

Website : www.lijjat.com Email : enquiry@lijjat.com

Duo held for chain snatching

BHUBANESWAR: The Lingaraj Police Sunday arrested two miscreants on charges of snatching a gold chain from a woman near Lingaraj Temple premises Friday. IC Lingaraj Purna Chandra Pradhan identified the duo as Rakesh Kumar Swain and Jagannath Tripathy, both 28. Rakesh is a native of Jajpur district, while Jagannath hails from Puri. Pradhan said the victim was returning home from her classes around 8 pm Friday night when two-bike borne miscreants appeared suddenly and snatched her gold chain. Locals who came to her rescue were unable to intercept the duo as they sped off. The police have booked the duo under Sections 309 (4) and 3 (5) of BNS, and produced them before a local court Sunday.

Mere facts may not be enough to beat misinformation

Reputational approaches are more effective in combating science misinformation rather than just stating facts, according to a study.

Researchers found that among 152 college students exposed to misinformation, those who read an article purely carrying facts retained more misconceptions than those who read an article with a refutation.

The findings are published in the Journal of Research in Science Teaching.

"Refutational approaches seem to work really well. While it's always best to get out in front as a teacher or communicator, students have smartphones. They're going to run into misinforma-

tion quickly. If we take this refutational approach, we're more likely to overcome misinformation," lead author Robert Danielson, a Washington State University educational psychology researcher, said.

For the study, the researchers first tested what the student participants knew about putting fluoride in water.

The students then read two articles: one with false information saying that fluoridation is harmful and another presenting the scientific consensus that has found fluoridation is safe and prevents dental disease.

The participants all read the same misinformation text, but different groups read an article

with the correct information either in a traditional stating-the-facts style or one that first refuted the misinformation, before presenting the facts. The researchers also tested the effects of having the participants read the correct article before, or after, the misinformation.

The results revealed that the students learned in all four situations. However, the group that saw the misinformation first, followed by mere facts, performed the worst, the researchers found.

Those who had read the refutation article either before, or after, the misinformation had fewer misconceptions. They also had more positive emotions toward the subject, the authors found.



Researchers found that among 152 college students exposed to misinformation, those who read an article purely carrying facts retained more misconceptions than those who read an article with a refutation

"Our findings indicate that reading refutation texts led to significantly fewer misconceptions and reduced negative emotions," the authors wrote.

With a profusion of information easily available on the internet,

"Your mind doesn't discriminate for content. Whether it's a correct conception or a misconception, it just kind of absorbs it all," Danielson said.

"People can learn misconceptions pretty easily, and there's no shortage of that online," Danielson said. In a meta-analysis of 76 educational studies, Danielson and his team found that the refutational approach works well for a wide range of topics - from non-controversial issues in physics and chemistry to highly controversial ones, including climate change and evolution as well as genetically modified foods and vaccines. The analysis was recently published in the journal Educational Psychologist.

HORSESHOE CRABS REMAIN UNPROTECTED



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalpara, August 25: With the population of horseshoe crabs, a marine creature, fast dwindling, the authorities are yet to implement measures to save the species, sources stated here Sunday. The horseshoe crabs are available in large numbers at the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara district. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Forest department have jointly launched geo-tagging of horseshoe crabs in Balasore district but they are yet to take up similar measures in Kendrapara district. Geo-tagging is necessary to track the population and habitat of the marine creatures and will also help in increasing their numbers, sources stated. The horseshoe crab species is available in only a few select

places. It is found in Balasore district and the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary. The crabs are mostly seen in Hukitola, Shola sea mouth, Launch Ghola, Tanda, Agarnasi, Barunei sea mouth and in the Mahanadi river basin. The mating of this creature starts from January and lasts till March. However, during the season thousands of the species die after getting entangled in fishing nets. Sources informed that steps should be taken immediately to preserve this particular species of crabs. In the month of January male and female crabs can be seen mating in large numbers in Gahirmatha and in the Mahanadi river basin. Male and female crabs can be seen submerged in mud during the mating process. Their mating mainly starts during a full moon night as it plays a significant role in

maintaining the biological diversity of the sea.

A distinctive feature of the horseshoe crab is that its blood turns blue when exposed to air. This is because the blood contains a copper-based respiratory pigment called 'hemocyanin'. This pigment is highly in demand in most countries because of its research value and other medicinal purposes.

Sources informed that a litre of horseshoe crab blood costs close to ₹11 lakh. A number of medicines for treatment of diseases like cancer are produced using horseshoe crab blood.

Environmentalist Samarendra Mahali said that the population of horseshoe crab started declining after the cyclones in 1971 and 1982 and the Super Cyclone in 1999. He said the Forest department should immediately launch efforts for geo-tagging of the marine creature. The Forest department has completed the geo-tagging of 70 crabs in Balasore district and a similar process should be implemented in Gahirmatha, Mahali added.

When contacted, divisional forest officer Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav of Rajnagar wildlife division said that they are yet to receive any orders regarding the geo-tagging of horseshoe crabs. "Once we get it, we certainly will implement it," Yadav added.



KABADDI TOURNEY: Contestants try to hold a player during a kabaddi match at the state-level men's and women's kabaddi tournament which was inaugurated at the Peoples' High School mini stadium in Buguda of Ganjam district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Jails in Nayagarh raided, tobacco products seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, August 25: Police seized a huge cache of tobacco products, razor blades, match boxes and cash during surprise raids in several jails in this district in the wee hours of Sunday. Sources said the raids were simultaneously conducted in Nayagarh circle jail and Ranpur;

Khandapada and Daspalla sub-jails in the presence of magistrates and senior police officials.

According to sources, the raids were conducted following allegations of illegal narcotics consumption and trade within the jails. The seizure of such substances from the jails has now raised suspicion about the security measures and the role of

prison officials.

During the raids, police seized 292 packets of khaini, 84 pouches of gutkha, 15 packets of bidi, two packets of cigarettes, two nail cutters, two spoons and ₹1,473 in cash from the district jail here. Similarly 24 packets of khaini, 11 pouches of gutkha, 26 packets of bidi, two packets of cigarettes, two nail cutters, one plastic razor;

four needles and ₹422 in cash were seized during the raid at Daspalla sub-jail. One packet of khaini, six packets of gutkha, 10 packets of bidi and four packets of zarda were seized during the raid at Khandapada sub-jail. Likewise, 19 packets of khaini, four packets of gutkha, four packets of bidi, and one razor were seized during the raid at Ranapur sub-jail.

Minor girl killed as wall collapses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, August 25: In a tragic incident, a minor girl was killed and four others suffered serious injuries after the mud wall of their house collapsed on them at Kulumuhi village under Kalyansinghpur block in this district, following heavy rains late Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Samanti Wadka, 13, and the critically injured are her father Burja Wadka, 50, mother Kudunji Wadka, 40, younger sister Sanjana Wadka, five, and brother, Sanju Wadka, three.

According to reports, the tragedy occurred when the family was asleep. The mud wall besides which all the five were sleeping collapsed on them killing Samanti on the spot.

Hearing the agonizing screams of the injured, locals rushed to their help. The surviving members were pulled out from the heap of mud and were rushed to the Kalyansinghpur CHC. Later all the four were shifted to the district headquarters hospital here after their conditions deteriorated.

As per instructions from Rayagada Collector Parul Patawari, sub-collector Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi met the victims undergoing treatment and provided assistance of ₹10,000 from Red Cross Fund and ₹30,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. District Emergency Officer, Lalit Mandal and district project officer (DPO) for disaster management, Jyotirmaya Patra were present during the meeting.

RSP plans sports infra upgrade



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 25: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is planning to carry out a major overhaul and modernisation of sports facilities in this town. This was stated by Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-charge of RSP during his Independence Day speech. He announced that modernisation of sports facilities will be undertaken at a cost of ₹11 crore. He informed that once the facilities are upgraded they will provide a huge boost to the promising sportspersons in this city as well as in Sundargarh district.

The key projects include the renovation of Ispat Stadium in Sector-VI, where four multi-storey changing rooms for play-

ers with comprehensive facilities will be developed. Additional enhancements at the stadium include full lighting, a sprinkler system with water connection and storage, repairs of the boundary walls and VIP area shades.

The football ground and cycling tracks will also undergo renovations. At the Ispat Basketball Complex, a new shed will be constructed for the benefit of the players. The new volleyball ground inside the Biju Patnaik hockey stadium complex is also going to be fenced. New lights will be installed and a seating area will be developed for the players to rest.

Simultaneously, the Biju Patnaik hockey stadium will also be upgraded. New floodlights will be installed at the stadium at a cost of ₹3 crore. It should be stated here that RSP had given a complete transformation to the stadium with the installation of a new state-of-the-art synthetic turf, sprinklers and other facilities in 2023 at an expenditure of about ₹12 crore. The modernisation of the stadium will certainly be a huge boost for hockey, locals said.

Bad weather prevents Guv's plane from landing in Rourkela



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 25: Bad weather forced Odisha Governor Raghubar Das to abandon his trip Sunday to this city and he had to return back to Bhubaneswar. The eight-seater aircraft carrying Das could not land at the airport here due to inclement weather.

As per his schedule, the governor was scheduled to meet Union Minister Jai Oram's family Sunday. Oram's wife Jhingia had breathed her last a few days

back due to dengue. Das wanted to meet Oram and console him. However, bad weather acted as an impediment.

The aircraft remained airborne for more than 20 minutes close to the airport. Plans to take the aircraft to Jharsuguda and land it there were also discussed. However, in the end the pilot thought it would be better to take back the aircraft to Bhubaneswar and not take any undue risks as the visibility was very poor.

"This incident has again ex-

posed the situation at the Rourkela airport. Had there been an instrument landing system (ILS) the aircraft could have easily landed. This is a huge embarrassment to the city," said Bimal Bisi, president of Sachetan Nagarik Manch (SNM). Bisi asserted that all-weather air connectivity to Rourkela remains elusive. "This is happening despite there being a double engine government," Bisi stated.

It should be stated here that prior to the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the state, BJP leader Manmohan Samal while campaigning and interacting with the media here had blamed the Naveen Patnaik-led government for failing to install the ILS at the airport and for its failure to acquire land from SAIL for the same purpose. "But what is preventing the present government now from installing the ILS," asked a BJP local leader on condition anonymity.

Four held for tonsuring lady



PNN & AGENCIES

Jharsuguda, August 25: A woman was allegedly ostracised and tonsured following an order issued by a 'kangaroo' court in this district, police informed Sunday. The incident was reported from Routbahal village under Laikera police station. So far four people including the husband of the woman have been arrested.

According to the police, the woman had a bitter argument with her husband over some issues August 9, during which she hit him.

Later, her husband informed the villagers about the incident and a kangaroo court was convened for a 'trial'. The court allegedly ordered that the woman should be ostracised and tonsured. It also imposed a penalty of ₹5,000 on the woman and directed her to give a mutton feast to residents of the village.

After she was tonsured and ostracised, the woman and her son approached the police and lodged a complaint. "During investigation, we found that the husband of the woman and three other senior persons of the village were involved in the act. We have arrested them," said Dillip Kumar Behera, officer in charge of Laikera police station.

CHECK DAM TO BENEFIT 3K FARMERS IN KESINGA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, August 25: Construction of a check dam on the Tel river at Sukunabhata village in Kasrupada panchayat in this block of Kalahandi district will help over 3,000 farmers in irrigating their farmlands, locals said Sunday. They also stated that the check dam will prevent floodwaters from entering the farmlands during monsoons in Sukunabhata, Kasrupada, Binekela and

Kinerkela villages.

Earlier, on most occasions, the farmlands got submerged in floodwaters. Due to the deposition of sand and silt on the farmlands more than 3,000 farmers were losing their paddy cultivation on a regular basis. Farmers had been demanding for construction of a check dam to save their crops and had submitted memorandum to the authorities in this regard.

Finally, the state government decided to construct a check

dam and directed the Irrigation department to work out the modalities and float a tender in this regard. The tender was floated and the contract was awarded to an engineering firm for construction of the one-kilometre long check dam on the Tel river.

Stone packing has been completed on one side of the check dam while grass is being planted on the other side. When contacted, engineer Prakash Kumar Behera said the con-



struction work has slowed due to the rains, but will pick up after the monsoons. The check dam after its completion will

prevent submergence and sand silt deposition on farmlands during floods and rainy season, he added.



FINAL TOUCHES: Artisans applying colours to Khudurkuni idols to meet orders as the month long festival started, Sunday

OP PHOTO

WOMAN DIES OF SNAKEBITE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, August 25: A woman died after being bitten by a poisonous snake at Khudia Majhi Sahi village under Raibania police limits in Balasore district, Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Kanchan Gandhi, 40, wife of Hemant Gandhi of Kantabada-Balabhadrapur village. Family members rushed her to the Hatigarh hospital but she succumbed on way before reaching the health facility.

The incident occurred when Kanchan after finishing her work on her farmland was cutting grass for her livestock. A poisonous snake slithering around bit her. The deceased is survived by her husband and two children.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL
DHENKANAL (ODISHA), PIN-759001**
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No. 3351 Date. 22.08.2024

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No. C-477/- Sealed quotations are invited from intending Decorators for decorating Mini Stadium to celebrate Local Self Govt. Day-2024. The quotationer should quote their cost including installation, conveyance, delivery charges with all taxes etc. The quotation will be received by hand upto Dt.27.08.2024 before 12.30 PM. The quotation will be opened on same day at 1 PM in the office of the undersigned in presence of the quotationer or their authorized agent. In absence of the quotationers the quotation will be opened without assigning any reason to the quotationers. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sl.No.	Particulars of Items	Units	Rate
1	Road cross gate	1 No.	
2	Box gate	1 No.	
3	Hanger tent	1 sqft	
4	Stage Decoration	1 sqft	
5	Plastic Chair	1 No.	
6	VIP Chair	1 No.	
7	Sofa	1 No.	
8	Tea poye and addressing table	1 No.	
9	Floor matting	1 sqft	
10	Light, Sound, DG Set & Back LED display	Per Day	
11	Baricketing	Running	

OIPR-13146/11/0013/2425

**Sd/- Executive Officer
Dhenkanal Municipality**

FOCUS INDIA & POLAND

TIME TO FOSTER TIES



According to Poland, it is in India's interest to support the 'democratic world' in the fight against neo-imperialism and the use of military force, which is contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations

ing by 15% y-o-y. In Poland's thinking about strategic partnership, a new perspective on India as a rising global player, which is taken seriously by world powers is essential while simultaneously expecting greater responsibility for matters concerning the international order. Warsaw prepared a practical offer for India of comprehensive, mutually beneficial cooperation based on new assumptions. It includes supplies of military equipment, food, and products lacking in the Indian market.

The topic of security cannot be omitted from bilateral talks. Although historical and internal conditions prevent India from taking an openly critical stance towards Russia's actions in Ukraine, the government in Warsaw tries to convince the Indian Prime Minister to take a more decisive stance at the UN and in diplomacy. More so because the global consequences of the war are visible on many levels and are of great importance to India, such as the increase in the prices of energy resources, food shortages, and disruption of supply chains.

According to Poland, it is in India's interest to support the 'democratic world' in the fight against neo-imperialism and the use of military force, which is contrary to the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. This is important in the context of India's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, which Poland supports. At the same time, almost three-year war in Ukraine favours strengthening Russia's relations with China. Obviously, this is not in India's interest. Russia may not be a problem for India, but China is.

The writer is President, Centre for International Relations, Poland.

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2024 marks the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Poland and India. The last few years have seen the growth of the importance of both countries in their regions and the strengthening of their position in the world. However, when opening up to Asia, Poland has so far looked mainly to China, while India, for historical reasons, has identified Europe with the capitals of strategic partners such as France, Germany, and the UK.

Today, on the wave of the India-EU new opening after Brexit, the pandemic and in the context of Sino-American rivalry, Warsaw and New Delhi have a chance to strengthen bilateral relations by establishing a strategic partnership. It was announced during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Poland last week. The Head of Indian government comes here after long 45 years.

India is the fifth, and soon to be the third largest economy in the world, and Poland is sixth in the EU and 21st in the world. India is becoming a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, where there is a systemic rivalry between two superpowers: China and the US. Poland is the West's hub for operations in Ukraine, the leading country on NATO's eastern flank, and one of the leaders in building a new architecture of European security against Russia. Seeing these changes, Warsaw and New Delhi decided to seek better political and economic ties.

Poland and India share several beautiful pages of history. During World War II, the Maharaja of Jamnagar gave shelter to several hundred Polish women and children trying to get to the West for several months on his estate in Gujarat. To this day, the "children of the Maharaja" are in touch with each other, and a street and a jun-

ior high school in Warsaw have been named after him. In 1944, Poles and Indians, arm in arm captured the hill and monastery of Monte Cassino, pushing the Germans out and opening the way for the Allies to reach Rome. Today, Polish universities educate thousands of students from India. Poles are increasingly eager to watch Bollywood films and listen to Indian pop music. Tourism and business are developing in both directions. Indian companies are investing in Poland, especially in IT, biotechnology, and electronic equipment and packaging sectors. In 2023, they employed about 10,000 Polish workers, and investments exceeded USD 3 billion. India is the second largest market for Polish FDI in Asia. In 2019, India was Poland's 28th largest trading partner, ranking 40th in exports (0.3%) and 25th in imports (0.8%). However, in 2021, bilateral trade reached USD 4.3 billion, marking a significant increase of 57% y-o-y. This positive trend continued, with exports from

Poland to India reaching EUR 1.5 billion and imports EUR 3.868 billion a year later. India and Poland have undergone critical changes in their political and economic systems over the last 45 years. The key areas of bilateral cooperation should include research and development and electromobility to a much greater extent. It is also worth increasing business contacts, including at the start-up level. Joint development of hydrogen-related technologies, green technologies, solutions for space sector, climate-friendly mining, and the agri-food sector would be promising. Contacts in security infrastructure and capabilities of defence and IT sectors are worth expanding. Direct air connections between New Delhi, Mumbai, and Warsaw, launched in 2019 are facilitated by direct business, scientific, and tourist contacts. Polish aspirations to create a new aviation hub in the heart of Europe may work well with the potential of aviation infrastructure in India, where passenger traffic is grow-



Malgorzata Bonikowska

INDIA AND POLAND HAVE UNDERGONE CRITICAL CHANGES IN THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OVER THE LAST 45 YEARS

Our life should be governed by the love for the Truth and the thirst for Light

THE MOTHER



Problem of Neutrality

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to war-ravaged Ukraine, about six weeks after his visit to Russia came under severe flak from some quarters in the US-led West, seen as it is by many as a balancing act. The nine-hour tour to Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister since 1991 when the country became independent, came at a time as its war against Russian aggression has reached a 30-month milestone and the tide seems to be turning in favour of Kyiv at this juncture.

Both the visits, to Moscow and Kyiv, couldn't have been more ill-timed. While PM Modi's visit to Russia had coincided with a horrific Russian strike on a children's hospital in Kyiv that killed many, his Ukraine tour concurred with Ukraine's surprise offensive in the Kursk region of Russia. This particular incursion is seen by many military specialists as a turning point in that war.

The visit is also perceived by some quarters as a damage control exercise given that ever since the war began, India has sided with Russia, be it in the form of the country's abstention on the UN resolutions condemning the Russian aggression or the buying of Russian oil and weapons despite Western embargoes.

Modi's remarks at Kyiv, "I have come with a message of peace... I want to assure you and the entire global community that India is committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity (of states) and it is of utmost importance to us," seemed to be diplomatic hyperbole. Moreover, the comments were a reiteration of the PM's advice to Russian President Vladimir Putin that "now is not the time for war." The comments anyways went unheeded by Putin as is evident from Russia's continued aggression on the war front.

If at all there is a peace deal between the warring countries in future, it is almost certain that India would have no role to play in it. This was made amply clear by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when he said: "I told Prime Minister Modi that we could have the Global Peace Summit in India. It's a big country, it's a great democracy - the largest one," but added that it would not be possible to host the summit in a country that has not joined the communiqué of the last peace summit. India had attended the previous edition of the summit held in June at Lucerne, Switzerland, but refrained from associating itself with the communiqué that emerged from the deliberations.

India's policy of non-alignment had been continuing since the era of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Then it was considered an appropriate policy as the newly independent nation had to take care of its own interests rather than getting itself mired in the conflicts involving the two superpowers of that time - the US and the Soviet Union.

However, times have changed. In the present times, staying neutral means one can be sure of not getting the support of either side. As they say, someone trying to be everyone's friend is no one's friend. In another context, no one knows whether India will get help from the US or Russia in the event of a conflict with China. Geopolitics aside, there is an ethical dimension to the problem of neutrality. As aptly put by anti-apartheid and rights activist Desmond Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

WISDOM CORNER

- It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently. **WARREN BUFFETT**
- What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do. **BOB DYLAN**
- It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams. **GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1429:** Joan of Arc's arrival in the outskirts of Paris. In preparation for an attack on Paris, part of Charles VII's campaign to drive the English from French soil, Joan of Arc and her soldiers reached the city's outskirts on this day in 1429, but the assault ultimately failed.
- 1768:** James Cook sails off on HMS Endeavour. The British explorer was the first European in recorded history to have visited the eastern shores of Australia. The ship reached Botany Bay in April 1770 and was back on British shores on July 12, 1771.
- 1883:** The volcano Krakatoa in Indonesia began to erupt, and 36,000 people were killed by the eruption and the resulting tsunami.
- 1914:** During World War I the Battle of Tannenberg began, fought between the Germans and the Russians; several days later the German forces, led by Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff, handed Russia a crushing defeat.
- 1920:** 19th Amendment to the US Constitution takes effect. The amendment extended universal suffrage to women in the United States. Before this, women in some states could vote in local and state elections. The Amendment was first introduced in Congress 42 years ago in 1878 by Senator Aaron A. Sargent. In 1919, the Congress approved the amendment and sent it to the states to be ratified.
- 1966:** Namibian War of Independence begins. The 24-year long rebellion against the South African government began with an attack by the South African Defence Force on the members of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) at Omugulugwombashe. Namibia gained independence on 21 March 1990. Namibians observe Heroes Day annually on August 26.
- 1975:** Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I—who steered his country into the mainstream of African politics after World War II and oversaw its entrance into the League of Nations and the United Nations—died at age 83, possibly assassinated.

LOL

Designated decoy

One night, a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible DUI violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he



started his engine and began to pull away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyzer test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

SPECTRUM NATIONAL SECURITY

India needs a critical infra protection Act



Padmalochan Dash

THE CURRENT SECURITY ENVIRONMENT, MARKED BY BOTH EXTERNAL THREATS AND INTERNAL VULNERABILITIES, DEMANDS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PROTECT INDIA'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The recent protests in Bangladesh have revealed a worrying trend where extremist radicals have purposefully targeted critical infrastructure, within that country, through co-ordinated acts of sabotage. With the likelihood of similar acts getting replicated in other parts of the region, it becomes imperative for India to take immediate legislative action to safeguard its critical infrastructure. In precise - the government of India must contemplate to enact a "Critical Infrastructure Protection Act (CIPA)" at the earliest.

The region's socio-political vulnerabilities, spanning both land and maritime domains, are being exploited by hostile actors. Adversaries such as Pakistan and China, driven by a broader strategy to disrupt India's growth, provide tacit support to non-state actors. These hostile entities view the disruption of critical infrastructure as an effective tool to undermine India's economic progress.

Radical elements in neighbouring territories, particularly within the Indo-Pacific region, are rapidly emerging as a significant threat. These groups, often fuelled by extremist ideologies and transnational support, pose a growing challenge to regional stability and security. These elements, as recently witnessed in

Bangladesh, will continue to target India's production bases, supply lines, and trade routes.

The intensification of geopolitical competition has led adversaries to adopt unconventional tactics, such as hybrid warfare, including cyber-attacks and subversion.

The current security environment, marked by both external threats and internal vulnerabilities, demands a comprehensive approach to protect India's critical infrastructure. Safeguarding these assets is now central to the nation's internal security strategy, and a strong legislative response remains crucial to counter these evolving threats and ensure the protection of India's economic and security interests.

The urgency for India to enact a CIPA is not just significant but essential. This legislation would enhance the country's resilience against both internal and external threats and establish a robust legal framework capable of responding to the evolving security challenges that India's critical infrastructure, production bases, and supply chain systems face.

Enacting a CIPA can provide the required legal and regulatory tools - essential to fortify vital national assets and ensure their resilience. This act must be designed to address the complexities of hy-

brid warfare, align India with global best practices, and offer a structured response to national security challenges. Enacting CIPA would not only counter adversaries' hybrid intentions but also impose stringent penal measures on threat actors, assign protection and resilience responsibilities to operators, and establish a comprehensive legal framework to safeguard India's economic progress.

CIPA must be designed to significantly strengthen India's key sectors, which are vital to national stability and development. This legislation must address the protection of critical sectors, but not limited to - chemical, commercial, communications, critical manufacturing, dams, defence industrial base, emergency services, energy, financial services, food and agriculture, healthcare, information technology nuclear-related facilities, transportation systems, water and wastewater management systems, and all major government facilities. Ensuring the security of these sectors is crucial for maintaining India's economic resilience.

Acts intending the protection of critical infrastructure enforced in other countries formally institutionalise standard operating process and practices - for threat identification, assessment, and

mitigation. These legislative models provide valuable templates that India can much learn from. In essence, a CIPA in India must cover both physical and cyber-electronic threats and must include punitive actions against the acts of terrorism, subversion, and sabotage. In essence, the act must manifest itself as the apt tool of responding to the countless facets of hybrid warfare.

For India to establish itself as a global economic and strategic power, securing its critical infrastructure must be a priority. The CIPA should be recognised not just as a legal requirement but as a strategic imperative. The government must centralise authority to oversee and implement protection measures, develop a comprehensive risk assessment framework, and strengthen public-private partnerships. The Act must also ensure resilience of critical infra and supply chain systems against natural and man-made threats. The effectiveness of CIPA will depend on the government's reflexion - the sectors and infrastructure it considers to be critical and seeks to notify them as critical while safeguarding them with a distinct statutory cover.

The writer is working for an independent think tank.

Power & corruption

Sir, The words honest and politician do not go hand in hand but still we choose the most corrupt people to govern us as there are no other options. We have to be the options but most of us do not want to get into the whirlpool of politics and we also normally do not support a new political power. These negatives deter honest and deserving people from getting into politics. India still ranks 93 out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perception Index and is just two positions better than the 2011 ranking of 95 out of 183 countries. 2011 was the most corrupt year in India's history. The government has employed a lot of measures to curb black money and corruption over the years but could not improve its ranking on the Index and is still lingering among the most corrupt nations in the world. There are many instances where the net worth of MLAs and MPs has grown magically within five years. Power does not corrupt people, it is just an excuse used by a spineless power wielder.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Cyber threats

Sir, This refers to the article "The right to truth," Orissa Post, August 21. Online bullying, misinformation and spreading fake news through social media platforms are growing by the day. When someone shares a video on Facebook or you hop onto YouTube, the content reaches you after it has been passed around, syndicated, and filtered through several sources. But there is no system for truly identifying the original source of the content. This is not the only problem. Across other social media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram, words and photos are getting shared to millions across the globe with little to no curation. Many of the forwarded messages that we receive on WhatsApp daily either have partial or no truths at all. Their contents make it clear that the subterranean aim of these 'forwards' is to fuel differences, instigate communal hatred and political animosities. Anonymity does breed anti-social behaviour. Fake IDs, pseudonyms and unverified user-accounts abound online, giving people ample opportunity to mask their identities as they post messages.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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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international



After decades of war and in the midst of a terrible humanitarian crisis, the Afghan people deserve much better than being threatened or jailed if they happen to be late for prayers, glance at a member of the opposite sex who is not a family member

ROZA OTUNBAYEVA | FORMER PRESIDENT, KYRGYZSTAN

INS 'MUMBAI' TO VISIT SL

The Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Mumbai' will arrive at the port of Colombo Monday for a three-day maiden visit to Sri Lanka, the Indian High Commission has said



of the day quote

I want to be frank, and this applies not only to India, but to any state that would be positive about hosting a second summit. We will not be able to hold a peace summit in a country that has not yet joined the peace summit communiqué

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

We are planning to make the metro rail infrastructure a key point installation with enhanced security for its protection from any kind of vandalism

MUHAMMAD FOUZUL KABIR KHAN | ROAD TRANSPORT ADVISER, BANGLADESH

The initiatives to mend ties with Turkey did not yield any results worth mentioning despite the seriousness and genuine keenness of mediators

BASHAR AL-ASSAD | PRESIDENT, SYRIA

SHORT TAKES

Floods kill 13 in Indonesia

Jakarta: Thirteen people were killed and two injured in Indonesia's North Maluku province Sunday after floods in the east of the sprawling archipelago, authorities said. The country's disaster management agency BNPB said the floods, caused by heavy rain since Saturday, also badly damaged 10 houses in Ternate city. Citing forecasts that heavy rain may continue in the next few days, BNPB warned local residents to be on guard. "We urge people to remain vigilant and follow directions from authorities on potential subsequent floods," spokesperson Abdul Muhari said in a statement.

Khan may face military court

Islamabad: Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's trial in cases concerning the violence May 9 last year might go to the military courts, a government spokesperson has said. The events and vandalism May 9 last year invited the application of the Army Act since military installations were attacked and damaged. Government spokesperson for legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper. On May 9 last year, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Imran Khan by paramilitary Rangers.

China opposes US sanctions on firms

Beijing: China Sunday expressed its opposition to the latest US sanctions on Chinese companies over their alleged ties to Russia's war in Ukraine, saying it will adopt necessary measures to safeguard the rights and interests of the country's businesses. The US Friday announced sweeping sanctions on hundreds of firms in Russia and across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, accusing them of providing products and services that enable Russia's war effort and aiding its ability to evade sanctions.

Mali drone strikes kill 15

Bamako: At least 15 people, including children, were killed by drone strikes Sunday on the town of Tinzaouaten in north Mali, near where the army suffered a heavy blow last month, Tuareg rebels said. The town, located near the Algerian border, came under drone attack again. The strikes hit a civilian home, a pharmacy and other parts of town, Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadan said via telephone.

PROTESTS FADE

Dhaka limps back to normal

Till three weeks ago, the streets of the capital were flooded with anti-govt protesters, many public squares choked by the agitating masses reaching a dramatic climax August 5, the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government and her fleeing to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



government has been in place since August 8, but the streaks of rebellion remain in many streets of Dhaka.

In the past few days, several government employees have held protests in groups at the government secretariat while some demonstrators have marched in streets near the famous Ahsan Manzil and other areas to put forth their demands.

Many Dhaka University students are raising their voices regularly at the Raju Memorial Site opposite the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) for holding students' union elections at the varsity and demanding "no political interference" on the campus.

The anti-government protests have initiated a churn in Bangladesh and while education goes on, so do protests to achieve a more equitable society "free of discrimination and corruption".

Ibrahim Mahmud, a student of public administration who took part in a varsity protest earlier this week, alleged that members of Chhatra League, the student wing of the ousted Awami League, used to "harass" several fellow students in the campus.

"We have achieved our 'second independence', this time from

the high-handedness of the Awami League and its bad influence," he told PTI on the sidelines of the protest held at the Raju Memorial site opposite TSC.

The Dhaka Metro line near the university, a major lifeline for students and a means to beat city traffic, was shut for over a month.

While the passenger services resumed Sunday morning, two of its stations Mirpur-10 and Kazipara will remain shut.

These two stations were vandalised during the anti-government protests. Students of Dhaka University and other institutions heaved a sigh of relief as the metro services resumed after a gap of over 35 days.

Abdur Rahman, a first-year undergraduate student in the English Department of the 103-year-old Dhaka University, said the last time he had used the city metro was about 40-50 days ago. "Life is slowly getting back on track," he said.

Near to the Dhaka Metro station is the historic Curzon Hall housing the science faculty of the university. Students and general visitors go there every evening for strolls while others take selfies or make reels for social media platforms.

Telegram messaging app CEO arrested



REUTERS

zenship, was arrested as part of a preliminary police investigation into allowing possible criminality due to a lack of moderators on Telegram and a lack of cooperation with police. Reuters' police source could not confirm that.

Durov faces possible indictment Sunday, according to French media.

Telegram, based in Dubai, was founded by Durov, who left Russia in 2014 after he refused to comply with demands to shut down opposition communities on his VK social media platform, which he has sold.

Durov came up with the idea of an encrypted messaging app as a way to communicate while he was under pressure in Russia. His younger brother, Nikolai, designed the encryption.

"I would rather be free than to take orders from anyone," Durov said in April about his exit from Russia and search for a home for his company which included stints in Berlin, London, Singapore and San Francisco.

Meanwhile, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk Sunday came out in support of Telegram Founder Pavel Durov, saying Mark Zuckerberg should instead be arrested for massive child exploitation problem on his Meta-owned Instagram.



The Dalai Lama attends a public talk at the Hallenstadion in Zurich, Switzerland

PTI PHOTO

China, Philippines clash again in SCS

REUTERS

Manila, August 25: The Philippines and China clashed in disputed waters of the South China Sea (SCS) Sunday over what Manila said was a resupply mission for fishermen, the latest in a series of sea and air confrontations in the strategic waterway.

The incident overshadows efforts by both nations to rebuild trust and better manage disputes after months of confrontations, including a violent clash in June, in which a Filipino sailor lost a finger.

The Philippines Sunday accused China of "aggressive and dangerous manoeuvres" to block the resupply mission. China's coast guard, meanwhile, said it had taken "control measures" against a vessel that had "illegally" entered the waters and repeatedly approached Chinese ships in a dangerous manner.

In the incident near the Sabina

Shoal, the Philippine South China Sea task force said Chinese vessels rammed and used water cannons against a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries ship transporting food, fuel and medical supplies for Filipino fishermen.

For its part, the Chinese coast guard said the Philippine ship "ignored repeated serious warnings and deliberately approached and rammed" China's law enforcement boat, resulting in a collision.

Police have evidence linking the man to the knife attacks, according to North Rhine-Westphalia state interior minister Herbert Reul. Federal prosecutors have launched an investigation into charges of "participating in a terrorist organization", a spokesman said.

He was not known to the security services as an extremist, the newspapers reported.

Rohingya refugees mark anniversary of their exodus

THE REFUGEES DEMAND A SAFE RETURN TO MYANMAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cox's Bazar, August 25: Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who live in sprawling camps in Bangladesh Sunday marked the seventh anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The refugees gathered in an open field at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar district carrying banners and festoons reading "Hope is Home" and "We Rohingya are the citizens of Myanmar," defying the rain on a day that is marked as "Rohingya Genocide Day."

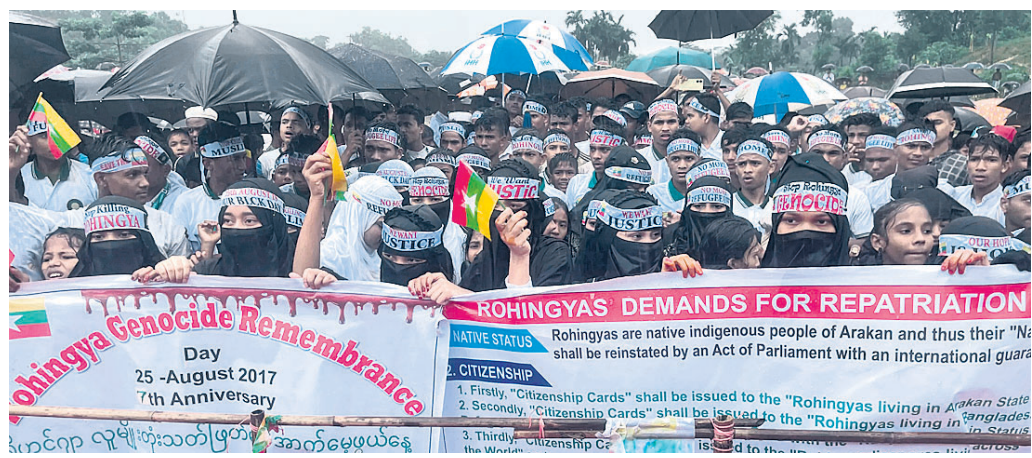
On August 25, 2017, hundreds of thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings

and other violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Myanmar had launched a brutal crackdown following attacks by an insurgent group on guard posts. The scale, organisation and ferocity of the operation led to accusations from the international community, including the UN, of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Then-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered border guards to open the border, eventually allowing more than 700,000 refugees to take shelter in the Muslim-majority nation. The influx was in addition to the more than 300,000 refugees who had already been living in Bangladesh for decades in the wake of waves of previous violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military.

Since 2017, Bangladesh has attempted at least twice to send the refugees back and has urged the international community to build pressure on Myanmar for a peaceful environment inside Myanmar that could help start the



repatriation. Hasina also sought help from China to mediate.

But in the recent past, the situation in Rakhine state has become more volatile after a group called Arakan Army started fighting against Myanmar's security forces. The renewed chaos forced more refugees to flee toward Bangladesh and elsewhere in a desperate move to save their lives. Hundreds of Myanmar

soldiers and border guards also took shelter inside Bangladesh to flee the violence, but Bangladesh later handed them over to Myanmar peacefully.

As the protests took place in camps in Bangladesh Sunday, the United Nations and other rights groups expressed their concern over the ongoing chaos in Myanmar. Washington-based Refugees

International in a statement Sunday described the scenario.

"In Rakhine state, increased fighting between Myanmar's military junta and the AA (Arakan Army) over the past year has both caught Rohingya in the middle and seen them targeted. The AA has advanced and burned homes in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and other towns, recently using drones to bomb vil-

On August 25, 2017, thousands of refugees started crossing the border to Bangladesh on foot and by boats amid indiscriminate killings and other violence in Myanmar

lages," it said.

"The junta has forcibly recruited Rohingya and bombed villages in retaliation. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have been newly displaced, including several who have tried to flee into Bangladesh," it said.

UNICEF said that the agency received alarming reports that civilians, particularly children and families, were being targeted or caught in the crossfire, resulting in deaths and severe injuries, making humanitarian access in Rakhine extremely challenging.

