



ALIA'S CHAOTIC LIFE

It feels like I have lived a decade in six months, says actor Alia Bhatt

LEISURE P2



'CULTURAL GENOCIDE'

Pope Francis says bid to eliminate Indigenous culture through church-run school system amounts to "cultural genocide"

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA IN QUARTERS

Indian shuttlers outclass Sri Lanka 5-0 in their second group A match to advance to the quarterfinals at CWG

SPORTS P12

Maha Governor's remark sparks row

■ If Gujaratis and Rajasthanis are removed from Maharashtra, Mumbai will be left with no money, says Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's comments that "Mumbai will have no money if Gujaratis and Rajasthanis were to leave" trig-



gered a massive controversy Saturday, forcing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to state that he disagreed with the Governor.

As Opposition leaders slammed Koshyari and sought apology from him, the Governor said his comments were misconstrued. Koshyari made the controversial comments during a function to

name a chowk (intersection) in suburban Andheri Friday evening. "I tell people here that if Gujaratis and Rajasthanis are removed from Maharashtra, especially from Mumbai and Thane, you will be left with no money and Mumbai will not be a financial capital," he said. As the comments drew widespread condemnation, Koshyari said Saturday that the statement was misconstrued, and asked political parties not to create a controversy," he said.

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray demanded an apology from Koshyari. The former chief minister, whose relations with Koshyari were often strained while in office, accused the governor of "dividing" Hindus living in Mumbai and Thane.

Holding a press conference, Thackeray said, "The hatred that the Governor harbours in his mind against the Marathi people has inadvertently come out. Time has come to decide whether to send Koshyari back home or to jail...In the last three years, he has insulted Marathi-speaking people despite staying in Maharashtra. Now with these comments, he has brought disrespect to the governor's post," the Sena president said.

Chief Minister Shinde, leader of the rebel Shiv Sena faction, said he disagreed with Koshyari's remarks. Talking to reporters at Malegaon, Shinde said, "We don't agree with Koshyari's remarks."

GOLDEN GIRL CHANU



Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-smashing spree, claiming four of them in a power-packed performance, to claim India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games at Birmingham, Saturday. The former world champion ended with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which is far from her personal best. **Report P-12**

PTI PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

AgustaWestland chopper seized

New Delhi: In a latest development in connection with the DHFL loan fraud case of Rs 34,615 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday said it has seized a helicopter parked at a hangar in the premises of Avinash Bhosale in Pune. "It came to light that RKW Developers Pvt. Ltd (a company owned by Wadhawan family) allegedly has stakes in Varva Aviation (an Association of Persons) which owns an AW109SP new helicopter (AgustaWestland Helicopter) which was allegedly purchased in 2011. RKW Developers Pvt. Ltd joined the Association of Persons in 2017 contributing towards cost price and maintenance of said helicopter," the official said.

Infant branded with hot iron dies

Raigarh: Superstition and blind belief in traditional healing practices have once again claimed a precious life in the state as a nine-month-old infant died after being branded with hot iron to cure him of cold and fever at Jadapara village under Kasakanga panchayat in Nabarangpur district, a report said Saturday. The deceased was identified as Rupesh Gond, son of Sukadev Gond of the village. Rupesh was down with cold, cough and fever since Monday. They called an old woman who branded Rupesh with hot iron, Wednesday, following which the baby died. **P5**

Dhauli makeover soon

Tourism Minister Ashwini Patra tells the Assembly that the master plan for the development of Dhauli Hill will be executed soon

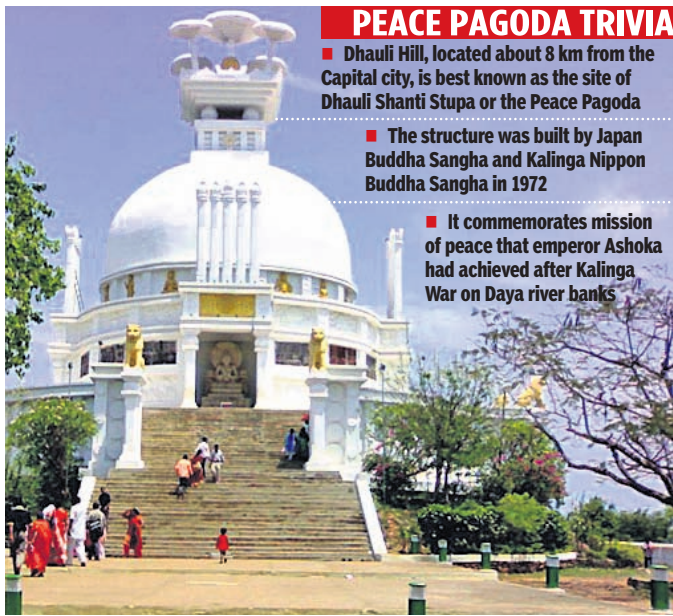
PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The state government Saturday said a master plan is being prepared to develop the Dhauli Hill where a peace pagoda is located on the outskirts of the Capital city.

This was stated by Tourism Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra while replying to a question of Congress MLA Suresh Kumar Routray in the Assembly, Saturday. Routray expressed concern over the state government's lack of interest to develop Dhauli, Bindu Sagar and Kedar Gouri tanks in City, which have both historical significance and tourism potential. He thanked the state government for initiating infrastructure development projects in Puri, Sambalpur, Cuttack and important religious places.

"A master plan is being prepared for development of Dhauli Hill tourist destination and it will be executed soon," Patra said, adding that these tourist destinations will get makeover soon.

Dhauli Hill, located about 8 km from the Capital city, is best known as the site of Dhauli Shanti Stupa



PEACE PAGODA TRIVIA

■ Dhauli Hill, located about 8 km from the Capital city, is best known as the site of Dhauli Shanti Stupa or the Peace Pagoda

■ The structure was built by Japan Buddha Sangha and Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha in 1972

■ It commemorates mission of peace that emperor Ashoka had achieved after Kalinga War on Daya river banks

or the Peace Pagoda.

The structure was built by the Japan Buddha Sangha and the Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha in 1972. It commemorates the mission of peace that emperor Ashoka had achieved after the Kalinga War on the banks of the river Daya.

The minister said that the state government has been using outdoor branding, digital marketing, radio, social media and newsletter for the publicity of Odisha's tourist destinations.

These apart, small documentaries are also being telecast at national and regional levels, he said.

SEASHORE LINK

ED attaches ₹3.92 crore assets of Biswal, media co

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth over ₹3.92 crore of former BJD MLA Pravat Biswal and a media company in a money laundering case against Seashore Group of companies accused of perpetrating an alleged ponzi fraud, officials said Saturday.

The central agency, in a statement, said a provisional order under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was issued to attach ₹25 lakh bank deposits of Biswal, a three-time former MLA from Cuttack-Choudwar Assembly seat, held at the SBI Cuttack branch.

Biswal was arrested by the CBI in this case in 2017 but was later granted bail. The agency also attached an immovable property belonging to Media Guru Consultants Pvt. Ltd in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The total value of the attached assets is ₹3,92,20,000, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said.

The Seashore Group of companies "fraudulently and dishonestly collected huge amounts from the general public, of which ₹25 lakh was diverted to the ex-MLA and

his family members and ₹4 crore was diverted to Media Guru Consultants Pvt Ltd to set up a news and current affairs TV channel named STV Samachar," it alleged. The money laundering case stems from the FIRs and chargesheets filed against the Seashore Group and its promoters by the Odisha Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and the CBI. The ED said this was a "ponzi scam case of fraudulent collection of deposits from the gullible public in guise of issuance of preferential shares by enrolling the depositors as members of cooperative societies".

"These companies were neither registered as non-banking finance company (NBFC) with the RBI nor listed at the National Stock Exchange and as such were not authorised to collect such public deposits," the agency said.

Meanwhile, Biswal's wife, Laxmi Bilasini denied having any knowledge about the properties owned by the Noida-based firm that were attached by the ED. She even claimed that the letter received from ED Friday only mentions about the ₹25 lakh cash provided by the Seashore group.

Will expose whimsical governance style: Mishra

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The BJP Saturday appointed its four-time MLA Jayanarayan Mishra as the new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. Mishra said that he would expose the state government's whimsical style of governance.

Mishra, the legislator from Sambalpur, was appointed to the

post after Bhawanipatna MLA Pradipta Kumar Naik stepped down due to post-Covid complications. Mishra's name was supported by all members of

the BJP legislative party, the party's state in-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar said, addressing a presser here, Saturday.

Mishra said he will try his level best to meet the aspiration of the people as the new leader of opposition. "I will also try to expose the state government's whimsical style of governance," he told reporters.

Contd..4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Just make sure our release date doesn't clash with any other mega starrer or Parliament session...

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP.	MAX	35.9°C	35.4°C
	MIN	24.42°C	26.5°C
Humidity		81%	81%
Rainfall		Nil	6mm
			Forecast
			Partly cloudy sky

A few can approach courts, majority suffers in silence: CJI

CJI NV RAMANA URGES THE JUDICIARY TO SPEED UP THE RELEASE OF UNDERTRIALS LANGUISHING IN JAILS, AWAITING LEGAL AID

AGENCIES

New Delhi, July 30: Chief Justice of India NV Ramana Saturday termed access to justice "a tool for social emancipation" and said only a small percentage of the population can approach courts while the majority suffers in silence, lacking awareness and necessary means.

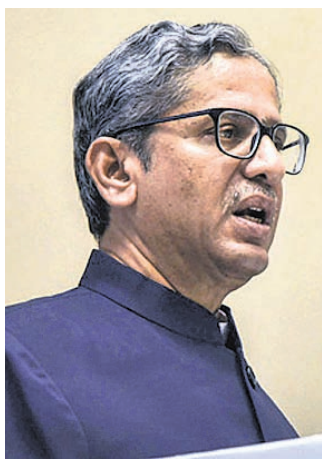
Technology has emerged as a great enabler, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said and urged the judiciary "to use modern technological tools to enhance the pace of justice delivery".

Justice Ramana was addressing the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet here in

which Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the judiciary to speed up the release of undertrials languishing in jails, awaiting legal aid.

"Justice: Social, Economic and Political - that is the vision of justice which our Preamble promises to every Indian. The reality is, today, only a small percentage of our population can approach the justice delivery system, when in need. A majority of the people suffer in silence, lacking awareness and necessary means," he said.

"Modern India was built around the goal of removing the disparities in society. Project democracy is about providing a space for the



participation of all. Participation will not be possible without social emancipation. Access to justice is a tool for social emancipation," the CJI said.

Echoing the Prime Minister's views on providing legal aid and ensuring the release of undertrial prisoners, he said one of the most important aspects which calls for active consideration and intervention of the legal services authorities in the country is the condition of undertrials.

"The Prime Minister and the Attorney General have also rightly flagged this issue in the recently held conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. I am happy to

note that NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) is actively collaborating with all stakeholders in securing the much-deserved relief for undertrials."

Justice Ramana said India, the second most populous country in the world with an average age of 29 years, has a large workforce.

"However, skilled workers are estimated to be only three per cent of our total workforce. We need to harness the full potential of the youthful demographic profile of our country. With the western world increasingly falling short of skilled human resources, it is India's turn to fill the gap, globally," he said.

The CJI termed the district ju-

diciary the backbone of the justice delivery system of the world's largest democracy. They are the first point of contact for much of the population and its strengthening is "the need of the hour", he said.

Justice Ramana hailed the services provided by NALSA following its inception 27 years ago and said, "The fact that it is aimed at offering free legal aid to 70 per cent of our population, makes NALSA the largest legal aid provider in the world."

The CJI also stressed the need for strengthening alternate dispute redressal (ADR) mechanisms like Lok Adalat, mediation and arbitration centres.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES
You will focus your attention today on your beloved. You will feel very energetic, but your commitment to work will falter. So don't be surprised if your superiors are annoyed. However, Ganesha says today is a day for romantic pursuits.

TAURUS
You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesha. You might exhaust yourself mentally trying to set things straight. It would be better to brainstorm with someone close to you or approach people whom you have differences with. The nitty-gritty is fine, but do not forget the larger picture, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
A hectic and busy day awaits you, which will probably leave you feeling bored and listless. Find creative ways to beat the boredom, or take a break and do things which appeal to you today, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will be involved in a team effort and associated with work like inspection and examination. You will base your opinions on your friends' choices. So select good friends, says Ganesha. You will spend time with close circle.

LEO
It is an important day for you. Everyone in the office will accept your capabilities and will praise you. You may incur expenses on entertainment and luxuries. Your financial difficulties will now be solved. It is better to have an eye on long term gains. A progressive day on the whole, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Family matters. And matters of family matter more. Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is progression in opposition.

LIBRA
It's a full platter today, and you have to manage it all somehow. The day promises to be full of activities, especially those that involve writing letters and reviving old contacts. Expect a call to appear for an interview for a better job. Also, look forward to being put in charge of organising events at work, says Ganesha.

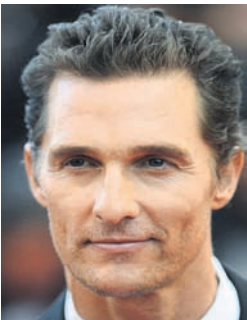
SCORPIO
An electric wire of 440 volts is apt to describe you today. According to Ganesha, you are in a belligerent mood today and can burst like a fireball. Meditation and yoga is likely to improve the situation. Remember, treat others the way you want to be treated by them.

SAGITTARIUS
Suddenly, you become ambidextrous and plan to multi task today, says Ganesha. Your instincts will guide you today; trust them and move ahead. You may come across few challenges. But, anyway, who wants an easy way out, right?

CAPRICORN
Your interests are guarded by the Almighty, so don't worry about them. Not that you are not ambitious, but you are satisfied with what you have and gained. You have set some realistic goals for yourself and you are making sincere efforts to achieve them. You are a simple person and you like your life to be uncomplicated.

AQUARIUS
You are close to you family, and now is the time to enjoy the company of your loved ones at home. You will take them out for shopping, go with them on picnics and pamper them in every possible way, says Ganesha. Not that you made them feel special with a selfish motive, but your show of affection will work wonders for you.

PISCES
Ganesha asks you not to undertake any new project or business venture due to the alignment of the planets being unfavorable. You will do well in tasks that do not require too much creativity and innovation. Do not take sides when you are not required to and it make have heavy consequences in future.



McCONAUGHEY PLAYS COACH IN SOCCER FILM 'DALLAS STING'

Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey has been signed for "Dallas Sting", which tells the fact-based story of how a group of Dallas high school girls headed to China in 1984 as the ultimate underdogs and beat some of the best women's teams from China, Australia and Italy.

JON URGES RUSSO BROTHERS TO NOT KILL IRON MAN IN ENDGAME

Russo Brothers who have made the last two Avengers movies, revealed that their decision to kill Iron Man in 'Avengers: Endgame' was contested by director Jon Favreau, who helmed 'Iron Man' and starred in the MCU as Harold 'Happy' Hogan.



A unique collection of seven short plays



Bhubaneswar: The Zain Foundation Trust is organizing its annual fundraiser for autism after 3 years in Bhubaneswar.

The lull of the pandemic left no other option but to engage in aggressive advocacy exercises through social media posts raising awareness on autism and conducting super bike rides in cities that permitted a gathering of a hundred people.

The foundation is ready with its signature event, a theatre play to be staged at Rabindra Mandap on 5th of August, called 'One on One', produced and directed by Rage Productions, Bombay.

Widely acclaimed, 'One on One', is a unique collection of seven short plays from Rage Productions. Started in 1992 by theatre and adman Rahul Da Cunha, and actors Shernaz Patel and Rajit Kapur, theatre group Rage Productions completed 25 years last year.

The short plays will have some big names of both stage and big screen such as Rajit Kapur, Shikha Talsania, Vrajesh Hirjee, Sumeet Vyas and others. The plays include:

Game, Set(ing) & Match: An American Desi boy is invited to meet a prospective bride, but the investment climate looks more interesting. Writer - Farhad Soraabjee; Director - Rajit Kapur; Actor - Vrajesh Hirjee; Language - English; Duration - 13 minutes

Dear Richard: An angry, exhausted airline traveler writes an open letter to the owner of Virgin Airlines on the state of inedible food. Writer - Oliver Beale; Adapted by - Nasir Khan & Akarsh Khurana; Director - Nadir Khan; Actor - Rajit Kapur; Language - English; Duration - 10 minutes

TC Rashbehari: Ticket Collector Rashbehari get slapped. He has been slapped many times in the past. Today he is upset as he feels it is not his fault. Writer - Ashok Mishra, Director - Rajit Kapur; Actor - Gagande Riar; Language - Hindi; Duration - 13 minutes

Majnu: Two Indian soldiers at a border outpost build a relationship over a series of conversations. Writer - Hussain Dalal; Director - Akarsh Khurana; Actors - Rajit Kapur & Sumeet Vyas; Language - Hindi; Duration - 14 minutes

Dulhaniya: Gurpreet is getting ready for her wedding with her boyfriend for 7 years. As the wedding ceremony approaches she begins to question everything about their relationship. Writer - Sumeet Vyas; Director - Puja Sarup; Actor - Shikha Talsania; Language - Hindi/English; Duration - 14 minutes

Khoon Pasina...Action: A glimpse into the day of a first time producer of a big budget Bollywood film. Writer - Ashish Jagtiani; Director - Akarsh Khurana; Actor - Sumeet Vyas; Language - Hindi/English; Duration - 14 minutes

Founded in 2015, Zain Foundation is engaged in advocacy work for the autism community in Bhubaneswar through workshops, art exhibitions, rallies, as well as awareness through print and audio visuals. It had organised the famous play 'Kaifi Aur Main' featuring Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar, class act of Naseeruddin Shah as Einstein. 'The Siddhus of Upper Juhu' starring theatre stalwarts, Rajit Kapur and Shernaz Patel and many more. PNN

Parineeti teams up with Akshay for her next

Mumbai: Parineeti Chopra is set to play the female lead opposite Akshay Kumar in an untitled film based on a real-life hero and his bravery in a rescue operation at a coal mine. The film reunites Akshay and Parineeti after the 2019 war film 'Kesari'. This



Bebo reacts to 3rd baby rumours



will see a little bit of family, there's nothing more I can do. I am also a private person, I am doing as much as I can," she says.

Currently awaiting the release of her next film, Laal Singh Chaddha with Aamir Khan, she is also aware of the scrutiny every word, every picture of hers goes through. One such picture sparked rumours of her being pregnant. She shot them down in her own way, and wrote on her Instagram stories: "It's pasta and wine guys..."

Isn't it problematic, that the moment a woman puts on weight, the first assumption people have is that she is expecting? Khan agrees. "What do you mean 'is she pregnant'? Is she having another baby?" Am I some machine? Leave the choice to me na!," she quips. IANS

'Meri Pyaari Bindu' actress took to social media by posting an image of her and Akshay Kumar with the caption: "We are back".

The film is the story of chief mining engineer Jaswant Gill, who rescued miners stuck inside the coal mine. The project is being directed by Tinu Suresh Desai, who previously directed Akshay in 'Rustom' under the banner Pooja Entertainment. IANS

Life is beautifully chaotic: ALIA

Mumbai: It feels like I've lived a decade in six months, says Alia Bhatt, for whom the year 2022 is turning out to be a rollercoaster ride with many firsts along the way.

Alia started the year with a blockbuster in Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi and got married to her crush Ranbir Kapoor in April. She then jetted off to the UK to film her Hollywood debut Heart of Stone, co-starring Gal Gadot, and before returning to India, Bhatt dropped the news that she is expecting her first child.

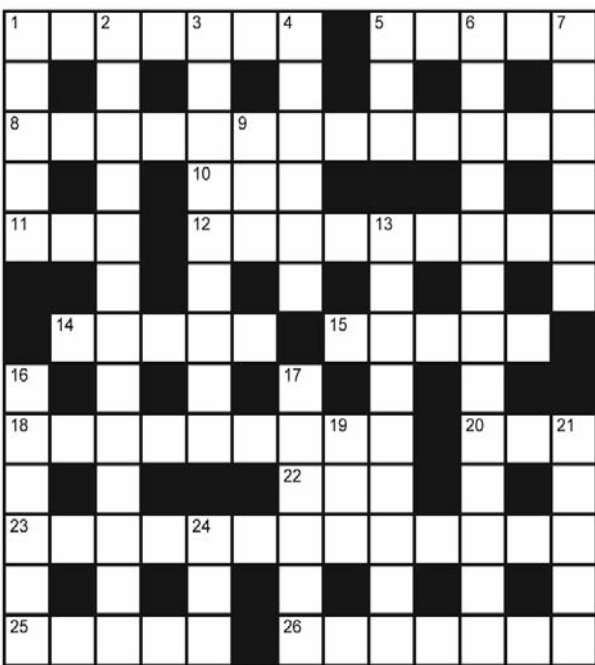
As she promotes her maiden production venture Darlings, she said she hasn't had the time to process the milestones her life is crossing. "It feels like I've lived a decade in six months. I don't think you ever really process what's happening when it's happening. In retrospect, you're like 'Oh my God that happened at this time and this also happened at that time'. I'm actually a quiet person, I may seem very chatty, but I'm really quiet, so I'm a lot in my head. Maybe in the future I'll look back and wonder: 'That was one hell of a year', the actor said.

Bhatt, also gearing up for the release of her film Brahmastra Part One Shiva, said the only way to describe the current phase of her life is 'beautifully chaotic'.

Bhatt produced dark comedy through her banner Eternal Sunshine Productions collaborating with superstar King Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment. Bhatt said the decision to turn producer with the film was organic. Her filmmaker father Mahesh Bhatt said that it's about time she empowers other artists through her work. PTI

FUN post

CROSSWORD

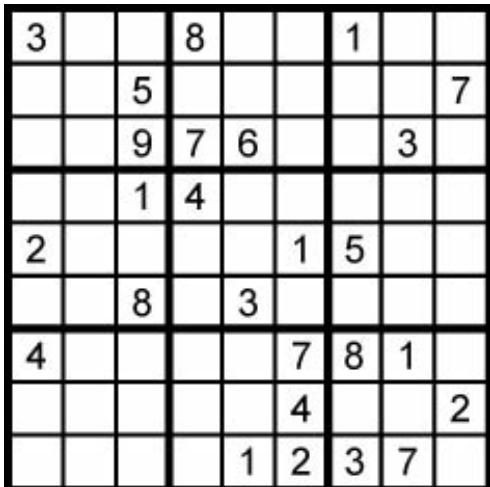


- Across**
- 1 Denial
 - 5 Pay out
 - 8 Type of neurosis
 - 10 Compass point
 - 11 Hankering
 - 12 Soldier of fortune
 - 14 Sharp as a tack
 - 15 Fend off
 - 18 Links items (4-5)
 - 20 Printing fluid
 - 22 Ruddy
- Down**
- 1 Settle a loan
 - 2 Complete success (6,7)
 - 3 Wiring diagram
 - 4 Optical devices
 - 5 Bottom line
 - 23 Crude but effective (5-3-5)
 - 25 Impertinent
 - 26 Overly surprised
 - 6 Over-the-top
 - 7 Duck hunter's gear
 - 9 Singleton
 - 13 Listen in
 - 16 Greek public squares
 - 17 Root vegetable
 - 19 Hospital unit
 - 21 Excited, with "up"
 - 24 Stable diet

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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



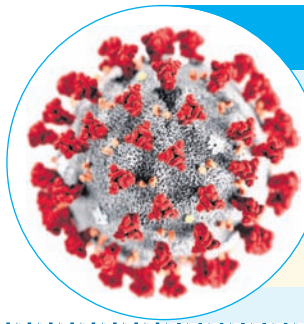
SOLUTIONS





LIGHTING LAMPS

CMC Mayor Subhas Singh inaugurated Ujwal Bharat-Ujwal Bhabisyata Power @2047 programme by lighting earthen lamps at Saheed Bhawan in Cuttack, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	58,12,89,548	55,11,45,750	64,18,340
India	4,40,00,138	4,33,30,442	5,26,312
Odisha	13,12,116	12,97,344	9,138



A day after the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) unfurled the tricolour underwater in the sea, its made-in-India ALH chopper Saturday flew with the national flag over Srimandir in Puri as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

Naveen releases 'Lockdown Lyrics'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday released a book titled 'Lockdown Lyrics', a collection of poems written by Sanjukta Dash.

The poems are an unadulterated narration of the author's experiences and exasperations during the pandemic-induced lockdown. She has reflected on all the trauma and tribulations, hopes and aspirations of humanity during this most critical journey of society in a long time. The Chief Minister appreciated the creative genius of Dash that has mirrored emotions of all of us during these difficult times of the pandemic.

Sanjukta Dash is a well-known name in Odia literature. She has penned three anthologies



of Odia poems - 'Antaswar', 'Amrut Anwasha' and 'Apekshare Ebe Bi'. 'Lockdown Lyrics' is

her debut endeavour in English poetry published by Authors Press, New Delhi.

MLAs demand salary hike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Irrespective of party lines, members in state Assembly Saturday demanded hike in their salaries, pensions and other allowances as existing remunerations are not adequate.

The Opposition and treasury bench members urged Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha to give a ruling directing the government to raise the salary and allowances of the sitting members and pension and medical allowances of former MLAs.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi said the salary was revised five years ago September 13, 2017. As per present need, the salary should be increased as the salary and allowances given to the MLAs and the pension and medical allowances given to former MLAs are not adequate.

During the last five years, the price of essential commodities and oil prices have increased manifold, he said. Majhi said the Odisha MLAs are getting less than Rs 1 lakh while the salary and allowances of an MLA in Karnataka is Rs 2.5 lakh, Maharashtra - Rs 2.31 lakh, Delhi - Rs 2.10 lakh and Uttarakhnd - Rs 3.25 lakh. The BJP leader urged the government to hike their salary and allowances.

Senior lawmakers Bishnu Sethi, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Suresh Chandra Routray, Santosh Singh Saluja and Amar Satpathy (BJD) supported the demand of Majhi.

Congress whip Taraprasad Bahinipati supported the BJP member's demand and claimed that lawmakers in other states get much more than the amount received by the Odisha MLAs. He said the salary of an MLA in Odisha is less than the salary of MLAs of several states including Goa, a small state. In Goa,



IN THE HOUSE

'1.28L cases pending for over 15 years in courts'

As many as 1,28,019 cases are pending for disposal for over 15 years in different courts including the Orissa High Court. This was stated by state Law Minister Jagannath Saraka Saturday while replying to a question of BJD member SR Patnaik in the Assembly. "A total of 18,79,226 cases are pending for trial at various lower courts and in Orissa High Court. Of the total pending cases, 1,28,019 are more than 15 years old," the minister said. The Law minister said that with approval from Orissa High Court, the state government is taking steps to run Civil Judge-cum-JMFC Court at all blocks in the state in a phased manner for speedy disposal of cases. This apart, the minister said steps are being taken to increase the number of judges for the purpose.

the salary and allowances of an MLA is Rs 2.20 lakh. He also said lawmakers travel a lot to attend various programmes but they receive less as compared to such expenses.

Bahinipati further said the condition of former MLAs is even worse. They are getting a pension

Assembly passes Appropriation Bill

The state Assembly Saturday passed the Odisha Appropriation Bill, 2022 allowing the state government to spend Rs 2 lakh crore from its consolidated fund during the financial year 2022-23. Speaking on the debate on the Bill, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari said Rs 89,590 crore has been allocated as administrative expenditure, Rs 1 lakh crore as programme expenditure, Rs 3,210 crore as disaster response fund and Rs 7,200 crore towards transfers from the state. The total programme expenditure outlay for the financial year 2022-23 estimated at Rs 1 lakh crore, which is 33 per cent more than the allocation of 2021-22, he said. Similarly, he said, the capital outlay in 2022-23 is Rs 38,732 crore, which is about 5.4 per cent of GSDP and 56 per cent increase over the previous year. Stating the state government is committed to ensure affordable quality healthcare service for all; Pujari said the allocation to the public health sector has been increased substantially during the past few years. A total sum of Rs 12,624 crore has been proposed for public health care, which is an increase of about 25 per cent over previous year's provision. Similarly, an allocation of Rs 27,324 crore has been made for the education and skill development sector and Rs 21,166 crore for agriculture & allied activities, said the Finance Minister. An outlay of Rs 1,325 crore has been made under ABADHA scheme, while Rs 200 crore has been allocated for EKAMRA and SAMALEI schemes each, he pointed out. Moreover, the government has allocated Rs 14,454 crore during the year 2022-23 for construction and improvement of roads in the state. The Fifteenth Finance Commission and Odisha FRBM Act, 2005 prescribe for limiting the debt to GSDP ratio within 25%. The current debt level of Odisha is 15.2 per cent, which is within the stipulated debt limit, said Pujari.

of Rs 30,000 per month and Rs 2,000 towards medical expenses.

Similarly, Saluja demanded the government to hike the medical insurance of an MLA and ex-MLA to Rs 10 lakh. He also demanded to lift the ceiling on hike on the pension of ex-MLA. He demanded the Speaker to constitute a Sub-Committee which should visit other states and submit a report for enhancing the salary and perks of MLAs besides the pension of former MLAs.

Treasury bench member Amar Prasad Satpathy said the salary and allowances should be hiked as per the price index and should be raised considering the situation in the state. He demanded to hike the medical allowance to min-

imum Rs 20,000 and hike the pension of former MLAs.

Independent MLA Makaranda Muduli also demanded a hike in the salaries of lawmakers in Odisha. Arukha said he would advise the government to consider the demand raised by the members.

The state government had raised the salaries of MLAs and ministers by over 50 per cent five years ago, taking the payout for each lawmaker to Rs 1 lakh per month. The previous salary revision was done in 2011. However, the salary of the chief minister and the assembly speaker remained marginally less than Rs 1 lakh. While the chief minister gets Rs 98,000 per month, the speaker is entitled to get Rs 97,500.

Police grill actor Babushaan amid marital row over affair

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Odia film star Babushaan Mohanty appeared before police Saturday for questioning in connection with the cases lodged after last week's dramatic public brawl involving him, actress Prakruti Mishra and his wife over an alleged extramarital affair.

Mohanty came to the Kharabela Nagar police station along with his mother - veteran actress Aparajita Mohanty - and actor Rabi Mishra in the afternoon, inspector Arun Swain told reporters.

The 32-year-old actor, who was summoned in connection with the cases filed by the warring sides, cooperated with the police, who asked him questions as part of the investigations, Swain said.

The officer refused to divulge the details of the ongoing probe, adding that possible steps would be taken as per law after investigating all angles.

Babushaan Mohanty, whose birthday falls on this day, left the police station later without answering any questions from



the frenzied media. Police had questioned Mishra at her residence Tuesday for nearly an hour in the presence of her parents.

High drama unfolded in Satya Nagar area of Bhubaneswar last Saturday as Babushaan Mohanty's wife Trupti Satapathy intercepted his SUV, which was also occupied by Mishra in the front seat. Several videos went viral on social media, showing Satapathy purportedly trying to drag Mohanty out of the car and also assaulting Mishra.

Satapathy alleged that Mohanty and Mishra were in an extramarital affair for two years and she had caught them red-handed several times. The woman gave

her husband several chances earlier, adding that the same mistake, however, cannot be repeated again and again.

Satapathy's case was lodged under sections 498A (husband or his relative subjecting wife to cruelty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

An FIR was lodged based on a police complaint filed by Mishra's mother under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and two others.

Babushaan Mohanty - who has acted in several movies, such as 'Golmaal Love' and 'Love Station' - married his childhood friend Satapathy in 2014 and they have a son. The actor is the son of star couple Uttam and Aparajita Mohanty.

In a live stream on Facebook a few days ago, Mohanty described Mishra as a "very good friend", denying allegations that the 'Hello Ars' actress blackmailed or harassed him.

In an Instagram video, Mishra had said "nobody can break anybody's house as it was already broken."

Monkeypox strain in India different from Europe: ICMR-NIV study

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 30: A team of Indian scientists have found that the monkeypox virus strain circulating in the country is different from the strain that caused 'superspreader events' in Europe, leading to a global outbreak of the disease.

The team from Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV), Pune, conducted genetic sequencing of two monkeypox cases from Kerala.

The data showed that the virus strain present in the country is A.2 that was recently imported to India from the Middle East. It was earlier present in Thailand and the US during the 2021 outbreak. However, the strain that caused superspreader events in Europe was due to B.1.

"The present sustained human-human transmission of the monkeypox virus is believed to have happened via superspreader events in Europe with 16,000+ cases now spread across 70+ countries. This largely is represented as the B.1 lineage of the virus and encompass the predominant lineage for genomes in 2022," Vinod Scaria, scientist at CSIR-



Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), tweeted.

He noted that A.2 is in contrast to the majority of the genomes across the world which belongs to B.1 lineage; and the A.2 cluster, seen in India, is "not suggestive of a superspreader event".

"This would mean" that the cases in the country "are not possibly linked to the European superspreader events", Scaria wrote.

"We might be looking at a distinct cluster of human-human transmission and possibly unrecognised for years.

The data showed that the virus strain present in the country is A.2 that was recently imported to India from the Middle East. It was earlier present in Thailand and the US during the 2021 outbreak

A.2 is in contrast to the majority of the genomes across the world which belongs to B.1 lineage; and the A.2 cluster, seen in India, is "not suggestive of a superspreader event", Vinod Scaria, scientist at CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), tweeted

The earliest sample in the cluster from the US is indeed from 2021 suggesting the virus has been in circulation for quite some time, and earlier than the European events," he added.

He suggested increasing genomic surveillance in the country as more cases emerge and possibly sequence every single case.

"Public health measures and communication needs to take these new insights into consideration. Wide testing and awareness could uncover many more cases," Scaria said.

1

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98.8%
SCIENCE

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98.8%
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CBSE X BOARD RESULTS 2022

Overall Avg. 88.78%	Above 98% 18 students	Above 95% 78 students	Above 90% 185 students	Above 75% 93% students	Above 60% 100% students
5% of class	20% of class	46% of class			

SUHANNA JENA
99.8%
MARKS: 499/500

ADYASHA SYAM
99.4%
99.2%

JANISHA KARAN
99.2%
99.0%

ARUSH SARMA
99.0%
98.8%

ADITI OJHA
99.0%
98.8%

AMRITA MISHRA
98.8%
98.8%

SNEHASISH MOHANTY
98.8%
98.4%

NISHANT KARTI NAYAK
98.4%
98.4%

SIREYASH VIKAS MISHRA
98.4%
98.4%

SUBHAM PATTANAIK
98.4%
98.2%

MIHIKA HETAMSARIA
98.2%
98.2%

RONAK PANIGRAHI
98.2%
98.0%

KAMESH BAL
98.4%
98.2%

SHRADHANJALI DIJHADI
98.2%
98.2%

SURAJ KIRAN PANDA
98.2%
98.0%

ANWITA DIVYANSHI
98.0%
98.0%

AISHANI PATI
98.2%
98.0%

DEVANSU AGARWAL
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98.0%

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FAKE LOAN APP CASE

EOW freezes ₹2.52 crore of recovery agents, shell firms

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of state crime branch has frozen deposits worth over ₹2.52 crores of various accused firms involved in the fake loan app case (9/22) registered by the EOW April 4. The shell firms include the BTWO Consulting Private Limited located in Jamsheedpur of Jharkhand, Jiyaling InfoTech Private Limited of Pune in Maharashtra and the Bangalore-based Omlette Technology Private Limited.

The firm, BTWO Consulting worked as a Recovery agent company for the accused persons running the illegal loan apps to extract money from the victims through coercive ways. The accused company BTWO is also involved in another Loan APP case (13/22) which is being investigated by the EOW.

Meanwhile, the other two com-



panies, Jiyaling InfoTech and Omlette Technology, were used as shell companies to launder illegal proceeds to the accounts of the masterminds in the loan app case.

“Pune based Jiyaling Technology Private Limited and Bangalore based Omlette Technology Private Limited are the shell companies used by Chinese mastermind Liu Yi to run illegal digital loan APPS. Earlier, in this case raids were conducted by EOW Odisha at New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Rajasthan and 5 accused were arrested and ₹6.57

crores were frozen,” informed EOW in a press note Saturday.

Following the request of EOW, the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) had also issued Look out Circular against Liu Yi, a Chinese national in a case (9/22) related fake loan app issue. Similarly, the BOI had issued lookout circulars against three other Chinese nationals who had duped more than one lakh victims of crores of rupees through various fake loan apps in India.

The CB has sought INTERPOL’s help for the extradition of these Chinese nationals to India for further probe.

The CB again requested the people to not share documents with strangers for opening of bank accounts and allow them to operate their account and mobile SIM cards. The victims of fake loan apps have been advised to inform local police about the receipt of any abusive and threatening calls or messages by recovery agents.

State logs 981 new Cov cases

Bhubaneswar: The state recorded 981 new Covid-19 cases Saturday, 39 less than the previous day, with the tally mounting to 13,12,116, a Health bulletin said. At least 166 kids were among the new patients. The toll remained at 9,138 as no new fatality was reported in the last 24 hours. 53 others have died due to comorbidities so far. The total number of recoveries rose to 12,96,293 as 1,136 more people recuperated since Friday. Odisha now has 6,632 active patients, and of them, 1,442 are in Sundargarh and 1,359 in Khurda. The test positivity rate was at 4.63 per cent as the fresh cases were detected from 21,203 sample tests. Sundargarh reported the highest number of new infections at 259, followed by 150 in Khurda.

Balmer Lawrie unveils first cold chain unit of eastern region in City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, July 30: Diversified public sector undertaking (PSU) Balmer Lawrie Saturday said Union Minister Rameswar Teli has unveiled its first cold chain facility in the eastern region of the country.

The unit at Chhatabar on the outskirts of Capital Bhubaneswar will cater to growing demand for seafood, dairy, agri-products industries and quick service restaurants, the public sector enterprise said in a release. The facility, which is spread over 1.5 acre and located near a national highway, is equipped with the latest refrigeration technology and automated product handling of food and food-grade products.

It was set up with an investment of ₹32 crore and aided by the company’s own fleet of temperature-controlled vehicles to ensure last-mile delivery. Teli, who inaugurated the facility virtually Friday, said it is strategically located in the catchment area of the Paradip Port and well poised to give a fillip to exporters. The minister of state for petroleum appreciated Kolkata-headquartered Balmer Lawrie for the strides taken in providing technology-driven end-to-end logistics solutions.

The advanced setup is ideal for not only quality food products for export, but also domestic storage of fruits and vegetables, particularly potatoes, in controlled temperatures, the diversified conglomerate said. Odisha has seen a nine-fold increase in seafood exports in the last two decades and it is the fourth-largest fish-producing state, the company said, adding that the cold chain unit has a storage capacity of 2,000 pallets (frozen) and 3,000 MT (chilled/ambient) to cater to various industrial segments.

Pradhan visits Prez Murmu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his junior ministerial colleague Subhas Sarkar called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Saturday.



Murmu was sworn in as the 15th President of India July 25. “Called on Adarneya Rashtrapati, Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji @rashtrapati-bhvn Honoured to present her with a Sambalpuri Uttariya and a

book ‘Pabitra Granthabali’ on Shri Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, great freedom fighter, patriot, leader of the Praja Mandal movement and pride of Odisha,” Pradhan tweeted.



Student traffic volunteers attend an orientation and career counseling programme at the OCA Conference hall in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Climate change bringing worse storms, floods: Scientists

Powerful storm systems triggered flash flooding across the US in late July, inundating St. Louis neighbourhoods with record rainfall and setting off mudslides in eastern Kentucky, where at least 16 people died in flooding. Another deluge in Nevada flooded the Las Vegas strip.

The impact of climate change on extreme water-related events like this is becoming increasingly evident. The storms in the US followed extreme flooding this summer in India and Australia and last year in Western Europe.

Studies by scientists around the world show that the water cycle has been intensifying and will continue to intensify as the planet warms. An international climate assessment I coauthored in 2021 for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change lays out the details.

It documented an increase in both wet extremes, including more intense rainfall over most regions,

and dry extremes, including drying in the Mediterranean, southwestern Australia, southwestern South America, South Africa and western North America. It also shows that both wet and dry extremes will continue to increase with future warming.

Water cycles through the environment move between the atmosphere, ocean, land and reservoirs of frozen water. It might fall as rain or snow, seep into the ground, run into a waterway, join the ocean, freeze or evaporate back into the atmosphere. Plants also take up water from the ground and release it through transpiration from their leaves. In recent decades, there has been an overall increase in the rates of precipitation and evaporation.

A number of factors are intensifying the water cycle, but one of the most important is that warming temperatures raise the upper limit on the amount of moisture in the air. That increases the potential for more rain.



Water cycles through the environment move between the atmosphere, ocean, land and reservoirs of frozen water. In recent decades, there has been an overall increase in the rates of precipitation and evaporation.

This aspect of climate change is confirmed across all of our lines of evidence discussed in the IPCC report. It is expected from basic physics, projected by computer models, and it already shows up in the observational data as a general

Many other important aspects of the water cycle will also change as global temperatures increase, including reductions in mountain glaciers, decreasing duration of seasonal snow cover, and contrasting changes in monsoon rains across different regions

increase of rainfall intensity with warming temperatures.

Understanding this and other changes in the water cycle is important for more than preparing for disasters. Water is an essential resource for all ecosystems and

human societies, and particularly agriculture.

An intensifying water cycle means that both wet and dry extremes and the general variability of the water cycle will increase, although not uniformly around the globe.

Rainfall intensity is expected to increase for most land areas, but the largest increases in dryness are expected in the Mediterranean, southwestern South America and western North America.

Globally, daily extreme precipitation events will likely intensify by about 7 per cent for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) that global temperatures rise.

Many other important aspects of the water cycle will also change in addition to the extremes as global temperatures increase, the report shows, including reductions in mountain glaciers, decreasing duration of seasonal snow cover, earlier snowmelt and contrasting changes in monsoon rains across different regions,

which will impact the water resources of billions of people.

One common theme across these aspects of the water cycle is that higher greenhouse gas emissions lead to bigger impacts.

The IPCC does not make policy recommendations. Instead, it provides the scientific information needed to carefully evaluate policy choices. The results show what the implications of different choices are likely to be.

One thing the scientific evidence in the report clearly tells world leaders is that limiting global warming to the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 C (2.7 F) will require immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Regardless of any specific target, it is clear that the severity of climate change impacts is closely linked to greenhouse gas emissions: Reducing emissions will reduce impacts. Every fraction of a degree matters.

PTI

RISKY ROAD



CMC Mayor Subhas Singh inspects a spot where a big pothole was created in a busy road in front of Chouhury Bazar Devighara in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

HAL FINANCIAL EMBEZZLEMENT CASE

ED attaches assets worth ₹2.39cr of accused

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable as well as immovable assets worth ₹2, 39, 38, 681 owned by the seven accused involved in the misappropriation of funds belonging to the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL). The assets have been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The accused whose properties have been attached are Bhaben Maitra, Bipra Charana Maharana, Sadananda Nayak, Jisudan Khosla, Jayaram Garada, Jagannath Apat and late Urdhaba Khosla.

The ED sleuths launched an investigation in the matter by taking cognizance of six FIRs registered



under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Bhubaneswar. The case was registered against Bhaben Maitra, who was posted as the General

Manager (Finance) of HAL, Sunabeda, Koraput and other accused persons for embezzling funds to the tune of ₹18.75 crore of HAL using ‘forged documents’ during the period from 2013- to 2018.

“Investigation revealed that Bhaben Maitra and others have

acquired monetary proceed through commission of crimes, and indulged in criminal activities, generated proceeds of crimes, concealed it and acquired various assets to hide their source and projected them as untainted. The properties acquired by these accused by using the proceeds of crime have accordingly been attached under PMLA, 2002,” informed the ED in a press note Saturday.

CBI started investigating into the matter following a complaint lodged by Uday Kumar Rout, erstwhile manager (vigilance) of HAL, Sunabeda in October, 2018. Bhaben who is a resident of MV-74 village of Malkangiri had fled after burning official documents and currency notes worth ₹1.67 lakhs when the issue came to fore.

‘There is a need for technology in every sphere of governance’

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, July 30: A five-day long specialised training programme on e-Governance was organised by the Department of Electronics and the IT Department, Government of Odisha in collaboration with Odisha Computer Application (OCAC) and National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) at a City hotel here in Bhubaneswar.

The training was imparted to 40 officers of different departments of the state government from July 25 to July 29.

The inaugural session was graced by Manoj Kumar Mishra, secretary, Department of Electronics and IT-cum-chairman, OCAC. While addressing the participants on the objective of the training programme, Mishra said that now

there is a need for technology in every sphere of governance when it comes to delivery of services to the citizens.

He mentioned that this specialised training programme will increase the efficiency of government officers and empower them with the knowledge of e-Governance which will also help in efficient discharge of government works.

The training was given by various IT and subject experts on e-governance like Prakash Rao Sunchu, B G Gupta, Sandeep Mudalakar, Venkateswarulu Madala and Abhiram Krishna.

The topics were covered mainly on e-Governance, Digital India Framework, e-Kranti, Government Process Re-engineering, Internet of Things, cyber-security, data analysis, capacity building and personal ability development.

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Ponzi fraud: SDJM court asks IIC to book six people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, July 30: The SDJM court in Balasore has issued a directive to the IIC of Sahadevkhunta model police station to register a case against a sub-inspector working at the Balasore Vigilance court and five other people who are involved in financial fraud through a ponzi farm. The cop was also asked to investigate the alleged fraud committed by them.

Notably, Ramahari Jena, a resident of Athabatia village under Baliapali police limits, had tried to file a complaint against six people at the police station, accusing the six of defrauding scores of people through lucrative schemes of the ponzi farm. But the IIC concerned did not take any action against the accused. Frustrated over police inaction, Ramahari moved the SDJM court against the six people, seeking action against them.

Hearing the case, the court has directed the IIC to register a case against Vigilance officer Ramachandra Mahalik, his wife Jayanti Panigrahi, public prosecutor of Balasore Special Vigilance Court Sheikh Hajjuddin, others including Nilambar Panda and Pradip Majhi under various sections of IPC and PC & MC Schemes (Banning) Act- 1978.

NO END TO SUPERSTITIOUS PRACTICE

Infant branded with hot iron dies



Officials interacting with the victim's family members

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raigarh, July 30: Superstition and blind belief in traditional healing practices have once again claimed a precious life at Jadapara village under Kasakanga panchayat of this block in Nabarangpur district. A nine-month old baby died after being branded with hot iron by a traditional healer in a bid to cure him of cold and fever, a report said Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Rupesh Gond, son of Sukadev Gond. The incident has occurred despite the state government spending crores towards awareness programmes to sensitise people against superstitious practices. However, all the efforts by the administration seems to have gone down in drain as the infant was sub-

jected to branding as alternative treatment of his illness.

Report said, Rupesh had cold, cough and fever Monday. Later, a local ASHA worker Shanti Gond visited the house of Sukadev and advised him to get his son checked up by a doctor at a local hospital. However, the family members instead of taking the baby to the doctor chose to treat him at home through traditional healing. They called a woman traditional healer to their house, who branded Rupesh with hot iron, Wednesday. In the meantime, the ASHA worker arrived at their house and immediately called a 108-ambulance.

The child's health condition deteriorated due to branding as she rushed him to Hatabharandi community health centre (CHC) in the afternoon.

The doctors admitted the child for treatment stating that he would stay in the hospital till he recovers. However, the family members who were averse to modern treatment repeatedly requested the doctor to discharge the baby which was rejected by the latter. Meanwhile, the family members allegedly took the child away with them without informing anyone, Thursday.

The doctor at the CHC also lodged a written complaint at Kundi police station in this regard. The ASHA worker again rushed to Sukadev's house where she found the child being branded with hot iron. She tried to explain the ill-effects of branding but the family members refused to listen to her. The branding led to serious burn injuries and finally he succumbed in the wee hours of Friday.

On being informed, Raigarh ICDS officer (in-charge) Geetanjali Mishra, supervisor Bhabani Pujari, Anganwadi worker Faral Biswas and ward member Aaiti Gond called upon the victim's family and interacted with them on the issue.

They questioned the deceased's mother Shyamabati Gond on branding the child with hot iron but she rejected the allegations.

When contacted, Kundi police said that they have no information about the child's death.

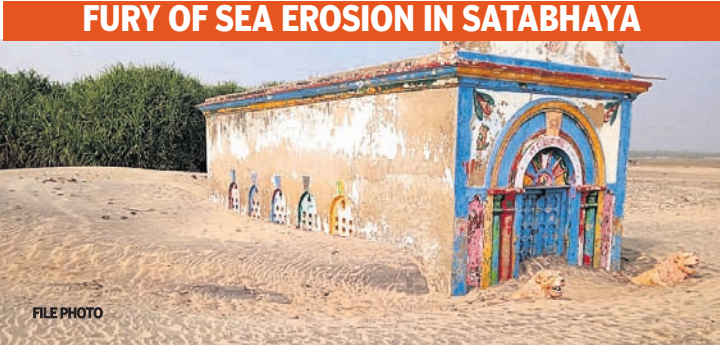
Rehab of 247 left-out families soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, July 30: The administration will rehabilitate 247 more families from the erosion-hit Satabhaya panchayat under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara at Bagapatia, which is 12 km away from the sea.

Around 247 sea-erosion hit families who have been still residing at Satabhaya panchayat are now a relieved lot. They would be shifted to the rehabilitation colony in Bagapatia soon. Notably, Satabhaya village is on the verge of extinction owing to rapid coastal erosion induced by climate change.

The administration relocated 571 families of Satabhaya panchayat at Bagapatia by making a colony since 2013. These families have lost their land, homes and livelihood. With their shifting, they escaped the fury of the



FURY OF SEA EROSION IN SATABHAYA

FILE PHOTO

advancing sea.

The rehabilitated families, however, lamented that no viable livelihood sources have been created for them till date. However, 247 families had been left out.

Questions relating to provision of the rehabilitation, land, houses, drinking water, roads, drainage and liveli-

hood of the relocated families and the left-out families were raised by Rajnagar MLA Dhruva Charan Sahoo in the Assembly recently.

In reply, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik said that 571 families of Satabhaya panchayat, who used to face impacts of climate change, have been reha-

bilitated. So far, 17,049 people have been relocated at Bagapatia colony while 247 families are to be shifted soon. Steps are being taken for their relocation, Mallik said.

She also said that 571 families have been provided with houses under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana while a High school and a nodal school have been set up in the colony. Besides, Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra, four Anganwadi centres have been set up while 32 tube wells were installed, he informed, adding that a pond has been excavated and piped water is being supplied to all the houses in the colony.

As many as 19 roads have been laid and multi-purpose cyclone shelter was built. Quarters for the panchayat executive officer, a community centre, a rural library, a Mission Shakti Gruha, market complexes at three places and two culverts have been built.

Officials to don traditional attire in two western Odisha districts



AGENCIES

Sambalpur, July 30: The administrations of two districts in western Odisha have asked officials to wear traditional attire on August 1, which is celebrated as 'Sambalpur Din'.

The day marks the birth anniversary of poet Satya Narayan Bohidar, who has contributed immensely to the Sambalpur culture.

Born in Subarnapur district August 1, 1913, Bohidar is the pioneer of the Sambalpur or Kosali language and grammar. On his 100th birth anniversary in 2013, the administration started celebrating the day as 'Sambalpur Din'.

"To celebrate his birth centenary and raise awareness about his contributions, the district adminis-

tration has asked all officials to wear Sambalpur dress on August 1," Collector Ananya Das said in a recent order.

In another order, the administration of neighbouring Bargarh district also issued a similar direction.

The educator and social reformer had spent his formative years in Bargarh district, it added. On Sambalpur Din, people wear traditional attire, sing Sambalpur songs and enjoy local food to mark the occasion.

Sambalpur or Kosali is the mother tongue of millions of people across 10 districts in western Odisha. It has a robust tradition of many centuries in the form of folk music and folk literature.

Vig probe sought into ITDA tender bungling

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, July 30: Locals have alleged irregularities in the tenders floated by integrated tribal development agency (ITDA) in Jeypore of Koraput district. They have approached the Vigilance for an impartial probe into the irregularities.

In a memorandum given by a delegation led by Rabindra Mohapatra, it was stated that the ITDA had invited tender vide notice 167 for 82 developmental works.

About 165 contractors of Borigumma had participated in the tender (Serial no-33) for construction of hostel buildings. However, two bidders had participated at 9.99 per cent of the estimated cost. It was alleged that the tender committee of ITDA had favoured a contractor in awarding the contract by violating guidelines.

The tender committee and the ITDA PA have allegedly shown favour to a contractor. As per guidelines, those bidders failing to deposit the money within stipulated time, should be blacklisted or their bids be cancelled. Locals demanded a Vigilance probe.

Mayurbhanj to have 19 sub-registrar offices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, July 30: The state government will open an additional 19 sub-registrar offices in Mayurbhanj district, a report said.

It was revealed from a letter-2858 issued by the office of Inspector General of Registration (IGR), Jyoti Prakash Das to the additional district magistrate (ADM), deputy registrar societies (DRS) of state, district sub-registrar, sub-registrar, headquarters, July 27.

These 19 sub-registrar offices to be established in the district are part of state government's plan to open 129 sub-registrar offices in various part of the state. Mayurbhanj district

with have the highest number of sub-registrar offices to be opened at a time.

The new offices will function at Badasahi, Shyamakhunta, Bangiriposi, Bijatala, Bisoi, Gopabandhunagar, Jamda, Jashipur, Khunta, Kuliana, Kusumi, Morada, Raruan, Saraskana, Sulipada, Shukruli, Thakurmunda, Tiring and Kapitpada in the district.

The new offices will function from their respective tehsil offices till the construction of their new office buildings, the notice from the office of the IGR said. Establishing new sub-registrar offices was long pending demand of the locals. The decision to open 19 offices has spread cheers among the residents.

Electric meter boxes worth ₹3L gutted

Berhampur: Scores of meter boxes worth over ₹3 lakh were destroyed in a fire that engulfed the Central store of power distribution company Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd near Khajuria bypass under Gosaniuagaon police station limits in Ganjam district, Saturday. Fire fighters struggled for several hours to bring the blaze under control. However, no casualties were reported. A preliminary inquiry indicated that alleged short-circuit in the store might be the reason behind the fire, assistant fire officer Santosh Panigrahi of Berhampur said.

Teacher molests girl student; absconds Saraskana: A teacher is absconding after allegedly molesting a Class-VII girl student of Joka ME School under Saraskana block in Mayurbhanj district. The headmistress of the school has lodged a complaint in this regard with the block education officer (BEO). According to BEO Rasamani Nayak, the teacher had inappropriately touched the girl. A complaint was lodged. The BEO probed the plaint and found it true.

UCO Bank		Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751009	GOLD AUCTION NOTICE	
The following persons, who have availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments, from CONCERNED BRANCHES of UCO Bank , have not repaid the amount in spite of our demand notice. Therefore, please take notice that if the principal, interest and other charges are not paid on or before Dt. 12.08.2022 , the pledge ornaments will be publicly auctioned on Dt. 16.08.2022 at 3.00 P.M. at the Respective Branch premises . The Bank reserves the right to cancel/ postpone the auction to any other convenient date without assigning any reasons.				
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers / A/c. No.		Balance Outstanding	Weight in (Grams)
BHANJANAGAR BRANCH, KHALASI STREET RED CROSS ROAD, BHANJANAGAR NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. MANAS RANJAN NAYAK, PH. NO.: 7008375427				
1.	Anita Pradhan, W/o- Surendranath Pradhan, Lalasingi, Bhanjanagar / 25280610024799		₹ 2,53,807.26 + unapplied interest	116.90
2.	D Tejeswar Rao, S/o- D Gopi, Nahatota Sahi, Bhanja Nagar / 25280610025185		₹ 29,975.11 + unapplied interest	13.50
3.	Ganga Pradhan, W/o- Padma Pradhan, Tilisingi, Bhanjanagar / 25280610032107		₹ 59,000/- + unapplied interest	25.00
4.	Janaki Majhi, W/o- Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Lalsingi, Bhanjanagar / 25280610032282		₹ 43,000/- + unapplied interest	19.40
5.	Jitendra Behera, S/o- Gobinda Chandra Behera, Bhanjamarg, Unit-6, Landei Sahi, Bhanjanagar / 25280610030561		₹ 22,137/- + unapplied interest	8.30
6.	Kabiraj Pradhan, S/o- Dhoba Pradhan, Sanakodanda, Bhanjanagar / 25280610030028		₹ 1,71,000/- + unapplied interest	48.00
7.	Manoj Kumar Badatya, S/o- Jagabandhu Badatya, Bhanjanagar / 25280610024737		₹ 25,000/- + unapplied interest	24.90
8.	Runu Gouda, W/o- Rabi narayan Gouda, mankadakumpa, Lembha, Bhanjanagar / 25280610033227		₹ 80,000/- + unapplied interest	30.60
9.	Sushanta Kumar Swain, S/o- Judhistir Swain, Bahadapadar, Bhanjanagar / 25280610032374		₹ 40,000/- + unapplied interest	16.00
GOPALPUR BRANCH, GOPALPUR, ODISHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MRS. PRATIVA BHARTI SANBARSA, PH. NO.: 8917399728				
1.	Naresh Chandra Behera, S/O-Khageswar Behera, Haripur, Gopalpur / 21500610026762		₹ 41,000/- + unapplied interest	16.65
SUHAGPUR BRANCH, FAKIR SAHI, NAYAHAT, PURI NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. DIBYALOCHAN SAHOO, PH. NO.: 7894335267				
1.	Manas Ojha, S/o- Golekha Ojha, At- Fakir Sahi, Suhagpur / 24610610013687		₹ 12,000/- + unapplied interest	10.40
PHULBANI BRANCH, PHULBANI, DIST- KANDHAMAL NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. NIRMAL KUMAR DIGAL, PH. NO.: 9439313605				
1.	Sudhansu Mohan Mahanty, S/o- Surendranath Mahanty, ICICI Lane, Main Road, Phulbani / 08130610019511		₹ 4,96,163/- + unapplied interest	168.80
2.	Akshaya Kumar Nayak, S/o- Sudhir Nayak, At-Nadikhandi Sahi, Phulbani / 08130610019252		₹ 25,963/- + unapplied interest	9.70
3.	Renuka Dehuri, D/o- Sebati Dehuri, NADIKHANDISAH, Phulbani / 08130610019450		₹ 20,000/- + unapplied interest	9.00
MALKANGIRI BRANCH, NEAR BUS STAND, DIST- MALKANGIRI NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. SIMANCHAL GAMPA, PH. NO.: 8093590756				
1.	K Balaraju, S/o K Ratnalu, Chidananda Sahi, Malkangiri / 30290610001479		₹ 73,500/- + unapplied interest	26.65
JANLA BRANCH, JANLA, DIST- KHORDHA NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. SUTAPA PATTNAIK, PH. NO.: 8763682321				
1.	Sachin Kumar Rout, S/o- Laxman Rout, Gangapada, Khordha / 15790610015414		₹ 84,900.54 + unapplied interest	30.05
PHIRINGIA BRANCH, PHIRINGIA, DIST- KANDHAMAL NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. BHABANI S MISHRA, PH. NO.: 9438212032				
1.	Amulya Sahani, S/o- Jayishar Sahani, Dimiriguda, Phiringia / 10360610015445		₹ 35,382.20 + unapplied interest	15.20
2.	Anirudha Digal, S/o-Gadadhar Digal, Khajuripada, Phiringia / 10360610014998		₹ 50,413/- + unapplied interest	19.00
3.	Subash Chandra Digal, S/o- Chaturbhuja Digal, Khajuripada, Phiringia / 10360610014714		₹ 40,000/- + unapplied interest	15.00
4.	Bidyadhar Kanhar, S/o- Dayili Kanhar, Panga, Sadingia, Phiringia / 10360610014912		₹ 25,000/- + unapplied interest	16.70
RAIKIA BRANCH, RAIKIA, DIST- KANDHAMAL NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. BHUSAN SABAR, PH. NO.: 9437459280				
1.	Ananta Digal, S/o - Trinath Digal, Karada, Raikia / 08100610016015		₹ 40,000/- + unapplied interest	11.00
2.	Purnamala Digal, W/o- Pradiman Digal, Alangkupa, Lumingia, Raikia / 08100610016565		₹ 30,000/- + unapplied interest	8.50
3.	Chandan Pradhan, S/o-Rejina Pradhan, Rajenipata, Gundhani, Raikia / 08100610016886		₹ 30,000/- + unapplied interest	10.00
4.	Suneli Nayak, D/o-Mases Nayak, Padisila, Raikia / 08100610013069		₹ 24,000/- + unapplied interest	13.11
BADAKHOLI BRANCH, BADAKHOLI, VIA-ASKA, BERHAMPUR NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. DEABRATA PRADHAN, PH. NO.: 7749000878				
1.	Trilochan Badatya, S/o-Shyamghan Badatya, Bhetanai, Ganjam / 11600610024973		₹ 1,34,000/- + unapplied interest	46.17
2.	Trilochan Badatya, S/o-Shyamghan Badatya, Bhetanai, Ganjam / 11600610025772		₹ 37,000/- + unapplied interest	13.30
BIDYUTMARG BRANCH, BIDYUT MARG, SIKSHA SOUDHA(OPEPA), UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR NAME OF THE MANAGER: MRS. SOUMYA SUCHARITA PATNAIK, PH. NO.: 8763992940				
1.	Golekha Chandra Sahoo, S/o-Dhaneswar Sahoo, Qtr No- 2RA-28/6, OMC Colony, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar / 20740610013236		₹ 81,595/- + unapplied interest	29.00
COLLEGE SQUARE BRANCH, COLLEGE SQUARE, CUTTACK NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. SUDIPTA MISHRA, PH. NO.: 8018355614				
1.	Annapurna Das, W/o- Arun Kumar Das, Mathasahi, College Square, Cuttack / 02450610022740		₹ 66,407/- + unapplied interest	23.86
2.	Annapurna Das, W/o- Arun Kumar Das, Mathasahi, College Square, Cuttack / 02450610014769		₹ 65,000/- + unapplied interest	24.07
3.	Annapurna Das, W/o- Arun Kumar Das, Mathasahi, College Square, Cuttack / 02450610014738		₹ 57,000/- + unapplied interest	24.50
4.	Radharani Sahoo, W/o-Lakshya Bhusan Sahoo, Telisahi, Ranihat, Cuttack / 02450610019016		₹ 48,500/- + unapplied interest	15.98
5.	Ashok Kumar Swain, S/o- Late Ratnakar Swain, Sartol, Nayabazar, Cuttack / 02450610019863		₹ 1,54,600/- + unapplied interest	46.42
6.	Puspalata Parida, C/o- Ashit Kumar Jena, Nistipur, Ghasiput, Banki, Cuttack / 02450610019207		₹ 2,60,000/- + unapplied interest	76.67
SATPATNA BRANCH, SATPATNA, DASPALLA, NAYAGARH NAME OF THE MANAGER: MR. P K MISHRA, PH. NO.: 9123817748				
1.	Pinki Pradhan, W/o- Suresh Parida, Khamar Sahi, Subalaya, Daspalla / 04000610026557		₹ 47,000/- + unapplied interest	14.20
2.	Pravati Barik, W/o- Dipak Barik, Jagapur Road, Simili Sahi, Daspalla / 04000610027035		₹ 68,000/- + unapplied interest	26.40
3.	Dushmanta Pradhan, S/o- Pranabandhu Pradhan, Khamar Sahi, Subalaya, Daspalla / 04000610027080		₹ 62,000/- + unapplied interest	19.80
4.	Ramesh Malik, S/o- Kashinath Malik, Ududa, Pokharigochha, Daspalla / 04000610019191		₹ 25,000/- + unapplied interest	13.20
5.	Saraswat Nayak, S/o- Rushi Nayak, Bhagamunda, Jamusahi, Banigochha, Daspalla / 04000610018866		₹ 12,000/- + unapplied interest	13.40
6.	Bharat Naik, S/o Kartika Naik, KC Patna, Satpatana / 04000610018477		₹ 24,000/- + unapplied interest	12.40
7.	Bharat Naik, S/o Kartika Naik, KC Patna, Satpatana / 04000610020340		₹ 23,000/- + unapplied interest	19.30
8.	Sujata Das, W/o- Ananta Das, Arasahi, Subalaya, Daspalla / 04000610021064		₹ 27,614/- + unapplied interest	15.30
The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:				
1. The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery / coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.				
2. The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working day in the bank.				
3. The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.				
4. The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).				
5. The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.				
6. If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.				
7. The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.				
8. It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.				
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.07.2022			Authorised Officer, UCO Bank	



GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DRAINAGE DIVISION, CUTTACK - 753003
e-Procurement Notice No. EE-DD-CTC-03/2022-23
e-mail Id: eeddcuttack@gmail.com

No. A-429

1	Total Number of Works	: 03 (Three) Nos.			
2	Nature of Work	: Drain Congestion Works			
3	Estimated cost of Individual package ranging from	: Rs. 7.87 lakhs to Rs.12.21 lakhs			
4	Date of Opening of Bid	: 12.08.2022, 11.00 A.M.			
5	Other details as follows				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification in e-Procurement portal	Date & Time of Opening of Tender at Office Premises of Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Cuttack	Date of Lottery (if required)
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	7
Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Gandarpur, Cuttack - 753003	EE-DD-CTC No. 03/2022-23	01.08.2022 4.00 P.M.	10.08.2022 5.00 P.M.	From 01.08.2022, 4.00 P.M. to 08.08.2022 upto 5.00 P.M. during office hours	12.08.2022 at 11.00 A.M. 19.08.2022 at 11.30 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in Online bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Any addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the same website.
If the office happens to be closed on the date of lottery the same process will be held on next working day in same time and venue.

OIPR-32201/11/0007/2223

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Drainage Division, Cuttack

Bhitarkanika to reopen August 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, July 30: The Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) will reopen for tourists from August 1, the Rajnagar DFO said here Saturday.

The park has been closed since May 1 in view of the breeding season of estuarine crocodiles.

All necessary arrangements for reopening of the wildlife sanctuary for tourists have been made. However, tourists have been advised to not carry polythene bags while entering the park. The sound of the mechanised

boats, while carrying tourists and forest officials usually disturbs the surroundings and makes the reptiles violent. Hence, the restriction on tourists' entry into the park was imposed at Bhitarkanika, Dangamala and Ragadapati forests.

Mother crocodiles lay their eggs after the mating period following which they always keep a close watch on the egg shells until the baby crocodiles are born. During the period, the crocodiles are likely to be more aggressive and attack tourists.

“All that is born and destroyed is reborn in the sweep of the ages; Life like a decimal ever recurring repeats the old figure.”

SRI AUROBINDO

Balance of Power

The dictionary defines a police State as “a political unit characterised by repressive governmental control of political, economic, and social life usually by an arbitrary exercise of power by police and especially secret police in place of regular operation of administrative and judicial organs of the government according to publicly known legal procedures.” Meaning a nation where government institutions exercise an extreme level of control over civil society and liberties. Also described as a place where there is “little or no distinction between the law and the exercise of political power by the executive.”

There are examples of police States, which are usually not democracies. China today, Cuba under Castro, North Korea under the Kim dynasty, Saudi Arabia and Myanmar are police States.

Is India a police State? This can be answered by first asking another question: Can a democracy be a police State? The answer is yes, and in our time Russia is one such example. One could argue that Russia is not a real democracy and its elections are flawed but that same argument could be made for many other States including our own. The real question is whether the impulse of the State is to move towards greater liberty for individuals or greater restrictions and a police State.

On 11 July 2022, India’s Supreme Court said “democracy can never be a police State.” This statement was made on the issue of bail to individuals, and the court noted that most of India’s prison population comprised of under-trials, meaning those who had been accused but not convicted. The court said that arresting people and jailing them before trial “certainly exhibits the mindset, a vestige of colonial India, on the part of the Investigating Agency, notwithstanding the fact that arrest is a draconian measure resulting in curtailment of liberty, and thus to be used sparingly. In a democracy, there can never be an impression that it is a police State as both are conceptually opposite to each other.”

What the court appears to be indicating is that we are behaving as a police State though we are a democracy. A few days after this, the Supreme Court in another bench sent down a judgment which has validated the Enforcement Directorate’s near-unlimited powers in attaching properties and detaining people. This judgment undid a previous Supreme Court judgment which was in favour of individual liberties. Now, once again, the individual facing money laundering allegations can be jailed and, once jailed, will find coming out impossible even without conviction because of a reversal of burden of proof. This is similar to the condition, also validated by the Supreme Court, in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA where people once jailed on suspicion can forget about being released.

Several other laws, and I have written about this often, also reverse burden of proof onto the accused. Possession of beef, the ban on interfaith marriage between Hindus and Muslims, possession of narcotics and so on also have similar conditions.

In all of these laws, the balance of power is in favour of the State. The individual, who is much weaker than government, is presumed to be equal or even more powerful. This is of course not the case in reality, which is why the jailing of people like political opponents and dissenters and activists is wrong before they have been convicted.

India has never settled into one particular trajectory and our history shows that we have always flirted with being a police State though our Constitution points us the other way. We have taken on and let go of laws that restrict liberty and give all but absolute control over individuals’ lives to the State. We take them on because of some fear and the desire of the State for control; we let them go (like we did TADA and POTA) because we realise that the State misuses this absolute authority. Our inability as a nation to also punish the government and its officials who misbehave and misuse the draconian laws is the reason why they keep coming back. When we know that the conviction ratio of the Enforcement Directorate is less than 1 per cent of the cases that it prosecutes, when we know that the ED has been misused against opponents of the government and that ‘raids’ by the ED are today more than 25 times as they were before 2014, why are we giving the ED more powers? One answer is that many people want the State to have all but unlimited control. This is an attitude that manifests itself in individuals in the judiciary, who are willing and able to put the rights of the government above those of the people.

I have little doubt that in time, just as we have done away with other draconian laws, the ones we have gifted ourselves since 2014 will also go. Liberal democracies such as the one our Constitution tells us we are, naturally move towards greater freedom for the individual and more restriction on the State’s ability to harm individuals. Our challenge is to make sure that even in desperate times such as the one we are going through now, there is sufficient pushback against this encroachment on our rights and liberties. We must arrive at the place where we are not only not a police State but are also not at all inclined towards becoming one.

WISDOM CORNER

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

THOMAS A. EDISON

“There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that’s your own self.”

ALDOUS HUXLEY

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

WORDSWORTH

Venerly

It refers to hunting or the chase. Let us leave unexplored the other meaning, which the Oxford English Dictionary defines as “The practice or pursuit of sexual pleasure”. At times it may seem to its participants to resemble a hunt, but that sense isn’t connected etymologically: it comes from Venus, the Roman goddess of beauty and love. Our sense is from Old French venerie, which comes from Latin venari, to hunt. The monk in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales describes himself as “An outrider, that loved venerly”, by which he meant he loved hunting, though Chaucer’s tales are so bawdy that incautious readers might assume the other sense. Venerly refers to hunting game animals such as wild boar, hares, wolves, bears and — especially — deer. A close relative to venerly is venison, nowadays always meat from a deer but in earlier times the flesh of any hunted animal. Venerly dates from medieval England and is closely connected with the royal forests established by the Norman kings and nobles after the Conquest of 1066 (despite the name, the royal forests included fields and open ground as well as woods). The beasts of venerly were those that were considered most noble to hunt. There were animals of a lower order, too, the beasts of the chase, which included the fox, as well as beasts of the warren, such as the rabbit and the pheasant. This led to the expression terms of venerly, collective nouns for types of game and other wild animals, such as cete of badgers, murder of crows, parliament of rooks and paddling of ducks.

FOCUS MULTILATERALISM

BUSINESS FOR COMMON GOOD

In an age mediated by advanced technology, it is easy to forget that human beings – and life itself – depend entirely on fragile planetary conditions. Now that a growing number of serious – if not existential – threats are confronting us, this is a basic truth with which we would do well to reacquaint ourselves. Climate change, critical supply shortages, biodiversity loss, and devastating pandemics are exposing our societies’ vulnerabilities like never before.

No country can hope to escape these challenges or tackle them alone. Although multilateral co-operation is difficult on a good day, it is most important when times are tough. It is in moments of crisis that we must overcome narrow interests and focus on co-operation, pooling our resources, and improving how we make and implement collective decisions.

This month’s G20 meetings in Indonesia come at one of those moments. Owing to Russia’s war in Ukraine, drought, and other factors, millions of people around the world are facing critical shortages of food and energy, which are occurring alongside record-breaking heatwaves in Europe, China, South Asia, and other parts of the world. In the absence of concerted global action, these crises could easily escalate into large-scale humanitarian disasters.

G20 members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world’s population. If they can act as one, they can help to manage these challenges and set a course for others to follow. Those who turn their backs on cooperation and the common good should be held accountable, just as those who are squandering time and energy on violence and war should be condemned and deterred.

But states and governments are not the only actors in this global drama. To manage today’s crises, we also must bring the private sector on to the stage. States simply do not have the resources or expertise to resolve supply shortages, scale up clean-energy



Those who turn their backs on cooperation and the common good should be held accountable, just as those who are squandering time and energy on violence and war should be condemned and deterred

deployment, or develop vaccines and therapeutics on their own. Rather, their strength lies in engaging and mobilising the full power and ingenuity of the private sector. That is what will determine whether, and how quickly, humanity curbs global warming, ensures sufficient food and clean water – both for current and future generations – and survives future pandemics.

International fora and institutions have a critical role to play in such mobilisations. Multilateral financial institutions, for example, can increase the impact of public funds many times over by guaranteeing loans to help finance desirable investments and reduce risks for private investors.

They can also provide invaluable advice in project planning, structuring, and implementation, owing to their technical expertise and experience working around the world. For example, the European

Investment Bank’s development arm, EIB Global, can leverage more than 60 years of experience in more than 150 countries. As part of Team Europe, it is helping EU institutions and member states advance the European Union’s Global Gateway.

The Global Gateway is an EU initiative to spur up to 300 billion (\$305 billion) of investment in climate-change mitigation and adaptation, digital technology, sustainable transportation, health-care systems, education, and research in partner countries around the world. Launched in late 2021, it is now part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, which the G7 unveiled last month with the goal of deploying \$600 billion toward the same ends.

The COVID-19 crisis has underscored the threat posed by pandemics, which will become even more likely as a result of climate

change and habitat loss. International cooperation to boost investment in basic infrastructure, primary health care, and trained medical workers is desperately needed to prepare for future disease outbreaks, so that we can prevent them from becoming pandemics.

To that end, the EIB is helping to develop a financing strategy that can be adapted and applied to other issues globally. We are working with the World Health Organisation, the European Commission, and the African Union to mobilise 1 billion of investment to strengthen primary health-care services in Sub-Saharan Africa, including by expanding access to vaccines.

The EIB will make available at least 500 million to help these countries meet the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. This investment is expected to crowd in additional financing from the public sector to restore, expand, and sustain access to essential health services; increase financial risk protection; improve the availability of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, devices, and other health products; scale up innovative primary health-care delivery models; and invest in the health workforce. Such partnerships are critical to creating ecosystems that are conducive to private-sector engagement, especially when it comes to developing skills and investment in specialised human capital.

Faced with global challenges too big and too complex for any country to tackle on its own, global cooperation – not only between states, but also between governments and the private sector – is the key to success. Multilateral financial institutions are designed to facilitate such cooperation. At a time when centrifugal global forces threaten to pull us apart, they can and must help build bridges – both literally and figuratively – to bring people closer together.

The writer is Vice-President of the European Investment Bank.

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SPECTRUM POVERTY

Are we leaving many behind?

‘Leave no one behind’ represents the unambiguous commitment of all UN member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms. But the situation at the sub-national level is not very encouraging. We are witnessing high multidimensional poverty in Odisha despite being one of the most politically stable and socially peaceful states. Recently, Odisha has also been ranked as the No. 1 performing state in the country by the Ministry of Food & Public Distribution in their State Ranking Index for NFSA 2022 report. In the past, several states have picked up a few lessons from Odisha to manage natural disasters but still were unable to come up to the standards set by Odisha. Odisha also has the distinction of being the first Indian state to become an official sponsor of the national hockey team. Now it has one more feather on its cap for having the distinction of the home state of the first tribal woman President of our country.

But when we shift our focus to the poverty levels, we get a different picture. Odisha is still one of the economically backward states of the country. As per the Niti Aayog’s Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Odisha is among the top-10 states with a large per cent of pop-

ulation still living under multidimensional poverty.

MPI shifts the focus from income or consumption expenditure to deprivation in health, education and living standards for measuring poverty. Across the above three dimensions it covers nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal care, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, bank accounts and assets. People are classified as multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in one third or more of the ten indicators. Those who are deprived in one half or more of the indicators are considered living in extreme multidimensional poverty.

Unfortunately, Odisha is not doing well on the MPI front. According to the 2021 MPI report, more than 1.4 crore people are multidimensionally poor in Odisha. In other words, every third person in Odisha is poor; according to the Niti Aayog. However, we may continue to be happy with our performance if we compare it with states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, MP, Chhattisgarh, and Assam. These are some states where the MPI is in the range of 30-50%. Bihar is at the top of the table with

51.91% of its population still struggling with extreme poverty.

It is time for Odisha to work aggressively on health, education and living standards and reduce multidimensional poverty. If southern states can keep poverty much below 15%, with Kerala keeping it below 1%, why not Odisha? It has everything that is needed to reduce poverty: abundant natural resources, peace loving people, and a stable political environment.

The combination of political stability and economic poverty that is prevalent in Odisha can be explained by the Public Affairs Index (PAI). The PAI is a report by the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a Bangalore-based non-profit think tank. According to the latest PAI-2021, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana are the three best governed states among 18 large states. No wonder that these three states also have the lowest multidimensional poverty. Is high multidimensional poverty in Odisha a result of poor governance index?

PAI measures the quality of governance based on three pillars of equity, growth, and sustainability. Each pillar is regulated by five governance themes: voice and accountability, government effectiveness, rule of law, regulatory

quality, and control of corruption. It is worrisome that Odisha has been placed at 17th position among 18 big states with an equity score of minus 1.462. The equity pillar analyses the inclusiveness in terms of the welfare of a society that depends primarily on establishing that all people feel that they have a say in the governance. It is necessary to understand the reasons for such poor performance on equity front despite the presence of a very popular and people-friendly person as the head of the state.

The negative equity score of Odisha is a signal that everything is not fine and there are miles to negotiate before it can be called an empowered state as envisioned by the 5T Charter. It is time for the people in power to revisit, re-examine, and revamp the charter and ensure that each component of the 5T model: teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation, and time limit, is used to strengthen different aspects of governance. Let us work towards making Odisha one of the top states having high equity index and low multidimensional poverty index. Let no one be left behind in this journey.

The writer is a professor in XIMB. Views are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Need for healthy wetlands

Sir, With the addition of five more Ramsar sites - three in Tamil Nadu, one each in Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram - India boasts of having the maximum number of wetlands in South Asia with 54, spreading over 11,000 sqkm across 18 states. The main aim of the Ramsar wetlands in India is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for conservation of global biological diversity and sustainable use of the same for humans and planetary health. In fact, wetlands also help in mitigation of climate impact and availability of freshwater. But, sadly in the last three decades, the country has reportedly lost nearly 30 per cent of it due to pollution, illegal constructions and unsustainable urbanisation. The need of the hour therefore, is to highlight the ecosystem services of wetlands in our development policies, urban planning and climate change mitigation. Equally, we must also ensure that our wetlands are prevented from becoming degraded or lost. Wetland loss can have negative impacts, crucially by exacerbating water security issues. Hence it is important to recognise that we all depend on healthy wetlands for our water security.

Ranganathan Sivakumar; CHENNAI

Safeguard natural resources

Sir, Nature is currently struggling with a number of issues, including deforestation, urbanisation, the extinction of flora and fauna, and global warming. Natural resources have been depleted to dangerously unsafe levels as the human population has grown. It is therefore important to increase public awareness on the need of safeguarding our natural resources. This is of paramount importance, especially in today’s society where environmental dangers are ongoing and their effects are pretty obvious all around us. Natural resources and plants have been severely harmed by human activities during the past century or more. Climate change and other environmental consequences were brought about by the ambition for rapid industrialisation and the clearing of forest cover to make room for the constantly expanding population. Although there has been an increase in environmental awareness in recent years, there is still a long way to go before the results of our efforts can be seen. We need to conserve and protect the environment since it is vital to both humans and other lives.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

of the day quote

This government has initiated a process to set up a tea auction centre in the state and wants to help the industry flourish as it generates employment opportunities rapidly

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

The leader of the opposition in Bihar takes recourse to asatya so that there is confusion (bhrām) which he could use to his own advantage. But he should remember that the NDA is intact in Bihar and it will complete its tenure in power under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

NITYANAND RAI | UNION MINISTER

The demand for creating Malegaon as a separate district by bifurcating Nashik is an old one and a meeting will soon be convened to discuss the issue

EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

JP Nadda faces protest in Patna

Patna: BJP president JP Nadda faced protests by angry student activists Saturday when he made a brief stopover at Patna College, his alma mater. The activists, most of them members of the Leftist AISA, shouted "JP Nadda go back" while carrying placards denouncing the National Education Policy (NEP) and demanding grant of central status to Patna University. Nadda, who belongs to Himachal Pradesh but spent his early years in Patna, was in the city to inaugurate a two-day conclave of the party's seven wings (morchas), which will come to a close on Sunday with the address of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: A terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said Saturday, adding a search is underway. Earlier a joint team of police and security forces received an input about the presence of terrorists in the Wanigam Bala area. As the security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding there started firing triggering the gunfight.

Driver killed

Noida: An e-rickshaw driver was killed after being hit by a speeding Mercedes here in the city after which the alleged driver of the car was arrested, an official said Saturday. The deceased was identified as Ravi Kumar (29), a resident of Sector 8, Noida. The official said the incident took place on Friday between Sector 31 and 32 when the offending vehicle was going towards sector 63. "On the way, the car met with an accident in which an e-rickshaw driver was critically injured," Station House Officer Manoj Kumar said.

Three arrested

Nagpur: The Maharashtra Police have arrested three persons, including one medical practitioner Pawan Uike, an MBBS doctor, who works at the Kamalapur Primary Health Centre in south Gadchiroli, for putting up banners of the banned CPI (Maoist). Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police (SP), Ankit Goel said that the suspected Maoists were arrested when a police team patrolling in the area saw them putting up pro-Maoist banners at Kamalapur, provoking the tribal population to protest against the state government and the police for - what they claimed to be - "anti-people" policies.

Yasin Malik back in Tihar, still on fast

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 30: Convicted Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik was discharged after remaining admitted at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here for four days and has returned to Tihar Jail. "He (Malik) came back to Tihar on Friday," Director General (Prisons), Sandeep Goyal, said. Malik was hospitalised by the prison authorities after his health deteriorated on July 26 following his ongoing hunger strike.

After returning to his cell, Malik has decided to continue with his hunger strike and is still not having any food. "He is still on intravenous fluids," the top prison official said. The jailed separatist leader, who is currently lodged at Jail No. 7 of the Tihar Prison, went on the hunger strike on July 22.

When asked the reason behind his hunger strike, the official refrained from divulging any details. However, prison sources said that the Kashmiri separatist is protesting against the agencies that are investigating his cases.



Malik was arrested immediately after the February 2019 terror strike by Jaish-e-Mohammad and has been in Delhi's Tihar Jail for over two years. The killing of the 40 CRPF personnel in a bomb blast on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, came as a turning point. Within days, Malik was lifted from his Srinagar residence.

His JKLF, along with Jamaat-e-Islami, was banned. The country's premeir probe agencies got two high profile cases - Rubaiya Sayeed's kidnapping on December 8, 1989 and the assassination of four Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel on January 25, 1990 - revived against Malik after a freeze of 10 long years. Malik was convicted in connection with a 2017 terror funding case and sentenced to life imprisonment on May 25 by the National Investigation Agency special court in Delhi in which he pleaded guilty to all charges.

Recently on July 15, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's sister Rubaiya Sayeed identified Malik as her abductor three decades back. Her release was managed by swapping four jailed militant commanders when her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was the then Home Minister in the VP Singh government. Listed as a witness for the prosecution, Rubaiya Sayeed appeared before the CBI court in Jammu and identified Malik and three other accused as her abductors. Malik is currently lodged at Jail No. 7 of the Tihar Jail.

Forest officer arrested on rape charges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, July 30: A Range Forest Officer in Gujarat's Veraval has been arrested on charges of criminal intimidation and rape of a married woman, officials said Sunday.

The victim, in her complaint, said she had approached RFO Hareesh Galchar to seek bail for one of her relatives arrested under for-



We have to, again, go back to the roots and see to it that our educational institutions become centres of excellence

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

Trinamool plans major party overhaul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, July 30: The TMC is likely to go in for a major organisational overhaul as well as a reshuffle of the state cabinet following the arrest of now-suspended senior party leader Partha Chatterjee in a multi-crore school jobs scam.

Sources said the reshuffle will also aim at an image makeover for the party hit by school jobs scam probe. Chatterjee, the former virtual number two both in the TMC and the government, was stripped of all ministerial responsibilities and suspended from the party following his arrest last week and the recovery of around Rs 50 crore from flats of his associate Arpita Mukherjee.

On Thursday, Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee had indicated that a cabinet reshuffle will take place shortly. "Partha Da has been relieved of his ministerial responsibilities. For the time being, I will keep his ministries till a cabinet reshuffle takes place," Banerjee had said.

According to senior TMC leaders privy to the development, overhauling the cabinet was being planned for quite some time, but Chatterjee's arrest hastened the process. "The idea is modeled on Kamaraj Plan of the 1960s when several top Congress ministers had resigned to work for the party. Our



ACCORDING TO SENIOR TMC LEADERS PRIVY TO THE DEVELOPMENT, OVERHAULING THE CABINET WAS BEING PLANNED FOR QUITE SOME TIME, BUT CHATTERJEE'S ARREST HASTENED THE PROCESS

"NOW, ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER THERE WILL BE A WHOLESALE RESHUFFLE OR ONLY A FEW KEY MINISTRIES WILL BE CHANGED," A SENIOR TMC LEADER SAID

plan was mooted last year after TMC returned to power for the third consecutive term.

"Now, only time will tell whether there will be a wholesale reshuffle or only a few key ministries will be changed," a senior TMC leader said on condition of anonymity. Chatterjee was in charge of five key ministries, including industry, commerce and enterprises and parliamentary affairs.

The TMC leader also pointed

WELCOME MOVE

The National Legal Services Authority is going to establish a 'legal aid' system for the poor and the marginalised in all districts on the lines of the office of public prosecutors, Supreme Court judge Justice Uday Umesh Lalit said Saturday



SENA DEPUTY LEADER JOINS SHINDE CAMP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jalna, July 30: Under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Maharashtra ex-minister and Shiv Sena Deputy Leader Arjun Khotkar announced that he is joining the rebel faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, here Saturday.

Declaring his intentions at a crowded media conference, Khotkar said that he held detailed discussions with Shiv Sena President and ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut on his decision.

"I have explained to them the compulsions - which all are aware - behind my decision, the harassment to my family... I am forced to make certain decisions... And they (Thackeray-Raut) have understood my predicament," said an emotional Khotkar, without naming the ED.

SOWING HOPES



Farmers sow paddy in Ranchi

PTI PHOTO

Booker winner's event cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra, July 30: An event to honour International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree here Saturday was called off by the organisers after a complaint was filed against the author alleging there are some objectionable comments about Indian deities in her novel.

The felicitation event was to be hosted by cultural organisations Rangleela and Agra Theatre Club. "The event was called off due to a controversy over a complaint against the International Booker prize winner Geetanjali Shree," Anil Shukla, a functionary of Rangleela, said.

"A man named Sandeep Kumar Pathak from Sadabad in Hathras district has filed the complaint against the writer. In the complaint, he has blamed Geetanjali Shree for alleged objectionable comments on Lord Shiva and mother Parvati," he said.



The felicitation event was to be hosted by cultural organisations Rangleela and Agra Theatre Club

Spokesperson of the event Rambharat Upadhyay said that in his complaint, Pathak mentioned that the comments have "hurt the sentiments of Hindus". In May, Shree became the first Indian author to win the International Booker Prize for her novel "Ret Samadhi", which was translated into English as "Tomb of Sand" by American translator Daisy Rockwell.

Set in north India, "Tomb of Sand" is the tale of 80-year-old Ma,

who insists on travelling to Pakistan, simultaneously confronting the unresolved trauma of her teenage experiences of Partition, and re-evaluating what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a woman and a feminist.

Upadhyay also said Pathak had tweeted requesting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the DGP for an FIR against Shree. Shukla said people are disappointed over the cancellation of the event.

Need to fight religious animosity together, says Doval

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval Saturday said some people try to create animosity in the name of religion and ideology, which affects the entire country and everyone, especially religious leaders, will have to work together to counter this.

Doval also said efforts are required to clear misunderstandings and make all the religious bodies in the country feel that they are an integral part of it. The NSA made these remarks in the presence of religious leaders

at an interfaith conference organised by the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC) at the Constitution Club here.

"Some people try to create animosity in the name of religion, which adversely affects the entire country and also has ramifications internationally. We cannot be a mute spectator to this. To counter religious animosity, we have to work together and make every religious body feel a part of India. In this, we sail and sink together," he said.

At the conference, religious leaders under the aegis of AISSC passed a resolution to "ban or-

ganisations like the Popular Front of India (PFI)" and other such fronts that have been "indulging in anti-national activities".

The resolution also said targeting any god, goddess or prophet during discussions or debate by anyone should be condemned and dealt with in accordance with law. Doval said there is a need to reach out to everyone, include them in the fight against radical forces and tell them that there is no place for hatred and agitation against any religion in India.

"There is a need to create an emotion that we will not let the unity of the country be compro-



mised. We have to inculcate a belief in everyone's heart that each Indian is safe here. We have to be organised, we have to raise our voice and rectify the mistakes," he said.

Doval told the religious leaders that they have to play a major role in improving the atmosphere in the country. "Every religion has contributed to the growth of the country. We have to think what kind of India we will give to our future generations. You (religious leaders) have bigger responsibilities to shoulder," he said.

The aim of the conference was

to have discussions among the representatives of different faiths about the "growing religious intolerance" in India. The resolution passed by the conference proposed to create a new body, inclusive of all faiths, to spread the message of peace, harmony and fight against radical forces.

"Organisations like the PFI and any other such fronts, who have been indulging in anti-national activities, pursuing a divisive agenda and creating discord amongst our citizens, must be banned and action should be initiated against them as per the law of the land," the resolution read.

Gujarat court speaks of ‘ulterior motives’ of Teesta, Sreekumar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, July 30: A sessions court here Saturday rejected the bail applications of activist Teesta Setalvad and former Director General of Police RB Sreekumar, arrested for allegedly fabricating documents to ‘frame innocent people’ in 2002 riots cases.

The accused apparently aimed to “destabilize” the Gujarat government and defame the state for their ulterior motives, additional principal judge DD Thakkar said while denying them relief. Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, a third accused in the case, had not applied for bail. Bhatt was already in jail in another case when he was arrested. “It appears that the accused aimed to destabilise the government and tarnish the image of Gujarat within the country and abroad by using false documents to accuse the then government of having sponsored post-Godhra riots,” the sessions court said in the order.

“It appears that the two accused were actively interested in defaming the state of Gujarat for their ulterior motives as well as political aspirations,” and they did so for obtaining “personal goal and monetary benefit from one political faction as well as other countries,” the court said. Setalvad and Sreekumar were arrested by the Ahmedabad city crime branch in June after an FIR was registered against them under

IPC sections 468 (forgery for cheating) and 194 (fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction for capital offences).

The arrests followed within a couple of days after the Supreme Court June 24 dismissed a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, whose husband and former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri had been killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots. Setalvad had helped Zakia Jafri pursue her legal battle. Both Setalvad and Sreekumar denied the allegations by Gujarat police in the present case. While opposing bail, the SIT probing the case cited a witness’ statement to allege that the accused were part of a conspiracy carried out at the behest of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel to destabilise the Gujarat government led by then CM Narendra Modi.

At Patel’s behest, Setalvad received Rs 30 lakh after the post-Godhra riots in 2002, it claimed. Setalvad used to meet the leaders of a “prominent national party in power at that time in Delhi to implicate names of senior leaders of the BJP government in riot cases,” the SIT further alleged.

Sreekumar was a “disgruntled government officer” who “abused the process for damming the elected representatives, bureaucracy and police administration of the whole state of Gujarat for ulterior purposes,” the SIT claimed.

Give up hypocrisy, lift prohibition: Critics to Guj

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, July 30: The state has lived with prohibition for the last 60 years, but since the last one decade a campaign is being run to lift prohibition in Gujarat. It started with one, today the campaigners have the support of 35,000 people on Facebook and Rajiv Patel is hopeful of getting lakhs of votes for lifting prohibition if there is a referendum on the issue.

A realtor and art curator Rajiv Patel has penned a book, “Gujarat’s Biggest Lie” in which he has exposed the myths of the benefits of prohibition. Speaking to IANS, Rajiv said: “The state government is not only losing revenue, but if it relaxes prohibition, the revenue collected from the liquor trade can be used to generate employment and increase budget allocations for

health and education infrastructure.”

His allegation is that politicians, bureaucracy and police are hand in glove in ruining the state in the name of prohibition. Because of prohibition thousands of people die after drinking poor quality or illicit liquor. Hooch tragedies are byproducts with an agenda to create sympathy and lobby for prohibition, so that the Rs one lakh crore parallel economy runs without hindrance.

The state government is demanding Rs 9,000 crore from the Central government as a financial package for implementing prohibition, said Patel and informed that Tamil Nadu earned revenue to the tune of Rs 36,000 crore in 2021-22 from the liquor trade. Now just imagine if Gujarat lifts prohibition how much the state will



The state government is not only losing revenue, but if it relaxes prohibition, the revenue collected from the liquor trade can be used to generate employment and increase budget allocations for health and education infrastructure

RAJIV PATEL | ART CURATOR

earn, because his information is that Gujaratis drink more liquor than Punjabis.

If the state’s revenues increase it will be able to spend more on the social sectors and services,



SKY IS THE LIMIT

Cadets celebrate during the Passing Out Parade and Pipping Ceremony at Officers Training Academy in Chennai, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

First to impose prohibition, TN now teeming with state-run liquor shops

Politicians of all hues while in power in Tamil Nadu justify the sale of liquor saying that revenue generated through huge taxation on liquor is being used to support social welfare schemes that have led to a robust social index for the state



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 30: It was in Salem district of Tamil Nadu in 1937 that the Congress government of C. Rajagopalachari imposed prohibition, a first in the country. It was extended across the state in 1948 immediately after Independence.

This prohibition in Tamil Nadu continued with Kamaraj at the helm of affairs in the state.

The Madras Abkari Act was introduced in 1886 that placed strict regulations and banned the sale of local liquor. This British policy helped the sale of foreign liquor instead of ‘desi’ beverages.

The DMK government led by party ideologue M. Karunanidhi, lifted the ban in 1971 citing revenue loss without a nationwide ban, and allowed the sale of arrack and toddy — the ‘desi drinks’. However, Karunanidhi had to stop the sale of toddy and arrack in 1974.

The ban on arrack and toddy led to the manufacturing of spurious drinks and methanol, the industrial alcohol, was widely used leading to several deaths in the state in 1975-76. The sale of liquor and toddy was later reintroduced in the state by matinee idol turned chief minister, MG Ramachandran (MGR) when he was catapulted to power as an AIADMK leader in 1981.

MGR even reduced the age for securing a liquor permit for foreign liquor consumption from 45 years to 30 years. In 1981 finance minister VR Nedunchezhiyan further reduced the age to 25.

In 1983, the state government under MGR, set up the Tamil Nadu

State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac), and the sale of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and arrack were brought under it. Six years after the sale of arrack and toddy began, the MGR government banned local drinks January 1, 1987.

Politicians of all hues while in power in Tamil Nadu justify the sale of liquor saying that the revenue generated through huge taxation on liquor is being used to support social welfare schemes that have led to a robust social index for the state.

Gandhian activist M Idiyarayanan told IANS: “It is a wrong theory that you sell liquor, make money by charging the tipplers heavily and use this money for welfare schemes.”

“Welfare is a state subject and the money for that must not be generated through liquor; instead, policymakers must look to other avenues for raising money. Liquor is evil and the government must refrain from generating funds through liquor sales, creating disharmony in the society.”

With Tasmac enjoying a monopoly and arrack banned in the state, hooch deaths have now reduced considerably except for the odd one or two cases across the state.

Dr R Padmanabhan, Director, Socio-Economic Development Foundation, a think tank based out of Madurai, told IANS: “The government data available shows a significant increase in the number of people consuming alcohol,

and the age limit has all gone for a toss. Whoever has money can walk into a Tasmac shop and buy alcohol.”

“According to a study, 47.4 per cent of rural men and 46 per cent of their urban counterparts consume alcohol and this is not a welcome trend for society and the political leadership who are pitching for a trillion-dollar economy.”

Padmanabhan added that there was clear evidence of the correlation between increased consumption of alcohol and domestic violence, sexual abuse, crimes, broken families, suicides and less productivity.

He said the way forward lies in the middle path deploying a multi-pronged approach.

The state government is also mulling reducing the number of Tasmac outlets and instead increasing taxes at the elite outlets of the corporation.

Sources in the government told IANS that it was planning to bring in an Aadhaar linked cap on the quantity of alcohol sold to one person.

Boosting the export market is also another idea that the policymakers are contemplating so that the revenue is brought in without much damage to the physical and mental health of the people of the state.

With the Tamil Nadu government raising Rs 33,811.15 crore through the sale of liquor in 2020-21, a move to stop the sale or even reduce the sale of liquor is financially not feasible.

Arrest of scribes autocratic: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Thrissur, July 30: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Saturday described as “autocratic behaviour” arrest of journalists and action by central probe agencies against Opposition leaders and said these amount to “betraying” the country’s freedom fighters.

Those trying to “impose” one language, one faith and one culture were the country’s “enemies,” and there was no place for such “evil forces,” he said.

Stalin was virtually addressing the “India @75 Manorama News Conclave 2022” in Kerala’s Thrissur from Chennai, where he expressed concern over the recent suspension of 27 Parliamentarians, saying the right to express was being denied. Stalin also praised his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan and said the alliance between his DMK and the CPI(M) in Tamil Nadu was “ideological” and not a mere electoral tie-up.

Taking questions after his address at the conclave, Stalin dubbed as “autocratic behaviour” arrest of



BJP attempts to run parallel governments, through its Governors. We have to govern our states, even as we face all these hurdles. And we have to fulfill the needs and expectations of people as well. But I am still hopeful

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

journalists and central agencies “targeting” Opposition leaders.

“It is wrong to snatch away the rights provided by the Constitution, created after independence which was ensured after much struggle. My opinion is that this is a betrayal of the freedom fighters,” he said.

On the “one country, one language” issue, concerning Hindi and the protests against the same in Tamil Nadu and Kerala recently, Stalin said India was a country where many languages were spoken. One language cannot become the national language or official language. “If it so happens, others languages will be destroyed gradually,” he said.

Thevars for OPS, Sasikala to lead AIADMK

The Thevar community, which had been in the corridors of power when Jayalalithaa was CM due to the proximity enjoyed by Sasikala in the inner power circles, has been sidelined ever since Edappadi K. Palaniswami became CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, July 30: The powerful Thevar community of South Tamil Nadu has come together and want O.Panneerselvam and estranged former interim general secretary, VK Sasikala to reclaim the AIADMK which is mired in internal tussle.

Around 100 Thevar organisations have joined hands and sent letters to both OPS and Sasikala to team up and reclaim the AIADMK which was traditionally



supported by the community. In the letter, the community leaders said that it was the Thevar community that had given life to the AIADMK and wanted the leaders to unite and take over the party from disintegrated.

It also referred to Sasikala as late Chief Minister Jayalalitha’s sister born out of another mother and OPS as the most trusted cadre of late Jaya who like ‘Bharatha’ in Ramayana who had ruled on behalf of Lord Rama in Ayodhya as OPS

had ruled Tamil Nadu whenever Jaya had wanted.

Thevarina Kootamaippu coordinator, M. Alagarasamy while speaking to IANS said: “Thevar community has been a traditional support base for the AIADMK and our enemies are trying to finish off by using our own people who had aligned with other caste leaders. The expulsion of OPS from the AIADMK and how he was insulted in the June 23 general council meeting has pained the Thevar community

which is undermined by people who promote prohibition, is the reading of Patel. His observation is that more people die in Gujarat than Kashmir because of prohibition in the state.

A myth is marketed that women are safe in Gujarat because of prohibition, as if women are unsafe in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other states where liquor is allowed, says Kruti Shah, a working woman, who believes prohibition should be lifted.

As far as domestic violence is concerned, Kruti asks women from the poor and low income groups to confront males. She also argues that if prohibition is lifted, it will create more direct and indirect job opportunities for this segment too and if their income increases, domestic issues will end in the long run.

Lumpy skin disease spreads in several Gujarat districts

AGENCIES

Gandhinagar, July 30: Amid the alarming spread of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), a viral infection affecting cattle in the state, the Gujarat government has declared 15 districts as ‘controlled areas’.

A notification issued by Deputy Secretary (Animal Husbandry) Dr KN Trivedi said that now cattle cannot be transported out of these districts.

“The Government of Gujarat, hereby declares districts Amreli, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Botad, Dev-Bhumi Dwarka, Gir-Somnath, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kutch, Morbi, Porbandar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, and Patan as ‘Controlled Areas’ in respect of ‘Lumpy Skin Disease’, as it is scheduled disease for cattle,” the notification read.

The state government has directed all these district administrations to prohibit the movement of cattle from the place where they are kept to any other places within and outside the said districts.

District authorities will ensure that no live cattle trade, fair, exhibition, games and gathering in these districts should take place. This is to be enforced till the disease is brought under control.

The Gujarat government has adequate stock of goat pox vaccine to inoculate bovine animals infected with lumpy virus. Director of the Animal and Husbandry department Dr Falguni Thakar said Friday “Lumpy virus has roots from capripox virus seen in goats. So the vaccine administered to goats is now administered to bovine animals infected with lumpy virus. The animal husbandry field offices have 7,07,496 doses of the vaccine.”

Refuting rumours about shortage of vaccines in the state, the director said that she too has heard the audio clips between two veterinary doctors of the city. Both the doctors, she said, are on contract at the Jamnagar Municipal Corporation



Let OPS and VK. Sasikala join together and take over the party.”

The community leaders also urged the leaders to commence their campaign from South Tamil Nadu where the community is strong and spread it from Nagapattinam to Tirunelveli and from Coimbatore to Vellore.

The Thevar community which had been in the corridors of power when Jayalalithaa was Chief Minister due to the proximity enjoyed by Sasikala in the inner power circles has been sidelined ever since Edappadi K. Palaniswami became Chief Minister. The community is sore that Palaniswami, a Vellala Gounder, had tried to systematically finish off the Thevar community and that the expulsion of OPS and Sasikala were part of this orchestrated move.

It has to be seen as to how the call of the community leaders percolates down the line and whether the move would lead to the AIADMK being taken over by OPS and Sasikala.

of the day quote

Eight-nine years ago ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, there was much talk about the Gujarat model, but no one talks about it now. The whole country is watching what has happened to the Gujarat model. We (people) are bearing the brunt of this model. All the assets of the country are being sold one by one which has resulted in rise in unemployment, poverty and malnutrition

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

India's history would not be complete without mentioning the sacrifice of the Sikh gurus as they transformed their 'bhakti' (devotion) into 'shakti' (power) to protect the nation

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The government is holding talks with all stakeholders to make laws more stringent and has taken a proactive approach to connect with the states in the anti-narcotics efforts

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Kerala man sets wife on fire

Thiruvananthapuram: In a shocking incident, a man in Kerala's Kasargod on Saturday doused kerosene on his wife and set her on fire on suspicion that she was having an affair, leaving her seriously injured, police said. Pramod, an auto-rickshaw driver, suspected his wife Minisha and arrived at the medical store where she was working around 2.30 p.m. As there was no one else in the shop, he threw kerosene on her and set her afire, but she dodged him and ran out of the shop, crying for help.

Two killed in hut collapse

Jammu: Two persons were killed while four others injured in a hutment collapse in J&K's Reasi district Saturday, officials said. The hutment collapsed early morning in Khanikote area of Reasi. "Two persons, a male and a female were killed on the spot and 4 other persons were injured. Some livestock - 3 sheep, 2 oxen and 3 goats - were also killed in this incident. "The injured have been shifted to hospital for treatment," an official said.

One held

Gurugram: Special Task Force (STF) of the Haryana police has arrested an accused who was allegedly involved in making fake passports, visas, Voter ID cards, Aadhaar cards and other documents for gangsters. He has arranged fake passports, visas, Voter ID cards and Aadhaar cards for several notorious criminals including gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's brother and nephew of gangster Naresh Sethi and several Punjab-based gangsters by using forged documents, officers said Saturday. The arrested accused has been identified as Raju Nepali, a native of Nepal. The accused was residing in Gurugram's Chakkarpur village after changing his name as Bhairav Tiwari.

14 arrested

Hyderabad: Customs officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here apprehended 14 passengers who arrived from Sharjah and Dubai and seized cigarettes and e-cigarettes estimated to be valued at Rs 50 lakh, during the last one week. In the latest incident, six passengers were held while trying to smuggle cigarettes and e-cigarettes from Sharjah. Customs officials said on Saturday that the passengers arrived by flight 6E1406 on Friday.



The National Legal Services Authority has launched a campaign to identify undertrial prisoners who are eligible for release and recommend their cases to review committees

KIREN RIJJU | CABINET MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

TEACHER HELD IN ASSAM OVER TERROR LINKS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, July 30: Another madrasa teacher was detained by the Assam police Saturday in connection with the terror links with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) module.

The arrested individual has been identified as Amir Hamza. He was nabbed by the police from the maternal uncle's house of one Mufti Mustafa Ahmed, who was earlier arrested for running terror-related activities from his madrasa in Saharai village of the Moirabari area of Morigaon district.

As per reports, Hamza is a teacher in Paschim Bherbheri Sobahi Madrassa in the same district. It is learned that he was held after police got some clue about interrogating Mustafa.

Police have also detained Mufti Mustafa Ahmed's brother Zakaria Ahmed and wife Asmina Khatun for questioning.

Morigaon Superintendent of Police Aparna Natarajan said that all the three individuals were brought only for questioning. The police are conducting an investigation to collect more evidence in connection with the case. There were reports that the case was handed over to National Investigation Agency Natarajan, however; denied this, saying only Assam Police are investigating the matter.

BJP LEADER'S MURDER

ABVP activists baton-charged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, July 30: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) activists were baton-charged and driven away when they barged into the residence of Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra here Saturday seeking "justice" for a BJP youth wing leader, who was murdered in Dakshina Kannada district.

The members of the BJP's student wing holding their organisation's saffron flag stormed into the compound of Jnanendra's bungalow at Jayamahal here and raised 'We want justice' slogan. They also sought a ban on Popular Front of India and its allied outfits, which they alleged were behind the killing of Hindutva activists and their growing influence in the state especially in the coastal districts bordering Kerala.

The police sought to persuade them to go away but they remained adamant and staged a sit-in demonstration inside the compound raising slogans. Later, the activists tried to storm Jnanendra's house.

Finally, the policemen dragged them out of the bungalow. A few of them were baton-charged as they resisted the police bid. Later, the activists were driven away from the spot in government vehicles and taken to the JC Nagar police station where cases were registered against 30 of them.

Reacting to the incident, Home



POINT 5140 AT DRASS NAMED 'GUN HILL'

To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in Operation Vijay, Point 5140 at Drass in the Kargil sector has been christened as 'Gun Hill'



THE MEMBERS OF THE BJP'S STUDENT WING HOLDING THEIR ORGANISATION'S SAFFRON FLAG STORMED INTO THE COMPOUND OF JNANENDRA'S BUNGALOW AT JAYAMAHAL AND RAISED 'WE WANT JUSTICE' SLOGAN

THE ACTIVISTS WERE DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE SPOT IN GOVERNMENT VEHICLES AND TAKEN TO THE JC NAGAR POLICE STATION WHERE CASES WERE REGISTERED AGAINST 30 OF THEM

Minister Araga Jnanendra said he learnt that some youth calling themselves ABVP activists came to his house and staged a demonstration, when he was away in Shivamogga. "Police have taken them in their custody. I have told them (police) to investigate whether they are the members of the ABVP," Jnanendra told reporters.

He added that if the protesters were ABVP workers then he would wish to say that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has already explained the measures taken by the government such as handing over Praveen Nettar murder case to the National Investigation Agency.

"I will call them and talk to them. They came to stage a demonstration against the fanatic forces. A few of them did some excesses,

which I have noticed. They came to me thinking I am one amongst them and I too feel that they are my people," he said.

Meanwhile, a group of ABVP activists staged a demonstration in Vijayapura seeking a ban on the PFI and SDPI organisations for their alleged involvement in the murders of Hindutva activists in the state. Praveen Nettar, a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha district level office-bearer in Dakshina Kannada, was hacked to death by motorcycle-borne assailants on Tuesday night when he was heading home after closing his poultry shop in Mangaluru.

Two people were arrested in this connection while one more has been 'detained,' police sources said without divulging details.

PALL OF GLOOM



Indian Air Force officers carry mortal remains of Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal during his funeral, at R.S. Pura in Jammu district. Bal along with another pilot was killed in Thursday night's crash of a MiG-21 trainer aircraft of Indian Air Force in Rajasthan's Barmer

PTI PHOTO

BJP threatening shopkeepers: Sisodia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, July 30: A day after the Delhi government decided to return to the old regime of retail liquor sale policy for six months, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Saturday accused the BJP of threatening shopkeepers and officers with ED and CBI cases.

"The BJP workers are threatening shopkeepers, officers in Delhi with ED and CBI. They want closure of legal liquor shops to make money out of illegal shops. We've decided to stop the new liquor policy and ordered the government to open government liquor shops," said Sisodia during a press briefing.

Sisodia also alleged that like Gujarat, the BJP wants to promote the sale of spurious, off-duty liquor by threatening Delhi's shop-owners and officers. Deputy CM further said: "In Delhi, our government brought a new excise policy last year. Before excise policy 2021-22, most



The BJP workers are threatening shopkeepers, officers in Delhi with ED and CBI. They want closure of legal liquor shops to make money out of illegal shops. We've decided to stop the new liquor policy and ordered the government to open government liquor shops

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

of the liquor shops in Delhi were government-run and were mired in corruption".

"We brought a new liquor policy to stop corruption. Before that the government used to get around Rs

6,000 crore as revenue from 850 liquor shops. But, after the new policy, our government would have got more than Rs 9,000 crore with the same number of shops," Sisodia said.

CM urges IIT-Goa to deal with sea erosion, micro plastic menace

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, July 30: In the backdrop of concerns raised by some MLAs from coastal areas, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Saturday urged Indian Institute of Technology, Goa (IIT-Goa) to deal with threat of sea erosion, micro-plastic looming in fish and environmental issues.

"IIT Goa should play significant role in solving environmental issue faced by the state. Goa is known across world for its green vegeta-

tion, pristine beaches and clean air. It is cherished by every traveller in Goa and we are committed to protect nature's gift," Sawant said addressing the third convocation of IIT Goa. "Climate change is affecting the coastline due to sea erosion as change in sea level is witnessed. It is causing flooding and excessive rain. I urge IIT-Goa to deal with such types of issues," he said.

He said that threat of micro plastic in our food chain, particularly in fish, is looming large. "I expect IIT Goa will conduct research study to



IIT Goa should play significant role in solving environmental issue faced by the state. Goa is known across world for its green vegetation, pristine beaches and clean air. It is cherished by every traveller in Goa and we are committed to protect nature's gift

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

provide remedial measures to both demand and supply chain," he said. He said that IIT Goa is collaborating with state pollution control board for developing forecasting tools for the air quality level. He commended the IIT-Goa for manufacturing face shields during COVID pandemic and providing it to frontline workers.

"It is good example for social commitment. IIT is helping us in various fields. It is assisting us in various matters and governance also. IIT Goa had developed 'chart board' for smooth

conduct of recent legislative assembly election," he said appreciating scientists and students of IIT-Goa. He also said that IIT-Goa is helping government in promotion of start-up and making state IT friendly.

Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte had recently said that sea erosion has become a major threat for the tourism industry, which needs to be tackled with new concepts. Also MLAs from coastal line areas had expressed concern over beaches getting washed out due to sea erosion.

of the day quote

The European Union actively supports all measures to ensure accountability for human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law committed during the Russian aggression in Ukraine

JOSEF BORRELL | FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, EU

If these reports are correct that (Chief of Army Staff) General Bajwa is seeking America's help in getting IMF (loan) it means that the country is getting weaker. If America helps us in the current situation, what will it demand in return for help?

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

Moldova needs energy security solutions now! We want to buy gas from Romania, and it's important that this happens as soon as possible. I trust that the Moldovan-Romanian partnership will help us overcome the difficulties

MAIA SANDU | PRESIDENT, MOLDOVAN

SHORT TAKES

US House nod to ban assault guns

Washington: The US House of Representatives passed a bill to ban assault weapons with a narrow 217-213 vote, the first vote of its kind in 18 years amid the increase in gun violence across the country. The legislation passed Friday night would prohibit the sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices, reports Xinhua news agency. But it would allow the possession of any semiautomatic assault weapon lawfully possessed on the date of enactment and the sale or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon lawfully possessed on the date of enactment following a background check, among other things.

Gazprom cuts off gas flow to Latvia

Moscow: Russia's state-owned natural gas corporation said Saturday it has halted shipments to Latvia because of contract violations. In a brief statement, gas giant Gazprom said the shipments were stopped because Latvia broke "terms for extraction of gas." It did not elaborate. The statement likely referred to a refusal to meet Russia's demand for gas payments in rubles rather than other currencies. Gazprom previously suspended shipments to other European Union countries, including the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria, because they would not pay in rubles.

Iran nabs Swedish man on spy charges

Tehran: Iran's intelligence ministry said Saturday that it had arrested a Swedish citizen on espionage charges, the official IRNA news agency reported, without naming the detained person. "The intelligence ministry announced that a citizen of the Kingdom of Sweden was arrested on espionage charges," IRNA quoted a ministry statement saying. It did not say when the arrest was made. Sweden's Foreign Ministry said it was aware of the case.

Train-bus collision claims 11 in B'desh

Dhaka: At least 11 people, including seven students, were killed when a minibus they were travelling in was hit by a train at an unmaned level crossing in Bangladesh's Chittagong district, according to a media report. The accident happened Friday in Mirsharai Upazila when the minibus carrying students and the teachers of a coaching centre was hit by the Dhaka-bound Provati Express train. Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge, said that among the victims were seven students of almost the same age and four teachers.

‘Residential school system was cultural genocide’

Pope Francis acknowledged that he can no longer travel like he used to because of his strained knee ligaments, saying his weeklong Canadian pilgrimage was “a bit of a test” that showed he needs to slow down and one day possibly retire

PRESS PRUST OF INDIA

Aboard The Papal Plane, July 30: Pope Francis agreed Saturday that the attempt to eliminate Indigenous culture in Canada through a church-run residential school system



amounted to a cultural “genocide.” Speaking to reporters while en route home from Canada, Francis said he didn’t use the term during his trip to atone for the Catholic Church’s role in the schools because it never came to mind.



We must lay emphasis on political integrity when cultivating, evaluating and appointing personnel, so that the party's absolute leadership over the military is implemented in the whole process of personnel work

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

HITLER'S WATCH SOLD FOR \$1.1MN

A watch said to have belonged to Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler sold for a whopping \$1.1 million at an auction in the US despite Jewish community backlash. The timepiece made by German watch firm Huber, which has a swastika and the initials AH engraved on it, was sold to an anonymous bidder at the Alexander Historical Auctions in Maryland



Swiss ready to match EU sanctions if China invades Taiwan: Chief



REUTERS

Zurich, July 30: The head of the Swiss agency that implements economic sanctions expects the neutral country to adopt any punitive measures the European Union launches against China if it invades Taiwan, she said in a newspaper interview.

China has been stepping up military activity around Taiwan seeking to pressure the democratically elected government there to accept Chinese sovereignty Taiwan's government says only the island's 23 million people can decide their future, and while it wants peace, it will defend itself if attacked.

Asked by the Neue Zuercher Zeitung paper if Switzerland would adopt EU sanctions against China in that case, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Director Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch said: “I strongly believe that we would adopt such sanctions. However, sanctions in the case of China would be far more drastic (than sanctions against Russia) because the economic relations are much more important. Therefore, there would probably be greater discussions in the EU and the United States as well as in Switzerland than there were in Russia. But I hope it will never come to that.”

Ineichen-Fleisch defended Switzerland's record on adopting EU sanctions against Russian individuals and companies over Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, which Moscow describes as a “special military operation”.

Pressure has mounted on Switzerland - a popular destination for Moscow's elite and a holding place for Russian wealth - to more quickly identify and freeze assets of hundreds of sanctioned Russians.

As of this month Switzerland has frozen 6.7 billion Swiss francs (\$7.04 billion) worth of Russian financial assets and 15 properties, and Ineichen-Fleisch said this figure was unlikely to change much.

“We at SECO have no indication that there are many assets of sanctioned persons that have not yet been found,” she said.

KHERSON FIGHTING

Ukraine kills scores of Russians

UKRAINE SOUTHERN COMMAND SAID OVER 100 RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AND SEVEN TANKS HAD BEEN DESTROYED IN FIGHTING IN THE KHERSON REGION, THE FIRST MAJOR TOWN CAPTURED BY THE RUSSIANS FOLLOWING THEIR FEB 24 INVASION

REUTERS

Odesa, Ukraine, July 30: The Ukrainian military said Saturday it had killed scores of Russian soldiers and destroyed two ammunition dumps in fighting in the Kherson region, the focus of Kyiv's counter-offensive in the south and a key link in Moscow's supply lines. Rail traffic to Kherson over the Dniro River had been cut, the military's southern command said, potentially further isolating Russian forces west of the river from supplies in occupied Crimea and the east.

Ukraine has used Western-supplied long-range missile systems to badly damage three bridges across the Dniro in recent weeks, cutting off Kherson city and - in the assessment of British defence officials - leaving Russia's 49th Army sta-



KHERSON IS FOCUS OF UKRAINIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE

UKRAINE, RUSSIA TRADE ACCUSATIONS OVER POW DEATHS

US BREAKING PROMISES ABOUT FOOD SANCTIONS: LAVROV

Russia is running out of steam in its assault on Ukraine. The Russian government is growing desperate as having lost thousands of soldiers in its Ukraine invasion

RICHARD MOORE | CHIEF, M16

sponsibility, saying Russian artillery had targeted the prison to hide the mistreatment of those held there.

FOOD DIPLOMACY

A United Nations-brokered deal to restart shipping grain from Ukraine and ease a worldwide food crisis was discussed by the US and Russian top diplomats Friday in their first phone call since before Russia invaded its neighbour February 24.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Secretary of State Antony Blinken that Washington was not living up to promises regarding the exemption of food from sanctions, the foreign ministry said.

Blinken warned Lavrov about any Russian territorial claims during its war in Ukraine.

CLERIC'S CALL Iraqi protesters storm Parl again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, July 30: Thousands of followers of an influential Shiite cleric stormed into Iraq's parliament Saturday, for the second time this week, protesting government formation efforts lead by his rivals, an alliance of Iran-backed groups.

The alliance showed signs of internal division, with some calling for counter-protests — a development that would raise the spectre of civil strife — while others later urged for dialogue.

Iraqi security forces initially used tear gas and sound bombs to try to repel the demonstrators, followers of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.



It was the second time in the span of three days that the cleric has ordered his followers to stage a sit-in in the Green Zone

Once inside, the protesters declared an open-ended sit-in and claimed they would not disperse until their demands are answered. As the numbers of protesters swelled, the police backed off.

An expected parliament session did not take place and no lawmakers were in the hall. By late afternoon, the Ministry of Health said about 125 people were

injured in the violence — 100 protesters and 25 members of the security forces.

Earlier in the day and heeding al-Sadr's calls, the demonstrators used ropes and chains to pull down cement barricades leading to the gate of Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses government buildings and embassies.

LGBTQ community's monkeypox battle & its ‘excruciating’ stigma

While monkeypox has not so far been labelled a sexually transmitted infection and can infect anyone, currently most affected are men who have sex with men

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Los Angeles, July 30: The spread of the monkeypox virus and its prevalence among gay men has raised widespread fear, growing anger and a number of uncomfortable questions for a community still scarred by the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

While there is still widespread public confusion about the precise nature and spread of the disease, it is a fact that the overwhelming majority of monkeypox patients in



the United States identify as LGBTQ and are male.

For some, the situation evokes dark parallels with the 1980s, when HIV/AIDS was stigmatised as a “gay plague,” hospitals and funeral homes turned away patients and victims, and White House officials either cracked homophobic jokes or

simply ignored the new virus.

At a meeting this week in West Hollywood, a hub for Los Angeles' LGBTQ community, actor Matt Ford received a standing ovation as he spoke openly about the “excruciating” symptoms he had endured when he contracted the disease — an experience he has also

shared online.

“I was pretty on the fence prior to tweeting due to the potential for social stigma and people being cruel — especially on the internet — but thankfully the response was mostly positive,” he said.

Spreading through skin-to-skin contact, the disease is most often transmitted through sexual activity, and the World Health Organization this week urged gay and bisexual men to limit their sexual partners.

“At the end of the day, it's not homophobic to say that certain groups are disproportionately impacted by the monkeypox outbreak,” said Grant Roth, who is part of a network that collects information about the disease in New York. “And right now it's about the queer community.”

Blame

A lack of available vaccines to meet demand has caused outrage

Spain reports two deaths in 2 days; Brazil confirms first

Madrid: Spain Saturday reported its second monkeypox-related death, one day after announcing what is believed to be the first fatality linked to the current outbreak in Europe. “Among the 3,750 patients... 120 have been hospitalised and two have died,” the Spanish health ministry said. The announcement came after Brazil also reported its first monkeypox-related death Friday, with previous fatalities confined to Africa where the virus is endemic and was first detected in 1970. The victim was a 41-year-old man, who was undergoing treatment for other serious clinical conditions, including cancer, and whose health deteriorated after getting infected, the Ministry said Friday. The man suffered septic shock aggravated by monkeypox, Xinhua news agency reported.

across US where some 5,189 cases have been detected — more than any other nation.

“Why is the government not acting as fast as it should?” asked Jorge Reyes Salinas of Equality California, a coalition of LGBTQ activists and organizations. “We need more resources, and we need

more attention to this issue. It's not just an LGBTQ concern. It should not be painted that way.”

Roth said a lot of “blame” has been placed on men who have sex with men, when in reality the government should have “secured the vaccines sooner, and made testing more widely available.”

of the day quote

We are considering allowing more projects under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, for which we are soon going to seek approval from the Cabinet



NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

We are also working on three more airports in Jharkhand -- Bokaro, Jamshedpur and Dumka -- taking the total number of airports in Jharkhand to 5. We have announced 14 new routes connecting Jharkhand



JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

We have posted the highest ever profit after tax of Rs 474 crore in Q1FY23. Our return on assets has nearly touched 1 per cent and we expect it to rise from here



V VAIDEYANATHAN | MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST BANK

SHORT TAKES

HDFC ups lending rate by 25 bps

New Delhi: Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd Saturday increased its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points, a move that will make loans dearer for both existing and new borrowers. The rate hike comes ahead of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting later next week. It is widely expected that MPC would hike interest rates to tame high inflation. This is the fifth hike effected by HDFC in two months. In all the rate has been increased by 115 basis points since May this year.

BoB to divest up to 12.5% stake

New Delhi: Bank of Baroda will divest up to 12.5 per cent stake in insurance arm IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company through an offer for sale in the initial public offer (IPO) of the insurer or any other mode. The board of directors in a meeting on Saturday approved divesting up to 12.5 per cent of the shareholding of Bank of Baroda in IndiaFirst Life. However, bank's shareholding in the life insurance subsidiary will not fall below 51 per cent.

DCB Bank Q1 net profit nearly triples

New Delhi: DCB Bank Saturday posted nearly three-fold jump in net profit at Rs 97 crore for June quarter 2022-23 as provisions for bad loans declined. The private sector lender had earned a standalone profit of Rs 34 crore in the year-ago period. Total income in the quarter increased to Rs 466 crore as compared to Rs 430 crore, DCB Bank said in a regulatory filing. Non-interest income during the quarter improved to Rs 374 crore from Rs 309 crore. However, operating profit in the quarter declined to Rs 166 crore from Rs 202 crore in the same period a year ago.

Lanka's inflation surges over 60%

Colombo: Sri Lanka's inflation surged to 60.8 per cent in July, up from 54.6 per cent in June, the crisis-hit country's statistics department said Saturday, as food and fuel remained scarce amid depleted foreign exchange reserves. The year-on-year inflation based on the Colombo Consumer Price Index was 60.8 per cent in July, the Department of Census and Statistics said in a statement. In June it was 54.6 per cent. The year-on-year food inflation in July is 90.9 up from 80.1 per cent in June.



As soon as the spectrum auction ends, within a few days itself, we will allocate the spectrum. We expect that the 5G roll-out will happen from the beginning of October and within a year or so, we should have a good rollout in the country

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

States must clear power utilities' dues, says PM

In the last eight years, about 1,70,000 MW of electricity generation capacity has been added in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday asked the states to clear dues of power utilities estimated to be around Rs 2.5 lakh crore to strengthen the energy sector which has to play a big role in accelerating the growth.

The energy and power sectors have a huge role to play in accelerating India's progress in the next 25 years, he said, adding "the strength of the energy sector is also important for Ease of Doing Business and is equally important for Ease of Living."

The Prime Minister was addressing the closing function of the 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya - Power @2047' event virtually.

Modi highlighted the financial problems being faced by the power utilities and asked the states to clear the dues as soon as possible.

"They have to give this money to power generation companies," he said, adding that many government departments and local bodies owe more than Rs 60,000 crore rupees to power distribution companies.

The Prime Minister said that power companies are not able to get even the money that has been committed for subsidy on electricity in different states on time and in full. The arrear works out to be more than Rs 75,000 crore.

Modi said losses in the power distribution sector are in double digits, whereas in the developed coun-



PM regretted that about Rs 2.5 lakh crore of companies responsible for activities ranging from the generation of electricity to the door-to-door delivery are 'trapped'

He said that different states have outstanding dues of more than ₹1 lakh crore

Many government departments and local bodies owe more than ₹60,000 crore

The strength of the energy sector is also important for ease of doing business and is equally important for ease of living

NARENDRA MODI | PM

tries these are in single digit.

He added the projects launched Saturday are significant steps in the direction of green energy and energy security for the country. He dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various green energy projects of NTPC worth over Rs 5,200 crore.

Modi inaugurated the 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar Project in Telangana and the 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar Project in Kerala.

He laid the foundation stone of

the 735 MW Nokh Solar Project in Rajasthan, Green Hydrogen Mobility Project in Leh and Kawas Green Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas project in Gujarat.

The Prime Minister also launched a national solar rooftop portal, which will enable online tracking of the process of installation of rooftop solar plants, starting from registering the applications to release of subsidies in residential consumers' bank accounts after installation and inspection of the plant.

5G SPECTRUM AUCTION

Bids near ₹1.50tn mark on Day 5

IN ALL, 72 GIGAHERTZ OF RADIOWAVES WORTH AT LEAST ₹4.3 LAKH CRORE IS ON THE SPECTRUM BLOCK FOR SALE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: The auction of the 5G spectrum capable of offering ultra-high-speed internet garnered bids worth about Rs 1,49,966 crore on the fifth day of sale Saturday and the bidding is expected to continue Sunday.

The total value of bids in the telecom spectrum auction, which began Tuesday, has come within striking distance of the Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark.

"The 5G auction shows that the industry wants to expand, it has come out of problems and is getting into a growth phase. The auction



results are very good, close to Rs 1,49,966 crore has been committed by the industry for buying the spectrum," Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing in Mumbai, after a telecom investors'

roundtable. The minister said that the auction and its "good response" underlines the industry's maturity.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal-led Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and a unit of billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises are in the race to bid for the 5G spectrum, which offers speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.

Incrementally, Rs 111-112 crore came in Saturday; the provisional proceeds rising from the Rs 1,49,855 crore received till Friday from players like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. Seven fresh rounds were conducted Saturday, and the bidding will resume Sunday (a departure from the usual practice) with the 31st round. Till Friday, about 71 per cent of the total spectrum put on the block had been provisionally sold.

After a flying start Tuesday that saw players pouring in Rs 1.45 lakh crore on the first day, the numbers moved up only incrementally over Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as Jio and Airtel engaged in intense bidding in Uttar Pradesh East circle for 1800 MHz band in the last couple of days.



Hero MotoCorp adopts 150 Covid-hit families in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: In keeping with its commitment towards the betterment of society, Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, today adopted 150 Covid-affected families in Odisha. Launched under the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) platform 'Hero We Care', the 'Hero for Humanity' project offers a unique welfare package for 150 identified families in the state who have been affected severely due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Initiated in association with the Association of Business Women in Commerce and Industry (ABWCI), the project aims to support women from the affected families by creating supportive conditions to maintain their livelihoods, providing them essential services such as food security and nutrition along with education for their children. The company will support children who have lost one or both of their parents or guardians and women who have lost their spouses due to Covid-19 in Odisha. In the first phase of this project, 25 such families were distributed the relief packages in Bhubaneswar today.

Cryptocurrency crash hit these companies the hardest

AMID HEAVY SLUMP IN CRYPTO MARKET, SEVERAL FIRMS HAVE FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY OR HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LOOK FOR EMERGENCY CAPITAL INFUSIONS

REUTERS

Washington, July 30: Cryptocurrencies have been hard hit by fears interest rate hikes will end the era of cheap money, with the world's largest digital asset, bitcoin, down more than 56% from this year's high. Several crypto companies have filed for bankruptcy or have been forced to look for emergency capital infusions.

Three Arrows Capital Singapore-based crypto hedge fund Three Arrows Capital (3AC) filed for Chapter 15 bankruptcy July 1.

Once a formidable player in the digital asset space, the downfall of 3AC appeared to stem from the

firm's bet on the Terra ecosystem, which was behind failed stablecoin terraUSD. That token lost nearly all of its value in May, shaving almost half a trillion dollars off the crypto market.

High-leveraged, 3AC was unable to meet margin calls from counterparties it had borrowed from. Consequently, crypto lenders BlockFi and Genesis Trading liquidated their positions with the firm. According to court filings, 3AC's creditors claim they are owed more than \$2.8 billion.

Celsius Network New Jersey-based crypto lender Celsius suspended withdrawals June 12 and a month later filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, listing a



\$1.19 billion deficit on its balance sheet. It had been valued at \$3.25 billion in a funding round in October. Celsius stumbled on complex investments in the wholesale digital asset market. The company had attracted retail investors by promising annual returns as high as 18.6%, but struggled to meet redemptions as crypto prices slumped. In its first bankruptcy hearing, Celsius lawyers said that its bitcoin mining operations could pro-

vide a way for the company to repay customers. **Voyager** Crypto lender Voyager Digital, also based in New Jersey, had been a rising crypto star, reaching a \$3.74 billion market cap last year. But the collapse of 3AC dealt a major blow to Voyager, which was heavily exposed to the hedge fund. Voyager has filed claims of more than \$650 million against 3AC. Voyager filed for Chapter 11

SCORPIO-N SEES MASSIVE BOOKINGS

Domestic auto major Mahindra & Mahindra has claimed that it has received over 1-lakh bookings within half an hour of its booking commencement for its all-new Scorpio-N SUV, which commenced Saturday. M&M Ltd launched the vehicle June 27. This translates into an ex-showroom value of Rs 18,000 crore, it added. The deliveries of the vehicle are scheduled to commence September 26



Yes Bank manages \$1.1 bn commitment from Carlyle, Advent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, July 30: After trials and tribulations on fundraising that lasted well over three years, Yes Bank Friday announced that private equity funds Carlyle and Advent International will be investing \$1.115 billion (around Rs 8,900 crore) to fuel its future growth.

Both the global PE funds will be acquiring a 10 per cent stake each in the private sector lender, which had to be bailed out in a RBI and government-led reconstruction scheme for want of capital buffers and after the then management failed to sell the bank's story to investors.

In a statement, the bank said \$640 million or Rs 5,100 crore has been raised by issuing equity shares and \$475 million or Rs 3,800 crore through equity share warrants. As part of the capital raise, which is the second biggest for any private sector lender, the bank will issue 370 crore equity shares on a preferential basis at a price of Rs 13.78 per share, and 257 crore warrants convertible into equity shares at a price of Rs 14.82 per warrant.

The Yes Bank scrip closed 2.47 per cent up at Rs 14.94 apiece on the BSE, as against gains of 1.25 per cent on the benchmark Sensex.

The announcement comes within a fortnight of the bank disclosing J C Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company to be the base bidder for resolving Rs 48,000 crore of dud assets it carries on its books, transferring which will get its gross non-performing assets ratio down to under 2 per cent from the present 14 per cent.

Over 4.87cr ITRs filed so far; deadline ends Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: More than 4.87 crore income tax returns have been filed till late evening, the department said Saturday, a day before the ITR filing deadline for the financial year 2021-22 ends.

The department issued a public message through its official Twitter handle asking taxpayers, largely individuals and salaried class, to file their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) before the due date.

It said over 4.52 crore ITRs for the assessment year 2022-23 have been filed till July 29 while it recorded more than 35 lakh ITR filings on Saturday till 6 pm.

The CBDT also issued an order stating that Aaykar Seva Kendras (ASKs) or Income Tax help centres across the country will remain open on Sunday and additional receipt counters will be opened, wherever required, to "facilitate filing of tax returns by the taxpayers."

"Hope you have filed yours too! If not, pl #FileNow. Due date to file ITR for AY 2022-23 is 31st July, 2022," the department said on Twitter. Officials said the finance ministry and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), that frames



policy for the tax department, are continuously monitoring the ITR filing exercise.

The department's Twitter handle responded to some messages that said the e-filing website was not working by stating: "As informed by our team, the e-filing portal is working fine. May we request you to retry after clearing the browser cache. If you still face any issues, pl share your details (with PAN & mobile no.) at mailto:orm@cpc.Incometax.GovIn. Our team will connect with you."

According to data updated till July 28, around 4.05 crore ITRs were filed and among this the number of returns verified/validated by taxpayers stood at 3.09 crore.

The number of returns that were processable among these were 2.80 crore and out of this 2.41 crore or 86 per cent were processed, the data said. About 5.89 crore ITRs were filed during the last time or the 2020-21 fiscal by the extended due date of December 31, 2021.

bankruptcy July 6, reporting that it had \$110 million worth of cash and crypto assets on hand. Since then, the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corp has confirmed that it is probing Voyager's marketing of deposit accounts for cryptocurrency purchases, which the company had advertised as being FDIC-insured.

Crypto exchange FTX and Alameda Research, both founded by billionaire Sam Bankman-Fried, offered to purchase all of Voyager's digital assets and loans, except its loans to 3AC, and enable Voyager customers to withdraw their assets from an FTX account. However, Voyager rebuffed that offer in a court filing as a "low-ball bid."

Vauld Singapore-based crypto lender Vauld July 8 filed with a Singapore court for protection against its creditors, after suspending withdrawals days earlier. The company owes \$402 million to its creditors,

according to a report from The Block. Vauld is backed by billionaire investor Peter Thiel's Valar Ventures, Pantera Capital and Coinbase Ventures.

In a July 11 blog post, Vauld said it is discussing a possible sale to London-based crypto lender Nexo while at the same time exploring potential restructuring options.

BlockFi Facing an increase in withdrawals and a hit from 3AC, crypto lender BlockFi signed a deal July 1 with FTX that provides BlockFi with a \$400 million revolving credit facility, and includes an option that enables FTX to buy the company for up to \$240 million.

BlockFi was hard hit by the crypto crash, and implemented multiple cost-cutting measures in June, including slashing its headcount by 20% and cutting executive compensation. The company was valued at \$3 billion in a funding round last year.

MIRABAI LIFTS GOLD

OLYMPICS SILVER MEDALLIST CLAIMS FIRST YELLOW METAL FOR INDIA AFTER SANKET OPENS COUNTRY'S MEDAL ACCOUNT AT THE ONGOING COMMONWEALTH GAMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 30: Mirabai Chanu bossed the 49kg field as expected to defend her Commonwealth Games title and give India the first gold medal of the Birmingham edition here Saturday.

The Olympic silver medallist aggregated 201kg (88kg + 113kg) to stamp her authority in the competition and achieve a Commonwealth Games record in the process.

The silver went to Mauritius' Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa (172kg) and bronze to Canada's Hannah Kaminski (171 kg).

In a remarkable performance, Chanu smashed the Commonwealth and CWG record in snatch. She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.

An overwhelming favourite in her weight category, the 27-year-old Chanu set a rather low starting weight of 80kg in snatch and 105kg in clean and jerk before changing her first attempt to 84kg. Going into

Mirabai Chanu aggregated a total of 201kg (88kg + 113kg) to stamp her authority and achieve a Commonwealth Games record in the process. The Olympics silver medallist smashed the Commonwealth Championships, CWG and Games record in snatch. She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift

I am happy with my performance. I had said earlier I was competing with myself here. Everyone knows Commonwealth Games is easy for me but I never take it lightly. There is pressure of having it easy as well. I know what areas to improve on going forward

MIRABAI CHANU

the competition, she had a personal best of 88kg and 119kg, a world record in clean and jerk, totalling 207kg.

Her nearest rival in the field, Stella Kingsley of Nigeria, came into the contest with a personal best of 168kg (72kg+96kg), summing up the gulf between her and the rest.

"I am happy with my performance. I had said earlier I was competing with myself here. Everyone knows

Commonwealth Games is easy for me but I never take it lightly. There is pressure of having it easy as well. I know what areas to improve on going forward," she said with a beaming smile after the medal ceremony.

Chanu matched her personal best in snatch, considered not the strongest part of her game, and she was pleased about that. "I felt my technique in snatch is getting better. I came back from Tokyo Olympics knowing I needed to work on snatch and that would benefit me going forward. I still need to do more with my technique to touch 90kg," she said.

Her next big target will be the World Championships in December. Asked how she would celebrate, Chanu said that would happen once she reaches India. For the night, she will finally get to gorge on a pizza without the fear of gaining weight. "My target at World Championships is to match my record in clean and jerk (119kg)." On the lopsided nature of the contest and other lifters going for much lower weights, she said: "I look at what they are doing but my focus is on the six lifts I need to do."

The atmosphere

at the NEC arena was electric, pushing the athletes to give their best with the music keeping the fans entertained. As the MC also pointed out, with Chanu head and shoulders above

Gururaja bags bronze medal



BIRMINGHAM: Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary clinched a bronze medal in the men's 61kg category at the Commonwealth Games, adding to India's tally here Saturday. Gururaja, a silver medallist at the 2018 CWG at Gold Coast, lifted a total of 269kg (118kg+151kg) to finish in the third place. Malaysia's Aznil Bin Bidin Muhamad grabbed the gold medal with a Games record lift of 285kg (127+158). Morea Baru of Papua New Guinea bagged the silver with a total lift of 273kg (121+152). It was India's second medal at the ongoing edition of the Games after Sanket Sagar won a silver in the men's 55kg category.

others, the outing was more about competing with herself than her opponents.

Chanu's first attempt in snatch was comfortable before she lifted 88kg in the second before leaving 90kg for the third and final attempt. She was not able to record a new personal best but still went into the clean and jerk with a 12kg advantage over Ranaivosoa.

The clean and jerk began on a rather dramatic fashion with Bangladesh's Marija Akhter falling on the floor after a failed attempt for 70kg. With her nearest rivals attempting 15kgs less than Chanu, the result was a foregone conclusion.

The battle for silver and bronze went down to the wire with Kingsley, Kaminski and Ranaivosoa battling it out. It was a heartbreaking end for the Nigerian lifter Kingsley whose 98kg attempt was declared a no lift following a premature celebration.

Chanu lifted 109kg comfortably in her first attempt before going for 113kg in the second. She did not risk matching her world record of 119kg and went for 115 kg in her final lift, but missed.

Sanket secures silver at Birmingham CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Birmingham, July 30: Partially fulfilling the promise he made to himself four years back, young weightlifter Sanket Sagar won a silver medal in men's 55kg category, putting India on the medal tally at the Commonwealth Games here Saturday. He targetted a gold medal but injured his right elbow while attempting to lift 139kg in clean and jerk to eventually settle for a second place.

The 21-year-old managed a total of 248kg (113kg+135kg) to finish just one kilogram behind Malaysia's Mohamad Aniq, who smashed the Games record in clean and jerk as he lifted 249kg (107kg+142kg) to win the gold. Sri Lanka's Dilanka Isuru Kumara 225kg (105kg+120kg) took home the bronze.

Someone who was managing a paan shop with his father in Sangli, Maharashtra it indeed is a feat to cherish. Life has thrown challenges at him and he accepted them with grace and found a way to overcome them with sheer dedication.

The lifter said he would undergo scans to know the extent of his injury. "I will go for X-ray after the dope samples were collected and the actual status will be known. Currently I'm in a lot of pain, please let me go fast," he pleaded at the Indian scribes.

"I want to dedicate this medal to all the freedom fighters who didn't care for their lives and gave us independence," said Sagar who became the second Commonwealth medalist from Sangli after wrestler Bharti

In training, I lift 143kgs. I had to go for it as there was a gold at stake. I am not happy with myself because I have been training for the last four years only for the gold. I am a bit happy but mostly feel I could have done better. I did not take the risk to go beyond my national record because completing a lift is important as well

SANKET SAGAR

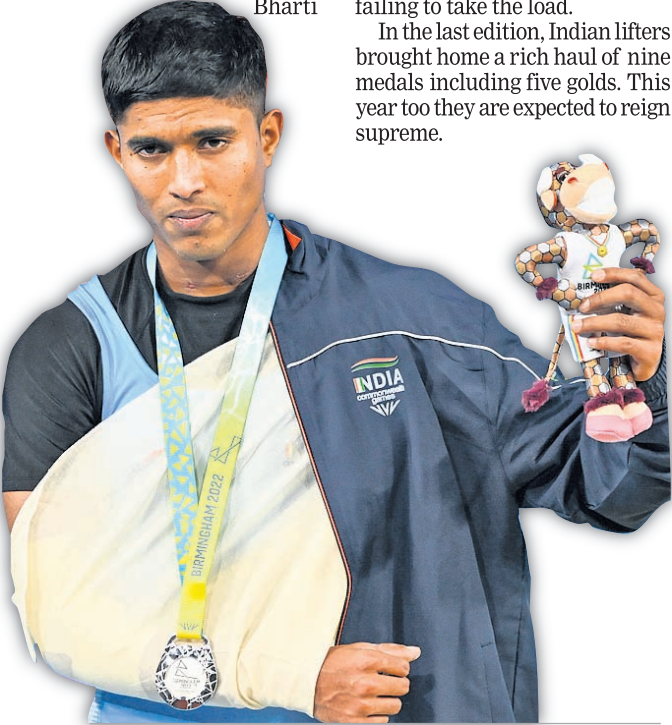
Mane (Bharati Mane).

"Yes people would be happy back home but I'm disappointed of losing out on a gold. Hope to come back stronger," he added. The three-time national champion opened up a huge gap with his second lift in snatch and virtually sealed it in his third attempt when he equalled his personal best of 113kg.

At the break, Sagar had the pole position with a lead of six kilograms. He climbed to the lead spot when he lifted more than double his weight (111kg) in his second attempt, as the Kasdan fell behind.

But the Indian was only able to execute one lift in the clean and jerk section as he looked in agony after he failed to lift 139kg in his second attempt. The third attempt was worse. He could not even hold for more than one second as he had a brief fall with his right knee, failing to take the load.

In the last edition, Indian lifters brought home a rich haul of nine medals including five golds. This year too they are expected to reign supreme.



Misleading CWG video on Hima creates flutter



NEW DELHI: A misleading video involving India sprinter Hima Das created a flutter Saturday, and had, among others, former cricketer Virender Sehwag, entangled in its web of misinformation.

Three days before the blue riband track and field events are to start at the ongoing Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the video on Hima, attracted over 3000 likes and more than 6000 retweets.

The video was uploaded on Twitter from a handle called 'Pegasus', with a line on top claiming "Hima Das wins 400m Gold in CWG at Birmingham".

The clipping was from the U-20 World Athletics Championship in Tampere, Finland in 2018 when the athlete from Assam became the first Indian to win the championship.

Sehwag was one of the victims of the misleading video as he wrongly tweeted that the sprint star has won gold in 400m event at the CWG, only to delete it after the goof-up was brought to his notice.

The cricketer's now-deleted tweet read: "What a win! Indian athletes have totally arrived. Many congratulations to Hima Das on winning gold in the 400m at the Commonwealth Games. Fakr Hai."

The track and field competitions are scheduled to take place at the Alexander Stadium from August 2. Hima is scheduled to contest in the 200m race, which will take place August 4. The semifinals and final of the event will take place August 5 and 6 respectively.

TID BITS

Chinappa, Ghosal enter round of 16

BIRMINGHAM: India's ace squash players Joshana Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal advanced to the round of 16 after easy wins in their respective women's and men's singles matches at the Commonwealth Games here Saturday. Both Chinappa and Ghosal registered identical 3-0 victories in the round of 32 matches. Living up to her billing, Chinappa outclassed Meagan Best of Barbados. The 18-time national champion Chinappa won in straight sets (11-8, 11-9, 12-10). The 35-year-old Ghosal steam-rolled Shamil Wakeel of Sri Lanka 11-4, 11-4, 11-6. Meanwhile, Sunayna Sara Kuruvilla's campaign ended after she lost to Malaysia's Aifa Azman 7-11, 7-11, 7-11.

Nataraj in finals

BIRMINGHAM: Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj has qualified for the finals of men's 100m backstroke after clocking 54:55 seconds in the semifinal of the ongoing CWG here. The 21-year-old finished fourth in his heat and seventh overall. The Bangalore lad will aim to be the second Indian swimmer to bag a medal at CWG since Prasanta Karmakar's bronze in the para-swimming event at the Delhi CWG in 2010.

Hassamuddin through

BIRMINGHAM: Indian boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin cruised into the pre-quarterfinals of the men's featherweight (57kg) category of the Commonwealth Games here Saturday. Hassamuddin, a bronze medallist in the last CWG in 2018, defeated young Amzolee Dyeji of South Africa 5-0 in a unanimous verdict. Hassamuddin will face Md Salim Hossain of Bangladesh in the next round for a place in the quarterfinals.

NAVJOT TESTS COVID POSITIVE

BIRMINGHAM: India midfielder Navjot Kaur's campaign at the Commonwealth Games came to an abrupt end as she is set to fly back home after testing positive for COVID-19. The 27-year-old from Kurukshetra had been in isolation for the past two days. Sonika replaces her in the 18-member Indian women's squad.

Indian paddlers shine

BIRMINGHAM: The Indian men and women table tennis players continued their impressive show at the Commonwealth Games, recording their second straight wins in the team events here Saturday. The eves outclassed Guyana 3-0 while the men's side also thrashed Northern Ireland by an identical margin. The pair of Sreeja Akula and Reeth Tennison steamrolled Natalie Cummings and Chelsea Edghill 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. Then Manika Batra decimated Thuraia Thomas in straight games 11-1, 11-3, 11-3. Reeth registered an 11-7, 14-12, 13-11 win against Chelsea. In the men's team event, veteran Sharath Kamal paired up with Harmeet Desai to beat Tania Skelton and Owen Cathcart 11-3, 9-11 11-6, 11-1. Sanli Shetty then beat Paul McCherry 11-5, 15-13, 11-6. Harmeet Desai prevailed over Catchcart 5-11, 11-9, 12-14, 11-3 11-6.

SHUTTLERS QUALIFY FOR QUARTERFINALS

BIRMINGHAM: Indian shuttlers dished out another splendid show to outclass Sri Lanka 5-0 in their second group A match of the mixed team competition at the 22nd Commonwealth Games here Saturday.

A day after blanking Pakistan 5-0, India notched up another convincing win to go top of group A and qualify for the quarterfinals with one tie still remaining in the league stage of the competition.

India made a strategic decision to split the mixed and men's doubles pairing as Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were back together for the opening match.

The former World No.19 pair looked rusty initially before getting past Sachin Dias and Thilini Hendaheva 21-14, 21-9 to put India 1-0 ahead.

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, who is playing his first match after recovering from a shoulder injury, prevailed

21-18, 21-5 over veteran Niluka Karunaratne, who has competed at the Olympics in 2012, 2016 and 2020.

Akarshi Kashyap went past Vidara Suhasni Vidanage 21-3, 21-9 in the women's singles to hand India an unassailable 3-0 lead.

While the opening game was a walk in the park, Kashyap was briefly troubled by the Sri Lankan in the second game. One half of the mixed doubles pair, B Sumeth Reddy then combined with Chirag Shetty to beat Dumindu Abeywickrama and Sachin Dias 21-10, 21-13 to make it 4-0.

In the final match, Gayatri Gopichand and Tressa Jolly overcame stiff resistance from Thilini Hendaheva and Vidara Suhasni Vidanage in the opening game to come up trumps 21-18, 21-6 and compete the formalities.

The Indian team will face Australia in its final league group match later in the day.

Injured Rahul to miss Zimbabwe tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 30: Senior opener KL Rahul has been left out of the India squad which will travel to Zimbabwe for an ODI series next month after aggravating his hamstring injury, a development which could potentially jeopardise his T20 World Cup chances.

It is understood that Rahul hasn't yet recovered despite undergoing a successful sports hernia surgery for lower abdominal injury. His hamstring also remains sore. India will play 3 ODIs in Zimbabwe August 18, 20 and 22.

"I wanted to clarify a couple of things about my health and fitness. My surgery in June was successful and I had begun my training with hope of returning to national duty for the tour of West

Indies. Unfortunately as I was returning to full fitness, I tested positive for Covid-19," he tweeted. He expressed hope of coming back for Asia Cup in UAE.

Off-spinner Washington Sundar is back in the squad along with seamer Deepak Chahar after successful completion of his rehabilitation following hamstring and back injuries. Chahar has not played competitive cricket for five months now and also missed the 2022 IPL season.

"KL Rahul has recovered from COVID-19 but his hamstring injury seems to have resurfaced. He was supposed to be picked for Zimbabwe but now one can't put a date on his comeback," a senior BCCI source privy to development told PTI Saturday.

Meanwhile, Virat Kohli, skip-



per Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya have all been rested from the tour as ODIs aren't top priority for the side with less than three months left for the World T20.

As usual Shikhar Dhawan will lead the side in Rohit, Rahul and Pant's absence. Most of the players who had been part of set-up have been picked with rookie Rahul Tripathi, after being part of squad in Ireland T20Is, getting maiden call up to ODI side.

THE SQUAD: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj & Deepak Chahar.

INDIA 'B' OUTCLASS ESTONIA 4-0

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mamallapuram, July 30: The India 'B' team blanked Estonia 4-0 in the second round of the Open section in the 44th Chess Olympiad here Saturday. Second-seeded India 'A' team defeated Moldova 3.5-0.5 for its second straight win.

In the women's section, top-seeded India 'A' took the winning lead against Argentina. Koneru Humpy, playing on top board, was held to a draw by Marisa Zuriel but Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni notched up victories over Maria Campos and Maria Belen Sarquis respectively to give the team a second consecutive victory.

The India 'B' team was battling it out against Latvia with Mary Ann Gomes providing a win over Nelliya Maklakova. Padmini Rout drew her game with Ilze Berzina.



The third host team in the women's section - India 'C' - defeated Singapore 3-1.

The India B team won against Estonia without much fuss. D Gukesh beat Kalle Kiik while R Praggnanandhaa beat Kirill Chukavin. There were wins for the

experienced B Adhban and Raunak Sadhwani against Aleksandr Volodin and Andrei Shishkov respectively.

For India 'A', the winners were P Harikrishna, SL Narayanan and K Sasikiran while fellow GM and fast-rising Arjun Erigaisi could only draw against Andrei Macovei.