DSPL-87





ମହିଳା ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ପାଇଁ ଯୁଗାନ୍ତକାରୀ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ



ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ଅଧୀନରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା ରାଶି

> ୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ପାଇବେ ମୋଟ ୫୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ, ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ଜୀ



ମାନ୍ୟବର ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ



ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ

- ଉପକୃତ ହେବେ ୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ମହିଳା
- ▶ ପାଞ୍ଚ ବର୍ଷରେ ବ୍ୟୟ ହେବ ୫୫ ହଜାର ୮୨୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍ଗା

## ପ୍ରମୁଖ ବିଶେଷତା

୨୧ ବର୍ଷ କିମ୍ବା ତଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଏବଂ ୬୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ କମ୍ ବଯ୍ୱସର ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ହେବେ ଉପକୃତ

ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାତ୍ୟତ ଓ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସର୍ବାଧିକ ପରିମାଣର୍ ଡିଜିଟାଲ୍ କାରବାର୍ କରୁଥିବା ୧୦୦ ଜଣ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ରାଶି

ବାର୍ଷିକ ଦୁଇଟି କିସ୍ତ୍ରିରେ ୧୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍ଗା ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ରାକ୍ଷୀ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ମହିଳା ଦିବସ (ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୮ ତାରିଖ)ରେ

୫,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଆଧାର ପେମେଣ୍ଟ୍ ବ୍ରିଜ୍ ସିଷ୍ଟମ୍ (APBS) ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ଆଧାର ସଂଯୋଜିତ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ୍ ଖାତାକୁ ସିଧାସଳଖ ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

OIPR-46005/13/0004/2425

# leisure



## **KIM KARDASHIAN BATS FOR CLEMENCY**

When reality television star Kim Kardashian is not being chased by the paparazzi, she likes to work towards making society inclusive. The reality star recently approached the authorities for clemency of the prisoners of the state who may be now ready to get absorbed in society.

## **TARANTINO IS BIG FAN OF** THE TOY STORY TRILOGY

Legendary filmmaker Quentin Tarantino said that he doesn't watch all animated stories. "I don't watch all the animated movies and stuff, but I'm a big fan of the Toy Story trilogy," he said in a clip that has since gone viral on X, formerly known as Twitter.





You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesha says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God

### **TAURUS**

This is one of those days when not goes well, warns Ganesha. No matter how hard you try you may not be able to keep problems and difficulties at bav. You may not be pleased or comfortable doing what has been assigned, or required, and could simply sit sullenly

### **GEMINI**

Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confidence, says Ganesha.

CANCER restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you

You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesha

You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesha warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening

Ganesha says you will showcase your ability and skills today in your work field and impress people. You will develop artistic things and you will purchase a new work of art today. Ganesha showers you with all his blessings.

## SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as liberating and relaxing.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

A day to full of caution, warns Ganesha. There are chances that your heart will find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to handled with care. Also, it's time to guard your reputation.

## CAPRICORN

Forced to some backbreaking work today, you will feel exhausted by the end of the day. It is a cut-throat competition when it comes to the business world. Your arch rivals are looking out for one small opportunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less. You understand their moves.

## **AQUARIUS**

Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesha congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may credoesn't mean that you throw your weight around.

## PISCES

The day will be exceptional for working people as the planets seemed to be aligned perfectly, portends Ganesha. You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today. Those looking to pursue further studies in foreign coun tries will also make progress and come closer to fulfilling their dreams.

# 'Army upbringing makes a difference'

Mumbai: Rhea Chakraborty returned with another episode on her podcast, Chapter 2. The actress shared how she withstood the intense public scrutiny she faced following the unexpected death of her partner, actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in 2020.

Actor Aamir Khan complimented Rhea's bravery in their conversation in the most recent episode. He said,

'What happened with you, I would call it a tragedy. The way your life changed after that, and the way you have shown patience and strength, you didn't lose hope or faith in yourself. We all can learn a lot from that. A person's morale breaks and gets crushed.

You are starting your second chap-Rhea added,

"I think army upbringing also makes a difference. Because you know life is tough. You have seen it from childhood that when dad leaves, there's a possibility he may not come back. You are taught to fight and never give up. To always stay hopeful. It's just inherent in your DNA. No one can defeat you easily.'

Rhea also talked about her true motivation for launching her own show. She said, "One of the biggest reason why I started a podcast of my own was the fact that media went extreme

with the whole episode. I tried to give interviews a couple of times, but I didn't feel good.

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh, Rakul's pick for Lord Krishna recently seen in Indian 2, has shared her opinion on the ideal hero to

> ever the Indian epic of Mahabharata is adapted into a movie. When asked by this agency if Mahabharata was being made into a movie, who does she think should essay the role of Krishna, she said, "Lord Krishna is such a multifaceted character, wise, mischievous, charming, and deeply spiritual. I think someone who can balance all these traits with grace would be ideal. Perhaps someone like Hrithik

essay the role

of Lord Krishna if

ergy and versatility.' Talking about her favourite delicacy and prasad during Janmashtami, she said, "I haven't personally cooked Prasad on Janmashtami, but the memories of relishing the special Prasad and food prepared at home are unforgettable. My favourite has always been the makkhan mishri. It's something I always look forward to every vear.'

Roshan, or even Mahesh Babu,

who can bring both the playful

and profound sides of Krishna

to life on screen with his en-

# Chinta O Chetana's Barsha-2024 concludes



Former Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan receiving Neelachakra Award from the dignitaries

Bhubaneswar: The 47th edition of the three-day dance and music extravaganza Barsha-2024, the monsoon festival, organised by the state's prominent socio-cultural organisation Chinta O Chetana at Rabindra Mandap, concluded Tuesday.

Former Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhushan Harichandan was the chief guest on the occasion, while musician Laxmikanta Palit, President of Chinta O Chetana Sahadeb Sahoo, Secretary Surendra Das, KIIT founder Achyuta Samanta, and Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Babu Singh were in attendance. Harichandan was conferred with the Neelachakra award on the occasion. The first show of the concluding

evening was by Chinmay Kumar Das of Cuttack, who performed Shri Hari Stotram while Sonali Das and Sambhabi Mohapatra performed Abhinaya on popular legendary singer Bhikari Bala.

Rout and group was performed.

Patnaik, and Harekrushna Mahatab. Odisha's only homegrown daily Orissa POST and Odia daily Dhartri were the print media partners of



# Barnali Hota: Our music deserves to be heard globally

Bhubaneswar: Emerging Odia singer Barnali Hota added yet another feather to her hat by becoming the second runner-up at Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash, a prestigious national level singing competition. Her mellifluous voice and striking style captivated both the judges and

the audience throughout the competition. Her rooted numbers such as *Utha* Dada, and Kene Gheni Jaucha have gone viral.

said, "Thank you, Odisha, for your unwavering support and boundless love. Representing our state's vibrant folk traditions on a national platform has been an incredible honour. I carried the pride of our culture with me every step of the way," she said.

Looking ahead, she vows to continue working tirelessly to promote Odia folk Kankala, Furr Kina Udigala Bani, Maira music, with the goal of spreading its beauty and significance across India and beyond. "Our music deserves to be Reacting to the success, the singer heard globally, and I am committed to

making that a reality," she added.

Barnali's journey began at 11 when she participated in the Saregamapa L'il Champs. She further showcased her talent in 2017 on Dil Hai Hindustani, leaving a lasting impression with her powerful performances.

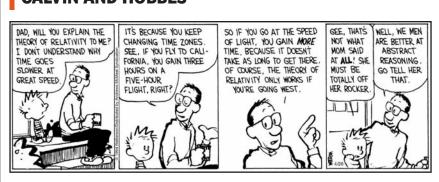
Airing on DD National, India's first folk music reality show, Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash, featured contestants from all 28 states and eight Union Territories.

# Jaganath Bhajan Pacharile Radhikanku Dine Nandabala by the event. After that, a group dance depicting Ramayana by Nupur dance group led by Niranjan

## **PEANUTS**



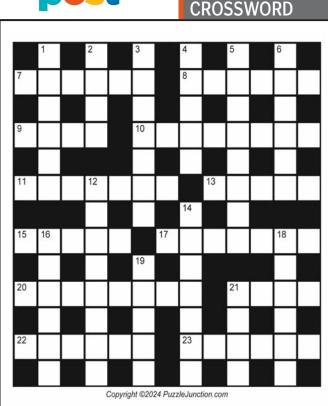
## **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



## **BREVITY**



## FUN



Acre	<u>OSS</u>
7	Kind of school

8 Flips over 9 Washday

buildup

10 Kitchen aid

(3,5)

11 Pickle

13 Banquet 15 Nimble

17 Type of

pudding

**Down** 1 Penalise

2 Skip over 3 Poison

4 Fencing move

5 Kakke disease

20 Heart attack

messengers

21 Cast off

22 Winged

23 Call forth

14 Long-horned

grasshopper 16 Like some

6 Common

vipers

Fido

12 Command to

beef 18 Impertinent

19 Cantina offering 21 Goalie's feat SUDOKU

### 2 5 2 8 5 8 9 6 SOLUTIONS

9

3

3

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

5

4

6

CROSSWORD 8 2

3 9 8

6 8 4 4 9 8 1 2 7 5 6 9 5 6 8 3 7

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



### 'No free power'

No announcement made on giving free electricity upto 300 units, says Dy CM KV Singh Deo

DOWNTOWN | P3



### **Russia warns West**

Russia warns the United States Tuesday of World War III for allowing Ukraine to strike deep into the

INTERNATIONAL | P8



## **Under scrutiny**

**US Customs and Border Protection** detains \$43mn in shipments of Indian equipment under law banning goods made with forced labour

BUSINESS | P9



## Shah youngest ICC chairman

Jay Shah, 35, becomes the youngest ICC chairman as he is elected unopposed after no one else files nomination

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

www.orissapost.com

**BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28, 2024** 



FLOOD FURY: A flooded area after heavy monsoon rainfall, in Vadodara, Tuesday

## **Battleground Kolkata**

Kolkata, August 27: Largescale violence on the streets of Kolkata and adjacent Howrah marred the cries for justice for the RG Kr hospital victim Tuesday afternoon after protestors, aiming to reach the West Bengal state secretariat, Nabanna, fought pitched battles with the police at multiple stoppage points.

The violence, which lasted for nearly four hours, led to several injuries on both sides with senior police officers and women protestors among those who were hurt. More than 200 people were arrested from across the state, police said. Protestors took to incessant pelting of stones and glass bottles on the police at several spots. Fifteen Kolkata Police and 14 state police force personnel were injured in the clashes.

Police resorted to large-scale lathi-charge, unleashed water cannons and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the aggressive crowd who poured in from multiple converging points at Nabanna.

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari alleged that over 160 protestors, including 17 women, suffered injuries in the police action.



on protestors, BJP's Bengal unit president Sukanta Majumdar called a 12-hour Bangla bandh Wednesday. Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari urged Governor CV Ananda Bose to "impose President's Rule" in the state.

The 'Nabanna Abhijan' call was given by an unregistered student body 'Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj' and a dissident state government employees' platform 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha'.

The West Bengal government urged people not to respond to BJP's 6am-6pm general strike.

It issued a notification stating that all government offices would remain open and all employees, except those facing exigencies or are on leave, would have to report for duty August 28 or face show-cause for unauthorised absence.

## Mohanlal steps down as AMMA president

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thrissur, August 27: Just over two months after being elected president of the Association of Malayalam

Movies Artistes (AMMA) for the third successive

announced he was stepping down

# term, superstar Mohanlal Tuesday

and the rest of the 17-member executive Committee also quit, in wake of criticism of the film body over the revelations made in the Justice Hema Committee re port. It was at the AMMA's annual general body in June that Mohanlal secured his third threeyear term through the ballot. **P6** 

## **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



We thought it ould be prudent

### **MARKET WATCH INDEX** SENSEX 81711.76 13.65 **25017.75 1** 7.15 DOLLAR 83.92 **1** ₹0.02 EURO 1 ₹0.08 93,79 ₹120 GOLD ₹71,919 SILVER **₹85,376**

## WEATHER

CTC **BBSR** 31.0°C **Max Temp** Min Temp 98% **Humidity** 

88.8mm 27.6mm Rainfall **FORECAST** 

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of one/two spells of rain

# Why pick & choose: SC 191 illegal City buildings to be razed

In an observation which could have a bearing on the hearing of the alleged Delhi excise policy case, the Supreme Court came down heavily on ED and CBI questioning their 'fairness' while investigating people, especially Opposition politicians. While granting bail to BRS leader K Kavitha, arrested in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged scam, a two-judge bench of the apex court asked the Central agencies if they were free to 'pick and choose' an accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: In a relief to BRS leader K Kavitha, the Supreme Court Tuesday granted her bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, while questioning the Central agencies over the fairness of their probe and asking if they were free to "pick and choose" an accused.

The apex court said Kavitha's custody was no longer required as both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have completed their probe against her. The Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) lawmaker from Telangana has been in jail for

over five months. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and K V Viswanathan noted since 493 witnesses were to be examined and 50,000 pages of documents were to be considered



in the two cases, there was no serving "Sorry to see this state of likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future.

'The appellant (Kavitha) is directed to be released forthwith on bail ... on furnishing bail bonds in the sum of ₹10 lakh in each of the cases," the bench said, while allowing her appeals against the July 1 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had denied her bail in the two cases.

Later in the day, a Delhi court issued release warrants for Kavitha, paving the way for her release from jail. While quashing the high court verdict, the apex court said Kavitha shall not make any attempt to tamper with evidence or influence the witnesses and shall deposit her

passport with the trial judge. It said she shall regularly attend the trial court proceedings and cooperate to ensure expe-

ditious disposal of the trial. The two federal agencies came in for some sharp criticism over the "fairness" of their investigation, with the apex court obaffairs". "You will pick and choose anyone?" it asked, while referring to one of the witnesses whose statements were read out in the court during the arguments.

"The prosecution has to be fair. You can't pick and choose anyone. What is this fairness? A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness," the bench said, adding, "Tomorrow you will pick up anyone as you choose and leave anyone as you choose as an accused? Very fair and reasonable discretion!"

When Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the probe agencies, referred to some witnesses who have claimed Kavitha's involvement in the alleged scam, the court told him it would be compelled to "observe everything" if he tried to pull it

into the details. "We will have to observe about the fairness and impartiality of the investigating agencies," it said, adding, "If you want those observations, you argue more".

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The state government has issued orders to raze 191 illegal apartments and buildings in the Capital city here, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra told the Assembly Tuesday.
In a written reply to BJD leg-

islator Ranendra Pratap Swain, Mohapatra said a total of 491 cases were registered against apartments and buildings allegedly constructed illegally in the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) area.

Of those, demolition orders have been issued in 191 cases while 63 cases have been dropped and the remaining 237 cases are under trial, he said.



been registered against illegal constructions in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area. Of that, 451 cases have been disposed of, while 993 are under trial, he added.

Reportedly, Bhubai Mayor Sulochana Das had earlier stated that the BMC would demolish unauthorised apartments in the Capital city if the state government ensured adequate compensation in this regard. Das said many builders had sold the plots and fled, leaving the

civic body with limited control over the unauthorised constructions. These constructions were earlier under the jurisdiction of panchayats but have now come under the BMC's control. That apart, numerous natural water bodies have been encroached upon, leading to se-\_ vere drainage problems in the areas, she said.

"BMC will undertake demolition of these unauthorised structures in the event the government agreed for compensation. Following the receipt of relevant official orders, the BMC will take the necessary actions to demolish the illegal structures," she added.

## 'SUBHADRA' FOR MORE **THAN 1 FAMILY MEMBER**

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Tuesday said that all eligible women, including more than one member of a family, will be able to get the benefits of Subhadra Yojana.

According to the guidelines of the scheme, each beneficiary will receive ₹10,000 per year in two equal instalments. Over five years, each eligible woman will receive a total of ₹50,000

Parida said all eligible women of 21-60 age group will get the benefit. "A total of 1.37 crore women of this age group are there in Odisha. Excluding the higher income and economically sound, about 1.08 crore women will be covered under the scheme," she said.

If there are two or three eligible women in one family, all will get the benefit, she said. "All eligible women including those getting widow pension and scholarship from the government will get the assistance," she added.

ter's neurologist smuggled it inside

her luggage when returning from

an overseas trip. Later on, with the

help of a lawyer, she obtained spe-

cial court permission to start grow-

ing marijuana in her backyard in

Sao Paulo city, and has been pro-

ducing the extract for her daugh-

ter and 200 other patients.

## **Mohanta wins RS** bypoll unopposed



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: BJP candidate Mamata Mohanta Tuesday returned to the Rajya Sabha after winning unopposed in the by-election, which was necessitated by her resignation as a BJD MP and switching sides.

unopposed as there was no candidate in the fray when the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended, officials said.

Mohanta was declared elected

The Opposition BJD and Congress did not field any candidates. However, BJP fielded Jagannath Pradhan as a 'dummy candidate', but he withdrew his nomination papers before the end of the deadline, paving the way for Mohanta's re-election.

Chief Minister Maohan Charan Majhi congratulated Mohanta in the Assembly after the result was declared. Mohanta, a leader of the Kudumi community from Mayurbhanj district, had quit the BJD and resigned as its Rajya Sabha MP in July with 18 months left of her tenure, forcing the bypoll. She switched over to the-BJP, which nominated her as its

candidate.

## Brazilian moms take lead in securing medical marijuana tain some CBD when her daugh-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, August 27: The 4-yearold boy struggled to balance while walking through the living room. His mother's eyes attentively followed his every move. Then a seizure knocked him to the ground, the dull thud of his small body echoing through the home.

On this July morning in Guaruja, a coastal city in Brazil's state of Sao Paulo, Murillo quickly regained his senses as his mom,

Janaína Silva, cradled him. "From five minutes of agony. it's now just seconds," Silva said, recalling how only three months ago her son's seizures would have lasted much longer. Murillo was diagnosed as a baby with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a type of epilepsy with multiple types of seizures that cause stiffening and dropping of the head and limbs.

His shorter — and less intense - seizures are a result of a steady dose of liquid cannabidiol (CBD) that Silva can acquire for free through the state public health system. It's a step the federal government has failed to take, as legislation to regulate medical cannabis at the national level has stalled in Congress for years.

In drugstores, a 30 milliliter bottle (1 fluid ounce) of the CBD that Murillo's pediatrician prescribed for his condition costs as much as 900 reais (\$180) — more than half Silva's monthly wages as an office assistant. Since June, she has spent zero on Murillo's CBD medication. Twice a day, she drips the oil into the boy's mouth, and each bottle lasts about 45 days.



Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous state with over 44 million people. was the first to enact legislation making CBD available for free.

The law was a win for Brazilian moms who have led a decade-long campaign to secure access for their sick children. They have fought through civil disobedience, court petitions,

marches and political pressure. One of the mothers leading the charge is Maria Aparecida Carvalho, 56, a former bank employee. Her daughter, Clárian, was diagnosed at age 10 with Dravet Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy that can cause car-

diorespiratory arrest and lead to

sudden death. She was able to ob-

In 2019, Caio França, a centerleft state lawmaker drafted the country's first bill aiming to allow families to request medication through the public health care system. The bill passed in late 2022, with nearly two-thirds support from the state's legislature.

Recreational marijuana is still prohibited in Brazil, but following years of deliberations, the Supreme Court in June decriminalized it for personal use, up to a maximum-allowed quantity.

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 28 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

# SSEPD dept inks pacts for students' inclusive growth

IN THE FIRST PHASE, **ABOUT 500 STUDENTS** AND TEACHERS TO BE **TRAINED DURING EIGHTEEN MONTHS' DURATION** 

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The Department of Social Security and Empowerment of PwDs (SSEPD) Tuesday signed two MoUs with an aim for inclusive growth of students with disabilities.

The MoUs were signed in presence of SSEPD Minister Nityananda Gond and Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi here.

Director Niyati Patnaik, Additional Secretaries SK Pradhan and D Routray of SSEPD department and Rabindra Singh, chief executive officer and Salini Khanna, chairperson were signatories in the MoU.

Sethi said that the state government is taking various initiatives to ensure learning and skill training for the disabled population of Odisha.

"The department has roped in Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC),



Kolkata and Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) for skill development of students with disabilities and to prepare them with employability, officials said.

"SCPD will provide skill training for one year to students with disabilities in different trades such as fashion designing, automotive, hotel management, tourism and hospitality, security services, hospital services and other private jobs,"

C-DAC will provide digital voice recorders, desktop, laptop with required software to empower the students in computer knowledge, they added.

Similarly, another MoU was signed with CDAC to provide computer education for visually challenged students. Ritesh Mukharjee, Scientist (F), Associate Director, Kunal Chandra, Scientist (E) Joint Director and Soma Khan, Scientist (E) Joint Director were

signatories on behalf of C-DAC. The department said about 500 students and teachers will be trained during eighteen months' duration in the first phase. They will be imparted various basic computing knowledge, it said.

## Shalini Pandit takes charge in S&ME dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Shalini Pandit took charge as the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the School and Mass Education department, recently. Upon assuming her new role, she met with senior officials to share her vision and outline a strategic path forward for the department.

In her address, Pandit emphasised the department's reputation and the importance of unity and collaboration among the staff.

Pandit introduced the concept of 'Team Education', advocating for a shift from individual efforts to a more collaborative, team-based approach to address the dynamic challenges and opportunities in the mass education sector.

"It is crucial that we leverage the collective strength of our team to build on the exceptional reputation our department has established," Pandit stated.



"By adopting a forward-thinking mindset and strategically planning our initiatives, we can effectively navigate the evolving landscape of education and achieve our goals," she added.

RISE conclave held at SOA

COURTESY VISIT: Director General Armed Force Medical Services Lt Gen Daljit Singh visited INS Chilka and INHS Nivarini recently. Singh was briefed on the pivotal role played by INS Chilka in shaping the future sea warriors of the Indian Navy. He also interacted with INS Chilka Commanding Officer Cmde B Deepak Aneel

## KIITSMC's workshop on Wetlands for LiFE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The Wetlands for LiFE Media Students Engagement Programme, held recently at the KIIT School of Mass Communication (KIITSMC), brought together media professionals, environmental experts, and conservationists to explore the role of media in promoting wetland conservation.

Organised by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), in collaboration with KIIT University and GIZ India, the two-day workshop was aimed at enhancing the understanding and communication skills of media per-

sonnel regarding the importance of wetlands, particularly Chilika Lake, a vital ecosystem in state.

The inaugural session was graced by distinguished speakers, including Chilika Development Authority senior scientific officer RN Samal, KIITSMC director general Himansu Shekhar Khatua and Registrar Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty. Director of CMS programme Annu Anand emphasised the critical role of media in environmental conservation and associate professor Rajeev Kumar Panda, in his welcome speech referred the wetland as the kidney of the ecosystem.

In his address, Mohanty said,

"Media has the power to shape public perception and drive action. Through initiatives like this, we are equipping journalists with the knowledge and tools to make a real difference in environmental conservation.'

Khatua highlighted the KIIT Green Initiative by founder Achyuta Samanta to control environmental pollution and create a healthy environment in and around the institution.

The workshop featured tech nical sessions on various topics, including the mystery and beauty of wetlands, environment journalism, and storytelling techniques.

## CUO students excel in JLPT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Six students from the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput successfully passed the N5 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) recently.

"This marks as a notable achievement for the university that underscores the commitment of the institution for linguistic excellence," an official said. Out of ten students who attended the N5 level examination, six achieved passing grades. Rituparna Bala and Abhipsa Patra are from the department of Agriculture, and Prityam Kumar Dhal, Stuti Mahima Khora, Subham Dash, and Jagadish Sahu are from the de-

partment of Mathematics who got through the examination. Two students received special commendations and secured 120

CUO vice chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi said, "The success highlights the dedication and support of the Course Coordinator, Nirjharini Tripathy, and faculty members Nabin Panda and Bithika Das.

Tripathi congratulated students, course coordinators, and faculty members for the achievement. Notably, administered annually by the government of Japan, JLPT assesses the proficiency and skills of an individual in Japanese language. CUO offers one-year Japanese Language Certificate Course (JLCC).





and 112 marks, respectively. Expressing his happiness,



POST NEWS NETWORK

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who graced the occasion as chief guest, said the endeavour would create a conducive ecosystem for research in higher

Parida said the conclave opened the door for dialogue, collaboration and innovation while upholding the concept of ethical excellence in research.

Springer Nature Group president, research Steven Inchcoombe said, "RISE is a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening India's research landscape by nurturing talent, making research more open and transparent, and improving its quality," he said.

Group's managing director Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi said, "Our collaboration with SOA University reflects our shared vision of making science more open, accessible, and impactful. We look forward to seeing the positive outcomes of this partnership," he said.

The event also witnessed MoU exchange for Springer Nature's Cureus Journal of Medical Sciences with SOA along with an agreement for the Fully Open Access Journals.

SOA VC PK Nanda said, "The partnership will not only enhance the quality and visibility of our research but will also set new standards for academic integrity in India.'

The conclave, attended by researchers and educationists from across the country was organised by Springer Nature in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Education and SOA, officials said.

'The event will be followed by RISE roadshows comprising workshops, knowledge sessions and learning courses for researchers across India as part of Springer Nature's India Research Tour 2024 next month," they added.

## Woman's complex surgery at Bhub Manipal Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The doctors in Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, performed a rare and complex facial reconstruction surgery on a middle-aged woman, officials said Tuesday. "The patient had severe frac-

tures to the right side of her face following a traumatic accident in April, which resulted in vision loss and multiple fractures, including the orbit, cheekbone, and upper jaw," they said.

A CT scan revealed comminuted fractures in the maxilla. zygomatic, and orbital bone on the right side of her face.

The woman remained without surgery as she had high risk of potential brain complications.

Harsh Pathak, the consultant in the department of Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery. After examining the patient,

Pathak successfully performed

She was finally referred to

the surgery using advanced techniques and sophisticated surgical instruments. Pathak said, "Achieving successful reconstruction in such a complex case, especially with

timely intervention, stands as one of the rarest and most challenging procedures of its kind performed in Odisha.' Notably, the hospital specialises

in a wide range of procedures, including accident-related facial reconstructions, oral oncology, cosmetic surgery, dent alveolar procedures, and dental implants



## CLASSIFIED

**AFFIDAVIT** ମୁଁ କୈଳାସ ନାୟକ, ବୟସ-୫୨ ପିତା- ସ୍ୱର୍ଗତ ବାଙ୍କନିଧି ନାୟକ, ଗ୍ରାମ- କରଞ୍ଜ ସାହି, ଥାନା-ରାମଗିରି, ଗଜପତି(ଓଡ଼ିଶା)। ମୁଁ ଚାକିରି କ୍ଷେତ୍ତରେ କୈଳାସ ନାୟକ ନାମରେ କାମ କରି ଆସୁଥିଲି। କିନ୍ତୁ ମୋର ଷ୍ଟ୍ରଲ ସାର୍ଟିଫିକେଟ୍ ଓ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ କୈଳାସ ନାୟକ ନାମରେ ପରିଚିତ। ଏହା ମୁଁ ଏକ୍ଜିକ୍ୟଟିଭ୍ ମାଜିଷ୍ଟେଟ୍ ଛତ୍ୱପୁରଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ନଂ.-୧୬୯୪/୨୪ ୨୦ । ୦୮ । ୨୦ ୨୪ରିଖରେ ଖବରକାଗଜରେ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଘୋଷଣା କରୁଛି

ସ୍ୱା./- କୈଳାସ ନାୟକ

# Rising seas may have catastrophic effects on coastal habitats

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES HAS WARNED THAT RISING SEA LEVELS IS A CRISIS THAT WILL SOON SWELL** TO AN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE **SCALE** 

ighlighting seas that are rising at an accelerating rate, especially in the far more vulnerable Pacific island nations. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued yet another climate SOS to the world. This time he said those initials stand for save our seas.

Meteorological Organisation (WMO) recently issued reports on worsening sea level rise, turbocharged by a warming Earth and melting ice sheets and glaciers. They highlight how the Southwestern Pacific is not only hurt by the rising oceans, but by other climate change effects of ocean acidifi-

cation and marine heat waves. Guterres toured Samoa and Tonga and made his climate plea from Tonga's capital Tuesday at a meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, whose member countries are among those most im-

periled by climate change. This is a crazy situation. Rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity's making. A crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale, with no lifeboat to take us back to safety," Guterres said.

A report that Guterres' office



commissioned found that sea level lapping against Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa had risen 21 centimeters between 1990 and 2020, twice the global average of 10 centimeters. Apia, Samoa, has seen 31 centimeters of rising seas, while Suva-B, Fiji has

had 29 centimeters. Because of sea level rise, the

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488,

ocean is transforming from being a lifelong friend into a growing threat, Celeste Saulo, secretarygeneral of the World Meteorological Organisation told reporters in Nuku'alofa

While the western edges of the Pacific are seeing sea level rise about twice the global average, the central Pacific is closer to the global average, the WMO said.

Sea levels are rising faster in the western tropical Pacific because of where the melting ice from western Antarctica heads, warmer waters and ocean currents, UN officials said.

While he met in Nuku'alofa Tuesday with Pacific nations on the environment at their leaders' annual summit, a hundred local high school students and activists from across the Pacific marched for climate justice a few blocks away.

"We promote climate mobility as a solution to be safe from your island that's been destroyed by climate change, but it's not the safest option," he said.

The Pacific is getting hit hard despite only producing 0.2 per cent of heat-trapping gases causing climate change and expanding oceans, the UN said.

Globally, sea level rise has been accelerating, the UN report said, echoing peer-reviewed studies. The rate is now the fastest it has been in 3,000 years. Guterres said.

The UN report also highlighted cities in the richest 20 nations, which account for 80 per cent of the heat-trapping gases, where rising seas are lapping at large population centers. Those cities where sea level rise in the past 30 years has been at least 50 per cent higher than the global average include Shanghai; Perth, Australia; London; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Boston; Miami; and New Orleans.

Guterres is amping up his rhetoric on what he calls "climate chaos" and urged richer nations to step up efforts to reduce car bon emissions, end fossil fuel use and help poorer nations.

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



# downtown

### **JOINING HANDS**

The twin city Commissionerate Police inks pact with Bank of Baroda in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## Heavy rains to pound state for 4 days: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in many parts of the state during the next four days.

In a special bulletin, IMD's regional centre here said a fresh low-pressure area is expected to form over east-central and adjoining north Bay of Bengal August 29. It is likely to move towards south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts during the subsequent two days. In view of the formation of

the weather system, the state is likely to experience an active wet spell during August 28 to 31, it said. The weather office has issued

a heavy rainfall warning for Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam districts for Wednesday.

Besides, thunderstorms with lightning are expected at some places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, and Nayagarh districts during the day, it said.

The IMD has issued an 'orange' warning for Malkangiri. Koraput, Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts for Thursday, and Malkangiri and Koraput for Friday.

A 'yellow' warning (be updated) has also been issued for some other districts during August 29 and 30.

The Met department has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea along and off coasts August 30 and 31.

From 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Tuesday, the highest rainfall of 48 mm was recorded in Capital city, followed by 42 mm in Talcher and 28 mm in Cuttack city, it said.

## **BJD** expels **ZP** member

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The Opposition BJD Tuesday expelled Sasmita Majhi, a zilla parishad (ZP) member of Malkangiri district, for allegedly indulging in 'anti-people

BJD media coordinator Pratap Jena said, "Majhi, who was a 3 of Mathili block, was expelled from the party with immediate

The action came a day after a man was arrested in the area for allegedly duping job aspirants by impersonating former BJD leader VK Pandian's brother-in-law.

## **RSP** initiates biochar use

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in collaboration with SAIL, RDCIS has successfully initiated the use of biochar in blast furnace to reduce carbon emissions in steel production.

RSP director in-charge Atanu Bhowmick charged the first biochar during the historic trial of biochar injection August 24 in presence of senior plant offi-

Bhowmick said, "We are proud to be at the forefront of this transformative initiative. By integrating biochar into operations, we are taking a significant step towards reducing our carbon footprint and advancing our commitment to sustainable development

SAIL is exploring innovative solutions such as the use of biochar, a stable form of carbon derived from biomass through a process known as pyrolysis to cut down CO2 emissions.

This process thermally decomposes biomass—originating from plants and animals—in the absence of oxygen, producing biochar, which can be utilised to partially replace traditional PCI coal in blast furnaces.

Laboratory studies and trials conducted by RDCIS have identified babool and bamboo-based biochar as suitable replacements for PCI coal.

# **RUCKUS AS OPPN DEMANDS CASTE CENSUS**



Congress member Taraprasad Bahinipati tries to climb the Speaker's podium in state Assembly in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Opposition BJD and Congress members Tuesday stalled the business of the Assembly, demanding caste census in the state.

The House witnessed a ruckus right from the Question Hour, forcing Speaker

Surama Padhy to adjourn the proceedings four times in the pre-lunch session till 4:00 pm.

The Speaker also convened an allparty meeting to resolve the impasse in the House for the last six days due to the vociferous protest by the BJD and the Congress over several issues

As soon as the House assembled for the day, Congress and BJD members trooped into the well of the House, shouted slogans, and demanded caste census in the state.

Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati and BJD MLA Adhiraj Panigrahi were seen trying to climb the Speaker's

Assembly security staff.

As the House plunged into a chaotic situation with slogan shouting Opposition occupying the well and continuing their slogans against the government, the Speaker adjourned the House till 11:30 am.

The House subsequently adjourned thrice till 4:00 pm as it witnessed uproarious scenes with the Opposition BJD and Congress insisting on their demand for a caste census.

The Speaker had to convene an allparty meeting to diffuse the situation but the meeting remained inconclu-

The House reconvened at 4:00 pm after a series of adjournments to take up the demands for grants for the Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism departments.

The agitated Congress members, however, staged a noisy walkout in the House followed by the BJD during the debate in support of their de-

On Saturday, too, the Opposition stalled the proceedings of the house till 4:00 pm demanding adequate reservation for the SC, ST, and OBC students in technical and medical educations in the state.

The Opposition came down heavily on the Mohan Charan Majhi government for not implementing the proportional reservations for SC, ST, and OBC students in both technical and medical education in the state.

## Graft cuffs on Kotagarh cop

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested Kotagarh police ASI Rajanikanta Das while accepting Rs 15,000 as bribe.

According to Vigilance sources, Das was taken into custody when he was demanding and receiving the amount from a man to help him and his friends in a case registered with the Kotagarh police.



The Berhampur Vigilance police station has registered a case (14/2024) under Section 7 of the PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 in this connection.

'The entire bribe money was recovered. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were on at two places related to the police ASI from DA angle. Investigation is in progress against accused Das," they said.

## 3-yr RI for RCMS secy

A Vigilance court in Berhampur Tuesday awarded three-year of rigorous imprisonment (RI) to Bhanjanagar Regional Cooperative Marketing Societies (RCMS) Limited secretary Santosh Kumar Maharana after holding him guilty in a corruption case.

According to Vigilance sources, Maharana was chargesheeted under Section 13(2)

r/w 13(1)(d) Following his of the PC Act 1988 and conviction, 120-B and 109 the Vigilance of the IPC will now for showing move the

undue favour to a competent authority for dismissal of purchaser in connection with sale of a piece of land belonging to RCMS, | Manarana from service Maharana

Bhanjanagar, misappropriating government funds to the tune of ₹19,46,460.

The court also slapped a penalty on the convict, they said. "Following his conviction, the Vigilance will now move the competent authority for dismissal of Maharana from service," they pointed out.

## 2,869 wild animals poached in 10 yrs serve have been developed in the state, he said. Dedicated squads equipped endangered enforcement

Bhubaneswar, August 27: At least 2,869 wild animals have been poached and 6,960 persons have been arrested in connection with these killings in the last 10 years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly, Tuesday.

While replying to a question from Congress legislator Taraprasad Bahinipati, the minister said law enforcement agencies have arrested 6,960 poachers during the last 10 years and seized body parts of wild animals like tiger, beer, deer, sambar, elephant and pangolin.

"While the seized elephant tusks have been stored at the state government's treasury other seized items have been preserved at forest range offices," he said.

The state government has formed a joint taskforce, comprising forest and police officials, to examine the poaching cases and take necessary steps, he stated. In another written statement

agencies have arrested 6,960 poachers during the last 10 vears and seized body parts of wild animals

Dedicated squads equipped with vehicles, arms and modern communication equipment been deployed at vulnerable points to prevent poaching and monitor the movement of suspected poachers

species of

reptiles, 15

species of

species of

birds and 22

to the House, the Forest minister said the state is home to 54 endangered species - 17 species of reptiles, 15 species of birds and 22 species of mammals, as per the IUCN Red Data Book.

To protect wild animals in their natural habitat, 19 sanctuaries, one national park, two tiger reserves, three elephant reserves and one biosphere re-

with vehicles, arms and modern communication equipment been deployed at vulnerable points to prevent poaching and monitor the movement of suspected poachers, the minister said. Similarly, forest field staffers

were being trained to improve intelligence gathering in order to prevent poaching of wild animals as well as effective handling of detection and processing of wildlife cases to ensure higher rates of conviction.

The minister said that roundthe-clock control room has been set up connecting forest divisions, circles and headquarters level to receive information from the public on wildlife matter.

Members of 'Vana Samrakshana Samiti' and eco-development committee and school students were being motivated to join hands with the Forest department to save wildlife and reduce human-elephant conflict,

# Dy CM: No announcement on 300 unit free electricity

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo Tuesday said there has been no announcement of giving free electricity up to 300 units in the state. The clarification of Singh Deo,

> who is also the Energy Minister, came amid demand for

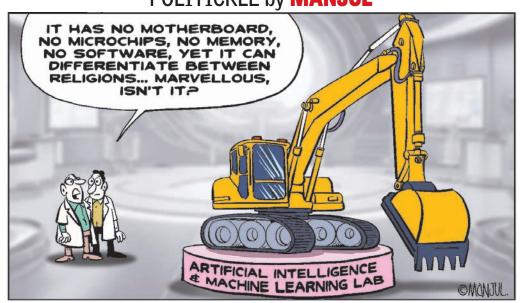
free electricity up to 300 units, which was one of the election promises of the BJP.

Singh Deo said that it is noticed that in some parts of the Bargarh district, deliberate 'misinformation' is being spread and electricity consumer meters are being removed.

"It is not only illegal, but also highly unsafe for public at large. Only trained and qualified technicians are authorised to handle installation or removal of electricity meters. If any untoward incident takes place in such areas due to unauthorised removal of the meters, the distribution company will be responsible," he said. Singh Deo said in the Assembly, "The correct position is that availing up to 300 units of electricity by way of installing rooftop solar plant under PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojna is a part of a new Government of India scheme."

Under the scheme, the Centre gives a subsidy of ₹78.000 on installation of a 3 KW solar plant on the rooftop. It is capable of producing more than 300 units per month which is highly beneficial to electricity consumers as they can significantly reduce the electricity bill by such self-generation of solar power, he said.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Huge haul: Jewellery shop owners grilled The parties concerned

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 27: A day after state commercial taxes and GST officials near Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here seized over 50kg gold and 200kg silver ornaments from two logistics vehicles, several jewellery shop owners in the City were interrogated by tax officials, in a bid to elicit the details of the dubious transaction.

An official at the City GST office said anyone found guilty in the case would be liable to pay twice the amount of tax imposed on the goods. The scrutiny of invoice bills is in progress by the officials.

The parties concerned have been asked to produce e-Waybill,



the seized goods has exceeded ₹50,000

per the provisions, a GST registered person/ transporter is required to generate the E-Waybill and carry, in case, the movement of goods exceeds the value of ₹50,000," the official

since the value of the seized

goods has exceeded ₹50,000. "As

Another official said the con-

Bhubaneswar was intended to be delivered across 20 jewellery shops in the twin city.

have been asked to

produce e-Waybill

since the value of

The GST officials seized the huge consignment Monday after being tipped off about the suspicious activity. Meanwhile, it was confirmed that the consignment was allowed to pass through security checks at the

## signment from Mumbai to Astronaut shares stunning image of Moon over the Pacific

he National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regularly captures stunning images of the universe. leaving space lovers mesmerized. The social media handles of the US space agency are a treasure trove for those who love to watch educational videos and fascinating images showcasing Earth and space. Amid this, NASA astronaut Matthew Dominick, who has been living aboard the International Space Station for about four months, recently captured a remarkable photo of the Moon setting over

Posting the picture on X, Dominick said, "The moon setting over the Pacific. Went to the cupola to shoot Tropical Storm Hone near Hawaii but right after we passed by the storm the moon started to set. 400mm, ISO 500, 1/20000s shutter speed, f2.8, cropped, denoised."

The now-viral image shows a beautiful sight of the heavenly body with blue hues in the foreground from clouds and the Earth's atmosphere. Giving technical specifics about the magnificent photo, he wrote, "400mm,



ISO 500, 1/20000s shutter speed, f2.8, cropped, denoised."

Since being shared, the picture has amassed over four lakh

views and five thousand likes. "Great shot!" remarked a user. Another said, "Star Wars "This photograph touched my

heart," added a person. 'This is absolutely mind-bog-

gling," commented a user. A user added, "And to think it still take nearly 3 days to arrive to the moon. The vastness of space is so humbling and so beautiful."

'While that moon is beautiful, I was more impressed by those towering clouds near the horizon... How high do they reach!!" said a person.

A few days ago, the American space agency shared a picture of moonrise from a 'unique van-

point' inside the International Space Station. The picture was also clicked by Dominick. In the image, a crescent-shaped moon is seen above the Earth's atmosphere. The planet resembles ocean-blue

"Layers of orange and black 🗦 appear underneath the horizontal band of blue stretching across the centre of the image. The crescent moon is white and stands out against the blackness of space," the US government organisation said in the description of the image.



Let all circumstances, all happenings in life be occasions. constantly renewed for learning more and ever more

THE MOTHER



## Voiceless Women

The medieval darkness that descended on Afghanistan three years ago due to the hasty withdrawal of US forces that resulted in the reinstallation of the Taliban government is now complete so far as its women population is concerned. Women there are virtually enchained and shut out from public life, allowed to move on the streets covered from head to foot as if they are mobile corpses. In the latest diktat issued a few days back, they are literally deprived of their voice, debarred as they are from speaking in public before strangers. The Taliban rulers have issued a ban on women's voices and bare faces in public under new laws approved by the supreme leader in efforts to "combat vice and promote virtue."

The laws were issued recently with the approval of the supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. The Taliban had set up a ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" after seizing power in 2021.

The ministry published its vice and virtue laws recently that cover aspects of everyday life like public transportation, music, shaving and celebrations. Set out in a 114-page document it is the first formal declaration of vice and virtue laws in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. The laws empower the ministry to be in the vanguard of regulating personal conduct, administering punishments like warnings or arrest if enforcers allege that Afghans have broken the laws.

Article 13, relating to women, stipulates that it is mandatory for a woman to veil her body at all times in public and that a face covering is essential to avoid temptation and tempting others. Clothing should not be thin, tight or short. Women should veil themselves in front of all male strangers, including Moslems and in front of all non-Moslems to avoid being corrupted. A woman's voice is deemed intimate and so should not be heard singing, reciting, or reading aloud in public. It is forbidden for women to look at men they are not related to by blood or marriage and vice versa.

Article 19 bans the playing of music, the transportation of solo female travellers and the mixing of men and women who are not related to each other. The law also obliges passengers and drivers to perform prayers at designated times.

According to the ministry website, the promotion of virtue includes prayer, aligning the character and behaviour of Moslems with Islamic law, encouraging women to wear hijab and inviting people to comply with the five pillars of Islam. It also says the elimination of vice involves prohibiting people from doing things forbidden by Islamic law.

It is anachronism at its worst that the Taliban's war against girls and women has intensified in the 21st century. Deprived of education, work and even the opportunity to walk in parks or visit public baths, half of Afghanistan's population lives the life of slaves. The Taliban's rule is not merely a cruel and humiliating blow to their rights and dignity, but an existential threat.

In a report only a few months back the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, quoted one woman: "I was the breadwinner and now I have no job, no income and my children are asking for food, I have no choice but to consider suicide.

The Taliban have already killed many women lawyers, activists, students and police after subjecting them to torture and abuse. There are fears that they are soon going to resume public stoning. Till then women are condemned to a life of deprivations and dependence on abusive men which is as good as death.

Many Afghan men and boys are also suffering with their women members in the family being robbed of the opportunity to contribute to family income. Some of them are treated brutally by the Taliban for resisting the mistreatment of women or failing to police the conduct of female relatives. The punishments for failure to comply with Taliban instructions "are often arbitrary, severe and disproportionate," the UN mission in Afghanistan recently noted.

Under the Taliban regime, there will be fewer women in each generation with educational qualifications enabling them to take up roles outside the home. In short, the Taliban's institutionalised gender oppression is depriving Afghanistan of its future women engineers, journalists, lawyers, biologists, politicians and poets. That is akin to putting the clock of civilisation back.

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first

Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values

You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait, be quiet still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked, it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet

## THIS DAY **in History**

- **1845:** First issue of Scientific American hits the newsstands. The science magazine was founded by American inventor and artist Rufus M. Porter, The magazine began as a weekly newsletter and is now the oldest continuously published magazine in the United States
- **1937:** Toyota Motor Corporation is formed. The car company was first founded in 1933 as a subsidiary of the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works, Ltd. The division was headed by Kiichiro Toyoda, the son of the Toyota founder,
- **1963:** Martin Luther King makes his "I Have a Dream" speech. The historic speech that was a call to end racism in the United States was given in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, a political rally organized by human and political rights groups. Over 200,000 people gathered in Washington DC to demand jobs and equality for African-Americans. The I Have a Dream speech by Dr. King became a symbol of the American civil rights movement and is one of the most recognizable speeches in recorded history.
- **1963:** Evergreen Bridge opens for traffic for the first time. The longest floating bridge in the world, the Evergreen Point Bridge or the Governor Albert D. Rosellini Bridge, is on Route 520 in the state of Washington. It is built on Lake Washington and connects Seattle with the city of Medina. The bridge is 4,750 meters long, half of which is over the water.

## Safe to swim

While sports fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting and old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?' "Naw," the man hollered back, "they

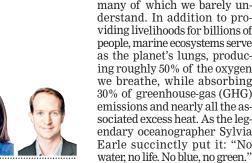


About halfway there he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?" "We didn't do nothin'," the

beachcomber said. "The sharks got 'em."

## **FOCUS MARINE ECOSYSTEM**

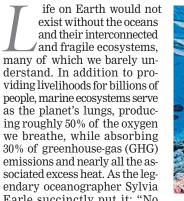
# NO BLUE, NO GREEN



Lili Fuhr & James Kerry

**OVER THE PAST** 

**FEW DECADES.** THE WORLD'S **OCEANS HAVE BEEN UNDER MASSIVE PRESSURE FROM CLIMATE** CHANGE. POLLUTION, **HABITAT** DESTRUCTION. **ACIDIFICATION. OVERFISHING** 



But over the past few decades, the world's oceans have been under massive pressure from climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, acidification, and overfishing. And these fragile ecosystems now face a new threat: high-risk attempts to manipulate the oceans through technological interventions. These efforts, collectively known as marine geoengineering, could exacerbate human-caused ocean degradation, thereby jeopardising our planet's life-support systems. To protect ocean health, citizens and scientists worldwide must urge policymakers to restrict these technologies.

Marine geoengineering - encompassing techniques like seeding the ocean with iron to stimulate the growth of carbon-absorbing phytoplankton and increasing the reflectivity of clouds by spraying them with saltwater mist - is often touted by its proponents as a potential solution to climate change. Tellingly, however, none of these approaches tackle the root cause of climate change: fossil fuels. And, in fact, major polluters and big business are already investing in these interventions as a ploy to maintain their usual practices.

In reality, marine-geoengineering technologies will not work, cannot be scaled, or are so dangerous that they should never be deployed. Consider, for example, ocean liming. This technique aims to increase the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide by adding large quantities of alkaline substances to the ocean.

One analysis suggests that



Marine-geoengineering technologies essentially aim to replace one form of pollution - CO2 - with another, in clear violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

liming the ocean at the scale required to make a dent in atmospheric CO2 levels would necessitate the use of nearly all the active large ships in the world. Given that most ships are powered by fossil fuels, the resulting GHG emissions alone would render the effort self-defeating.

Moreover, obtaining the necessary amounts of alkaline substances would mean a significant expansion of the highly polluting mining industry. One estimate suggests that achieving this would require 3,000 terawatt hours of electricity and an additional ten billion tons of processed rock, surpassing the total production of the global coal-mining industry over the past 250 years.

While it is well established that ocean acidification threatens marine life, the biological and ecological impacts of ocean liming are not well understood but are likely to be just as harmful. Rapid changes in the chemical makeup of water would likely harm or kill species that have evolved to live in stable and specific environmental conditions. The introduction and unpredictable spread of mineral particles would contaminate the water, block sunlight, and suffocate plankton and other marine organisms, thereby disrupting the biological carbon pump that is crucial to storing CO2 in the deep ocean.

Marine cloud brightening,

which involves pumping seawater into the atmosphere to increase cloud reflectivity, is another geoengineering technique that poses significant risks. At scale, it would likely shift rainfall and monsoon patterns, thereby potentially exacerbating droughts and hurricanes. Marine ecosystems could be severely affected by increased salt deposits on the sea surface, slowing carbon absorption and reducing light levels and ocean temperatures. If implemented at scale, marine cloud brightening could not be quickly stopped because the shock of termination would result in a sudden increase in temperatures, leading to unforeseeable and potentially catastrophic consequences.

Against this backdrop, the recent decision by the California town of Alameda to refuse to host a marine-cloud-brightening experiment is a welcome development. This decision reflects growing public and governmental awareness of the dangers posed by these technologies, even in their infancy. It should serve as a model for other cities, states, and countries.

With our oceans under increasing strain, we must combat all forms of marine pollution. As the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea declared in a landmark judgment in May, this includes GHGs. But we cannot geoengi-

neer our way out of the climate crisis. Marine-geoengineering technologies essentially aim to replace one form of pollution -CO2 - with another, in clear violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In doing so, they distract us from the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels.

Alarmingly, international institutions appear ill-equipped to slow the development and commercialisation of marine geoengineering, even though a de facto moratorium on these technologies has been in place under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity since 2010.

The need for effective global regulation was reiterated by the parties to the London Protocol in an October 2023 statement that recognised the ability of marine-geoengineering technologies to cause "deleterious effects that are widespread, long-lasting, or severe' and warned against their de-

ployment. Attempts to monetise marine carbon-removal technologies even before their effectiveness and impacts can be established are another cause for concern Companies and startups in this emerging field are already selling carbon credits, thereby prioritising profit over precaution. Worse, some of these startups are financially supported by fossil-fuel companies.

Oceans are humanity's greatest allies in the fight against climate change. We cannot afford to manipulate these vital and complex ecosystems, especially when doing so would distract us from the urgent imperative of phasing out fossil fuels. To protect the ecosystems that sustain all life on Earth, we must restrict marine-geoengineering experiments and prevent these technologies from being deployed.

Lili Fuhr is Director of the Fossil Economy Program at the Center for International Environmental Law. James Kerry is an adjunct senior research fellow at James Cook University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

# There aren't too many taxis in space



Melvin Durai

YOU CAN'T JUST **STICK YOUR** THUMB OUT AND **HOPE SOMEONE STOPS FOR YOU** 

astronauts, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, took a taxi ride to the International Space Station. The taxi ran into trouble, and now Williams and Wilmore will have to take a different taxi home.

Yes, this really happened. The two astronauts had planned to visit the International Space Station for just eight days, but they will now be there for more than eight months. They won't return until next February.

The lesson here is obvious: always make sure you hire the right taxi. This applies whether you're going to the International Space Station or the International House of Pancakes. (But I'd rather be stuck in a restaurant for eight months.)

NASA began using a taxi service after retiring its Space Shuttle in 2011 and relying solely on Russia for rides for almost a decade. It paid \$2.6 billion to Elon Musk's SpaceX and \$4.2 billion to Boeing to create the taxi service to the space station.

So which of these taxi services

n5June, 2024, two NASA left Williams and Wilmore stranded in space? If you guessed "Boeing," give yourself a pat on the back. While SpaceX has given nine rides to NASA astronauts, Boeing's Starliner capsule was making its first trip, already long delayed. The Starliner managed to get Williams and Wilmore to the space station, but experienced thruster failures and helium leaks along the way. NASA didn't want to take any chances on the return trip and instructed its astronauts to hail a different taxi home.

Unfortunately there aren't too many taxis in space. You can't just stick your thumb out and hope someone stops for you. You have to wait for one to be dispatched - all the way from Earth.

Williams: "Hello, we need a

Dispatcher: "Where are you?" Williams: "International Space

Dispatcher: "Sorry, you'll have to wait. SpaceX won't be sending a taxi there until late September and it won't return to Earth until February. Is that okay?'

Williams: "What about Uber and Lyft? Any chance they'll

Dispatcher: "No, sorry. The space station is out of their range.

The two astronauts will be getting a ride on SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which is taking two crew members to the space station in September, and will return with four in February. Boeing's Starliner, meanwhile, will return home uncrewed (but hopefully not unscrewed). How embarrassing for Boeing!

Imagine that you're a taxi driver. You drive two people from Bhubaneswar to Kolkata. But you're such a terrible driver that your customers decide not to travel back with you. They'd rather hang around in Kolkata for eight months, then cram into the backseat of another taxi with two other passengers. You have to travel back alone. No one wants to travel back with you, not even after you displayed a sign that said, "Free ride to Bhubaneswar. Free food on the way.' Boeing already had enough

problems on Earth — it did not need more problems from space. But rather than protecting Boeing's reputation, NASA is protecting the astronauts, ensuring that they will be able to return to Earth safely and tell everyone how they spent those

The astronauts wish they hadn't followed the advice they got from NASA: "Please pack light. It's only eight days.'

extra eight months.

Actually, as experienced astronauts, they were well-prepared, carrying a suitcase each. But it didn't matter, because when they arrived at the space station, they couldn't find their suitcases on the baggage carousel. Boeing had lost this luggage!

No, what really happened was that, at the last minute, their suitcases were removed from Starliner to make room for important equipment.

Thankfully, in early August, a cargo ship brought them clothing and personal items, as well as fresh fruit, vegetables and coffee. Hopefully they also have a few Sudoku puzzle books.

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

## rissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Vulnerable statues

Sir, The collapsing of the statue of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has drawn significant attention, given its emblematic value and the prominence of the event at which it was unveiled by none less than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December last year. The statue was installed as a tribute to the legendary Maratha warrior who is celebrated for his contributions to the establishment of the Maratha Empire in the 17th century. The statue was not only a symbol of Shivaji's valour and leadership, but also a significant cultural landmark for the region. The Rajkot Fort itself is a historic site with strong ties to the Maratha king's legacy, making the collapse even more poignant. The incident leads to broader discussions about the maintenance and preservation of historical monuments and statues, particularly those that hold significant cultural and historical value. Given the importance of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra's history, efforts should be made to restore the statue, with a renewed focus on ensuring its longevity and safety.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Traffic congestion

Sir, Traffic congestion is no longer a problem of only metropolitan cities, it is now troubling even the smallest urban agglomerations. An average Indian driver loses 135 hours a year, which is a waste of precious working hours and fuel loss. With the soaring fuel prices, every drop of fuel lost is like losing a drop of blood. India loses almost ₹two lakh crore every year due to traffic congestion. Building flyovers has only proven to confuse drivers and add more woes to the problem of traffic congestion. Practical solutions like Heavy Occupancy Vehicle lanes where there are separate lanes for larger vehicles like SUVs and larger wagons can be built. These lanes can be monetised so that people refrain from using larger vehicles inside cities which causes traffic congestion. This measure will also encourage people to use parking lots. Urban bodies can design the town area such that all areas are equally served with daily amenities that people want, which would ultimately help control traffic congestion. Artificial Intelligence can also be used to manage traffic signals by studying traffic behaviour.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

# Climate-resilient coast a pipe dream

State's coastline continues to be a victim of vagaries of extreme weather conditions even though a plan is in place to protect the seaside villages from climate adversities like sea ingress

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, August 27: Even though a couple of years have passed to the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Water Resources department and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) aiming at protection of coastlines and saline embankments in the state, coastal pockets of this district continues to remain prone to floods, cyclonic storms and Tsunamis, according to sources.

Sources said the pact was inked by then engineer-in-chief (EIC) Bijay Kumar Mishra and NIOT director GA Ramdas in the presence of former Water Resources minister Tukuni Sahu August 10, 2022.

The MoU was aimed at making the coastlines and saline embankments climate resilient. However, natural calamities like floods, cyclonic storms and Tsunamis continue to unleash fear among the residents as the agreement has completed two years recently.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sanctions funds to NIOT for strengthening of the coastlines and embankments. A rule was also enacted in 1986 for protection of coastlines and saline em-



bankments in Kendrapara

A notification has also been issued after identification of coastal regulation zone (CRZ). However, coastal districts like Balasore. Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Ganjam and Kendrapara districts continue to remain vulnerable to natural calamities.

The 2015-20 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Sanjay Jha, submitted to the President of India, also mentioned the vulnerability of the coastlines and stressed the need for their protection.

The report even expressed displeasure over the increasing natural calamities in the coastal districts of the state. The report said that the devastating impact of natural calamities has failed to die down despite huge expenses. The report also mentioned that industries have come up on the coastlines

Similarly, prawn gherries have mushroomed and human habitats have also come up on the coastlines. The developments have made the coastline and the environment vulnerable to climate change.

Moreover, the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) was sanctioned over ₹2.17 crore for establishment of 19 laboratories between 2013 and 2015 to conduct an environmental study in between Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district and Dhamra in Bhadrak district. These laboratories were meant to collect details about the environment in between Paradip and Dhamra.

However, the pollution watchdog's work could not progress beyond 33 to 59 per cent while it is lagging behind in detecting the air and water quality of the area.

The state Forest department claimed that mangrove forests have been created on 228 hectare of land under Rajnagar Mangrove Forest Division and Puri Wildlife Division between 2016 and 2018. However, only 0 to 35 per cent of mangrove plants were found during a

Similarly, the state government has spent around ₹33 crore and installed a geo-synthetic tube wall on Pentha coast of Puri to protect the coastlines from sea erosion. However, it failed to check coastal erosion due to onslaught of high tides as the sea waves gnawed away at a large volume of the rocks and stones packed inside the gabion nets.

The state government has again spent ₹4.65 crore on protection of the geo-synthetic tube in 2018 and an additional ₹3.28 crore after miscreants set it on fire in August, 2019, raising questions over its efficacy to protect the coastlines from sea erosion.

The CAG report also raised various questions on protection of coastal embankment. Reports said 64 villages have been identified as Tsunami prone while ingress of sea water is taking place in 455 villages during natural calamities like cyclonic storms and floods due to weak

## **Bhitarkanika sounds** 'bird flu'alert

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, August 27: Bhitarkanika National Park authorities Tuesday sounded 'bird flu' alert following the outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) in Pipli area of Puri district.

Official sources said about 26,000 chickens were culled and the state government has already warned the people to take all precautionary measures.

Divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove forest and wildlife division Sudarshan Gopinath Jadav said the outbreak of avian flu (H5N1) in Pipli has triggered an alarm in Bhitarkanika National Park as thousands of monsoon birds have arrived from other areas for nesting and breeding.

Bhitarkanika National Park authorities also alerted the nearby inhabitants to take all precautionary measures from possible outbreak of bird flu.

"The inhabitants were asked to bring to the notice of forest officials if they come across any indifferent behaviour in any migratory birds or with their poultry. The ducks and chickens are more vulnerable to bring the virus to the human settlement," Jaday said.

Animal Husbandry department officials have started keeping a close watch on the poultry farms located in and around Bhitarkanika National Park. Veterinary officials have been asked to collect faecal dropping of migratory birds swabs and water sample from the park area, the DFO added.

**SOMAKOI-CHAKDAR IRRIGATION PROJECT** 

# 12-hour Telkoi bandh peaceful

Keonjhar, August 27: A dawnto-dusk Telkoi bandh, aimed at protesting against the proposed Somakoi-Chakdar irrigation project on Samakoi river at Chakdar in Kardangi panchayat of Telkoi block in this district, passed off peacefully, Tuesday.

The bandh call was given by Somakoi-Chakdar project coordination committee. The protesters warned that they would, instead, choose to sacrifice their lives than parting with their land for the project.

Resentment among the residents brewed after the state government allocated funds in the current Budget for the construction of Somakoi-Chakdar project. Locals have been opposing the proposal for the last 46 years.

All the business establishments, educational institutions and offices remained closed during the 12-hour bandh while vehicular traffic came to a standstill. All residents and various outfits in Telkoi area extended their support to the shutdown.

Protesters took out a huge rally from Charigarh College ground in Telkoi which passed through the major thoroughfares of Telkoi before reaching the Tehsil office. They also submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister through the tehsildar demanding complete closure of the project.

"We warn the government to intensify our agitation in future if our demand is not heeded," said Kailash Chandra Pradhan,



president of the steering com mittee spearheading the agitation.

Laxmidhar Pradhan, convener of the committee, said that local people have been opposing this project when it got the approval in 1978. They alleged that the project, if built at Chakdar which is the downstream of Somakoi river, most of Telkoi block will be submerged and many people will be displaced.

Besides, agricultural lands in Keonjhar district will not get irrigation facilities while most of the areas in neighbouring Pallahara and Kaniha of Angul district will benefit from this project.

Locals apprehended that if the project comes up then Telkoi will become a large reservoir and many people will be displaced and rendered homeless. Locals said if the project comes up near Hatimunda village on the upstream of Somakoi river, many areas of Telkoi block will be irrigated.

Telkoi tehsildar Anupama Murmu, who received the memorandum from the agitators. said the bandh passed off peacefully. She also assured to send the memorandum to the state government for a decision at their end.

# Govt officials face villagers' anger

Loisingha, August 27: Residents of Jogisarda panchayat under this block of Bolangir district locked up some government officials and staffers as their repeated pleas for action against encroachers of a temple land fell on the deaf ears of the administration. Tuesday



Several officials including tehsildar Sanghamitra Kalo, BDO Akshaya Pani Udu, ABDO Surendra Singh Babu, BSSO Asha Padhaan, APO Pushpanjali Swain and revenue inspector, among others had to face the embarrassing situation during a Panchayat-level grievance hearing and awareness camp at

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, August 27: A Health

and Family Welfare (H&FW) de-

partment audit team will be vis-

iting the Rourkela Government

Hospital (RGH) to conduct a probe

into the alleged corruption plagu-

It is learnt that special audit

will be conducted after the report

of the National Health Mission

(NHM) fact-finding team last

month had hinted at corruption.

RGH September 9. "This (audit)

said a doctor at RGH on condi-

tion of anonymity. RGH remained

a happy hunting ground for the

corrupt for a long time. Services like

laundry, food, security and mor-

tuary smacked of corruption.

will blow the lid off corruption,

The special audit team will visit

ing the healthcare facility.

According to reports, the state government has allocated more than ₹4 crore for development and beautification of the famous Jogeshwar Peeth, a significant tourist spot. The temple stands on 42 acres of land with additional seven acres surrounding However, some land sharks

have encroached upon the temple's Jatra Padia and other areas

that are endowment properties.

The encroachers have constructed houses and shops on the landed properties of the shrine. Although the detailed project report (DPR) of the proposed redevelopment of the shrine periphery includes a children's park and parking space, land is-

Despite multiple appeals by the villagers to the district administration and the local tehsildar for resolving this issue, the problem has only become more complicated.

Special audit to blow lid off RGH corruption

TIENTS WAITING

sues stand as an obstacle to the

execution of the plan.



RAIN PAIN: Motorists negotiating a water-logged flyover bridge connecting Dhuchurapada with Kacheri Square in Sambalpur following rainfall, Tuesday

bonus if it provides 'excellent

During initial probe by the in-

cumbent director, it was found

that this was possible because the

hospital manager circumvented

the rules so that his interests are

best served. It was also found that

the manager had clandestinely

sold three deep freezers of the

mortuary to a private party of

Mumbai. This came to the fore

when the new freezers arrived at

the mortuary. Even the director

however, failed to quantify the

exact amount of misappropria-

tion of funds at the RGH.

Therefore, it had to make a special

request to send a special audit

team from the H&FW department

to dig out the facts.

The NHM team, during its visit,

had filed a police complaint.

## KDJR-401 Dt. 20.08.2024

lame of the Work : SIGNALLING ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER SIGNAL/KENDUJHARGARH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.

Bidding start date: 28.08.2024, Tender closing date & time : at 1100 hrs. of

in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any

documents of the above e-tender is available

website www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before es/corrigenda issued for this tender Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom) Khurda Road

Construction work as mentioned

OFFICE OF THE

SORO BLOCK OFFICE, SORO, BALASORE

"e" Procurement Notice

BID Identification No. SORO 02 2024-25

No.i-100:Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost

Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Con-

tractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and oth

er necessary documents can be seen in Government website

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e.

in DTCN.

As per Annexure

29.08.24 at 10.00 A.M. to

12.09.24 upto 5.00 P.M.

12.09.24 upto 05.00 P.M

: Block Development Officer, Soro

OIPR-19090/11/0003/2425

: 13.09.24 at 11.00 A.M

Sd./- Block Development Officer, SORO

02 Nos.

90 days

i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Name of the Work

2. No. of Works

3. Estimated Cost

Period of Completion

of bids in the portal

officer inviting bid

be opened on

dersorissa.gov.in

Date & Time of availability

of Bid documents in the portal

Last date & time for receipt

Bids received online shall

8. Name and address of the

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25 E-Tender/49 Dt.: 20.08.2024

165-2024 Dt.: 16.08.2024 Description : ALL REPAIRS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2025 FROM KM. 421,950 TO 450,201 ON MAIN LINE BETWEEN BHUBANESWAR NEW KHURDA ROAD UNDER TH JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (P.WAY)/BHUBANESWAR OF

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 185.64 Lakhs

KHURDA ROAD DIVISION

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-166-2024 Dt.: 16.08.2024

Description: ALL REPAIRS

MAINTENANCE OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS FOR A PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2025 FROM KM 410.380 TO 455.528 BETWEEN UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER

EMD: ₹2.67.400/-167-2024 Dt.: 16.08.2024

TO COLONY ROADS SUCH AS BITUMINOUS SURFACE, BLOCK SURFACING, SIDE DRAINS CULVERTS ETC. AT RAIL KUNJ, RAIL AWAS, MANCHESWAR HQ COLONIES, CHANDRASEKHARPUR,

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 314.31 Lakhs, EMD; ₹ 3,07,200/-.

(4) Tender No. etenderestatekur-168-2024 Dt.: 16.08.2024 Description: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO COLONY ROADS SUCH AS BITUMINOUS SURFACE, PAVER BLOCK SURFACING, SIDE DRAINS & CULVERTS ETC. AT RAIL VIHAR COLONY, CHANDRASEKHARPUR

Approx cost of the work : ₹ 241.64 Lakhs EMD: ₹2.70,800/-

Completion period: 12 months (for al Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such shall be rejected summarily without any

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available n website www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)

## Rourkela UCBL to be digitised soon

These unfair practices were going

on for some time, when RGH was

being headed by different per-

sons. Besides, NHM-appointed

hospital manager and now dis-

missed Mohit Srivastav was the

mastermind of most of the corrupt

Incumbent RGH director

practices.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 27: The state-run Urban Co-operative Bank Limited (UCBL) here is going to be digitised soon as the bank authorities have already cleared the required formalities in this regard.

About the digitisation work which is in full swing, UCBL president Dillip Mohapatra Tuesday stated that bank digitisation work has been on the fast track. "We are going to digitise the functioning of the bank so that our esteemed customers can avail net banking, ATM and other state-of-the-art facilities in a seamless manner,' Mohapatra asserted.

The bank has made a total profit of ₹3 crore, he said adding, that UCBL is unable to pay dividend to its investors



owing to an instruction issued by the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Speaking about the performance of the bank, Mohapatra said most of the parameters are better in comparison with the previous year.

Currently, the total paid share capital of the bank stands at ₹727.81 crore and the number of members at 21,207.

"As of now, we have deposits worth over ₹154.11 crore in the bank," the bank president said. The bank has loans and advances to the tune of more than ₹113.29 crore and has no borrowings from anywhere. However, the financial institution has invested more than ₹62.78 crore and has reserves of over ₹30.63 crore.

Ganesh Das got a whiff of the

malpractices when one agency

named M/s Mediaid Ancillary

Services returned ₹20 lakh it had

received for providing 'excellent

services'. In fact, there was no

mention in the agreement be-

tween the vendor and RGH that the

agency would be given a kind of

"We have brought down the net nonperforming asset (NPA) to 2.01 per cent, which was 4.01 per cent in 2023. And our gross NPA stands at 18.43 per cent for the year 2024, against 18.63 per cent in the last fiscal," he stated

Moreover, UCBL's collection percentage for the year 2024 has gone up to 86.98 per cent from the previous vear's 84.09 per cent.

At present, the bank's net worth stands at ₹11.97 crore.

# **優UCO BANK**

Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Athgarh Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowei and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in peneral is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Athgarh Branch for an amount plus interest, incidental expenses & charges thereon.

Amount ATHGARH BRANCH / Outstanding as or Specified Date Name and Address of the Borrower Borrower: M/s. Mahalaxmi Stone ₹14.32.041.89 as on 01.09.2023 Crusher, Prop.: Mr. Rakesh Kumar + further interest & Sahoo, S/o: Late Babuli Sahoo, Address-1: At: Kangada Sahi (Birakishorepur), P.O.

other charges thereor Address-2: At: Gandanali, P.O: Hindol, Plot is Bounded by North: Khandadhua Nala, South: Govt. Land, East: Niranjan Dehury West: Road & Niranjan Dehury

12.09.2023 22.08.2024

Date of Demand

Notice

All that part & parcel of Land & Building in the name of

**Description of the Immovable Property** 

Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sahoo. S/o.: Late Babuli Sahoo situated at Mouza: Gandanali, PO.: Rasol, Thana Rasol, Dist.: Dhenkanal within Sub-Registrar's Office Athgarh, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754029, of Dhenkanal having Plot No.: 2001/2174, Khata No.: 114/16, Area: Ac.1.390 Dec.

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Dist.: Dhenkanal, PIN-759021

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 27.08.2024







# national



that warnings and awareness announcements be made across all metro stations, bus stations and other public transport hubs to inform people about dengue prevention

We have requested

SAURABH BHARADWAJ **DELHI HEALTH MINISTER** 

## **B SRINIVASAN APPOINTED AS NSG CHIEF**

Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan was Tuesday appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism force, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Srinivasan is a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre. He is currently serving as the director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir



BJP, Cong trade barbs

after bail to Kavitha

# uote 77

they sent Arvind Kejriwal behind bars in a fake case. They thought that they before Delhi elections

won't allow us to come out of jail

MANISH SISODIA | SENIOR AAP LEADER

The attack on the family members of Micheal Lamjathang, a leader of the Thadou community, one of the oldest among the ethnic tribes of Manipur as well as a BJP spokesperson, by

vandalizing his house was an act of cowardice N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

He (Lalu Prasad Yadav) had put forth strong arguments for the caste census, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

approved it. Following this approval, the parliament functioned smoothly TEJASHWI YADAV FORMER BIHAR DEPUTY CM

## SHORT TAKES

### **Kiran Choudhry** elected to RS

Chandigarh: BJP leader Kiran Choudhry was declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana after the deadline for withdrawal of nomination ended at 3 pm Tuesday. Choudhry, a former Haryana minister, had filed her nomination for the bypoll Wednesday. Being the lone candidate in the contest, she was declared elected unopposed. The winning candidate was given a certificate at 4.33 pm by Returning Officer Saket Kumar for the bypoll at the Haryana Vidhan Sabha secretariat here.

## Port, dock workers' unions defer strike

Mumbai: Port and dock workers' unions of major ports have deferred their indefinite Wednesday, official sources said Tuesday. The decision came after an agreement between representatives of workers' unions and ports management on workers' demands at a marathon meeting in the national capital Tuesday, they said. Subsequently, strike notices were served by the unions to administrators of the respective ports August 12. The committee is headed by Mumbai Port Authority Chairman Rajeev Jalota.

## **Bodies of 2 girls** found hanging

Farukkhabad (UP): The bodies of two teenaged girls were found hanging from a tree in a mango orchard outside a village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehgarh Tuesday, with police launching an investigation into what it prima facie believed to be a case of double suicide. The Dalit girls, aged 18 and 15, had left their homes Monday around 10 pm to visit a nearby temple on the occasion of Janmashtami but did not return, police said.

## Four booked for raping minor

Kota (Raj): Four persons were booked for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl inside her house here, police said Tuesday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. police said, adding two of the accused are residents of Sheopur in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. Efforts are underway to nab the accused who have been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act.



# **Mohanlal resigns as AMMA chief**

■ The mass resignation of Mohanlal and other officebearers of AMMA comes as the Kerala film industry grapples with revelations by some female actors who have narrated their traumatic experiences through the media, following the disturbing findings of the Hema Committee report, which exposed widespread atrocities against women in the Malayalam film industry

Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi/ Thrissur, August 27: The Malayalam film industry, long hailed for its artistic prowess, was shaken to its core Tuesday as Mohanlal, the celebrated actor and president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (A.M.A.), resigned alongside other top officials amid fierce backlash over some of its members facing sexual abuse allegations.

The day also saw the Congress and the BJP stepping up their demands for actor-politician Mukesh's resignation as CPI(M) MLA, citing the gravity of the accusations against him.

Meanwhile, Malayalam superstar and Union Minister Suresh Gopi faced criticism from within his own party, the BJP, for his perceived defence of Mukesh, who faces similar abuse allegations, as well as for allegedly manhandling media personnel in his constituency, Thrissur, Tuesday, On Tuesday, A.M.M.A, the influential actors' union, is-



sued a press statement announcing the mass resignation of its office-bearers, including its president Mohanlal.

The veteran actor, in his capacity as president, reportedly convened an online meeting of A.M.M.A members to discuss the unprecedented dilemma being faced by the association, before taking a decision about the resignation of its executive panel

A.M.M.A said that the current administrative panel has resigned as such, taking moral responsibility for the allegations. Following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report, allegations of sexual assault and harassment came out on social, visual and print media against some office-bearers of A.M.M.A, including actor Siddique who quit as its general secretary.

The present executive panel was resigning taking moral responsibility in view of these allegations against some officebearers, A.M.M.A explained. A new administrative panel will be elected within two months after



ing, it said, adding that the outgoing panel will continue temporarily to carry forward the various association's ongoing programmes without hindrances until the next general

body meeting. Earlier in the day, Suresh Gopi accused the media of misleading public perception about the film industry with regard to the allegations of sexual harassment against actors and directors snowballing into a controversy. The state BJP leadership disagreed with his stand.

Gopi, when asked about the allegations against actor and CPI(M) MLA Mukesh, said the issue was before court and it would take a decision.

"You (media) are not only making people fight each other for your own gains, you are also misleading public perception. The complaints are in the form of allegations at the moment. What are you telling people? Are you the court? You are not. The court will decide. Let the court decide," Gopi told reporters in

## Only free-ranging cheetah in Kuno dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheopur (MP)/New Delhi, August 27: The only free-ranging cheetah in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park has died, with officials suggesting drowning to be the primary cause of death.

Wildlife activists, however, suspect poaching although there were no external injuries on the Namibian cheetah Pawan, found lying near the edge of a swollen nullah amid bushes around 10:30 am Tuesday.

According to a statement, veterinarians were alerted and a closer inspection revealed that the front half of the cheetah's body, including the head, was submerged in water. The incident comes as India is expediting efforts to bring a new batch of cheetahs by the end of the year. "We are actively engaging with South Africa on the matter. A delegation will visit the country in late September or early October to hold ground-to-ground negotiations," an official from the National Tiger Conservation Authority told PTI Tuesday. "We have commu-



nicated to South Africa that we want to expedite efforts to bring another batch of cheetahs by the end of the year as per the recommendation of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee and in accordance with the action plan," the official added.



While the BJP claimed that ers K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish the Congress and its advocates secured bail for Kavitha, the Rao held talks with the BJP grand old party alleged that she leaders in Delhi and as a result, got bail due to a connivance bethe Enforcement Directorate tween the BJP and the BRS. (ED) helped Kavitha get bail.

> The MLC said they had been predicting for a long time that Kavitha will get bail due to a connivance between the BRS and BJP, alleging that for the last 10 years, there was secret pact between the two parties.

"When you delve deep into the reasons for Kavitha getting bail now, it becomes clear that the process for BRS' merger with the BJP has commenced," he said in a statement.

The Congress leader also alleged that the two parties have come together publicly to create problems for the Congress government in Telangana led by Revanth Reddy.

In a big relief to Kavitha, the daughter of BRS President and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. the Supreme Court Tuesday granted her bail in connection with the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

The apex court clarified that it made no observations on merits while releasing Kavitha on bail, and such observations will not prejudice the conduct



Police use tear gas shells during a protest march by Chhatra Samaj activists to state secretariat against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Howrah, West Bengal

## Court orders Darshan's transfer to Ballari jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 27: A court here Tuesday granted permission to shift Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Central jail here in the Renukaswamy murder case, to Ballari prison.

The court also permitted the shifting of other co-accused in the murder case to various prisons in the state. Earlier in the day. both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara indicated that authorities were weighing the option of shifting Darshan, after a photograph of him hanging out with three others, including a rowdysheeter, on the lawns of the jail had gone viral Sunday, sparking a row.

In the picture, the actor is seen in a relaxed mood, sitting on a chair and holding a cigarette and a coffee mug. Also, a purported video of Darshan speaking to a person over a video call from the prison too had surfaced on social media. A total of 17 people, including Darshan, along with his friend Pavithra Gowda, are currently in judicial custody in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy.

The 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court gave the permission to shift the accused persons in this case based on the request made by jail and prison officials.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 27: Under attack over the collapse of a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue nearly nine months after it was unveiled, the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra Tuesday said the structure was built by the Navy, while the opposition targeted the ruling alliance and sought Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation.

As the collapse of the statue of Shivaji Maharaj, a revered figure in Maharashtra, in Sindhudurg district threatened to snowball into a major controversy ahead of assembly polls, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra



ment has now decided to install a bigger statue of the 17th century Maratha warrior king at the same place. Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar, who hails from Sindhudurg, proposed a 100-foot statue of Shivaji Maharaj at the same location --Raikot Fort in Malvan tehsil in

the coastal district -- around 480km from Mumbai. The collapsed statue was 35 feet high.

Delhi excise policy case.

Reacting to the development,

Union Minister of State for

Home and BJP leader Bandi

Sanjay Kumar said in a post on

X: "Congratulations to the

Congress and its advocates for

securing bail for BRS MLC in the

infamous liquor scam. Your un-

tiring efforts finally yielded

fruits. This bail is a win for

both the BRS and Congress -- a

BRS leader is out on bail and a

Congressman goes to Rajya

Sabha," in an apparent refer-

ence to Abhishek Manu Singhvi,

the Congress candidate for Rajya

men by KCR in supporting the candidate, who initially argued

for the bail, to be nominated

to Rajya Sabha unopposed by

the ruling Congress.

Congratulations to the partners

in crime who wine and dine,"

On the other hand, Telanga

Pradesh Congress Committee

(TPCC) Working President

Mahesh Kumar Goud claimed

that bail to Kavitha shows that

the process for BRS party's

merger with the BJP has started.

He also claimed that BRS lead-

added the BJP leader.

"Remarkable political acu-

Sabha from Telangana

Following an outrage, the Sindhudurg police also registered a case against contractor Jaydeep Apte and structural consultant Chetan Patil, both involved in the project, over the statue collapse incident. An inquiry was already underway, Fadnavis said. The Navy said it has noted with "deep concern' the damage caused to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj that was unveiled on Navy Day as a dedication to the citizens of Sindhudurg. "Along with the state government and concerned specialists, the Navy has deputed

a team to immediately investigate the cause of this unfortunate accident and initiate steps to repair, restore and reinstate the statue at the earliest," according to a statement by the naval force issued by its spokesperson in

New Delhi. The 35-foot statue of the 17th century Maratha empire founder, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajkot Fort December 4 last year, collapsed Monday afternoon. The incident, which comes months ahead of the state assembly polls, has caused an embarrassment to the state government and invited criticism from the Opposition parties.

# HP Assembly passes Bill to raise women's marriage age

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, August 27: An amendment Bill to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls in Himachal Pradesh by three years to 21 was passed unanimously without discussion in the legislative Assembly Tuesday, the first day of the monsoon session, bringing it at par with that of men.

Social Justice Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil presented the Himachal Pradesh Child Prohibition Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the



Now the Bill will be sent to the Governor for approval. The minimum age of marriage for girls in the state is 18 years. The

state government is increasing it by three years. Its draft was approved by the Cabinet seven months ago.

■ Now the Bill will be sent to the Governor for approval

■ The minimum age of marriage for girls in the state is 18 years

The state government is increasing it by three years. Its draft was approved by the Cabinet seven months ago

Shandil informed the House that the girls would now get opportunities to progress. "Even today some people marry at a young age. Owing to this, the children cannot study and cannot progress in life.

Shandil emphasized the government's dedication to provide the girls with better opportunities for education and career growth.

"Raising the marriage age (from 18 to 21) will ensure that girls are given the chance to fully develop and achieve their potential before entering into marriage," he said. He pointed out that early marriages often result in negative health outcomes for young mothers and restrict their personal and professional

development. Earlier, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu had directed that a committee be formed to look into the issue of increasing the marriage age. On December 8, 2023, an official statement said as per the direction of the Chief Minister, a committee to examine an increase in the marriage age of girls in Himachal Pradesh has been formed.

The committee comprised Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary M. Sudha Devi, who chaired the panel, with Rural Development Secretary Priyatu Mandal, Law Secretary Sharad K. Lagwal and Director of Labour and Employment Manasi Thakur as members. Priyanka Verma, the Managing Director of the National Health Mission, wasthe Member Secretary of the committee.

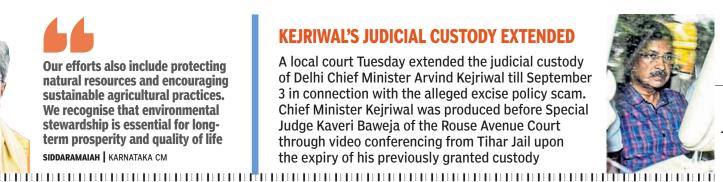
# national



**Our efforts also include protecting** natural resources and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices. We recognise that environmental stewardship is essential for longterm prosperity and quality of life

### **KEJRIWAL'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED**

A local court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal till September 3 in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. Chief Minister Kejriwal was produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court through video conferencing from Tihar Jail upon the expiry of his previously granted custody





Rajasthan (government), and

government implemented the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in 2022. Now, the Government of India has brought the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), after which there is confusion among the employees of the state

ASHOK GEHLOT FORMER RAJASTHAN CM

Not a single case of rape is acceptable. Still, if population increase is taken into consideration along with the number of rape cases in recent years, the crime rate has come down

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

Whereas, it has come to light that ... Standing Counsel (Services). who is not the Standing Counsel (Civil), while

appearing for GNCTD ... before the High Court July 1, has given false and untruthful statements and has submitted wrong information in the affidavit filed before the Hon'ble Court Atish

ATISHI MARLENA MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF DELHI





nationwide protest on August 31st against BJP Farmers also demanded strictest action against #KanganaRanaut

Farmers to hold a

"Kangana must apologise & BJP should teach her some lessons' End of the political career for Kangana

## Modi speaks to Putin on his Ukraine visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as he shared his "insights" from his recent visit to Ukraine and reiterated India's firm commitment to supporting an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict with Ukraine.

In a post on X, Modi said the two leaders also discussed measures to further strengthen special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. He said, "Exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and my insights from the recent visit to Ukraine. Reiterated India"s firm commitment to support an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict.'

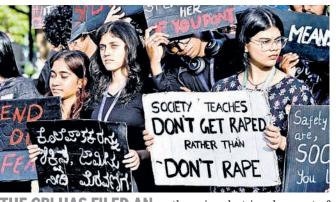


The prime minister had Monday briefed US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine and conveyed India's full support for early return of peace to the region through dialogue and diplomacy. The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement later said Modi during his telephone conversation with Putin recalled his "successful visit to Russia" last month to participate in the 22nd India-Russia Bilateral Summit.

The two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Prime Minister shared insights from his recent visit to Ukraine. He underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as well as sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to achieve an abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict," the MEA said.

The two leaders "reviewed progress" on a number of bilateral issues and discussed measures to further strengthen the special and privileged strategic partnership between India **KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE, MURDER** 

# **CBI will seek AIIMS help** on DNA, forensic proof



**APPLICATION BEFORE** A KOLKATA COURT **SEEKING PERMISSION** FOR POLYGRAPH TEST **OF KOLKATA POLICE ASI ANUP DUTTA** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The CBI will consult experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on the DNA and forensic reports related to the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, officials said Tuesday. In order to build a watertight

case, the CBI will send the reports to AIIMS to seek their opinion in the case, they said. The reports will also help the agency to ascertain if Sanjay

Roy was the only accused who

committed the crime or there were others involved, they said. The CBI has filed an application before a Kolkata court seeking permission for polygraph test of Kolkata Police ASI Anup Dutta. The agency is investigating if Dutta knew Roy and extended any help to the accused after the crime, the officials said.

The CBI had already questioned Dutta in connection with the case, they said. So far the agency is working on the leads that Roy was the only accused in

others will only be ruled out after receiving the opinion of AIIMS experts, the officials said.

The polygraph test on former principal of the medical college Sandip Ghosh continued for the second day Tuesday. He underwent layered voice test Saturday which was followed by polygraph test Monday. The test Monday could not be completed and resumed Tuesday. Layered voice analysis is a new deception detection test (DDT) in forensic arsenal used to detect the speaker's reaction to a lie. It does not identify a lie.

The technology identified stress, cognitive processes, and emotional cues in different properties of the voice. A polygraph test, also a DDT, can help in assessing inaccuracies in statements of suspects and witnesses. By monitoring their psychological responses - heart rate, breathing patterns, sweating and blood pressure - investigators can determine if there are discrepancies in their response. However, these are not admissible evidence during the trial and can only be used to get further leads in a case. The alleged rape and killing of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the hospital has sparked widespread protests.

The medic's body with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department in the morning of August 9 by a doctor who

## **Sexual violence:** Women's rights groups seek justice

New Delhi: As a series of rape cases shock the nation, women's rights groups from across the country es and gender-based violence. The All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), All India Mahila Samskritik Sanghatan (AIMSS), All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA), Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD), All India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA), All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) are among the 35 organisations who have made the appeal.

was on round. Kolkata Police arrested Roy August 10 based on CCTV footage in which he was seen entering the seminar hall at 4.03 AM August 9 when the crime was allegedly committed.

Based on CCTV footage, Roy was put through extensive in terrogation and the police had also noticed "recent injuries on his left cheek, abrasion in left hand between his left and ring finger, abrasion over the back of left thigh among others showing signs of struggle.

His biological samples like urethral swab and smear, semen, hair, nail clippings and nail scraping were collected during the medico-legal examination they said. The Calcutta High Court August 13 ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation August 14. The CBI took over all the forensic evidence from Kolkata Police and also subjected Roy, Ghosh, four doctors who were on duty with the victim, and a civic volunteer to polygraph tests to get further leads about the crime.

The initial reports from CFSL are being analysed and corroborated with evidence to get further direction to the probe, the



curd and other delicacies during the celebration of Janmashtami festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra

## **HP Assembly adopts resolution** to condemn Kangana's remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla/Chandigarh, August 27: The Opposition Tuesday stepped up attack on BJP MP Kangana Ranaut over her remarks on farmers protest with a Congress-backed resolution in Himachal Pradesh Assembly condemning her comments and AAP holding protests at several places in Haryana.

The MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh had posted a clip of her interview with Hindi daily Dainik Bhaskar in which she suggested that a "Bangladesh-like situation" could have erupted in India but for She then alleged that bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place during the farmers' protest against the now-repealed three farm laws. She alleged the involvement

the country's strong leadership.

of China and the US in the "conspiracy" Kangana's remarks triggered

heated exchanges in the assembly of her Congress-ruled home state with the House adopting a resolution condemning the remarks. With Haryana going to

polls October 1, the Opposition targeted the ruling BJP over\_\_\_

## SHORT TAKES

### 106 hurt during Dahi **Handi celebrations**

Mumbai: At least 106 'Govindas', youngsters involved in the formation of multi-storeyed human pyramids as part of the 'Dahi Handi' celebrations, were iniured in Mumbai Tuesday, officials said. These injured Govindas were admitted to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run and private hospitals in the city for treatment, a civic official said. The Dahi Handi, part of the Janmashtami festival that marks the birth of Lord Krishna, is seeing enthusiastic participation by the revellers. 

## **Goods train collides** with locomotive

Rae Bareli (UP): A goods train belonging to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) hit a stationary locomotive on the NTPC premises at Unchahar here, officials said Tuesday. Nobody was hurt in the collision Monday night, an NTPC spokesperson said. She also said the train and the the locomotive belonged to the NTPC, which also maintains the track where the incident took place.

## Truck runs over pedestrian

Mumbai: A 31-year-old truck driver has been arrested for allegedly running over a pedestrian and killing him in the western suburbs here, police said Tuesday. The accused, Rajdeep Dhadal, who hails from neighbouring Gujarat, attempted to flee the spot after the accident near a toll naka in Dahisar Monday but was subsequently caught by the police, an official said.

## Mayawati unanimously Chief, finance secys of 18 states appear in SC re-elected BSP president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 27: The Bahujan Samaj Party is "not disappointed" after the recent electoral reverses and will continue to work for the oppressed, Mayawati said here Tuesday after her re-election as the party president. She was elected again to the

top post unanimously at a special meeting of the BSP Central Executive Committee (CEC) and office bearers from all over the country, a statement said. The party had failed to win a

single seat in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections.

'Despite electoral reverses, the BSP is not disappointed. It is stoutly pursuing the goal and welfare principle of 'Bahujan Hitaye and Bahujan Sukhaye' (progress and prosperity of bahu-



jans) on the strength of the bahujan samaj," she said.

"Like anti-Congressism in the past, the politics of the country has now become entangled in anti-BJPism whereas both these parties and their alliances are neither true well-wishers of bahujans, Dalits, adivasis, OBCs, Muslims and other religious minorities nor can they ever be so because their thinking about bahujans... is narrow, casteist, and communal," she alleged.

## **SNJPC PROPOSALS CASE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. August 27: In a rare sight, chief secretaries and finance secretaries of 18 states and union territories (UT) personally appeared before the Supreme Court Tuesday to apprise it of whether they have complied with the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's (SNJPC) recommendations on payment of salary, pension arrears and retirement benefits to judicial officers.

The top bureaucrats also sought exemption from personal appearance in future which was granted. The apex court was hearing a plea of the All India Judges Association (AIJA) on implementation of welfare and other measures for former judges

and judicial officers.

"We have no pleasure in calling the chief and finance secretaries of the states, but consistently the counsels of states have been absent during the hearings," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said when senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for West Bengal, spoke about the state's compliance with the SC judgement and directions. In a spectacle of sorts, the chief secretaries and finance secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Bihar, Goa, Haryana and Odisha appeared in the CJI's courtroom and were seen assisting their lawyers. Some chief secretaries



tried until as late as August 22 to avoid personal appearance by rushing to the court through their lawyers, saying they have substantially complied with the directions and pleading to be allowed to appear virtually. The bench, however, did not relent and said it cannot make exception for a few bureaucrats.

On Tuesday, the bench was satisfied with the compliance of its January 4 judgement and earlier directions by the 18 states and UTs and closed the proceedings. It said the top bureaucrats need not appear physically anymore. In case of some states, the court said their respective finance department authorities will have to settle within four weeks the arrear claims pertaining to pay, pension and allowances raised by judicial officers. At the outset, senior advocate K Parmeswar, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae in the matter, said some states like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have complied with the directions.

Closing this aspect, the bench said individual grievances of judicial officers can now be looked into by the committee of high court judges set up for this

# Air pollution raises death risk across age groups: Study In many Indian districts, air pollution exceeding national standards is leading to increase in death risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: In Indian districts, air pollution exceeding national standards have been shown to increase death risk across all age groups -- by 86 per cent in newborns, 100-120 per cent in children under five years of age and 13 per cent in adults, according to a study.

A team of researchers, including those at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, looked at fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution levels across over 700 districts. Data for analysis was taken from the National Family and Health Survey (fifth round) and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

In households not having a separate kitchen, the study found higher chances of deaths among newborns and adults

Among newborns and children aged under five, the chances "appeared to be almost two-fold and more than two-fold higher, respectively, in the districts of India where the PM2.5 concentration is up to the NAAQS level," the authors said in the study published in the journal GeoHealth.

Analysing the interaction between PM2.5 exceeding NAAQS (of 40 micrograms per cubic metre) and household air pollution, the team found that it substantially increased deaths among newborns by 19 per cent, children by 17 per cent and adults



by 13 per cent.

"The results demonstrate that PM2.5 exhibits a stronger association with mortality across various life stages. Notably, when (household air pollution) is considered in conjunction with ambient pollution, this association is further heightened," the authors wrote.

They said PM2.5 levels are generally high across the Indo-Gangetic Plain, spanning across the northern Indian subconti-

## **Explain steps to curb stubble burning, pollution: Top court**

Calling the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR "ineffective" due to staff shortage, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the body responsible for air quality management in the national capital and adjoining areas to explain how it proposes to tackle pollution and stubble burning which would spike with the onset of winter. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih directed the Chairperson of the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas to remain present virtually during the hearing of the matter.

nent, owing to multiple reasons, including agricultural practices involving the burning of crop residues and emissions from industrial centres and manufacturing hubs.

Further, use of clean fuel and separate kitchens in households are very low in the middle and lower regions of the plain and in districts of central India. Forestrich areas like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and other northeastern states offer abundant firewood as an easily accessible unclean fuel option, along with cropresidue and animal dung, the authors said.







# international



to emphasise here that China has no intention of intruding into the territorial airspace of any country

LIN JIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, JAPAN

## SEDITION CHARGE AGAINST **FORMER MALAYSIAN PM**

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king





Defenders of life should have no restrictions on weapons, as long as Russia uses all kinds of its own

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

The goal of this visit (to China) is not reaching new breakthroughs or progress but to continue the stable momentum of China-US relations in the past year through strategic communication

JAKE SULLIVAN NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, US

There is a **Budget coming** in October and it is going to be painful. We have no other choice given



KEIR STARMER | PM. UK

## SHORT TAKES

### 2 Indian fishermen missing: SL Navy Colombo: Two Indian

fishermen were reported missing, while two others swam safely to Kachchatheevu Island Tuesday after an Indian vessel capsized near the sea border with India, according to the Sri Lankan Navy. Kachchatheevu Island is in the Palk Strait, which is a narrow strip of

water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka. It is a rich fishing ground attracting both countries' fishermen, who are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.

### Pak security forces neutralise terrorists

Peshawar: Twenty-five terrorists, including a top militant commander, were neutralised while eleven others injured after Pakistan's security forces conducted "extensive" intelligence-based operations in the restive Khyber tribal district against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and two of its affiliate groups, the army said Tuesday. The operations were based on "robust intelligence" and resulted in major setbacks to Fitna al Khawarij and its affiliates, the Pakistan military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement, referring to the TTP.

## Dam collapse in **Sudan kills 30**

Cairo: The collapse of the Arbaat Dam in Sudan's eastern Red Sea state over the weekend flooded nearby homes and killed at least 30 people following heavy rains, a UN agency said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said late Monday, citing local officials, that the actual number of fatalities from the collapse Sunday might be higher. Additionally, about 70 villages around the dam were affected by the flash flooding, including 20 villages that have been destroyed.

## **Afghanistan claims** drop in crime rate

Kabul: Showcasing significant improvements in national security and public order, Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs, Tuesday, claimed that there has been a 30 per cent drop in crime rate across the country. **Deputy Minister of Interior** Mohammad Nabi Omari, while presenting the Annual Performance Report in Kabul Tuesday, highlighted that it is for the first time in four decades that citizens of the country are able to live safely and travel freely between provinces due to enhanced security measures.

## Namibia to cull 723 wild animals

THE MEAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

REUTERS

Windhoek, August 27: Namibia plans to cull 723 wild animals, including 83 elephants, and to distribute the meat to people struggling to feed themselves because of a severe drought across southern Africa, the environment

The cull will take place in parks and communal areas where authorities believe animal numbers exceed available grazing land and water supplies, it said in a statement issued Monday.

Southern Africa is facing its worst drought in decades, with Namibia having exhausted 84% of its food reserves last month, according to the United Nations. Nearly half of Namibia's population is expected to experience



high levels of food insecurity in the coming months.

With such a severe drought, human-wildlife conflicts are expected to increase if the authorities do not intervene, the environment ministry said.

"To this effect, 83 elephants from identified conflict areas will be culled, (and) meat will be allocated to the drought relief programme," it said.

The country also plans to cull

30 hippos and 60 buffalo. as well as 50 impala, 100 blue wildebeest, 300 zebra and 100 eland.

One hundred and fifty-seven animals have already been hunted by professional hunters and companies contracted by the government, yielding more than 56,800 kilograms of meat.

"This exercise in necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens," the environment ministry said.

More than 200,000 elephants are estimated to live in a conservation area spread over five southern African countries, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Namibia, making the region home to one of the largest elephant populations



A drone view shows burnt vegetation next to a luxury condominium after a series of fires in plantations in Ribeirao Preto, Sao Paulo state, Brazil

# Russia warns West of WWIII

SERGEI LAVROV, **WHO HAS SERVED AS PUTIN'S FOREIGN** MINISTER FOR MORE **THAN 20 YEARS, SAYS** THAT THE WEST IS **SEEKING TO ESCALATE** THE UKRAINE WAR

Moscow, August 27: Russia said the West was playing with fire by considering allowing Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with Western missiles and cautioned the United States Tuesday that World War Three would not be confined to Europe.

Ukraine attacked Russia's western Kursk region August 6 and has carved out a slice of territory in the biggest foreign attack on Russia since World War Two. President Vladimir Putin said there would be a worthy response from Russia to the at-

Sergei Lavrov, who has served as Putin's foreign minister for more than 20 years, said that the West was seeking to escalate the Ukraine war and was 'asking for trouble" by considering Ukrainian requests to



avrov says the West is playing with fire over Ukraine

Russia is clarifying its nuclear doctrine: Lavrov

loosen curbs on using foreignsupplied weapons.

Since invading Ukraine in 2022, Putin has repeatedly warned of the risk of a much broader war involving the world's biggest nuclear powers, though he has said Russia does not want a conflict with the US-led NATO alliance.

We are now confirming once again that playing with fire and they are like small children playing with matches is a very dangerous thing for grown-up uncles and aunts who are entrusted with nuclear weapons in one or another Western country,' Lavrov told reporters in Moscow. "Americans unequivocally as-

sociate conversations about Third World War as something that, God forbid, if it happens, will affect Europe exclusively," Lavrov

Lavrov added that Russia was 'clarifying" its nuclear doctrine. Russia's 2020 nuclear doctrine sets out when its President would consider using a nuclear weapon: broadly as a response to an attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons "when the very existence of the state is put under

**RUSSIA'S RESPONSE** 

Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this month that the assault on Russia's Kursk region showed that Kremlin threats of retaliation were a bluff.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine, because of the restrictions imposed by allies, could not use the weapons at its disposal to hit some Russian military targets. He urged allies to be bolder in their decisions about how to help Kviv in the war.

Russia has said that Western weaponry, including British tanks and US rocket systems, have been used by Ukraine in Kursk. Kyiv has confirmed using US HIMARS missiles to take out bridges in Kursk.

Washington says it was not informed about Ukraine's plans ahead of the surprise incursion into Kursk. The United States has also said it did not take any part in the operation.

Putin's foreign intelligence chief, Sergei Naryshkin, said Tuesday that Moscow did not believe Western assertions that it had nothing to do with the Kursk attack. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the involvement of the United States was "an obvious fact".

The New York Times reported that the United States and Britain provided Ukraine with satellite imagery and other information about the Kursk region in the days after the Ukrainian attack



Indian students under

fear of deportation

New Delhi, August 27: Hundreds of Indian student graduates have staged protests against a new federal policy in Canada that puts them at risk of getting deported from the country.

Many international students, particularly those from India, dream of moving to the North American country in hopes of building a better life, but the announced immigration policy changes have left the future of more than 70,000 student graduates in uncertainty.

Indian students have camped in front of the legislative assembly in Canada's Prince Edward Island province, protesting the sudden policy change for more than three months. Similar demonstrations were also seen in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The new policies are aimed at reducing the number of permanent residency nominations by 25 per cent as well as limiting study permits.

The change comes as Canada saw rapid population growth over the last few years. Around 97 per cent of last year's population increase in Canada was driven by immigration, according to Federal data.

Representatives from student advocacy group Naujawan Support Network warned the graduates are at risk of being deported when their work permits expire at the end of this year.

"I spent the most crucial six years of my life taking many risks to come to Canada," says Mehakdeep Singh, a former international student who is fac-

of us," Mr Singh said. Like many international students, Mr Singh had spent his family's life savings on college tuition fees in the

'For the past six years, I stud-

enough

ied, I worked, I paid taxes, I

(Comprehensive Ranking

System) points but the govern-

ment has just taken advantage

earned

hopes of eventually gaining permanent residency. Amid a local housing and jobs crisis, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is under pressure to reduce the number of temporary residents, which has seen a staggering growth in recent years. Mr Trudeau has been trailing in

polls ahead of an election expected next year. The Canadian governmen also reducing the number of temporary foreign workers it brings in, reversing its decision to expand the programme in 2022. The programme allows immigrants to work in the country on a short-term basis, meant to

fill labour shortages. According to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), 183,820 temporary foreign worker permits were granted in 2023, a steep 88 per cent increase from 2019. The ESDC Monday criticised employers for using the programme to "cir-

ers in Canada". Under the new changes, work permits will be denied in regions where the unemployment rate is at or above 6 per cent. The changes will exempt sectors like agriculture, food processing, construction and healthcare.

cumvent hiring talented work-

## Iran's leader opens door to N-talks with US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, August 27: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that Washington



wasn't to be trusted.

But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war and as the US prepares for a presidential election in November.

"We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to engage the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier."

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy.'

Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with Washington after then President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the deal in 2018.

The US State Department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment over Khamenei's remarks. There have been indirect talks between Iran and the US in recent years mediated by Oman and Qatar, two of the United States' Middle East interlocutors when it comes to Iran.

# Korea's birth rate drive struggles to sway 'YOLO' generation

Financial hardship is by far the biggest reason South Koreans cited for not having children, according to a survey by

research firm PMI Co

REUTERS

Seoul, August 27: As South Korea scrambles to halt the sharp decline in its birth rate, policymakers are having a hard time convincing many in their 20s and 30s that parenthood is a better investment than stylish clothes or fancy restaurants.

Asia's fourth-largest economy plans to launch a new government ministry dedicated to demographic challenges after years of incentives failed to ease the baby crisis.

But for Park Yeon, a 28-yearold fashion Instagrammer and aspiring singer, spending choices are guided mostly by her appetites for clothing and travel, leaving little budget for marriage and babies. "I'm all about YOLO (you only

her Supreme T-shirts at a thrift fashion festival in Seoul's highfashion enclave of Seongsu-dong. "There isn't enough left to save each month after I do things to reward myself. Getting mar-

live once)," said Park as she sells

ried might happen at some point but being happy right now, that's more important, right?" South Korea continues to break its own record for having the world's lowest birth rate,

which hit a fresh low last year. Sociologists say the lifestyle priorities of Koreans in their 20s and 30s, considered Generations Y and Z, mean they spend more and save less on average than the wider population or their peers in other countries,

Korea continues gressive interest

neither of which are conducive to nest building.

"They are status hunting. Their high spending habits show young people are working on their own emblems of success online rather than focusing on the impossible goals of settling down and have children," said Jung Jae-hoon, a sociology professor at Seoul Women's University.

Not even South Korea's ag-

rate hikes over the past three years have been able to rein in youthful spending. The savings rate for

those in their 30s declined to 28.5% in the first quarter from 29.4% five years ago, while that for all other age groups increased in the same period, central bank

At the same time, people in their 20s and 30s make up the biggest spenders at department stores and top-tier hotels while their travel spending rose to 40.1% from 33.3% in the past three years. The proportion of spending by those in their 20s at high-end department

stores has almost doubled to 12% in the three years to May, data from

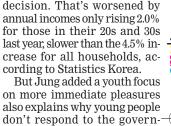
to break its own Hyundai Card record for having the shows, while that for all world's lowest birth other age rate, which hit a fresh groups clined.

low last year Last year alone, revenue at pricey buffet restaurants jumped 30.3%, versus a gain of 10.5% at fast food restaurants and 9% for the entire dining industry, according to market research firm Euromonitor. Koreans' fancy tastes have made them the world's biggest per-capita spenders on luxury brands, Morgan Stanley's research showed last year, and a hot destination for the biggest luxury brands.

To be sure, financial hardship is by far the biggest reason South Koreans cited for not having children, according to a survey

by research firm PMI Co in May. About 46% of 1,800 respondents blamed either job uncertainty or education costs for this decision. That's worsened by annual incomes only rising 2.0% for those in their 20s and 30s last year, slower than the 4.5% in-

But Jung added a youth focus on more immediate pleasures also explains why young people don't respond to the government's subsidy-based baby boosting policies.



# business



Over the years, I've heard people arguing that rapid economic development and a democratic political system are not really compatible. Our country has proved the fallacy of this line of

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

## **AIRTEL TO SHUT DOWN WYNK MUSIC APP**

Bharti Airtel will exit from music vertical and shut down its Wynk Music app, according to sources. The information was confirmed by an Airtel spokesperson a few hours after the company announced entering into a strategic partnership with iPhone maker Apple for video and music streaming. The company will absorb all Wynk Music employees.





The upcoming **GST Council** meeting will take up the issue of rate rationalisation. There will be a discussion on the

issue. Committee of officers will make a presentation on rate rationalisation

IIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Every chip in the world passes through India, not physically, but design-wise. Every chip has some design (element)

happening in India, but we have no Indian chip. We have the largest number of silicon chip designers in the world, but there is no Indian chip

BHAVISH AGGARWAL OLA FOUNDER



that are, on an average, 12-20 per cent higher than those in IT services and non-tech industries

NEETI SHARMA TEAMLEASE DIGITAL CEC

## SHORT **TAKES**

## CIL contribution to govt coffers up 2%

New Delhi: State-owned Coal India Ltd's contribution to the government's exchequer rose 2.06 per cent to ₹20,071.96 crore in the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal year. Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, paid ₹19,666.04 crore to the government exchequer in the year-ago period, according to provisional figures of the coal ministry. Total levies paid to the government in July went up to ₹4,992.48 crore from ₹4,789.42 crore paid a year earlier. The amount paid to the Centre and state governments include royalties, GST, cess on coal, and other levies. Coal production generates

### Coal output rises 7% in April-August

substantial revenue for both

central and state governments.

New Delhi: The country's coal production rose by 7.12 per cent to 370.67 million tonne from April to August 25, an official statement said Tuesday. Coal production was 346.02 MT in the year-ago period. "Ministry of Coal has achieved upswing in overall coal production up to 25th August 2024. The cumulative coal production for 2024-25, as on August 25, 2024, has significantly increased to 370.67 MT, compared to 346.02 MT during the same period in FY 2023-24," it said. The overall coal dispatch was 397.06 MT as on August 25. 2024, in the current financial vear, registering year-on-year growth of 5.48 per cent. Coal dispatch to the power sector rose to 325.97 MT from 313.44 MT in the year-ago period.

## **HCLTech, Xerox** expand partnership

New Delhi: Indian IT major HCLTech has expanded its 15year-old partnership with Xerox to assist the American firm in rejig its operations with the help of AI and digital engineering. HCLTech will assist Xerox with its "reinvention" -- the fundamental and structural redesign of the company to position it for "long-term profitable and sustainable growth", a statement said. "HCLTech will leverage automation, product and sustenance engineering and process operations services including Order to Cash, Sales and Marketing Operations, Supply Chain and Procurement -- along with its advanced full-stack GenAl platform, HCLTech AI Force, to

# Indian solar panels face US probe for 'links' to China forced labour

Mumbai, August 27: US Customs and Border Protection has detained nearly \$43 million in shipments of electronics equipment from India since October under a 2022 law banning goods made with forced labour, according to agency data, representing a new focus for the trade enforcement agency.

While CBP does not specify what types of electronic equipment it has detained, polysilicon, a raw material in solar panels, is identified as a high-priority sector in the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), and solar panels have historically made up most of the stopped shipments in that category, according to industry sources.

The CBP did not immediately respond to a request for com-

The law bans goods made in China's Xinjiang region where Chinese authorities are reported to have established labor camps for ethnic Uyghur and other Muslim groups.

China denies any abuses. No Indian electronics shipments were detained under the IIFLPA in previous years.

Nearly a third of the detained Indian electronics shipments were denied, according to CBP. By comparison, just 5.4% of shipments from top U.S. solar com-



ponent suppliers Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand were denied entry over that period.

The Indian detentions represent a small share of the \$3 billion in electronics shipments CBP has stopped at the border under the UFLPA in the last two vears

But they are a setback for Indian producers seeking to cast themselves as an alternative for U.S. solar project developers weary of navigating tariffs and UFLPA enforcement delays on panels made by mainly Chinese companies.

"If the solar cells for Indian panels are coming from China, then there is likely a good reason why detentions of Indian products may be increasing,' said Tim Brightbill, a trade attorney with Wiley Rein LLP.

"My sense is that Customs and

Border Protection did not re-

alize for a while that many

Indian solar panels contained

Chinese solar cells, and therefore the UFLPA risks were (and are) high. Imports of solar products from India have soared in recent years, hitting \$2.3 billion last year, ac-

cording to U.S. trade data. In the second quarter of 2024, India accounted for 11% of U.S. panel imports, more than double its share in the previous quarter, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

As recently as 2018, the U.S. was

not importing any solar panels from India.

The increased scrutiny of Indian shipments is a reflection of the border agency's recent efforts to broaden UFLPA enforcement beyond just the biggest China-based solar panel makers, which have replaced their Chinese polysilicon suppliers with sources from the United States and Europe in a bid to avoid their shipments being detained, according to a trade at-

"Indian module manufacturers found an opportunity to import more at a time when the Chinese manufacturers were being held up because of UFLPA," Richard Mojica, a trade attorney with Miller & Chevalier in Washington said.

Waaree Technologies and Adani Enterprises are the top Indian solar suppliers to the U.S.

A spokesperson for Adani confirmed that some of its shipments had been detained and that all had been released.

"This outcome reaffirms that our products imported into the U.S. fully comply with UFLPA regulations, reinforcing customer confidence in the quality, reliability and legal adherence of our products and manufacturing," the spokesperson said.

Waaree did not respond to requests for comment.

# Zee, Sony amicably settle disputes over failed merger



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) and Sony Pictures Networks India Tuesday said they have settled their six-monthlong dispute related to the failed USD 10-billion merger and have agreed to withdraw all claims against each other.

As part of the "comprehensive non-cash settlement" between ZEEL and Culver Max Entertainment Pvt Ltd (CMEPL). both "have mutually agreed to withdraw all respective claims against each other, in the ongoing arbitration at the SIAC and all related legal proceedings initiated in the NCLT and other forums," said a joint statement.

'The companies will also withdraw the respective Composite Schemes of Arrangement from the NCLT and inform the relevant regulatory authorities," it

Both ZEE and Sony had claimed a termination fee of USD 90 million (around ₹748.7 crore) from each other for not complying to the Merger Cooperation agreement (MCA) signed in December 2021.

Sony had moved before the Singapore International

Arbitration Center (SIAC) immediately two days after the termination of the deal, saving ZEEL did not satisfy the merger conditions, initiated arbitration proceedings and claimed a termination fee of USD 90 million.

This was contested by ZEEL before the SIAC, which denied any interim relief to the Sony group against the Indian broad-

ZEEL also moved the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking implementation of the proposed merger and later withdrew its plea.

Later in May, ZEEL terminated the MCA by issuing a letter dated May 23, 2024, and it also sought a termination fee of USD 90 million from two Sony Group entities -- Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), now known as Culver Max Entertainment, and Bangla Entertainment (BEPL).

Sony Pictures Networks India is the consumer-facing identity of CMEPL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Group Corporation, Japan.

Under the settlement terms, none of the parties will have any "outstanding or continuing obligations or liabilities" to the other, the joint statement said.

## **NSE** files for NOC with Sebi for IPO approval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: In a renewed attempt to go public, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has filed for a 'no-objection certificate' (NOC) with the capital markets regulator Sebi for its approval to float an initial public offering (IPO), people close to the development said Tuesday.

In its annual general meeting held Tuesday, the exchange apprised shareholders about the development, they added.

The clarification follows Sebi's statement to the Delhi High Court earlier this month that NSE had not submitted any new request for a NOC for the listing. The Securities and Exchange

Board of India (Sebi) reportedly made this statement in response to a writ petition filed in the high court seeking to expedite NSE's IPO. Earlier, the exchange had ap-

plied to Sebi for its IPO, but approval was not granted due to regulatory and legal issues. The NSE's listing plans were

on the backburner amid a probe by Sebi against the exchange and some of its former executives over the alleged governance It was alleged that the exchange

misused its co-location facility



and gave preferential access to certain trading members

Earlier in December 2016, NSE had filed draft papers with Sebi for its much-awaited IPO. The initial share sale was expected to garner ₹10.000 crore.

The existing shareholders were looking to offload 22 per cent shares to the public through the offer for sale (OFS) route.

Again in 2020, Vikram Limaye, NSE's then MD and CEO, told PTI, "We have approached Sebi to seek its approval for the IPO, and after that, we will start the process of appointing merchant bankers, who will help the exchange file draft prospects for

NSE's rival BSE launched its IPO in 2017 and is currently listed on the NSE.

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 27: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note after a volatile session Tuesday due to the emergence of profit-taking near record high levels amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and

The NSE gauge, however, hit a new lifetime peak of 25.017. According to traders, profit booking in metal, consumer durable and FMCG shares negated gains in telecom, teck and IT stocks.

After oscillating between highs and lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 13.65 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 81,711.76 - its sixth consecutive session of rise. During the day, it hit a high of 81,919.11 and a low of 81,600.51

The NSE Nifty ended almost flat, up 7.15 points or 0.03 per cent, at 25,017.75 -- its ninth straight session of gains.

"The domestic market witnessed profit-booking near record highs. While the positive expectations regarding a potential rate cut by the Fed in September remain, the recent geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices have made investors cautious amid high valuations. Further, the recent shift in FII stance towards the do-

## CHANGE: +13.65 (+0.02%)

**Previous Dav** 

**BSE SENSEX** 

Markets settle almost flat in volatile trade

**AUGUST 27, 2024** 

Today's

Closing

-1.24%

81,698.11 3 pm 4 pm +2.07% TITAN -2.19% +2.04% JSW STEEL **TOP** TOP +1.71% HINDUSTAN UNILEVER -1.90% **GAINERS** LOSERS **TATA MOTORS** -1.37%

81,711.76

MARUTI **BAJAJ FINANCE** +1.37% INFOSYS +1.29% mestic market and the antici-BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.58

in the near term," said Vinod Nair. Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. On the Sensex chart, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Infosys,

pation that the RBI will align

with the Fed's actions are ex-

pected to foster a positive outlook

Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers In contrast, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Titan, NTPC

and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In the broader market, the

went up by 0.50 per cent. Among the indices, telecommunication jumped 1.13 per cent, teck (0.70 per cent), financial

per cent, and smallcap index

services (0.68 per cent) and healthcare (0.44 per cent). On the other hand, metal, consumer durables, power, commodities and consumer discre-

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower.

tionary were among the laggards.

"There are both headwinds

and tailwinds for the market now. Headwinds are coming from the escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine. Brent crude has shot up above USD 81. The strongest tailwind comes from the expected rate cuts by the Fed which will spill over to other central banks, including the RBI," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist,

Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹483.36 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

# Foreign investors ditch pricey stocks, opt for IPOs

WITH THE FED POISED TO LOWER INTEREST **RATES AND INVESTORS LOOKING TO ENTER RISKIER MARKETS FOR HIGHER RETURNS. ANALYSTS EXPECT FOREIGNERS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THIS ROUTE TO OWN INDIAN STOCKS** 

REUTERS

Mumbai, August 27: Foreign investors are unloading their holdings of expensive Indian stocks and turning instead to new listings in primary markets as they seek cheaper exposure to the market and better

Their selling has been driven by profit booking as Indian stocks trade at record highs, and at valuations topping those of most major stock markets.

Investors are pumping money instead into initial public offerings (IPOs), whose valuations are lower and where there is less of a scramble for stocks.

Foreigners have so far sold a net \$3.42 billion worth of equities in the secondary market. They purchased a net \$1.47 billion through primary market issuances so far this month, according to India's Central Depository Services Ltd.

A Societe Generale (SG) report showed foreigners have



bought more than \$6 billion of stocks on the primary market this year, the highest since 2021.

"Foreign investors are shying from deploying funds into secondary market for long term and seeing better and faster return prospects in the primary market," said Rajat Agarwal, Asia equity strategist at SG.

They are sellers in the secondary market this year partly because earnings growth prospects have moderated, he

India's NSE Nifty 50 index has risen 14% this year, and the 12month price-to-earnings ratio for its large-and-mid cap stocks stands at 24 times, the highest among major global markets, according to LSEG data.

Meanwhile, the Indian primary market has been busy, with IPO listings of \$7.3 billion so far this year - the highest in Asia, followed by China's \$5.1 billion, ac-

cording to Dealogic data. Foreigners are lured by the cheapness of stocks in primary

markets. Jon Withaar, head of Asia Special Situations, Pictet Asset Management, said the valuations tend to be lower in primary markets due to lack of competition from retail, index, ETFs and most types of institutional investors.

"Companies offering IPOs or rights issues tend to price their shares conservatively to ensure a successful launch and attract more investor interest," said Michael Collins, chief executive officer of WinCap Financial.

'This lower valuation may also be seen as an opportunity for foreign investors who believe that these companies have potential for significant growth in the long run".

With the Fed poised to lower interest rates and investors looking to enter riskier markets for higher returns, analysts expectforeigners will continue to use

this route to own Indian stocks.

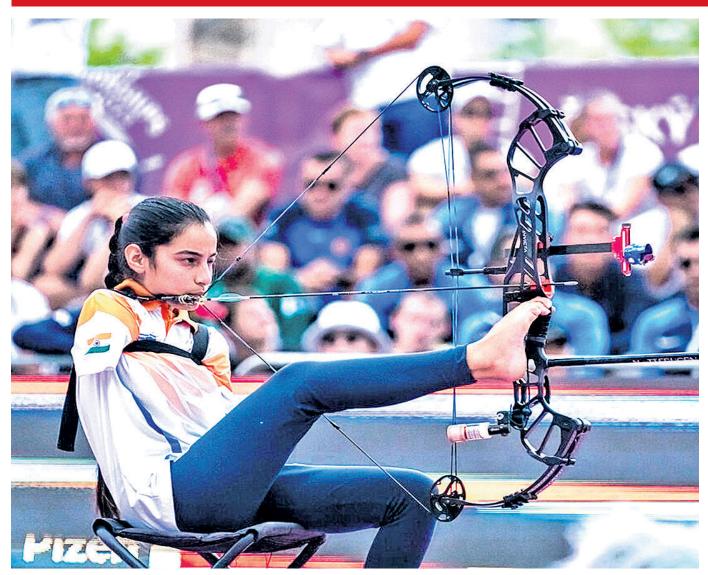




**OrissaPOST** 

# India eye record medal haul Women in Blue target elusive ICC T20 trophy

SUCCESS AT THE HANGZHOU ASIAN GAMES HAS FUELLED INDIA'S DREAMS OF WINNING MORE THAN 25 MEDALS AT PARIS



BRAVING ALL ODDS: Para-archer Sheetal Devi who shoots with his legs is one of the major Indian medal prospects in Paris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, August 27: Battered by life but not beaten by its many challenges, an 84-strong contingent of Indian para-athletes, the largest-ever in the country's history and a heady mix of youth and experience, would be eyeing an unparalleled medal rush when the Paralympic Games begin here Wednesday.

India won a record 19 medals, including five gold medals in

the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021 for a 24th-place finish in the overall rankings. Three years on, the country's target is more than 25 medals with a doubledigit haul in gold.

This ambition has been fuelled by the size of the contingent and the exceptional performances of some of the para-sportspersons in the past

India won a record 111 medals,

Indian contingent of 84 sportspersons is the largestever at the Paralympics

India had won 5 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals at Tokyo

Bhyagashri and Antil nominated as Indian flag bearers for opening ceremony

Hangzhou Asian Para Games last year. This was followed by unPara Athletics Championships in May where the country bagged 17 medals, including half-a-dozen gold for a sixth-place finish in the

overall standings. Several medal winners in Hangzhou are in this Paralympics team, including top stars like world record-holding javelin thrower Sumit Antil (F64) and rifle shooter Avani Lekhara (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1). Both of them would be defending their gold medals won in Tokyo.

For India, the para-athletics team have been a major medal provider in the past and this time too, it is expected to be the biggest contributor with as many as 38 names in frav.

Other top medal contenders include the likes of para-archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs as she was born without arms, landmine blast survivors Hokato Sema (shot putter) and Narayana Konganapalle (rower) and several other accident amputees. India are competing in 12 sports disciplines this time, as against nine by a 54-member team in Tokvo.

Among others shooter Manish Narwal and shuttler Krishna Nagar are also among those who would be looking to defend their gold medals won in Tokyo.

Lekhara was the best Indian performer in Tokyo with one gold and a bronze and one of the two athletes to win two medals, the other being Singhraj Adhana (silver and bronze). Adhana, however, could not make the current team.

Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20; intellectual disability), Rio Olympics gold medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump – T 63), whose right leg was disabled after being run over by a bus, and Yogesh Kathuniya (men's discus throw F56), born with a neurological disorder that damaged his nervous system, would be also aiming to add to their existing Paralympic medal tally.

Shuttler Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), who has overcome the disadvantage of his short height, is also looking good to defend his gold medal won in Tokyo, more so after winning the title in the World Para Badminton Championships in Thailand in February.

Antil and shot putter Bhagyashri Jadhay, who won a silver in the F34 event in Asian Para Games, will be the joint flag bearers at Wednesday's opening ceremony to be held outside a stadium for the first time in the history of Paralympic Games.

# **INDIA BEGIN THEIR**

**CAMPAIGN AGAINST NEW ZEALAND OCT 4** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The BCCI named Tuesday a tried and tested Indian squad for the Women's T20 World Cup under the leadership of Harmanpreet Kaur. It is hoping that the experienced bunch manages to win the elusive ICC trophy. The tournament will be played in the UAE starting October 3. Star batter Smriti Mandhana has been named Harmanpreet's deputy.

Spin all-rounder Shreyanka Patil and top-order batter Yastika Bhatia have been included in the squad subject to fitness. Shreyanka had fractured her finger during the Asia Cup game against Pakistan while Bhatia is recovering from a knee injury.

Following the loss to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final, Harmanpreet will be under pressure to lead her team to the coveted title. She first captained the team in the 2018 edition and since then India have reached one final but it has largely been a story of missed opportunities.

Their biggest challenge will be to beat Australia as usual, Both teams are in the same group which also includes Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. India will open their campaign October 4 against New Zealand.

Harmanpreet is optimistic about India's chances in winning the title. "Whenever we play on this kind of stage (World Cup), we always want to do well. We have always done well in the past and hopefully, this time we will break that final barrier and go all the Harmanpreet stated.

Irrespective of the playing conditions, Harmanpreet said she wanted the team to dish out a 'positive' game in the World Cup. "As a team, we learn from our de feats and break those barriers that are pushing us back. Hopefully this time we can express ourselves in a more positive way



Harmanpreet Kaur during a function in New Delhi Tuesday

### 2 warm-up games

Dubai: India will take on West Indies and South Africa in their two Women's T20 World Cup warm-up fixtures in Dubai, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced here Tuesday. The Indian eves will face West Indies September 29 while they will take on South Africa October 1. All 10 teams that have qualified for the Women's T20 WC will participate in the practice games, with every side playing two warm-up

### in the World Cup," she said.

Harmanpreet also backed the Indian bowlers, who floundered in the recent Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka, to deliver in the World Cup. "The bowlers are working really hard as a team and, hopefully, in this World Cup we will tick all the boxes,'

asserted Harmanpreet. The squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wicket-keeper), Yastika Bhatia (wicket-keeper), Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil and Sajana Sajeevan.

## SHORT TAKES

## 1st round defeat for Panda sisters

Seoul: The Indian pair of Rutuparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda bowed out in the opening round of the women's doubles event at the Korea Open badminton tournament after suffering a straight-game loss, here Tuesday. The Panda sisters lost 18-21, 5-21 against the Chinese Taipei combination of Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu in a match that lasted just 37 minutes. The women's singles competition which will start Wednesday has three Indians Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chaliha - in fray.

## **Adelaide Strikers** finally get Smriti

Adelaide: Adelaide Strikers have finally secured the services of Indian star Smriti Mandhana for the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) after chasing her for years. The Indian opener has previously played for three WBBL teams -Brisbane Heat, Sydney Thunder and Hobart Hurricanes. She joined the reigning champions Strikers ahead of the draft Sunday under the league's new overseas player pre-season signing provision, officials said here Tuesday. "Excited is an understatement," Strikers captain Tahlia McGrath told 'cricket.com.au'. Her batting is just unbelievable," she added.

### No Duleep games for indisposed Siraj

Mumbai: Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj will miss the Duleep Trophy due to illness while veteran allrounder Ravindra Jadeia has been allowed an extended period of rest by the BCCI's national selection committee, officials said Tuesday. Siraj along with Umran Malik have both been ruled out of the tournament and have been replaced by Navdeep Saini and Gaurav Yadav respectively. "Both Siraj and Malik are suffering from illness. They are not expected to be fit in time for their Duleep Trophy fixtures," the BCCI informed in a release, "All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has also been released from the Team B squad," the release added.

# Shah elected unopposed as youngest ICC chairman

Dubai, August 27: BCCI secretary Jay Shah will take over as the next chairman of the ICC in December after he emerged as the sole nominee for the high-profile job, the global governing body for cricket announced Tuesday here.

The 35-year-old will succeed incumbent chairman Greg Barclay, who decided against running for the post for a third consecutive term of two years. "I am humbled by the nomination as the Chair of the International Cricket Council,' Shah stated in a release issued by the ICC.

"I am committed to working closely with the ICC team and our member nations to further globalise cricket. We stand at a critical juncture where it is increasingly important to balance the coexistence of multiple formats, promote the adoption of ad-



Jay Shah

vanced technologies, and introduce our marquee events to new global markets. Our goal is to make cricket more inclusive and popular than ever before," Shah added in the release.

The inclusion of our sport in the Olympics at LA 2028 represents a significant inflection point for the growth of cricket. and I am confident that it will drive the sport forward in un-

Shah will leave his current position as BCCI secretary, which he has held since 2019, in the board's annual general meeting to be held towards the end of the next month or in October.

Shah is currently the head of ICC's most powerful sub-committee, the Finance and Commercial Affairs (F&CA), a role that he took over in 2022.

The only question that was doing the round even a couple of days back was whether Shah will file his nomination for the post of ICC chairman. It was a well-known fact that 15 of the 16 voting members, including England and Australia were, supporting him.

By getting elected unopposed Shah at the age of 35 Shah became the youngest-ever ICC chairman. Only four other Indians have been ICC chairman. They are Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar

## MB ride on Kaith's heroics

Defending champs overcome 2-goal deficit to win thrilling match in tie-breaker

Kolkata, August 27: Goalkeeper Vishal Kaith's twin saves in the tie-breaker helped defending champions Mohun Bagan make a splendid comeback from two goals down to edge star-studded Bengaluru FC (BFC) 4-3 (2-2 after full-time) to reach the Durand Cup final for a record 30th time

here Tuesday. After an intense shooting in the tie-breaker where both teams were locked three-all, a comnosed Kaith thwarted the strikes of Halicharan Narzary and Aleksandar Jovaovic to seal the match in Mohun Bagan's favour.

The record 17-time champions Mohun Bagan will face NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) in the summit clash here Saturday.

Jason Cummings, Manvir Singh, Liston Colaco and Dimitri Petratos, who stood-in as skipper after Subahsish Bose's 30th minute injury, scored four goals



 $strikes\ came\ from\ Edgar\ Mendez,$ Rahul Bheke and Pedro Capo.

BFC earlier went ahead through goals by legendary Sunil Chhetri (42nd) and youngster Vinith Venkatesh (50th). Bagan made a spirited comeback through Petratos (68th), and Anirudh Thapa (84th).

BFC played aggressively in the first half and got a penalty in the 42nd minute when Vinith was brought down by Colaco. Chhetri added another goal to his tally with his consummate strike from the spot.

A defensive lapse allowed Jorge Pereyra Diaz to find Vinith, who calmly slotted the ball into the empty net to double the lead for BFC.

## Ronaldo wants quiet farewell

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 27: Legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo also known as CR7 has said that he will call curtains upon his international career quietly while Al-Nassr in the Saudi league is likely to be his last club. Since moving to Al-Nassr in January 2023, Ronaldo has scored 61 goals in 67 games whilst providing 16 assists.

"I don't know if I will retire soon, in two or three years but probably I will retire at Al Nassr. I'm very happy at this club and I want to continue," said Ronaldo to Portuguese TV channel 'NOW'.

The Portugal captain was insistent that, despite being one of the best players in football history, he does not want a farewell tour with the national team and it will be a 'very spontaneous decision'.

"When I leave the national team, I won't tell anyone and it will be a very spontaneous decision, but also a well-thoughtout one. Right now, what I want most is to help the national team in upcoming matches," CR7 said.

# GAUFF, DJOKOVIC START IN ST

New York, August 27: Men's and women's defending champions Novak Djokovic and Coco Gauff began their campaigns with easy wins at the US Open tennis tournament here Monday. Gauff dropped her first game of the match, but recovered quickly to beat Varvara Gracheva 6-2, 6-0. Djokovic on the other hand looked in fine tune during his demolition of qualifier Radu Albot of Moldova 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

'The last couple of weeks were tough, and I was like, I have to do this and do that, but I don't have to prove anything to anyone except myself. So ... (these) two weeks are just about proving all the expectations that I have is on myself," the No. 3-seeded Gauff

said after the match. Day one at the year's last Grand Slam tournament went about as well as possible for Gauff and another young



Novak Djokovic in action during his first round match at the US Open,

American featured in Ashe, 13th-

seeded Ben Shelton, a semifinalist a year ago who beat 2020 champion Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. It was the last US Open for Thiem, who turns 31 next week and is retiring after this season. Seeded women's winners in-

cluded No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka,

the two-time Australian Open

champion; No. 7 Zheng Qinwen,

the women's gold medallist at

the Paris Olympics; No. 24 Donna

## Nagal beaten

New York: India's top player Sumit Nagal crashed out of the US Open, the last Grand Slam of the season, after suffering a straight-set defeat against Dutch player Tallon Griekspoor in the opening round here Monday. The Indian lost 1-6, 3-6, 6-7 (8-10) to Griekspoor, who won 87 per cent of his first serve points. Nagal broke his rival twice while the Dutchman converted six of his 11 break chances in the 140 minutes contest.

Vekic, the silver medallist; No. 12 Daria Kasatkina and No. 14 Madison Keys

The highest-seeded man out of the bracket during the day session was No. 15 Holger Rune, who was eliminated by Brandon

Nakashima of the US 2-6, 1-6, 4-6. Among the men's seeds advancing were No. 4 Alexander Zverev; No. 6 Andrey Rublev; No. 8 Casper Ruud, the 2022 run-

ner-up at Flushing Meadows;

No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 12 Taylor Fritz.

Zheng had a difficult match against 2019 French Open semifinalist Amanda Anisimova, but finally prevailed to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in over two hours.

The second-seeded Djokovic, again wearing a gray sleeve over his surgically repaired right knee, was competing for the first time since claiming an Olympic gold medal three weeks ago at the Paris Games.

"It's always challenging to start, particularly when you haven't played on this surface for five, six months, and coming off an Olympic gold and playing on clay. I haven't had any official matches before the US Open. So I'm expecting to be probably challenged a little bit more in the opening rounds," he said. "Hopefully, I can play better each day." He said his knee, which was operated on in early June.

## Teammates rally around murder-accused Shakib

AGENCIES

Dhaka, August 27: Bangladesh players have rallied round teammate Shakib Al Hasan, the ousted lawmaker who faces a case of alleged murder con-

nected to unrest that toppled the government earlier this month. Captain Najmul

Hossain Shanto said his team's maiden Test win Sunday against Pakistan, in which allrounder Shakib took three second innings wickets, was a tribute to the hundreds killed during protests that forced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country end-

ing 15 years of her rule. Shakib, 37, who lost his job as a lawmaker for Hasina's Awami League party when parliament was dissolved, is 'a big asset of our country', said Shanto in a post Tuesday on Facebook.

"He's been raising the name of Bangladesh in the world for 17 long years," Shanto added. Rafiqul Islam,

the father of one

of the hundreds

killed during the

civil unrest, filed

and a brother, I will be there during Shakib's tough times, and I do not support the false murder against him MUSHFIOUR RAHIM

a murder case against Shakib and 155 others here Thursday. Hasina, former ministers and other ex-lawmakers

are among those also accused. Shakib has not spoken publicly about the case, but his teammates said they are offering him

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159