



BHUMI'S TAKE

Actor Bhumi Pednekar calls the ongoing boycott and the culture of cancel on social media a bizarre and temporary phase

LEISURE P2



TENSIONS CONTINUE

China withdraws its promise of not sending troops or administrators to Taiwan as per an official document released Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL P10



BHAVANI DEVI TRIUMPHS

Bhavani Devi wins gold and defends her title in the Commonwealth Fencing Championships

SPORTS P12



EMINENT SCREENWRITER RANJIT PATNAIK NO MORE

Cuttack: Eminent Odia screen play writer Ranjit Patnaik passed away at his CDA Sector-IX residence here Wednesday. He was 65. Family members said he was suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time and was under medication. Ranjit did the screenplay for several hit Odia movies including *Sundargarh Ra Salman Khan*, *Premare Premare*, *Matric Fail* and *Rakata Chinnichhi Nijara Kie*. He also wrote several Odia TV serials and plays and also produced and directed 12 documentaries. Some of his plays like *Palataka*, *Dhruvarashtra Ra Akhi* and *Bhirna Eka Smanan* are all time hits among theatre lovers. As news of his demise spread, condolences poured in from the Odia film fraternity.



JUSTICE UU LALIT APPOINTED 49TH CJI

New Delhi: Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was Wednesday officially appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment. He will assume charge August 27 after incumbent NV Ramana demits office the day before. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August, 2022," a Law Ministry notification said. Justice Lalit was appointed as judge of the Supreme Court in August 2014 from the Bar.

P7

SC transfers all Nupur FIRs to Shah's Delhi cops

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: The Supreme Court directed Wednesday the clubbing and transfer of all present and future FIRs lodged across India against suspended BJP spokeswoman Nupur Sharma to Delhi Police in connection with her remarks on Prophet Mohammed during a TV debate show. It should be stated that the police in the national capital, a Union Territory, reports to the Home Ministry headed by Amit Shah.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala also extended the interim protection from any coercive action to Sharma till the probe is concluded by the Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) of the Delhi Police. The bench said that IFSO shall be at liberty to take assistance from other police forces to take the case to a logical end.

"Since this Court has already taken cognizance of the serious threat to life and security of the petitioner (Sharma), we direct that all FIRs against Nupur Sharma be transferred and clubbed for investigation to the Delhi Police," the apex court bench said.

"In particular facts and circumstances, we clarify and deem it appropriate that the investigation is carried out by Delhi police. The petitioner shall be at liberty to pursue her rights and remedies by approaching Delhi High Court for quashing the current and future FIRs," the bench added.

It should be stated here that apex court July 19 granted interim protection from arrest till August 10 to Sharma in connection with the FIRs filed against her. The FIRs had been filed in a number of states including UP and West Bengal.

However, the same bench July 1 had severely criticised Sharma for her controversial comments against the Prophet. It said her 'loose tongue' has 'set the entire country on fire' and that she is 'single-handedly' responsible for what is happening in the country.

Sharma's comments on the Prophet had also evoked strong international reactions with many countries in the middle east demanding action against her.

Adani to invest ₹41K cr in state

Investment proposals worth ₹74,620 crore cleared by panel headed by CM Naveen Patnaik

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The high-level clearance authority (HLC) of the Odisha government headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved Wednesday investment proposals worth ₹74,620.18 crore. These projects will provide employment opportunities for over 24,000 people in Odisha.

Among the projects approved is one belonging to the Adani Group. Adani Enterprises Limited will set up a 4.0 MTPA Alumina Refinery and 175 MW CPP Plant in Kashipur of Rayagada district. The company has proposed to invest ₹41,653 crore for this project, which will generate employment opportunities for over 7,750 people.

The committee has approved the proposal of ReNew EFuels Private Limited (REFPL) to set up a green hydrogen and green ammonia plant in Paradip against an investment of ₹2,000 crore which will generate employment opportunities for 2,000 persons.

The establishment of these plants will have a pragmatic environmental impact since they will create ammonia and hydrogen using renewable resources, which will cater to the demand of the steel and fertilizer sector in Odisha, said an official.

The committee has also given approval for setting up of 60,000 MT industrial structure and 6,000 MT steel plant equipment facilities to Tata Steel Limited (growth shop) with an investment of ₹1,000 crore creating employment opportunities for over 2,451 people.

Continued on P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Let the gates remain open. Nitish ji can return anytime.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58817.29 ↓ 35.78
NIFTY	17534.80 ↑ 9.70
DOLLAR	80.06 ↓ ₹0.11
EURO	81.74 ↑ ₹0.50
GOLD	₹52,274 ↓ ₹215
SILVER	₹58,960 ↑ ₹169

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	28.4°C	27.6°C
TEMP. MIN	24.6°C	24.0°C
Humidity	100%	97%
Rainfall	4.9mm	17.8mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	

BROTHERLY LOVE



Women of all ages flock to a shop at Unit-I market Wednesday in Bhubaneswar to buy rakhis a day before Raksha Bandhan

OP PHOTO

Varun slams Centre over forced sale of Tricolour

The BJP MP had earlier been critical of the government for GST on packaged food items and launching the Agnipath scheme

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: BJP MP Varun Gandhi alleged Wednesday that ration card holders are being forced to buy the national Tricolour in some parts of the country. He said it will be unfortunate if celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Independence become a burden on the poor. The government however, denied any such development.

It is 'shameful' to extract the price of 'Tiranga', which lives in the heart of every Indian, by snatching the poor's morsel of food, Varun said in a tweet in Hindi. The Pilibhit MP posted a video purportedly showing some ration card holders complaining about being forced to pay ₹20 to buy the flag.

"It will be unfortunate if the celebration of the 75th anniversary of Independence becomes a burden on the poor. Ration card holders are being forced to buy Tiranga or denied a share of grains they are entitled to," Varun said.

The central government has urged people to hoist or display the national flag at their homes



during August 13-15 as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme.

In the video, recorded by a news portal in Haryana's Karnal, people are seen alleging that they were forced to pay ₹20 and buy the national flag when they went to collect ration at a state-run depot.

A man in the video, who appears to be a staff of the depot is heard saying that they had received orders that each person taking ration had to buy the flag for ₹20. "We have been told not to give ration to anyone who refuses to buy the flag. We have to do what we are ordered to," he said.

Continued on P4

ALL NOT WELL IN GUJARAT BJP

Ahmedabad: All is not well in Gujarat's BJP as differences are simmering within the party over various issues, sources alleged Wednesday. Party's tribal leader from Banaskantha has demanded that only local candidates be nominated from the Danta Assembly seat and Rajkot District Panchayat executive committee's chairman resignation from the post Tuesday are two indicators of the undercurrent of tension. However, BJP's senior leaders are down playing both incidents, the sources added.

Students can celebrate I-Day: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: In a complete 'U' turn, the Odisha government said Wednesday that students of schools in the state will be allowed to take part in the Independence Day celebrations. This development is in complete contrast to what School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had said Tuesday.

Dash told mediapersons Wednesday that as per the revised guidelines of the Odisha govern-

ment, students will be allowed to participate in I-Day programmes. Earlier he had said that I-Day in schools will be celebrated without students. However, teachers will have to present in schools on August 15 to observe the day.

It should be stated here that there will be no parade on Independence Day this year in the state due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation. A decision in this regard has been taken by the government at a preparatory meeting for observation of Independence Day, a few days back.

7 corrupt officials sacked

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Odisha government continued its relentless drive against corrupt and inept officials and showed the door to seven of them. Among the seven, five were handed compulsory retirements while two others were sacked over various charges of corruption. The state government also permanently stopped the pensions of two more officials, a release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, Wednesday.

Action has been taken against a superintendent engineer, two executive engineers, two assistant engineers, a retired junior engi-

neer, an OAS officer, a retired chief district veterinary officer and a social education organiser.

The worst offender among those disciplined, was superintendent engineer of Malkangiri Rural Development department (Division-1) Ashis Kumar Das. He was convicted in a corruption case where he had accepted a bribe of ₹10.23 lakh from contractors. He was caught red-handed by Vigilance sleuths while accepting the bribe.

The others who have suffered the ire of the Odisha government are Bhadrak Rural Development department (Division 1) executive engineer Manas Ranjan Mohanty, Cuttack Gandarpur Drainage

Division executive engineer Manoj Kumar Behera, assistant engineer of Baitarani Irrigation Division in Keonjhar district, Umesh Kumar Shashini, Umerkote R&B Section assistant engineer Bishuddhanand Behera, Paralakhemundi CDVO Jaladhhar Mallick, OAS officer Sabita Sahu, Bolangir social education organiser Prabhassini Babu and Ganjam Rural Works Division 2 junior engineer, Trinath Sethi.

It has been alleged that all those who have been sacked had amassed wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income.

The state government has so far taken action against 173 officials over corruption.

Space debris may kill humans soon: Study

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto, August 10: Rocket parts left in orbit from space launches have a 20 per cent chance of severely injuring or killing a human being in the near future, according to a study done by researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC) here.

The study published Wednesday noted that governments need to take collective action and mandate that rocket parts are guided safely back to Earth after their use, which could increase the cost of a launch, but potentially save human lives. "Is it permissible to regard the

loss of human life as just a cost of doing business, or is it something that we should seek to protect when we can? And that's the crucial point here: we can protect against this risk," said study lead author Michael Byers, a professor at UBC's Department of Political Science.

The researchers noted that when objects such as satellites are launched into space, rockets are used, parts of which are often left in orbit. If these leftover rocket parts have a low enough orbit, they can re-enter the atmosphere in an uncontrolled way. Most of the material will burn up in the atmosphere, but potentially lethal pieces



can still hurtle towards the ground, they said. The study, published in the journal 'Nature Astronomy', analysed over 30 years of data from a public satellite catalogue, and

calculated the potential risk to human life over the next 10 years.

Using two different methods, they found that current practices have a six to 10 per cent chance of

one or more casualties if each re-entry spreads, on average, dangerous debris over an area of 10 metres squared.

While the calculations consider the probability of one or more casualties for people on the ground, Byers said, they do not take into account worst case scenarios, such as a piece of debris striking an aircraft in flight.

The researchers also said space debris are approximately three times more likely to land at the latitudes of Jakarta, Dhaka and Lagos than those of New York, Beijing or Moscow, due to the distribution of orbits used when

launching satellites.

They noted that dangerous debris from space hitting Earth's surface is far from unheard of, including a 12-metre-long pipe from a rocket that struck a village in the Ivory Coast in 2020, causing extensive damage to several buildings.

Study co-author Aaron Boley, an associate professor at UBC, noted that space launches are increasing.

"Risks have been evaluated on a per-launch basis so far, giving people the sense that the risk is so small that it can safely be ignored. But the cumulative risk is not that small," Boley said.

RESEARCHERS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY HUMANS ARE AT RISK, BUT AIRCRAFT MAY BE HIT BY WRECKAGES OF ROCKETS

leisure



MIRANDA WALKS BAREFOOT ON GRASS TO HELP WITH JET LAG

Model Miranda Kerr walked barefoot on the grass to help her reconnect after a long flight. The 39-year-old Australian model, who has Flynn, 11, with former husband Orlando Bloom and Hart, four, and two-year-old Myles with spouse Evan Spiegel, shared the way she rebalances herself after a jet lag.

MILLER BACK ON THE FLASH SET AMID CONTROVERSIES

Actor Ezra Miller is still very much part of *The Flash* movie despite mounting issues with the makers. The actor was reportedly recently back to work on the film set amid their legal controversies.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Sometimes, pressure is a good thing, as it brings out the best in you. You will out-shine your colleagues in whatever you choose to do. But your expectations may far exceed the outcome. Ganesh asks that you have patience. Results take time.

TAURUS
Planning your own milestones and celebrating the success of friends is the agenda for the day. Your thoughts will be progressive in business or at work, and any plans you make will make a rock-solid foundation for your future.

GEMINI
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesh. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER
Today, you will use money to fulfil your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process.

LEO
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesh. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you.

VIRGO
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesh. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

LIBRA
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket. Still, with someone like that, you are always assured of getting good value for your money! So bring on the champagne and the caviar! Ganesh wishes you a splendid time ahead.

SCORPIO
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people - both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS
Dark and gloomy shall be your temperament for most part of the day today. But the afternoon may just see the skies clearing. The apparent mood change, says Ganesh; will mainly be because of good news from abroad and business profits from your partner.

CAPRICORN
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesh. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of misinterpretation.

AQUARIUS
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive.

PISCES
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesh.

Bhumi calls boycott culture bizarre

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar is currently gearing up for the release of her film *Raksha Bandhan* with Akshay Kumar. Recently, in an interview, Bhumi shared her thoughts on the ongoing boycott and cancel culture on social media.

Netizens have been trending #BoycottRakshaBandhan and #BoycottLaalSinghChaddha on Twitter. Akshay and Bhumi's film received a massive backlash after netizens found writer Kanika Dhillon's 'Hinduphobic' tweets.

Bhumi said that the cancel culture has become very rampant. She also said that one has to acknowledge the fact that the internet, where, cancel culture thrives is a democratic space that has a lot of freedom. There will be good opinions and there will be bad opinions. She added that she only takes the positivity in. She called it bizarre and also hoped that this is just a phase.

Earlier, Akshay Kumar also said, "It's a free country. Everyone is allowed to do

what they want. But this is not going to make any sense when people do such things. We are all on the verge of making our country the biggest and the greatest. I would request them not to get into it. I would also request everyone not to highlight such things. It's better for our country."

Meanwhile, *Raksha Bandhan* will be facing a clash with Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan's *Laal Singh Chaddha*. AGENCIES



Disha flaunts her flawless frame

Mumbai: Disha Patani is known for her acting and dancing abilities as well as her wardrobe choices. There is nothing she can't pull off thanks to her enviously attractive frame and gorgeous hair. She is a die-hard fashion fanatic, from her go-to athleisure styles to being the sweetest and choicest bridesmaid. She knows how to flaunt her flawless form, and she does it by dressing in most sensual ways.

The *Baaghi 2* actress recently adopted a desi look and released images from a photo-shoot she just engaged in, where she can be seen posing in lehengas.

Disha served as Falguni Shane Peacock's muse, looks like a million bucks and more in a beige lehenga with a one-shoulder top and a lehenga that extends as a mermaid skirt.

Her beige lehenga is embellished with elaborate tone-on-tone sequin and crystal details. But the standout piece of the outfit is her one-shoulder blouse. Her sensuous blouse has a similar beige colour and is lavishly embellished with crystal work. The end effect is a sensual but romantic appearance that the bridesmaids will like. Disha matched the blouse with a long trail of dupatta that was draped behind it and had silver and feather accents.

Disha Patani discarded her jewellery and let her outfit speak for itself. She chose to finish off her makeup look with a dewy base, glossy pink lips, winged eyeliner, and beach waves.

AGENCIES



Raju Srivastava suffers cardiac arrest in gym

New Delhi: Popular comedian-actor Raju Srivastava Wednesday was rushed to the AIIMS following a heart attack and is currently in the coronary care unit (CCU), said hospital sources.

"Srivastava had to be resuscitated thrice. He was rushed to catheterisation lab and underwent angioplasty," a source close to the actor revealed.

"He was doing his routine exercise at the gym and while he was on the treadmill, he suddenly

fell down. He suffered a heart attack and was immediately taken to the AIIMS hospital," his cousin Ashok Srivastava said. Meanwhile, Srivastava's colleague Sunil Pal said the comedian was doing much better.

"He is doing fine now. He is out of danger," Pal said in a video he shared with the media.

Raju Srivastava has been active in the entertainment industry since late 1980s even though he first received recognition after participating in the first season of stand-up comedy show *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge*.

The current chairman of the Film Development Council Uttar Pradesh, has appeared in Hindi films like *Maine Pyar Kiya*, *Baazigar* and several other movies. PH



Ananya on her friends Suhana, Shanaya's foray into showbiz



Mumbai: As little girls they always dreamt of becoming actors, and now when her childhood friends Suhana Khan and Shanaya Kapoor are finally ready to make their film debut, Ananya Panday says she is really excited.

Suhana, daughter of superstar Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, is set to make foray into the film industry with Zoya Akhtar directed Netflix movie *The Archies*, while Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor's daughter Shanaya is being launched by filmmaker Karan Johar in his upcoming production *Bedhadak*.

Ananya, daughter of actor Chunky Panday and Bhavana Panday, started

her career with 2019 film *Student of the Year 2*.

"We are like sisters. The three of us are similar but we all have something very unique in each of us. All our lives we have discussed wanting to be actors. We had this collective dream. We would play all the acting games. I started working first, so I share my experiences," says Ananya.

Out of the three, Ananya said she is the drama queen, Suhana is the most affectionate one and Shanaya is extremely hard working. Ananya will next be seen in Dharma Productions' *Liger*, starring Vijay Deverakonda. PH

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

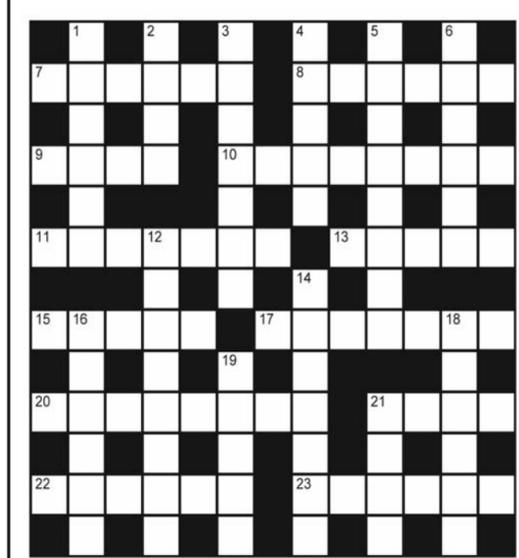


BREVITY



FUN post

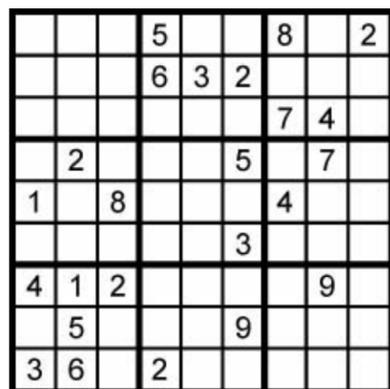
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Whacked
 - 8 Housetop labourer
 - 9 Iridescent gem
 - 10 Summer quencher
 - 11 Ice cream flavour
 - 13 Pool action
 - 15 Apia locale
 - 17 Sun hats for ladies
 - 20 Volcanic glass
 - 21 *La Dolce Vita* setting
 - 22 A place to view relics
 - 23 Leon Uris title
 - Down**
 - 1 Perfect world
 - 2 Face-off, of sorts
 - 3 Island strings
 - 4 Leftover
 - 5 Everest, e.g.
 - 6 Interfere
 - 12 Puts on a pedestal
 - 14 Sporting dog
 - 16 Framework for plants
 - 18 Adipose tissue
 - 19 Motion pictures
 - 21 Tooth part

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

CROSSWORD

DART ICECREAM
I O S A R M I
S N O R K E L A S P E N
C T A L N L T
R E S E T O C E L O T
E E W Y P
E X P O R T E R A S E R
T L J E R O
G A U C H E M O P U P
L Y O R A O H
I N F E R S U R N A M E
M U N E K C C
B U L L S E Y E W H E Y

SUDOKU

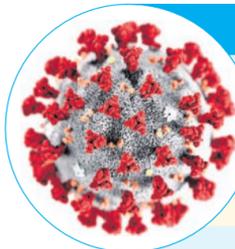
3	2	5	8	7	9	4	1	6
8	1	7	6	3	4	5	2	9
6	9	4	5	2	1	7	3	8
9	6	2	7	1	8	3	4	5
1	4	8	2	5	3	6	9	7
7	5	3	4	9	6	2	8	1
5	8	6	1	4	2	9	7	3
2	3	1	9	6	7	8	5	4
4	7	9	3	8	5	1	6	2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DISASTER MGMT MEET

MoS for Home Tusharkanti Behera, Development Commissioner PK Jena and DGP (Fire) SK Upadhyay unveil a booklet during the Senior Fire Service Officers' Conference-2022 at OFDRA in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	59,15,75,794	56,35,57,610	64,42,807
India	4,41,90,697	4,35,35,610	5,26,826
Odisha	13,20,014	13,06,249	9,151

PROMOTING HANDLOOM



Models during a fashion show organised by Directorate of Textiles and Boyanika at Ekamra Haat in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

₹6,367cr worth plan for state's transport infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Transport department has come up with a five-year (2022-23 to 2026-27) plan for the development of state's road, rail and civil aviation infrastructure with an investment of Rs 6,367.34 crore, an official said Wednesday.

While Rs 1,232 crore will be spent on the development of the road transport sector; Rs 4,205.34 crore will be allocated for the railways sector. The state government has planned to spend Rs 930 crore to develop infrastructure in the aviation sector; the official pointed out.

The Transport department has planned to construct 20 truck terminals with a cost of Rs 100 crore. "While 10 truck terminals will be built during 2022-23, as many terminals will be constructed during 2024-25," said the official.

In a bid to act tough on traffic rule violators as well as to curb road mishaps, the Transport department will use an ultramodern camera surveillance system for which it would spend Rs 50 crore. Similarly, Rs 350 crore will be spent on the development of 4,000 km of National Highways passing through the state which often witness mishaps.

To ensure transparency during driving test, the state government would construct 10 more modern testing tracks with an allocation of Rs 12 crore during 2022-23, added the official.

Two Automated Testing Centres (ATCs) will be built during 2022-23,



while three more ATCs will come up during 2023-24. Another ATC will be built during 2024-25. The state government would spend Rs 5 crore towards construction of each ATC, it was learnt.

The official pointed out that under the new Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, the state will provide a total subsidy of Rs 200 crore on purchase of EVs during 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (Rs 50 crore each year).

The state government has proposed to build block-level bus stands with modern amenities. Out of 314 blocks, construction of 242 block level bus stands would be taken up between 2022-23 and 2026-27 with an expenditure of Rs 824 crore.

In the aviation sector, the Transport department has planned to allocate Rs 232 crore for the development of Jeypore airport in Koraput under UDAN scheme. Similarly, Rs 112 crore will be spent

on acquisition of 204 acre of additional private land during 2022-23, it was learnt.

During 2023-24, Rs 120 crore will be spent on further expansion of the runway up to 1800 metres and other developments towards the northern side. Rs 300 crore would be spent towards the construction of a new greenfield airport at Puri, it was learnt.

In the railways sector, the state has proposed an allocation of Rs 433.20 crore for Barbil-Banspani new rail link, Rs 700 crore for Bargarh-Nuapada railway line, Rs 1,600 crore for Gunupur-Therubali new rail line and Rs 1,472.14 crore for the Paradeep-Dhamara rail link project, the official further said.

The programme will be funded through different schemes of state and central governments. Besides, funds under special assistance to the state for capital investment were sought for the purpose, the sources said.

Rain pounds state; another Lopar likely

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Torrential rain battered several districts of Odisha, leading to collapse of some bridges over swollen rivers and disrupting road connectivity, officials said Wednesday.

A depression, which lay above Odisha a day ago, weakened into a well-marked low pressure area (Lopar) over Chhattisgarh and east Madhya Pradesh at 5.30 am, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

It is likely to move west-north-westwards and gradually weaken further during the next 24 hours, according to a bulletin.

Heavy showers pounded Sambalpur over a 24-period till 8.30 am, with Jamankira recording 147 mm of rain and the district headquarters receiving 126 mm.

Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena said rain mainly occurred in southern and western Odisha. Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda recorded 136 mm of rain, Bijepur in Bargarh 115 mm. Traffic was disrupted on one side of the National Highway 53 in Sambalpur due to a landslide.

Rain also lashed Cuttack, Kalahandi, Deogarh and Nabarangpur districts also, the weather office said. Water levels in the Bansadhara and Nagavali rivers are rising, but it is under control, Jena said.

"Malkangiri was experiencing floods for the past three days and the situation has improved now," Jena said. In Nuapada, a bridge between Sarabanga and Amanara over the swollen Jonk river caved in, while

Landslide on NH-53 in Sambalpur disrupts traffic



Sambalpur: Traffic movement on the National Highway (NH) 53 was affected Wednesday due to a landslide in Sambalpur district, an official said. Boulders and debris blocked one

part of the four-lane highway at Laxmi Dugri area due to the landslide following incessant rain. Vehicles were allowed to ply only on the opposite side of the affected highway, causing disruption for the

smooth movement of traffic. Traffic was affected several times at that place earlier also due to landslides.

District Collector Ananya Das said the clearance of the highway was underway now. "A long-term solution is required. We've discussed this with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)," she told reporters.

The NHAI has a proposal for a tunnel at that place and the plan has already been submitted to the headquarters, Das said, adding, "We'll also expedite the process from our side."

"Travelling on the NH-53 at this particular place is a risky affair during rain. Landslides are occurring there frequently," a commuter said.

Traffic was affected several times earlier also due to landslides at that place of the busy highway, which connects Kolkata and Mumbai.

a portion of a bridge over a canal in Balasore has also collapsed. Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu said many rivers, such as the Mahanadi, were flowing below the danger level, adding that they were keeping a close watch. Another Lopar may form over the northern Bay of Bengal around Saturday. The system can become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours and move west-north westwards, the Meteorological Centre said. The Met issued an orange warn-

- The Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre warned of heavy rain in Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore Thursday
- Heavy to very heavy rain is predicted in many districts for the subsequent three days

ing of very heavy rain in Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur; Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar till Thursday morning. It warned of heavy rain in Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore Thursday.

Heavy to very heavy rain is predicted in many districts for the subsequent three days.

Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture off the coast till Thursday as squally weather with wind speed of 45-55 kmph is expected over the northwest and central Bay of Bengal.

2.2 kg gold biscuits, ₹1.22cr cash seized in Berhampur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The Excise officials have seized gold biscuits weighing around 2.2 kg and Rs 1.22 crore in cash during a search operation for smuggling of ganja in Berhampur town of Ganjam, a police official said Wednesday.

During a routine search operation Tuesday evening, the Excise officials found Rs 1.22 crore cash from Dasrath Soukal at Lanjipalli under Baidyanathpur police.

They immediately seized the cash and reported it to the local police station, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M.

As the Dasrath was unable to give satisfactory answer about the huge amount of cash, the police conducted further investigation. Later, police recovered 20 gold biscuits weighing 2.2 kg from Anand



Jewellers, the Berhampur said.

The SP said two persons—Dasrath of Maharashtra who was found with the cash and the jewellery shop owner Anand Subudhi—have been detained in connection with this case.

"We have informed the Income Tax department about the seizure. We will hand over the cash and the detained persons to them for further investigation," he added.

According to sources, Dasrath was returning to Maharashtra after selling gold biscuits to the gold trader in Berhampur.

CM not to celebrate Raksha Bandhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Keeping in view the spread of Covid-19, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has decided not to celebrate 'Raksha Bandhan' and urged people to remain alert during the festival, a CMO official said Wednesday.

Patnaik has urged the party leaders, workers and other well wishers not to visit his residence on the occasion Thursday as he has decided not to take part in 'Raksha Bandhan' this time, the official said.

He, however, wished the people of the state for 'Raksha Bandhan' and advised them to celebrate the festival with adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour.

Patnaik has not been celebrating major festivals for the last couple of years due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation, it was learnt.

Unfortunate that only a few are aware of constitutional rights: CJI Ramana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Chief Justice of India NV Ramana Wednesday said it is unfortunate that even after 75 years of independence only a few are aware of the constitutional provisions and emphasised that the public must know their constitutional rights and duties.

CJI Ramana, who was speaking as the chief guest at an event by Eastern Book Company to celebrate the release of 'Supreme Court Cases (SCC) pre-1969', stated that the ultimate consumer of justice is the public and thus called for "simple" judgement writing by the judges as well as publication of important judgements of the Supreme Court and high courts in regional languages by law journals.

He said even a "small school kid" in the western countries is aware of his constitution and the laws and asserted "we need that kind of culture".

"The lawyers and the public must know the constitutional provisions and the Constitution. It is unfortunate that we are now celebrating 75 years of independence but still only a few selected people in the urban areas or the legal professional are aware of the constitutional rights and duties and the constitutional principles," CJI Ramana said.

"They (people) must know what the Constitution says and how they are



entitled (under the laws). What are their rights, how to implement their rights, how to know their duties. It is necessary for us, especially (law journals) to try and introduce at least selected judgements of importance - crux and not the entire judgement - in regional languages to enable access in a simple language," he added.

Acknowledging that translation of judgements in regional languages in a simple manner would entail a financial burden, CJI Ramana added, "I hope some governments can also give some money because they are now starting several projects for popularising the Constitution and the constitutional schemes. We can think of this issue also."

He further said being a judge for 22 years, he was aware of the criticism that

judgements are at times "like a thesis" and requested all members of his fraternity to be simple.

"I request all the fraternity members as well as lawyers who are contributing by arguing to try to be simple in judgement (and write) concise, precise and short sentences. People must feel like they are reading a story," he said.

"Ultimately, at the end of the day, the consumers of justice are the litigant, public or whoever it is, they must know the end result. That is more interesting than our own imaginations and philosophies. That way I think we can help the public a lot. The reasoning and the conclusion needs to be clear. I hope and trust this will happen," he said.

GOVT EFFECTS RESHUFFLE AMONG OAS OFFICERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: The state government Wednesday effected a minor reshuffle among senior Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers.

According to a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances (GA&PG) department, senior OAS officer Kailash Chandra Nayak has been appointed as Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Puri. Nayak is allowed to remain in charge of land acquisition officer; R&R Package for development of the security zone around the Srimandir in Puri.

Panposh sub-collector Daulat Chandrakar has been transferred and posted as PD, DRDA of Mayurbhanj, while Dillip Kumar Mohapatra, at present continuing as the ADM of Puri, has now been re-designated as ADM (Protocol) of Puri with immediate effect.

Similarly, Bargarh sub-collector Suwendra Kumar Samal has been posted as administrative officer of TE & SCERT, Odisha.

Sundargarh sub-collector Abhimanyu Behera has been transferred and posted as the PD, DRDA of Kalahandi and additional PD (Admin), DRDA of Sambalpur Tanmaya Kumar Darwan has been appointed as the new PD, DRDA of Dhenkanal.

Adani to invest ₹41K cr in state

Continued from P1

In addition, the panel gave nod to set up 2.5 MTPA steel plant and 370 MW CPP in Kalinga Nagar by Orissa Alloy Steel Pvt Ltd against an investment of Rs 8,000 crore that will provide jobs for 5,000 people.

Sompuri Infrastructures Pvt Ltd got the approval of the government to set up a 24 MTPA pellet plant and 6 MTPA filter cake plant at Dhamra in Bhadrak district. The company will invest Rs 7,811 crore and will generate employment opportunities for over 684 people.

The same company will also set up a 30 MTPA Beneficiation plant at Deojarh, in Keonjhar district and a 30 MTPA Slurry Pipeline connecting its proposed 30 MTPA Beneficiation plant at Deojarh, in Keonjhar district to the proposed pellet plant at Dhamra, in Bhadrak district against investments of Rs 4,592.18 crore and Rs 3,674 crore which will create employment opportunities for 250 and 600 persons respectively.

Approval was also given to Aarti Steels Limited for expansion of a steel plant at Athgarh, in Cuttack district at an investment of Rs 3,000 crore, which will generate employment for over 3,587 people. This project will facilitate availability of raw materials to auto component manufacturers.

Moreover, the committee approved the proposal of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited for setting up a 6 MTPA Beneficiation Plant and 12 MTPA slurry pipeline in Keonjhar district against an investment of Rs 1,490 crore generating employment opportunities for 600 persons.

Rungta Metals Private Limited (RMPL) got the approval for setting up of 0.5 MTPA integrated steel plant creating employment potential for 1125 persons against an investment of Rs 1400 crore in Rairangpur in the district of Mayurbhanj.

State govt to start deworming drive for children August 12



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: To combat the threat of intestinal worms among children, state Health and Family Welfare department will conduct state-wide deworming of children August 12. A Deworming mop-up round will be held August 19 for those children missing their dose August 12.

Addressing a press conference in Bhubaneswar Wednesday, officials from the Directorate of Family Welfare and UNICEF spoke on the importance of deworming and the necessity of awareness among parents and caregivers to ensure their children are free of worms.

The Directorate of Family Welfare shall implement National Deworming day (NDD) along with Vitamin A supplementation programme for all children in the month of August.

The prime objective of NDD is to deworm all children between the age group 1-19 years twice a year through the platform of schools and anganwadi centres in order

The prime objective of NDD is to Deworm all children through the platform of schools and anganwadi centres in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life

to improve their overall health and nutritional status, and access to education and quality of life. The NDD is conducted twice a year that is once in the month of February and in August.

Addressing the media, Bijay Kumar Panigrahy, Director Family Welfare said, "This year the National Deworming day will be held August 12. The prime objective of the initiative is to deworm every child. Children aged between 1 to 19 years will be administered deworming tablets - Albendazole through

schools and anganwadi centers. Through this initiative we can prevent diseases like anemia and malnutrition which will help children to stay healthy and enhance their attendance in school which will lead to a healthy society in future."

"Presently there are 1,68,31,679 beneficiaries of the NDD across the state, which will take place in 55,500 schools and 72,000 anganwadi centers with the help of 69,000 teachers, 7800 ANM, 72,000 anganwadi workers and 48,000 ASHA. The tablets and syrup Albendazole has no side effects and are absolutely safe for children. Ensure the doses are administered under the supervision of teachers or Anganwadi workers", he further added.

All schools including government and private and anganwadi centres will be the implementation sites of the NDD in all 30 districts.

Under the Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) programme, the children aged 9 months to 60 months will be administered with age appropriate dose of vitamin A solution at Routine Immunization sites and Special VHSNDs during August. The beneficiaries of Vitamin A Supplementation in the state are 35,19,554 for 9-60 month olds.

As per information, the state government is all set with adequate stock of drugs for both NDD and VAS programme in all 30 districts. The drugs include Albendazole suspension for 1-5 years children, Albendazole tablet for 6-19 years of children and Vitamin A paediatric solution.

AIIMS Bhub launches facilities to treat addiction, psychiatric patients



PNN & PRESS TRUST OF INIDA

Bhubaneswar, August 10: AIIMS Bhubaneswar has started its own opioid substitution therapy (OST) centre and an acute care unit to strengthen treatment for addiction and severely ill psychiatric patients respectively.

The OST centre aims to cater to 150-200 patients on a day-to-day basis. It will be a major boon to reach out to this neglected population in Odisha, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said in a release Wednesday.

AIIMS executive director Ashutosh Biswas inaugurated the facilities in the psychiatry department, which has also initiated clinical services for children who are referred from the State Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SIEP).

Opening the facilities for the people of Odisha as well as from neighbouring states, Biswas said that these services will be immensely helpful for different group of psychiatric patients including

patients with addiction and children with disabilities.

Urmila Mishra project director of Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) and the Medical Superintendent of AIIMS Bhubaneswar SN Mohanty were also among the dignitaries on the occasion.

"India is currently home to more than 8 lakh Injecting Drug Users (IDU) and it is well known that for various reasons, many IDUs are unable to lead a drug-free life and hence remain at risk of suffering from life threatening diseases such as HIV", said Biswa Ranjan Mishra, head, department of psychiatry.

"OST, along with a comprehensive package of psychosocial interventions, helps clients lead drug-free life. The client also stops injecting drugs which eventually prevents the potential harm of contracting HIV, Hepatitis, and other diseases transmitted through injecting routes", informed Arpit Parmar, nodal officer of OST Centre and assistant professor, department of psychiatry.

Dengue situation in twin cities reviewed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: At the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the dengue situation in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar municipality areas was reviewed Wednesday under the chairmanship of state government's Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, in the presence of MD, National Health Mission, commissioners BMC and CMC, director Public Health, and officials from departments of Health and Family Welfare and Housing and Urban Development.

In the meeting, several topics were discussed, such as the role of different stakeholders and the steps the agencies have taken for pre-



vention of dengue. There has been a 3.5-fold increase in testing over the previous year; however the number of cases detected remains same to that of the last year. Thus, reducing the test positivity rate to 7.4 per cent from that of 25 per cent last year, the official said.

There is adequate availability of platelets, drugs and testing kits to manage the present dengue case load. It was discussed that people should be sensitized to observe 'dry day' every week by emptying stagnant water sources in and around the house like coolers, dustbins, flower pots, tyres, tins and bottles, where there is a chance of water accumulation.

Varun slams Centre over forced sale of Tricolour

Continued from P1

Soon after the video went viral, the depot owner's licence was suspended. Deputy Commissioner Anish Yadav said action has been taken against the owner for misleading the people. He also appealed to the people to inform the administration if there are similar instances. He said the national flags are being sold at the ration depots for the convenience of the people.

Varun's latest remark is the latest in a series of attacks he has launched on the government led by his party.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Rayagada, I Ali Haider, S/o. Wakil Ahmed, Resident of At-Khaliguda, Po-Kothapeta, Ps-Chandili, Dist-Rayagada-765001, Odisha state that I have changed my name from Alli Haider to Ali Haider henceforth I will be known as Ali Haider instead Alli Haider of for all purpose. Sd./- Ali Haider

I, Satrugna Behera, S/o-Late Sankar Behera of Vill-Podana, P.O.-Kapasi, PS-Niali, Tahasil-Niali, Dist-Cuttack, State-Odisha, Pin-754004 is hereby declare that record of my daughter's name - Pujarani Behera in my service book, date of birth is 03.12.1999 which will be shown in her Educational Certificate, Aadhaar Card and an Affidavit is issued by the Executive Magistrate, Niali, Ser No.1400, dated - 08.08.2022, she was borned after my retirement i.e. 31.03.1999.

CULTURAL SHOW



A cultural programme was organised at the Sidhabakula Matha on the occasion of Jhulana Ushaba in Puri, Wednesday

Aakash BYJU'S launches Education for All drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 10: Aakash BYJU'S, is organizing a major drive towards inclusivity and empowerment of girl students in the arena of private coaching for higher education through Education for All, a nationwide project to offer free NEET and JEE coaching and scholarships to nearly 2,000 Class VII-XII students from underprivileged families, especially girls.

The launch took place Wednesday across India simultaneously at 45 locations including Bhubaneswar.

The Bhubaneswar event was graced by Samir Ranjan Dash, the state's School & Mass Education Minister, Ajay Bahadur Singh, Regional Director, East, Aakash BYJU'S, Bikash Das, Regional Sales and Growth Head Odisha and Surya Bhanu Singh, Academic Director, Odisha among other company officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Dash said that this initiative will help students who cannot afford private coaching that can hugely further their chances of cracking the entrance exams, especially underprivileged communities and girls in general. He pointed out that there will be no compromise on the quality of coaching offered to



the beneficiary students. Commenting on Education for All initiative, Singh said, "Being in the industry for so long, we see that the aspirations for medical and engineering education are only growing in our country. Our young minds are in awe of these two fields and the opportunities they afford for self-development and social contributions."

As per the project, all identified students will appear for Aakash BYJU'S National Talent Hunt Exam -2022 (ANTHE 2022), the institutes flagship scholarship exam, scheduled to be held between November 5-13, across the country both in online and offline mode.

The top 2,000 students would be given free coaching to Aakash BYJU'S most sought after NEET and IIT-JEE coaching programs, based on special considerations.

New Langya virus in China can impair liver and kidney

China has detected a new zoonotic virus named Langya henipavirus, with potential to cause acute liver and kidney infection. About 35 people have reportedly been affected, according to an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) by scientists from China and Singapore. The study showed that the new Langya henipavirus (LayV) was identified in a throat swab sample of febrile patients with a recent history of animal exposure in eastern China. Subsequent investigation identified 35 patients with acute LayV infection in the Shandong and Henan provinces of China, among whom 26 were infected with LayV only (no other pathogens were present).



Henipavirus is one of the important emerging causes of zoonosis in the Asia-Pacific region, Shanghai-based media thepaper.cn reported, noting that both Hendra virus (HeV) and Nipah virus (NiV) from this genus are known to infect humans with fruit bats as the natural hosts of both viruses. Henipavirus can cause severe disease in animals and humans and are classified as biosafety Level 4 viruses with case fatality rates between 40-75 percent, according to the data from World Health Organization (WHO), highlighting that this is much higher than the fatality rate of the coronavirus.

There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Henipavirus and the only treatment is supportive care to manage complications. The cases of Langya henipavirus so far have not been fatal or very serious, so there is no need for panic, Wang Linfa, a Professor in the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School was quoted as saying to

Global Times. However, it is still a cause for alarm as many viruses that exist in nature have unpredictable results when they infect humans, Wang said. No significant spatial or temporal clustering of Langya henipavirus has been found till now, meaning that human-to-human transmission of the virus has not been proven, although previous reports suggest that the virus can be transmitted from person to person. "Coronavirus will not be the last infectious disease to cause a pandemic worldwide, as new infectious diseases will have an increasingly greater impact on human daily life," Wang Xinyu, Deputy Chief Physician at the department of Infectious Diseases of Huashan Hospital Affiliated to Fudan University, was quoted as saying.

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SHORT TAKES

Youth gets 12-year RI for raping minor

Berhampur: A Special POC SO court sentenced a man to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of raping a minor, Wednesday. The convict was identified as Shiba Shankar Sabat, 30, alias Mitu. The judge also slapped a penalty of ₹20,000. In default, the convict has to undergo additional six months of imprisonment. The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to provide ₹6 lakh to the survivor for her rehabilitation. The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 17 witnesses. Special PP Narayan Panda pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government. According to the case diary, the convict Sabat is a married man. The incident occurred April 5, 2017 when he sent his wife back to the village. Later, he took the minor who was living in front of his house on his vehicle to Taptapani ghat in the district. There he stopped at an isolated place and repeatedly raped the girl. The matter came to the fore after the girl returned home and narrated her ordeal before her mother. The survivor's mother lodged a complaint at the Digapahandi police station following which police registered a case and arrested Sabat.

Couple electrocuted in Keonjhar dist

Joda: A couple got electrocuted and their five-year-old baby had a close shave after they came in contact with an iron door charged with electric current at Jamukundia village under this police limits in Keonjhar district, Wednesday morning. The deceased were identified as Manduru Munda and his wife Raimani Munda in the village. The house of Manduru had the iron door which was conducting current after coming in contact with a live wire. The incident occurred when Manduru tried to open the door and come out of the house early morning. He screamed after he received a shock when he tried to open the door. His wife tried to save him but was eventually electrocuted herself. However, their five year old baby sleeping inside had a close shave. On being informed, Joda police reached the spot and started an investigation into it.

30 Bengal tourists injured as bus overturns in Balasore



AGENCIES

Balasore, August 10: At least 30 people were injured, seven of them seriously when a tourist bus from West Bengal on its way to Puri skidded off the road and turned turtle on NH-16 near Talanagar at Soro in Balasore district Wednesday, police said. The bus had about 60 tourists on board and was on its way to Puri from North 24 Praganas district in West Bengal when the accident occurred in the wee hours, the police said.

This was the second bus mishap involving tourists from Bengal in Odisha in less than three months

The injured were admitted to Soro government hospital and the critically injured among them were shifted to Balasore district headquarters hospital where their condition was stated to be out of danger; the police said. Fire brigade and five ambulances were pressed into service to rescue the injured at the accident site. This was the second bus mishap involving tourists from Bengal in Odisha in less than three months. In May a bus from Howrah district had overturned at Kalinga Ghat on way to Vizag killing six persons.



Kids participated in a retro fashion show organised by 'Face of Sundargarh' in the town, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

RAIN LASHES STATE'S SOUTH, NORTH AND WEST

Connectivity to Ch'garh, AP cut off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, August 10: Amid heavy rains, several parts of Motu Padia and other areas in Malkangiri district are reeling under floods. Communication has been disrupted from Malkangiri to Chhattisgarh and from Motu to Andhra Pradesh for three days. Floodwater as deep as four feet is flowing over Kulaguru bridge leading to scores of vehicles being stranded on both sides of the bridge.

As water level is rising in Godavari, water in Sileru and Sabari rivers fails to drain out. The reverse water from Polavaram project has allegedly created flood situation in certain pocket.



ROAD SUBMERGED UNDER FLOODWATER IN MALKANGIRI



BRIDGES COLLAPSED IN BALASORE (LEFT) AND NUAPADA (RIGHT)

Bridge across Jonk river collapses Nuapada/Balasore: While heavy rain has been lashing most parts of the state for the last five days, triggered by the depression in Bay of Bengal,

a bridge over Jonk river in Nuapada district collapsed. It has disrupted vehicular communication between Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Besides, communication to over 50 villages in

the district remained cut off. Meanwhile, two gates of the Jonk irrigation dam were opened. Rainwater as deep as three feet is flowing over Jonk bridge at Sarabang. After the collapse of the bridge, communication to over 35 villages of Amanara, Kendubahara and Motanuapada panchayats has remained cut off from the rest of the world. Locals alleged that the bridge caved in due to sub-standard construction work. In yet another case, a portion of a bridge across Coast canal near Kalamatia Pahi under Remuna block in Balasore district caved in owing to the torrential rains. The bridge provides connectivity to Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. Officials have visited the spot.

Locals alleged that contractor had botched up its construction. Communication to different areas has been badly affected. **House caves in; one dies Koraput:** Following heavy rains, a house at Phulababa village under Dasamantapur block in Koraput district caved in killing an elderly person. The deceased was identified as Chandra Muduli (60). He was asleep when the house collapsed. Later, his body was recovered. Sarpanch Hiramani Gadaba reached the village and demanded compensation for the bereaved family. Owing to heavy rain, as many as 134 houses were damaged in the district, according to sources in the district emergency department.

Work on crucial outer ring road in Sambalpur to start next year

The length of the proposed outer ring road which will be constructed under the Bharatmala project of the Union government is 37.82 km

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, August 10: Work on the much-awaited outer ring road, which will help resolve the traffic problem of Sambalpur city, is expected to commence in March next year, an official said. Heavy vehicles coming from the NH-53, Cuttack-Sambalpur NH-55 and the Biju Expressway will not have to enter Sambalpur city after the outer ring road is constructed. Implementation of the project will also pave way for the expansion of the city. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which will execute the work, has started the preliminary process for the land acquisition, project director K Nageswara Rao said.

A total of 290 hectares, including 170 hectares of private land, will be required for the implementation of the project, Rao said. "We have planned a joint survey in September and floating of a tender for the construction in October," he said, adding that the work on the project would start in March and a detailed draft project report had been prepared. The length of the proposed outer ring road, which will be constructed under the Bharatmala programme of the Union government, is 37.82 km. It will originate from National Highway 53 at Goshala in Dhankauda area and connect the Sambalpur-Rourkela Biju Expressway at Ranikhinda in Sasan on the outskirts of the city.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. 08-SBP-TRD-OT-2022-23, Dt.03.08.2022
Name of Work: MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR B, C & D CHECKS FOR 15 NOS. CUMMINS ENGINE OF 9 NOS. TOWER CAR / WAGON OF BOINDA, SAMBALPUR CITY, BALANGIR, MUNIGUDA, MAHASAMUND, BARGARH ROAD, TITLAGARH, KANTABANJI, RUPRA ROAD ONE DEPOTS AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 4 WHEELER TOWER CAR / WAGON OF BARGARH ROAD DEPOT IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS.
Approximate Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 60,12,201.71, EMD (₹) : 1,20,300/-
Completion Period of the work : 24 Months.
Date and time of closing of tender : At 1530 hrs of 25.08.2022.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.
Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/ PR-369/N/22-2 Sambalpur

2 held for torturing inmate at de-addiction centre
Baripada: Police arrested two persons on charges of torturing a differently-abled inmate at a de-addiction centre in Baripada. Shockingly, the inmate was made to lick the feet of two people. The inmate had to suffer such inhuman treatment in July 2021 and a video of the incident was made viral, according to police sources. In the video, the owner was seen whipping the inmate with a plastic rope and forcing him to lick his feet. The two accused were identified as owner of the de-addiction centre Abani Pati (42) and his aide Pitabas Roula (40). A complaint was lodged by Arun Kumar Behera, the president of Dibyang Sangh in this regard. Police registered a case and started an investigation into the matter. SDPO KK Hariprasad said that the licence of the de-addiction centre will be scrapped and the Collector will be intimated about it. It may be noted here that the licence of the de-addiction centre had been cancelled in 2017.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to the Public at large and all Concerned that we, **FASTBUILD BLOCKS PRIVATE LIMITED** a Company incorporated under the Provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and deemed existing under the Provisions of Companies Act, 2013, CIN: U26931WB2012PTC189086, and having our Registered Office at 33A, Jawaharal Nehru Road, Flat No A-10, 14th floor, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700071 ("Owners"), are the Owners of the Property more Particularly Described in the First Schedule here Under Written ("Property").
We, the Owners have Inadvertently Misplaced the Original Title Documents in respect of the Property, as more particularly described in the second Schedule hereunder written ("Original Title Documents") and the same are not traceable.
All or any Persons having any Share, right, title, interest, claim, and or demand in respect of the Property or any part thereof in any manner what so ever or otherwise how so ever, to or upon the Property by virtue of having custody or possession of the Original Title Documents for whatsoever reason are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to our Registered Office Address i.e. 33A, Jawaharal Nehru Road, Flat No A-10, 14th Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal 700 071, within a Period of 7 (Seven) Days from the date of the Publication of this Notice, failing which, the claim, demand or objection, if any, of such Persons shall be considered to have been waived and or abandoned.
Further, if any Persons have found the Original Title Documents, they are requested to make the same known to the Owners at the Address mentioned herein above.
THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO (Description of the Property)
All those pieces and parcels of freehold non-agricultural pieces and parcels of land comprised in : (i) Plot No 1688 admeasuring 0.44 acres and (ii) Plot No.- 1687 admeasuring 0.08 acres situated at Revenue Village-Harianta, Tangi-Choudwar Tehsil in the District of Cuttack, Thana No 63, Tehsil No 138, Odisha.
SECOND SCHEDULE (Description of the Original Title Documents)
1. Registered Sale Deed bearing number 511 dated 18th March 2009 executed by Gula Bhoi in favour of Gouri Priya Sahoo, in respect of Plot No.-1687.
2. Registered Sale Deed bearing number 1326 dated 23rd July 2008 executed jointly by Purna chandra Kandi and Mata Kandi in favour of Gouri Priya Sahoo, in respect of Plot No.- 1688.
Date 10.08.2022 Sd/- For Fastbuild Blocks Private Limited

Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264
Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On June 30, 2022
Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs.in Thousands)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended
		June 30, 2022	March 31, 2021	June 30, 2021	March 31, 2022
		Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items	(2,523)	(749)	(1,024)	(3,645)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2,523)	(749)	(1,024)	(3,645)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(2,523)	(590)	(1,024)	(3,832)
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	(2,523)	(590)	(1,024)	(3,832)
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	"Earnings per share (of Rs 10/- each) Basic & Diluted (Rs.)"	(0.64)	(0.15)	(0.26)	(0.97)

Notes : a) The above unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2022 have been revised and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on August 10, 2022. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2022 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2022, are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com and on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com.
By order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./- Amarendra Dash
(Managing Director, DIN-00583036)
Date: 10th August 2022
Place: Bhubaneswar

What does it take to be friends with the Indian antelope?



Just like the Bishnois of western Rajasthan and the Vala Rajputs of Saurashtra, the people of Ganjam have been enthusiastically protecting this animal. When the whole community works to protect them, it runs on auto-pilot mode with no major government involvement required

DILIP KUMAR ROUT | DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, GHUMSURA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ganjam, August 10: "We heard of a time when the village was hit by a drought for three years. People hardly had any food. And as they starved, wild animals migrated from the forest to the village. Among them were the blackbuck, which had arrived in Bhetanai for the first time," narrates Suresh Maharana, an elderly resident of the village. The very next year, Maharana adds, it rained in Bhetanai, and everything returned to normal. "Since then, people have believed that these animals are lucky for the village. So we never stop blackbuck from eating our crops," he says, describing the close bond their ancestors share with the blackbucks. In Bhetanai, around 50 km from Berhampur, blackbucks - the herbivores that need

large grazing land - get a free pass to roam on the farmlands of the villagers and despite the crop loss, villagers believe that the Indian antelopes are the reason for their wealth and happiness. **The local conservation story** Over the last decade, locals in Ganjam have been involved in this conservation. There has been an increase in the number of blackbuck in the district. Nearly 90 per cent of Bhetanai's residents say they have lost crops to blackbuck, but they hardly have any complaints. The reason being, new employment opportunities - something they desperately needed as agriculture couldn't be relied upon as a primary livelihood means. As informed by Pratyush Mahapatra, a scientist at Zoological Survey of India, a 2010 report by the department on blackbuck stated that around 25

per cent of the fields in Bhetanai were barren. The villagers here have set an example for public participation in wildlife protection, with every villager acting as a guardian. It is because of these community efforts that Bhetanai is moving past the agri-sector and looking at tourism as a dependable alternate livelihood. 52-year-old Kailash Chandra Maharana says villagers spend time rescuing and rearing the blackbucks despite adversities. A Vana Surakhya Samiti was also set up to protect the species with the help of the forest department. Usha Rani, an Anganwadi worker in Sadhi Nayapally village, says their centres play a crucial role in blackbuck conservation in Ganjam. "In our village, around seven SHGs dedicate themselves to the conservation of blackbuck," she said.

FOCUS ECONOMIC POLICY

CHANGE APPROACH



The high government expenditure has not spurred job creation, domestic consumption and capacity expansion of private sector for a decade. Instead, it has led to severe 7 per cent plus consumer inflation and almost 15.9 per cent wholesale inflation, too much burden on a government that is extending free food to 80 crore poor

Private Equity-Venture Capital (PE-VC) investments, contracting since 2012, declined 25 per cent during April-June 2022, at \$11.3 billion across 315 deals; 2021 had \$15.2 billion invested in 264 deals. The RBI, in May 2019, observed that 2017-18 was the seventh consecutive year of annual contraction in private sector capex. It was ₹1,65,000 crore in 2016-17. The RBI found it declining from ₹94,227 crore in 2020-21 to ₹68,649 crore in 2021-22.

The government has taken the load off the private sector for spurring economic revival. The Union Budget 2022-23 has increased the capex target to ₹7.5 lakh crore, a 35.4 per cent jump from the budget estimate of ₹5.5 lakh crore in 2021-22. The revised estimate for capex in 2021-22 came in at ₹6.03 lakh crore. Capex accounts for 19.02 per cent of the government's

total expenditure at ₹39.45 lakh crore for 2022-23.

The high government expenditure has not spurred job creation, domestic consumption and capacity expansion of private sector for a decade. Instead, it has led to severe 7 per cent plus consumer inflation and almost 15.9 per cent wholesale inflation, too much burden on a government that is extending free food to 80 crore poor. It has added a mere 7.2 lakh government jobs and the private sector, except IT, none.

The private sector though has large profits, benefitting from ₹10.83 trillion lakh crore loan write-offs till 2018 and ₹8.35 trillion after that, as per a Lok Sabha answer, causes high NPAs. Some individual houses alone have over ₹2 trillion NPAs. This has impacted the rupee slide below ₹80 to a dollar causing severe balance

of trade issues.

This calls for looking at small businesses and SMEs for real economic growth. The SMEs need to grow independently and not as lackey of large business. A few years back the country's tiny sector was thriving on cash, but now is piqued by many curbs. Let people earn and spend transparently. It would lead to more inflow of money, more investments, spur other sectors and if they want to buy gold let them do it. Let citizens thrive and help the nation grow.

Cash circulation in six years has doubled to ₹32.2 crore. But the small businesses are too much under constraints. Let these be removed, let them deposit in banks any amount they want without a demur. Explanations can be given at their annual return. Remember, cash has been the strength of this society.

Easy rules would revive the trades shut during COVID. This would help the government in many ways. It is not only the working classes who have been dependent on the enormous food dole but small traders as well. The small traders also are feeling the pinch with stringent GST rules and penalties that surpass the actual taxes due. Nobody listens to the reasons why they delayed tax payments. The 28 per cent rise in GST collection to ₹1.49 trillion in July may have many sordid stories. The government has to make the rule humane and reduce taxes on food and essential items. It would stop entrepreneurs' flight to become traders and spur growth. The government may earn a few crore less but would add to the people's happiness. In a year's time, politically crucial for the government, it would bring in a sea change in the economic pattern of overall development, growth and happiness.

A government concerned of rising prices may have many easy solutions if it changes its approach to the commoners in different spheres. Like small touches through a painter's brush, the economy would change enormously.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

INDIA'S INFLATION MAY NOT BE JUST BECAUSE OF THE RISING PRICES. HIGH NATIONAL DEBT, LOAN WRITE-OFFS AND TAX BURDENS MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO IT

The government must come out of the perils of cycle of debts to ensure growth amid high multiple taxes and little corporate investment. The large business houses get the sweet pill of ₹19.18 trillion loan write-off bananza since 2013, even as the nation gets into a borrowing mesh. India's inflation may not be just because of the rising prices. High national debt, loan write-offs and tax burdens may have contributed to it, indicates the second major Reserve Bank of India 0.5 per cent rise in interest rates.

Total borrowings at ₹155 lakh crore (trillion) is set to add ₹11.5 trillion more in 2022-23. Interestingly, as a percentage of GDP, the Centre's liabilities are set to increase to 60.2 per cent in 2023. An emerging view is that the government cannot be the driver of the economy and continue lubricating it for the benefit of big loan defaulters. The small, medium and tiny sectors are becoming restless. More cash use can reduce poverty and boost small business. This would reduce dependence on shearing bank deposits, high NPAs and resorting to manage finances through large deficits.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently re-emphasised that India's long-term growth prospects are embedded in public capital expenditure at the meet of Finance Ministers and central bank governors in Indonesia. She was hopeful that this would spur private investments. The Bretton Woods bodies promote this.

Now this needs a review, as figures indicate that the Modi government's hopes are ditched by poor large-house investments. The government is being forced into a vortex of borrowings for too many high-funded infra projects, such as roads, high-speed railways and power sector. Its borrowings are to rise to ₹11.6 trillion from ₹9.7 trillion in 2022-23.

Interestingly enough, the Manmohan Singh government also did the same post-2008 Lehman Brothers meltdown by incentivising loans, most of which turned into NPAs and were written off.

SPECTRUM LEADERSHIP

You feel what they feel



Shivaji Mohinta

ORGANISATIONS BECOME GREAT DUE TO PEOPLE AND CULTURE - WHERE LEADERS PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM ABOVE AND PEOPLE ON THE GROUND ARE WILLING TO PUSH HARDER

Date: 16 August 2002. An unusually dark night, completely black, and a thick blanket of clouds adding to the darkness.

Location: Deep inside the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan.

Mission: 22 US Special Forces troops had captured a dreaded terrorist and were escorting him to a safe place. They were under the threat of enemy attacks.

That night Captain Mike Drowley was providing air cover to the ground troops in his A10 aircraft. He was nicknamed Johnny Bravo.

Bravo, an attack pilot and another A10 aircraft accompanying him were entrusted to track the troops and give them necessary support in case of any eventuality. They were flying above the clouds and could see the glittering stars, snow-capped mountains and the moon from the cockpit. It was quite peaceful at that altitude.

In these types of military operations, the pilot above wants to see the troops on the ground and similarly the ground forces should have a sight of the aircraft flying above them, for reassurance. But

due to the heavy overcast conditions, 16 August was a different night. Descending below the clouds to establish a line of sight with the troops was highly risky due to the treacherous mountain range and valleys. It literally means one has to drop below 1000 feet. Even the ATC does not instruct to descend to such levels in that type of terrain.

Although, Bravo could not see the troops he could sense their anxiety and tension. Instinctively he sprang into action. As he was descending below the clouds, Bravo received a radio message "Troops in Contact" which means enemy firing on them. His gut feeling became true!

The call of empathy urged him to go down to extend support to the 22 men below, even if it means breaking the guidelines. When he let down his aircraft, he could see and hear gunshots from either side of the valley. Bullets and rockets were fired on the Special Ops Forces which lit up the entire area. Bravo could relate to what the troops were going through at that point of time.

He flew a few thousand feet

straight, fired at the enemy target and took a sharp turn back to avoid colliding against the mountain walls. Again, repeated the attack and disappeared into the clouds. He went on with this exercise several times. There was quietness everywhere and he felt that he has lost his colleagues at the ground. He was breathing heavily and was praying for their safety till he received a message "Good Hit. Keep it Coming." It was the best radio message he has ever heard. Attacking relentlessly, he had silenced the enemy camp. All 22 of his friends were safe.

Later when Capt. Bravo (now a Colonel and the Commander of the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona) was asked why he undertook such a decision which could have been fatal and also there were no commands to do so, he said, he staying alive but losing his colleagues would have been much worse than death. He adds: "I feel in so many years the greatest skill that I have acquired is empathy. The more I can put myself in their shoes, the better I can understand how I can help them."

It was his unflinching commitment to his team that guided his decisions and actions. He risked his life so that others might survive.

Although, they never knew each other earlier, they hugged like old friends when he met them, finally. For Johnny Bravo and many like him it is not the recognition that drives them to do such acts of sacrifices but it is the culture that they have ingrained in them. Organisations become great due to the people and the culture - where leaders provide protection from above and the people on the ground are willing to push harder and give their best, because they trust each other.

If one is oblivious to the conditions faced by the team, then he is not a leader. The Capt. Bravo effort is one of the best leadership stories in real life which was immortalised by Simon Sinek in his book "Leaders Eat Last."

The common thread is empathy - as a leader you feel what others feel and act!

The author is a corporate professional, business advisor and a startup mentor.

Needless amendment

Sir, The Flag Code of India, 2002 has been amended by an order dated 20 July, 2022 and now as per clause (11) of Part 2.2 of the Flag Code of India, 2002 the national flag can also be made of cotton, silk and polyester in addition to khadi. Tricolour is really the spirit of our freedom movement. Association of the Tricolour with khadi is really an expression of our Swadeshi movement. In the Swadeshi movement, we banned foreign materials. This is why khadi fabric was given priority. The shift from khadi to polyester is a sign of the direction our country's economic policy is heading. The National Flag made of khadi fabric was India's unique identity and symbolised the values of the country's freedom movement. Khadi was the fabric of freedom and Gandhiji wanted the Tricolour flag to be hand-cut and from hand-woven khadi. So this new amendment is against the values of the freedom movement and Gandhiji's thought. The Union government has amended the Flag Code to allow the manufacture and import of machine-made National Flags made of polyester! The PM 2 October 2021 lauded the initiative of the Khadi Village Enterprises Commission to display the world's largest national flag (made of Khadi) in Leh, Ladakh as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. He wrote on Twitter, "This is a unique tribute to respected Babu, whose passion for Khadi is well known."

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Partition horror

Sir, The Indian government has decided to observe 14 August as the Partition Horror Remembrance Day. A number of events have been planned to take place throughout the country to observe this day. India's partition into two countries and later into three countries is one of the darkest phases of undivided India. Many families had to leave their ancestral homes, friends, and relatives. Many people died during the turmoil and many children lost their parents during the whole process of movement from one place to another. This will be an excellent step to remember and pay tribute to everyone who lost their lives during the partition. The various events which will take place in different places of the country to mark the Partition Horror Remembrance Day will help youths to know about the sacrifices and difficulties of partition. The acknowledgment of the pain, sacrifices, and turmoil that the people had to go through during the partition is a welcome step.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

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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Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER



New Age Disruptions

The current escalation of multiple, overlapping crises - climate-related disasters, a pandemic, war in Europe, and stagflation - is intensifying anxiety and uncertainty the world over. Conventional solutions are no longer working. Politicians have few persuasive answers. Existing institutions are overwhelmed. Global civilization is in the throes of a great transformation of unprecedented scale.

Each of the five foundational sectors that together define a civilization - energy, transport, food, information, and materials - is undergoing rapid technological disruption. These upheavals signal the twilight of today's dominant extractive industries, which are entering an economic death spiral, auguring higher unemployment, deeper inequality, and civil unrest.

But this "global phase shift" is also laying the foundations for a new civilizational life cycle. The most consequential technological disruptions aimed at mitigating climate change affect three foundational sectors - energy, transport, and food - that together account for 90% of global greenhouse-gas emissions.

Fossil-fuel energy is being disrupted by the "super power" potential of solar, wind, and batteries (SWB). Privately owned vehicles powered by gas-guzzling internal-combustion engines will be overtaken by electric vehicles (EVs) and eventually by autonomous EVs (A-EVs). Livestock rearing and commercial fishing are being up-ended by precision fermentation and cellular agriculture, which allow us to brew and programme all kinds of proteins without killing animals.

All disruptive technologies follow the same learning-by-doing feedback loop. As costs decline exponentially, their adoption accelerates until they dominate the market. When these technologies become ten times cheaper than the incumbent technology, they swiftly displace it. The disruption of horses by cars, landlines by smartphones, and photographic film by digital cameras all happened within 10-15 years.

Disruptions are not one-for-one substitutions, but instead lead to completely new systems with distinctive properties. For the first time in our history, emerging technologies show a clear pathway to ending the age of scarcity.

Oil, gas, and coal are becoming more inefficient and expensive. The value of the energy they produce relative to the energy they use has declined by more than half in the past two decades. But the opposite is true of SWB, for which energy return on investment (EROI) is increasing exponentially.

As I explain in a recent Earth4All paper, the cheapest SWB combination involves super-sizing solar and wind generating capacity to 3-5 times the level of existing demand. This "super power" capacity - producing more energy than incumbent fossil-fuel systems at zero marginal cost for most of the year - would dramatically reduce overall system costs by removing the need for weeks' worth of seasonal battery storage.

Swiss government scientists have shown that building such a system globally could generate up to ten times the amount of energy we use today. That will enable the electrification of a vast array of industries, from wastewater treatment and recycling to mining and manufacturing. And this system won't need constant material inputs like the current fossil-fuel system; once built, it will last 50-80 years.

Similar counterintuitive cascading effects will benefit the transport sector. EV and A-EV cost curves show that ride-hailing via Transport-as-a-Service (TaaS) will become up to ten times cheaper than owning and managing your own car by the 2030s. As a result, only a fraction of the number of vehicles we use now will be in service. And, because SWB and TaaS entail a tiny proportion of the battery storage demand anticipated by most conventional analysts, consumption of critical minerals needed to produce the batteries will be much lower than feared.

These disruptions will also render obsolete the entire infrastructure of incumbent fossil-fuel-based energy, transport, and food systems. That includes oil rigs, gas terminals, pipelines, and coal-fired power plants, as well as global logistics and shipping networks for fossil fuels, livestock, and livestock products.

Dismantling this infrastructure will create unprecedented scope for metals recycling. Iron, aluminum, steel, copper, nickel, and cobalt are used extensively in the oil industry but will also help drive the energy, transport, and food transformation.

Meanwhile, the disruption of dairy industries will free up 2.7 billion hectares of land previously dedicated to animal husbandry for rewilding, regenerative agriculture, and active reforestation. This will permit large-scale natural strategies to withdraw and capture atmospheric carbon.

Over the next two decades, the transformation of the global production system will create unique possibilities - what my RethinkX colleagues James Arbib and Tony Seba call an "Age of Freedom." Moreover, we don't need to wait for exotic and expensive breakthrough technologies to solve our biggest global challenges. We have all the tools we need to usher in a new era of superabundance that provides advanced power, mobility, food, education, and infrastructure to everyone at a tenth of the cost of incumbent systems and without breaching planetary boundaries.

But getting to this "Age of Freedom" will not be easy. Today's disruptions are fast, but not fast enough for the world to escape the climate danger zone. If we delay them by clinging to dying incumbent industries, the social, economic, and geopolitical fallout could stall or even obstruct the transformation.

Because disruptive technologies scale for economic reasons, governments can accelerate this transformation by leveraging markets. That requires ending trillion-dollar subsidies and new investments in conventional energy; creating free and fair electricity markets that uphold individuals' right to own and trade power; and establishing open-source intellectual-property systems for global design and local implementation. In the case of residential heating, governments should provide incentives and subsidies for electrification.

Most of all, we must shift our mindsets and embrace the necessity of a radical shift from centralised to decentralised provision of energy, transport, and food. That means switching from top-down to bottom-up, and from hierarchies to networks and nodes.

The old system is dying as a new one is being born, putting us in the eye of the storm. But with the right choices, we can rapidly build a more just and advanced civilisation that provides unparalleled levels of universal and sustainable prosperity. There is no time to lose - and everything to gain.

The writer is Director of Global Research Communications at RethinkX.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- When the flower blooms, the bees come uninvited. RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA
- Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains. RAMANA MAHARSHI
- There is no way to happiness - happiness is the way. THICH NHAT HANH

national

of the day quote

On August 5, we saw how some people tried to spread 'black magic'. These people think that by wearing black clothes they can end their dependency. But they do not know that by engaging in witchcraft, black magic and superstition, they cannot earn the trust of people again

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Nitish Kumar is serving his last term as Chief Minister, he will never get this chair again

GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER

The BJP is trying to trap the people in the 'web of its lies'. I have not been to Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for months. Got no passes made in the last seven to eight months. I became an MLC July 11 and no passes were made since then. I did not give any pass to Shrikant Tyagi

SWAMI PRASAD MAURYA | SP MLC

SHORT TAKES

UP signs MoU with Flipkart

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has signed an MoU with e-commerce site Flipkart to bring state's handicraft products on the platform, an official release said Wednesday. There are 40 crore customers on Flipkart and the aim of the state government is to give a vast market to handicraft products of the state through Flipkart, the release said, adding that the MoU was signed August 7. Along with handicrafts and handloom products, products made by Divyangjans of the country will also be available. On the initiative of the government, Flipkart is also training craftsmen for this, the release said.

Farmers' protest enters third day

Phagwara (Punjab): A road blockade by farmers in protest against "inordinate" delays in the clearance of arrears worth Rs 72 crore to cane growers by a sugar mill in Punjab's Phagwara entered the third day Wednesday. Under the banner of the Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba), the farmers began an "indefinite" sit-in on a carriageway of the Ludhiana-Jalandhar section of the national highway-1 near the sugar mill Monday.

CBI arrests techie in bribery case

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Wednesday said that it has arrested an engineer of Utility Powertech Ltd., Solapur (Maharashtra), for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs one lakh. A senior CBI official said that an FIR was registered on the basis of the complaint lodged against Govind Kumar, the engineer of Utility Powertech Ltd.

Justice UU Lalit appointed 49th CJ

Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar. Justice SM Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was Wednesday appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India with President Droupadi Murmu signing his warrant of appointment.

He will assume charge August 27 after incumbent N V Ramana demits office the day before. He will have a brief tenure as the head of India's judiciary and would demit office November 8 after hold-



ing the charge as the CJI for nearly three months.

While Supreme Court judges retire on attaining the age of 65 years, judges of the 25 high courts retire at 62. Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar. Justice SM Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124

of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August, 2022," a law ministry notification said.

Top officials of the department of justice, along with principal secretary to the prime minister P K Mishra met Justice Lalit and handed over the warrant of appointment, sources said.

Justice Lalit has been part of several landmark judgements including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant triple talaq among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional.

A renowned senior advocate, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court August 13, 2014. He shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986, and in April 2004, he was designated as a senior advocate by the apex court.

He was appointed a special public prosecutor for the CBI to conduct trial in the 2G spectrum allocation case. He has since been involved in

delivery of several landmark judgements of the apex court.

In the triple talaq verdict, while the then CJI J S Khehar and Justice S Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting on hold the judgement for six months and asking the government to come out with a law to that effect, Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman and Lalit held the practice as violative of the Constitution.

Justices Khehar, Joseph and Nariman have since retired. Justice Lalit, who is also the executive chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), recently said the NALSA 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. He was addressing the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet here.

Born November 9, 1957, Justice Lalit enrolled as an advocate in June 1983 and practised in the Bombay High Court till December 1985.



Nationalism can never be sold. It is shameful that while giving ration, poor are being asked to cough up Rs 20 for the tricolour

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

FRESH THREAT

A new sub-variant of the Covid strain Omicron has been detected during a study of genome sequencing in the capital city



CABINET EXPANSION

Maha: Independents, smaller parties fume after being 'ignored'



AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 10: Legislators from smaller parties and Independents supporting the new government expressed dismay Wednesday after they were 'dropped' from the mini-cabinet expansion carried out Tuesday by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, 41 days after he was sworn-in along with Bharatiya Janata Party's Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis.

At least two - Bacchu Kadu and Rajendra Patil-Yadravkar -- expressed a grouse against Shinde-Fadnis for not giving them any representation in the 20-member ministry comprising 10 Shiv Sena rebels and 10 BJP MLAs.

Earlier, the 18 Independents and smaller parties who supported Shinde were assured of adequate representation, and now they have been promised inclusion in the next round of cabinet expansion likely after the Monsoon Session of the Legislature starting on August 17.

Incidentally both Kadu and Patil-Yadravkar of the Prahar Janshakti Party, were ministers in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray.

"I was promised that I would be joining the ministry. It would be wrong to say that I am not upset. Now, we are informed of another cabinet expansion where we shall be included," said Kadu.

Patil-Yadravkar said he was puzzled why he was overlooked, but he had no complaints or expectations, saying "if it has to

happen, it will happen".

The state legislature comprises 288 members of which the sanctioned strength of ministers is 43, meaning that there are still 23 vacancies to be filled, though there has been a huge clamour from the Shinde group and the BJP for ministerial berths.

On Tuesday, Shinde faced severe flak for his 'gents only' cabinet, ignoring several women hopefuls while taking on board at least 3 'tainted' legislators.

A day after the Maharashtra cabinet expansion, the Shiv Sena claimed administering ministerial oath to rebels MLAs, whose disqualification pleas are pending before the Supreme Court, amounted to murder of democracy and the Constitution.

By finally taking the ministerial oath, the rebels have taken a dip in the Ganga river. But will they be able to "wash the sin of betrayal?" an editorial in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana' asked Wednesday.

The expression on Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's face while administering the oath to ministers was as if he was doing a "divine work", it quipped.

The Marathi daily also slammed Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for "bowing" before Delhi seven times by going to the national capital before the cabinet expansion.

The CM had made seven visits to New Delhi in the last one month, and with every visit there was talk of the ministry expansion.

Majithia gets bail in drug case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 10: Shromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Wednesday walked out of the Patiala jail on bail with the Punjab and Haryana High Court saying there were "reasonable grounds" to believe that he is not guilty.

It, however, said the observation is only for the purpose of adjudicating his bail application and the trial court should proceed independently of the observations made by it. Majithia was released after spending more than five months in the Patiala jail in a drug case.

The Akali leader came out of the jail around 6.30 pm and a large number of party leaders and workers assembled outside the prison to welcome him and showered petals over his vehicle. Majithia is the brother-in-law of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and brother of former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal.



He had been lodged in the Patiala jail since February 24. The Division Bench of Justices MS Ramachandra Rao and Sureshwar Thakur granted him bail. The court said, "We are satisfied that reasonable grounds exist to believe that petitioner is not guilty of the offences alleged against him in the FIR and he is not likely to commit such offences while on bail."

"So no fruitful purpose is going to be served even if the petitioner is kept in judicial custody for a further indefinite period," it said. The court, however, said, "Nothing stated above shall be construed as a final expression of opinion on the merits of the case and the trial court should proceed independently of the observations made in the present case which are only for the purpose of adjudicating the present bail application."

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



Vehicles wade through a waterlogged street after heavy monsoon rains at Bamunimaidan area in Guwahati PTI PHOTO

SC grants bail to Varavara Rao

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to 82-year-old poet and activist P Varavara Rao, an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, on medical grounds.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) vehemently opposed Rao's plea in the apex court claiming that he is involved in "serious anti-national activities".

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune December 31, 2017, which the police claimed triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

The Pune Police had also claimed that the conclave was organised by people with alleged Maoist links. The NIA later took over the probe

in the matter.

Rao was arrested August 28, 2018, from his Hyderabad residence and is accused in the case for which an FIR was lodged by the Pune Police January 8, 2018, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. While granting him bail, a bench headed by Justice U U Lalit noted that the medical condition of Rao, who is presently out on interim bail on medical grounds, has not improved to such an extent over a period that the facility of bail granted earlier to him be withdrawn.

The bench also observed that Rao is 82-year-old and has spent around two-and-a-half-year in custody.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, appearing for the NIA, argued before the bench that Rao is not an "ordinary criminal" and in certain cases, age cannot be



a factor if the offences are serious and affect the nation.

"The medical condition of the appellant (Rao) has not improved to such an extent over a period of time that the facility of bail which was granted earlier be withdrawn," the bench said.

Rao, who is a Telugu poet, had

challenged the Bombay High Court's April 13 this year order rejecting his plea for permanent bail on medical grounds.

While granting bail to Rao, the apex court said he shall not leave the area of Greater Mumbai without express permission from the trial court.

28 yrs after rape, victim gets justice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur (UP), August 10: A child born out of rape has helped his mother get justice, 28 years after the crime. Police put one of the alleged rapists behind bars last week and the other Wednesday.

Police said a DNA reported nailed the criminals -- two brothers who had fled to Hyderabad once the investigation began. The woman was allegedly raped by them in 1994 when she lived in Shahjahanpur's Sadar Bazar as a 12-year-old, Shahjahanpur Superintendent of Police S Anand told PTI.

The child later gave birth to a boy. Over the years, she married and was abandoned by her husband.

The case was lodged at the Sadar Bazar police station March 4, 2021, after her grown-up son nudged her into filing a complaint.

Police said Naki Hasan and his younger brother Guddu raped the 12-year-old, then living with her relatives, several times when she was alone at home. The family kept mum about the rape when the girl gave birth, fearing humiliation. The child was separated from her and handed over to a relative in Hardoi. In 2000, the rape victim was married off to a man in Ghazipur. But the marriage broke up when her husband came to know about the rape. The victim, now an adult, was abandoned and stayed alone. A few years ago her son contacted her and asked her about his father. When she told him about the incident in her past, he encouraged her to lodge an FIR and seek justice.

He accompanied his mother to Shahjahanpur and the FIR was eventually registered on the orders of the court. Police arrested Guddu when he returned to Shahjahanpur for some work, officials said. Naki Hasan was arrested Wednesday.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Mirzapur carpets, Maha teakwood furniture to welcome MPs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: All-out efforts are being made to finish the remaining work on the new Parliament building so that the Winter Session is held there, officials have said.

Handwoven cushioned carpets of Mirzapur and stones from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are being used in the new building. Teakwood furniture from Maharashtra has arrived while work has begun on the interiors and flooring, they said.

Last week, the government told the Lok Sabha that 70 per cent of the physical progress of the new Parliament building project has been achieved and the targeted

date of completion is November 2022. There is no plan yet to extend the deadline considering the national importance of this project, sources said.

"We are making all-out effort to ensure the Winter Session is held in the new Parliament building," officials privy to the development told PTI.

They indicated that some portions of the new Parliament building may be functional by November 26 -- Constitution Day. However nothing has been finalised yet, officials sources said.

The government has maintained that the Winter session of Parliament will be held in the new building being built under the Narendra Modi government's



ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project.

In December 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the

foundation stone of the new building. Last month, he unveiled the national emblem cast on the roof of the building.

■ Handwoven cushioned carpets of Mirzapur and stones from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are being used in the new building

■ Teakwood furniture from Maharashtra has arrived while work has begun on the interiors and flooring

■ Last week, the government told the Lok Sabha that 70 per cent of the physical progress of the new Parliament building project has been achieved and the targeted date of completion is November 2022

Tata Projects Ltd is constructing the new Parliament building which will have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase

India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's power corridor, also envisages a common central secretariat, revamping of the 3-km Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, a new office and residence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave. Under the project, the government will also construct an Executive Enclave that will house a new Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Cabinet Secretariat, India House and National Security Council Secretariat.

Publication of J&K electoral rolls by Nov 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, August 10: The Election Commission of India has set a new deadline of November 25 for the final date for publication of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said youngsters attaining the age of 18 years October 1 or earlier will be eligible to become voters in the Union territory.

Earlier, the poll panel had given a timeline of October 31 for the publication of the finalised electoral rolls in J&K, where the special summary revision is being undertaken after a gap of three years and the first such exercise after the boundaries of assembly seats were redrawn in the delimitation exercise.

According to the rescheduled timeline issued by the Election Commission, an integrated draft electoral roll will be published September 15. The period for filing claims and objections has been set between September 15 to October 25 followed by disposal of claims and objections November 10.

Checking of health parameters and obtaining the commission's permission for final publication and updating database and printing of supplements has been fixed for November 19 before the publication of final electoral rolls November 25, an Election Commission's order, reproduced by the Chief Electoral Officer's office here, said.

In May, the central government had issued a notification stating that the orders of the Delimitation

Commission which redrew electoral constituencies and provided six additional assembly seats to Jammu division and one to Kashmir would come into effect from May 20.

According to the orders of the Delimitation Commission, set up under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the Union territory will have 90 assembly constituencies -- 43 in Jammu Division and 47 in Kashmir Valley -- with nine of them being reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had assured that the assembly elections will take place in Jammu and Kashmir after the completion of the ongoing revision of electoral rolls.

However, political observers are of the opinion that the much-awaited polls are likely to be deferred to next year after the end of the harsh winter in the Kashmir Valley and the Chenab region.

"Any person who attains the age of 18 years on or before October 1, 2022 and is otherwise qualified to be enrolled as an elector in the Electoral Roll, can apply for his registration during the Revision," the order said.

It noted that presently, the pre-revision activities as well as post-delimitation follow up, work is going on in Jammu and Kashmir wherein the existing electoral rolls are being mapped into newly delimited assembly constituencies as per the Delimitation Commission's final order made applicable by the Union Law Ministry with effect from May 20, 2022.



A woman ties rakhi on the wrists of Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on the eve of Raksha Bandhan, in Jammu, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Vijayan takes up cudgels with Governor, calls for spl session

Two days ago, Kerala Gov Arif Khan refused to sign any document without studying, which led to lapse of 11 ordinances

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 10: Two days after Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan refused to sign any document without reading, following which 11 ordinances that were to be re-promulgated, lapsed, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan decided to take the fight to the enemy camp as his cabinet recommended for an urgent sitting of the Kerala Assembly.

The weekly cabinet meeting held here on Wednesday decided to call for a special session starting from August 22, which will be meant only for legislation. With 99 members of the 140-member assembly belonging to the ruling



Left, all these ordinances will be passed in a jiffy.

Khan who is presently in Delhi, Wednesday told that these Ordinances were inked early this year and then there was a full session of the assembly, but nothing was done.

"So when it comes again for re-promulgation, I have to apply my mind and I am not worried about criticism as I will be guided by my own judgement and conscience. All are entitled to their views. The legislative power is with the assembly and not with the gover-

nor," said Khan.

In February, Khan had inked this and with the Assembly not passing the Bill, the Ordinance lapsed putting Vijayan in a quandary as there is a case before the Lok Ayukta against Vijayan in the way he handled the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund.

Incidentally, Khan who is on tour is now expected to return to the state capital city only August 12. Meanwhile, State Law Minister P Rajeev said a session of the assembly was earlier planned for October and that's being held early.

Amid reports of breach, Kashmir University says data 'unmodified'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 10: Amid reports that its student data base was spotted on 'dark web' officials of the Kashmir University said Wednesday that University's data base was 'unmodified' and the reported breach was being analysed.

It was reported by an independent media outlet that the data base of Kashmir University has been put on sale for \$250 on a hacking forum by 'ViktorLusting'.

The media report said that the threat actor has shared a database index to show the data he has in his possession.

It claims to include student information, registration number, phone number, email address, password, employee data and more.

"The database is listed on

Breached Forums, the famous hacking forum that gained international attention earlier this month with a data breach exposing over 1 billion Chinese residents", the report said.

Meanwhile Kashmir University in a statement said that the students data base is 'unmodified' and that further analysis is going on in the matter.

"We are analysing the alleged breach. Our preliminary analysis shows that the data base is unmodified. Further analysis is going on. The university will take further courses of action and take an appropriate legal recourse accordingly."

"Any breach in data read, which is accessible in public domain, has been found unmodified as per preliminary analysis," the spokesman of the University said.



Mega Chinar park to come up soon in Srinagar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, August 10: The Srinagar district administration has undertaken an initiative to establish the largest Chinar park of the Kashmir Valley 'Chinar Zaar' (The Valley of Chinars) on the foothills of the Zabarwan mountains in connection with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', to mark the 75 years of Independence of the country.

The Chinar Zaar will be spread over nearly 400 kanals of land and would be developed as an exclusive green zone to attract more tourists and local visitors.

As many as 75 chinar trees are being planted by August 15 to celebrate 75 years of the independence.

Srinagar Deputy Commissioner (DC), Mohammad Aijaz Asad di-



As many as 75 chinar trees are being planted by August 15 to celebrate 75 years of the independence

rected the officers of all departments to work in a coordinated manner for the development of the largest Chinar park and complete the prestigious project within a set timeline.

The DC said that Chinar tree is the legacy of Kashmir and is a living heritage and has a deep cultural

value in the history of Kashmir.

He added that the development of the largest Chinar park at upper Nishat will further enhance the scenic beauty and environment in the area, and would also become focal attraction for tourists, at the same time uplifting socio-economic condition of the local population.

Water levels on rise in Periyar river basin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Idukki/Wayand (Ker), August 10: With the Mullaperiyar dam and Idukki reservoir in Kerala releasing water to prevent any sudden pressure on their storage capacities, it has led to a rise in water levels in the Periyar river basin, district officials said Wednesday.

Despite a rising trend in water levels of the Periyar river basin, officials said the levels are presently below the flood warning markings.

Idukki reservoir raised three of its shutters by 140 cm and two others by 40 cm to release 346.84 cumecs of water, district officials said in a statement. There is drizzling in the area and water stored in the reservoir has reached red alert levels, it said.

Meanwhile, the Mullaperiyar

dam, which is managed by the Tamil Nadu government, continued to release water through its 13 raised shutters.

At 12 PM it was releasing 8,480 cumecs of water, officials said.

In the morning, Banasursagar dam in Wayanad was at red alert water level status with three of its

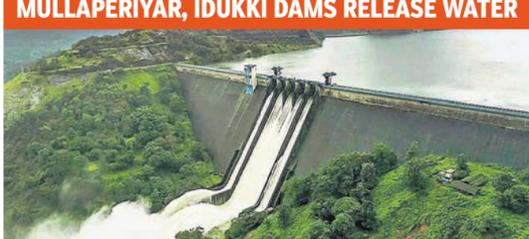
gates being opened 10 cm each to release around 24 cumecs of water.

In Mullaperiyar dam, at 10 m, around 8,980 cumecs of water was being released through its 13 shutters which have been raised by 90 cm each. Cusec is the volume of water discharged measured in cubic feet per second. When the same is

measured in cubic meters per second, it's called cumec. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litre per second.

Meanwhile, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday predicted widespread and isolated heavy rainfall in the state during the day and on August 11. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Tuesday had said there are 213 active relief camps while most of them are in Alappuzha district (45), Thrissur 43 and Pathanamthitta 39. There are 9,275 people accommodated in the camps.

From July 31 to August 9, Kerala has been witnessing heavy rains, resulting in the death of 22 people. While seven were still missing and five got injured, the SDMA had said and added that 58 houses were fully damaged while 412 suffered partial damage.



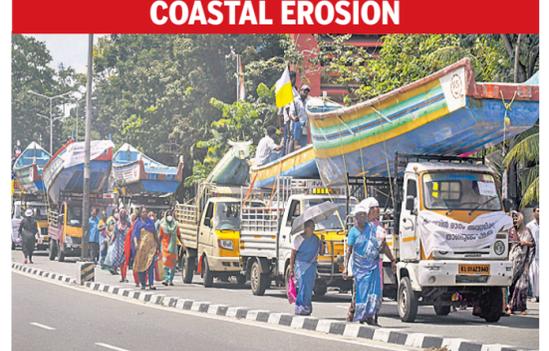
Kerala fisherfolk take out protest rally with boats, nets

Led by a group of priests and nuns under the Latin Archdiocese, members of the fishing community from various coastal hamlets blocked the busy city roads raising slogans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, August 10: Hundreds of fisherfolk Wednesday took out a massive protest rally in the state capital and laid siege to the Secretariat here with boats and fishing nets alleging that the Left government was neglecting their demands.

Led by a group of priests and nuns under the Latin Archdiocese, members of the fishing community, including women, arrived here from various coastal hamlets in the state and blocked the busy city



roads raising slogans against the authorities for a few hours.

The police's attempt to prevent the protesters from marching ahead, led to tense moments. The fishermen also staged protests in several places when the motor vehicle department personnel tried to prevent them from bringing huge

boats tied atop vehicles.

A woman protester said they have been facing severe coastal erosion for years but the government was taking no steps to find any permanent solution for the issue. Around 500 houses had been destroyed in various coastal hamlets and the government should take ur-

“We need a house. We have been demanding it for the past four years. But, the government is doing nothing other than holding mere discussions. Do you need only our votes?”

A WOMAN PROTESTER

gent measures for the rehabilitation of those who lost their houses, they demanded.

They also alleged that the unscientific construction of groynes, the artificial sea walls known as 'pulimutt' in local parlance, as part of the upcoming Vizhinjam port was one of the reasons for the increasing coastal erosion in the district and urged the authorities to intervene into the issue at the earliest.

Another woman protester said hundreds of families including that of her were living in a government godown for the last four years after their houses had been

damaged due to high waves and sea erosion. "We need a house. We have been demanding it for the past four years. But, the government is doing nothing other than holding mere discussions. Do you (the government) need only our votes," she asked.

One of the priests who led the protesters said the authorities were just making promises and doing nothing to resolve the issues of fishermen community. That attitude is really regrettable. The entire coast is destroyed. The Shangumugham beach and Kovalam tourism resort are facing severe sea erosion threat. Over 50,000 fishermen are facing job loss, he said.

The fishermen community and the Church are equally concerned over the issue, he said, adding that it was only a token strike and the protest would be intensified further if the government does not address the demands of the fishermen at the earliest.

Kerala's popular liquor brand 'Jawan' in soup over its name

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, August 10: A complaint has been filed with the Kerala government objecting to the name of the hugely popular brand of rum, 'Jawan', produced by a state PSU and demanded that it should be changed as it is an 'insult' to the defence forces.

The complainant first approached the Tax department with the complaint and it was later forwarded to the State Excise department, which, according to sources in the know of things is looking into it.

The Travancore Sugars and Chemicals, the public sector undertaking of the Kerala government, was formed in 1937 and is located at Mannar in Kerala's Alappuzha district. Initially, it was under a leading Chennai-based private company which was into manufacturing sugar as the central districts of Kerala had large areas of sugarcane cultivation.



In 1974 the factory was taken over by the Kerala government and production of the 'Jawan', a brand of rum to the defence canteens began.

The brand is popular, especially among the lower and middle class sections of Kerala. The state PSU has now started making profits and despite Covid it closed the 2021-22 financial year with a profit of 74 crore.

Sources in the know of things reveal that the brand 'Jawan' has been in the market for a while and also was in the past given to the defence canteens, so it's doubtful about the complaint.



When I became Chief Minister, I had said that 'Na Khaunga, Na kisiko Khane Dunga' (neither will I indulge in corruption, nor allow anyone else). Government lands which are encroached will be taken back. Government will take possession of it

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

AAP'S PROMISE

AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday promised that if voted to power, his party will provide Rs 1,000 monthly allowance to Gujarat women. Gujarat is slated to go to polls in the year end and Kejriwal has been announcing slew of 'guarantees' to woo electorate



of the day quote

Social and Non-Governmental organisations also must be roped in to prevent drug abuse in the state. Only collective initiative would lead to Tamil Nadu becoming a drug-free society

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

I'm 100 per cent confident that Bommai will continue and complete the next eight month period as Chief Minister

B S YEDYURAPPA | MEMBER OF THE KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

I have written to the LG demanding a CBI probe into the toll tax scam of Rs 6,000 crore in Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The money collected from 10 lakh commercial vehicles coming to Delhi everyday was embezzled in connivance

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

Class XII girl dies in school

Chennai: A Class 12 girl student of a government school in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district died Wednesday. The police suspect the death to be a case of suicide. The police said the girl was found in an unconscious state in the classroom and was taken to the Kannai Primary Health Centre and from there to the Villupuram Government Hospital where she died. It may be recalled that last month, the suicide of a Class 12 girl student at the hostel of a private school in Kallakurichi had led to the public ransacking the school and setting school buses and police vans on fire.

Heavy rains in Maharashtra

Mumbai/Indore: Various parts of Maharashtra witnessed heavy rains Wednesday, prompting two universities to suspend or cancel exams, while incessant downpour also flooded low-lying areas in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city where some cars were swept away. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, central Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh Thursday. Maharashtra's capital Mumbai witnessed moderate rains along with strong winds since Tuesday and more showers are predicted over the next 24 hours, officials said.

Priyanka Gandhi tests Covid +ve

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Wednesday said she has tested positive for Covid again and would be isolating at home while following all protocols. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has cancelled his visit to Rajasthan as a precautionary measure after Priyanka Gandhi and some other party leaders tested positive for Covid, sources said. Rahul Gandhi was to address a training programme of Congress workers at Tijara in Rajasthan's Alwar district Wednesday.

4 of family killed in road accident

Nizamabad (Telangana): Four persons, including two children, died and three others were injured in a car accident here Wednesday, police said. The incident happened under Mukpal police station limits at 6.30 am when a group of seven people, all family members and relatives, were travelling to Wardha in Maharashtra from Hyderabad, they said.



Students make a human chain in a formation that reads '75' as they celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' ahead of Independence Day, at a school in Prayagraj, in Uttar Pradesh

Sunil Bansal appointed as BJP national general secy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 10: Uttar Pradesh BJP general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal has been appointed party's national general secretary. Jharkhand BJP general secretary (organisation) Dharampal has replaced Bansal in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh BJP joint general secretary (organisation) Karamveer has replaced Dharampal in Jharkhand.



In a statement party national general secretary Arun Singh said, "BJP President J P Nadda has appointed Sunil Bansal, general secretary (organisation) Uttar Pradesh, as national general secretary. He has given responsibility of state in-charge of West Bengal, Telangana and Odisha. Appointment is effective from immediate effect." In another statement, Singh said, "BJP president J P Nadda has appointed Dharampal, general secretary (organisation) Jharkhand, as general secretary (organisation) of Uttar Pradesh. "Party president has appointed Karamveer, joint general secretary (organisation) Uttar Pradesh, as general secretary (organisation) Jharkhand. Appointment is effective from immediate effect," the statement added.

Bansal, played a key role in BJP's electoral success in Uttar Pradesh since 2014 Lok Sabha polls to this year assembly polls. Bansal replaced Kailash Vijayvargiya in West Bengal as state in-charge and Tarun Chugh in Telangana.

Corbevax approved as precaution dose

THIS IS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A BOOSTER DOSE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE USED FOR PRIMARY VACCINATION AGAINST COVID HAS BEEN ALLOWED IN THE COUNTRY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 10: The government has approved Biological E's Corbevax as a precaution dose for those above 18 years fully vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin, official sources said Wednesday.

This is for the first time that a booster dose that is different from the one used for primary vaccination against Covid has been allowed in the country. The sources told PTI that the Union Health Ministry's approval is based on the recommendations made recently by the Covid-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

"Corbevax will be considered as a precaution dose after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose of either Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for those aged above 18 years enabling use of Corbevax as a heterologous Covid-19 vaccine for precaution dose administration in this age group," the sources said.

This will be in addition to the existing guidelines for homologous precaution dose administration of Covaxin and Covishield vaccine, the sources added.

All necessary changes in regard to the administration of precaution dose of Corbevax vaccine are being made on the Co-WIN portal. India's first indigenously developed RBD protein subunit vaccine Corbevax is currently being used to inoculate children in the age group of 12 to 14 years under the Covid-19 immunisation programme.

The Covid-19 Working Group (CWG), in its July 20 meeting, reviewed data of the double-blind randomised phase-3 clinical study which evaluated the immunogenicity and safety of booster dose of Corbevax vaccine when administered to Covid-19 negative adult volunteers of age 18-80 years previously vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

"Following the examination of the data, the CWG observed that Corbevax vaccine can induce significant increase in antibody titers when given to those who have received either Covaxin or Covishield, which is likely to be protective as per the neutralisation data also," the sources said.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) June 4 approved Corbevax as a precaution dose for those aged 18 and above. India began administering precaution doses of vaccines to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10.



The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16 and also removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose of Covid vaccine

India April 10 began administering precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years

genicity and safety of booster dose of Corbevax vaccine when administered to Covid-19 negative adult volunteers of age 18-80 years previously vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

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Nitish takes oath as Bihar CM

AGENCIES

Patna, August 10: JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar Wednesday took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record eighth time in a no-frills ceremony at Raj Bhavan, a day after snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA and joining hands with the RJD to form a 'Mahagathbandhan' government.

Kumar was sworn in besides RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, who is likely to be designated as his deputy. A notification is likely to be issued tonight, naming him as the deputy chief minister.

Other cabinet ministers will be sworn in later once the three main alliance partners - the JD(U), RJD and Congress - decide on the number of berths and the legislators who will be made ministers.

Kumar is likely to retain the all-important Home portfolio, while the RJD may get most of the departments that were previously with the BJP, a highly-placed source said.

He said an in-principle agreement has been reached about the composition of the new cabinet, which is likely to have "35 members or more", drawn from Kumar's JD(U), the RJD and the Congress.

Euphoric scenes were witnessed outside the Raj Bhavan and residences of Kumar and Yadav, as hundreds of supporters of JD(U) and RJD celebrated beating drums, bursting crackers and distributing 'laddus' (sweetmeats).

Talking to reporters shortly after he was administered the oath of office by Governor Phagu Chauhan, Kumar rubbished BJP's claim that the new government will not last its full term, and said his former ally "will be back where they were after the 2015 assembly polls" when the NDA could get less than 50 seats in the 243-strong assembly.

Meanwhile, leaders of the BJP, which is the second largest party in the assembly with 77 MLAs,



Nitish Kumar, became the Chief Minister of Bihar in March 2000, November 2005, November 2010, February 2015, November 2015, July 2017, November 2020 and August 10, 2022

Tejashwi Yadav had taken the oath of deputy CM of Bihar in November 2015 and now August 10, 2022

were conspicuous by their absence at the swearing-in ceremony

"We have received no invitation. We would have, in any case, not liked to witness formation of a government which has been installed after betraying the people of Bihar, who voted for the NDA in the last assembly polls, and is an insult to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who stuck to his promise of backing Kumar for another term, despite the JD(U)'s poor performance," BJP leader Sushil Modi told a press conference.

"Nitish Kumar has been in a habit of ditching allies. He will not be loyal to the RJD as well, and try to break that party taking advantage of Lalu Prasad's ill-health... We are accused of betraying our allies by the JD(U) which cites the example of Shiv Sena. Shiv Sena came apart. And we were not its allies then," he said.

Back in the reckoning as a potential "secular" alternative to Narendra Modi, which the disjointed opposition could project, Kumar said he had no "daawadari" (claims) when asked about prime ministerial ambitions, but quipped

"they should remember 2014 is past. They need to worry ('chinta karni chahiye') about 2024".

Sushil Modi also claimed that Tejashwi Yadav as the leader of the numerically bigger party "will try to act as the de facto CM". "He will also be under pressure to deliver on the promise of 10 lakh government jobs he had been making to the people of the state. This will unsettle Nitish and the internal contradictions will cause the government to collapse before 2025," the former deputy CM said.

Kumar, however, asserted that the new government will run fine and fulfill all the promises made to the people of Bihar. "They (the BJP) are worried that they may be back to the same level they were at in 2015," the Chief Minister said, referring to the assembly polls JD(U), RJD and Congress had fought together in which the BJP-led NDA was trounced.

Later, the Rajya Sabha member also claimed that Kumar wanted to "become the vice president" and he dumped the BJP after the party failed to accommodate his ambitions.

Three LeT terrorists killed in encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 10: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district Wednesday, police said.

The security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation at Waterhail in the Khansahib area of the district following inputs about the presence of terrorists there. The search turned into an encounter after the ultras opened fire, they said. "All the three hiding LeT #terrorists #neutralised. Bodies being retrieved from the site, identification yet to be ascertained. #Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition recovered. A big success for us," ADGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar tweeted. Earlier, Kumar said three Lashkar men, including most wanted Lateef Rather, had been trapped at the encounter site. "Three #terrorists of #terror outfit LeT(TRF) including terrorist Lateef Rather trapped in ongoing #encounter. Terrorist Lateef is involved in several #civilian #killings including Rahul Bhat & Amreen Bhat," he had tweeted.

HP Assembly: Oppn moves no-trust motion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, August 10: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly will discuss Thursday a notice on no confidence brought by the Congress and the CPM against Jai Ram Thakur-led state government.

The notice was given by 22 Congress MLAs and the lone CPM legislator, said Speaker Vipin Parmar, who allowed the notice. He said a debate will start in the state Assembly at 11 am Thursday and Chief Minister Thakur will give his reply at 3 pm.

The speaker told the House that the notice was given at 9.50 am under Rule 278 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

"The notice stated the House expresses no confidence in the council of ministers as the government fails on all fronts," the speaker added. Congress legislators, including Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri, Harshwardhan Chauhan, Asha



Kumar and Ram Lal said the time allotted for the debate from 11 am to 3 pm is very less. They demanded that more hours be allocated for the debate.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said they are ready to face the debate. A strong government is in place in the state and it is ready to face a no-confidence motion, they added. On the contrary, Mukesh Agnihotri said the BJP government failed on all fronts. The BJP has 43 MLAs in the 68-member House while the Congress has 22.

ICAR develops vax for Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: In a major breakthrough, two institutes of agri research body ICAR have developed an indigenous vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle which has spread across many states in the last few months.

ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hisar (Haryana), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh has developed a homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine "Lumpi-ProVaxInd".

The new technology was released by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala at an event held in the national capital. While addressing the event, Tomar said: "It is our big re-

sponsibility to save animals." He stressed expanding the production capacity of this vaccine so that it reaches the ground level at the earliest to vaccinate 30 crore animals.

On the sidelines, Rupala complemented the ICAR scientists for the development of this indigenous vaccine, which he said would help in controlling the LSD.

"Scientists were making efforts to develop this vaccine since the LSD disease was first reported in Odisha in 2019. Today, the technology has been launched and now we will move forward to ensure how this vaccine reaches farmers who have cattle," he said.

Rupala said it is a very "encouraging" development as the spread of the LSD has become a serious issue. He said there is a protocol for the commercialisation of vaccines and the animal husbandry department will see how



it can be expedited.

"We have got a solution for this deadly disease," Rupala said. Till now, the minister said the states are currently using goat pox to control this disease, which is also effective.

Rupala said the mortality in Rajasthan has reduced. B N Tripathi, Deputy Director General

THE CENTRE PLANS TO COMMERCIALISE THIS VACCINE, DEVELOPED BY THE TWO INSTITUTES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ICAR), AT THE EARLIEST IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE LUMPY SKIN DISEASE (LSD), WHICH HAS LED TO THE DEATH OF CATTLE IN SIX STATES

AS OF AUGUST 8, RAJASTHAN HAS REPORTED 2,111 DEATHS OF CATTLE, FOLLOWED BY GUJARAT AT 1,679, PUNJAB AT 672, HIMACHAL PRADESH AT 38, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR AT 29 AND UTTARAKHAND AT 26

in 2019 from Odisha. In the initial years, it was mainly restricted to the eastern part of our country.

Later on, it rapidly spread to almost all the states in the country. The outbreaks recently (June-July-August 2022) being reported are extensive and lethal with a mortality of up to 15 per cent, particularly those being reported in

the Western part (Rajasthan) of the country. LSD is primarily a disease in cattle. Emerging evidence suggests that the LSD virus can also cause mild illness in buffalo, camels, deer and horses. "Due to its recent spread in unnatural hosts, there are growing concerns about its zoonotic implication, although confirmatory evidence of human infection is lacking," ICAR said.

Sheepox virus (SPV) and goat pox virus (GPV)-based vaccine (heterologous vaccine) is usually authorized to induce cross-protection against LSD in cattle, where homologous LSD vaccine is not available.

The Centre has also authorised the use of goatpox vaccine to control LSD in cattle. However, heterologous vaccines provide partial protection and are not as efficacious as homologous vaccines, the ICAR said.

international

of the day quote

In seeking to join NATO, Finland and Sweden are making a sacred commitment that an attack against one is an attack against all.

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

I just want you to know that I'm absolutely confident we will have the fiscal firepower and the headroom to look after people as we've done throughout

BORIS JOHNSON | OUTGOING PM, BRITAIN

Arresting Imran Khan and plans to break PTI will be the start of bloody politics

SHEIKH RASHEED AHMED | FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

'The Snowman' author dies at 88

London: British children's author and illustrator Raymond Briggs, whose creations include "The Snowman" and "Fungus the Bogeyman" has died. He was 88. Briggs' family said he died Tuesday and thanked staff at Royal Sussex County Hospital, near his home in southern England, "for their kind and thoughtful care of Raymond in his final weeks".

Japan PM Kishida reshuffles cabinet

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reshuffled his cabinet Wednesday, as he battled growing public anger about his party's longstanding links to the Unification Church that has battered his approval ratings. The issue has deepened into a major liability for Kishida, who told a news conference he had no ties to the church and that the organisation - which critics call a cult - had not influenced policy of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

SL's ousted Prez to stay in Thai

Sri Lanka: Thailand has agreed to allow Gotabaya Rajapaksa to stay in the country temporarily during which the ousted Sri Lankan president will search for a third nation that will offer him permanent refuge, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said Wednesday. Rajapaksa, who is currently in Singapore after fleeing Sri Lanka in July amid mass anti-government protests, is seeking refuge in Thailand as his Singapore visa runs out Thursday. Prayut confirmed a temporary visit of Gotabaya under humanitarian reasons.

9 dead in record rainfall in S Korea

Seoul: Nine people have been confirmed dead and seven others remain unaccounted for in this week's record rainfall that battered Seoul and South Korea's central and eastern regions, officials said Wednesday, adding that more than 2,500 homes and buildings were flooded. A total of 525 mm of rain pounded Seoul from Monday to Wednesday morning, while Yangpyeong, 45 km east of the capital, recorded an accumulated 526.2 mm of rain during the period, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA).



This Russian war against Ukraine and against the entire free Europe began with Crimea and must end with Crimea, with its liberation. Crimea is Ukrainian, and we will never give it up

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

JAPAN'S POPULATION SHRINKS

Japan's population totaled 125.93 million as of January 1, 2022, representing the largest drop in the overall number and by percentage since comparable data were recorded in 1950, the government data revealed Wednesday. As deaths exceeded births, overall population fell to 125,927,902, down by 726,342 or 0.57% from the previous year



Ailing beluga whale euthanised after removal from river

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 10: French authorities say a beluga whale stranded for several days in the Seine River has died after it was successfully removed from the French waterway.

Veterinarian Ollivier Courtois said that during the rescue operation, the dangerously thin white mammal began to have breathing difficulties, and so experts decided to humanely euthanise the creature.

The whale was being prepared for transfer to a saltwater pool in Normandy. It was first spotted in the Seine last week after having accidentally veered off its normal path to the Arctic.

Conservation group Sea Shepherd France said veterinary exams after the beluga's removal from the river showed it had no digestive activity. Veterinarians planned to try to re-stimulate its system.

The group posted from the rescue operation showing the white beluga lying on a big net. Plans had called for 24 people to move the huge marine mammal to a refrigerated truck for a drive to the Normandy coast. The whale was expected to spend several days recuperating in the saltwater pool before being towed out to sea.

The rescue team said ahead of time that the transfer carried a risk of the whale dying because of the stress involved in the process.

However, the move was deemed necessary because the animal would not have been able to survive in much longer in the Seine's fresh water. The dangerously thin Arctic marine mammal was spotted in France last week. The group had said the beluga was a male with no infectious diseases and that veterinarians would try to re-stimulate the marine mammal's digestion.

A veterinary team was planning to transport the 4-metre-long (13-foot-long) whale to a coastal spot in the northeastern French port town of Ouistreham for "a period of care," according to Lamya Essemli, president of Sea Shepherd France.

Authorities were planning to keep the whale in its temporary saltwater home for two to three days of surveillance and treatment before being towed out to sea.

The lost beluga was first seen in France's river, far from its Arctic habitat, last week. It weighed about 800 kilogrammes (1,764 pounds).

China reaffirms threat to annex Taiwan

The updated white paper is called "The Taiwan Question and China's Reunification in the New Era". The "new era" is a term commonly associated with Xi's rule. Xi is expected to secure a third term later this year

REUTERS

Beijing, August 10: China has withdrawn a promise not to send troops or administrators to Taiwan if it takes control of the island, an official document showed Wednesday, signalling a decision by President Xi Jinping to grant less autonomy than previously offered.

China's white paper on its position on self-ruled Taiwan follows days of unprecedented Chinese military exercises near the island, which Beijing claims as its territory, in protest against US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last week. China had said in two previous white papers on Taiwan, in 1993 and 2000, that it "will not send troops or administrative personnel to be based in Taiwan" after achieving what Beijing terms "reunification".

That line, meant to assure Taiwan it would enjoy autonomy after becoming a special adminis-



trative region of China, did not appear in the latest white paper. China's ruling Communist Party had proposed that Taiwan could return to its rule under a "one country, two systems" model, similar to the formula under which the former British colony of Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

All mainstream Taiwanese political parties have rejected the "one country, two systems" proposal and it enjoys almost no public support according to opinion polls. Taiwan's government says only the island's people can decide their future.

A line in the 2000 white paper that said "anything can be negotiated" as long as Taiwan accepts that there is only one China and does not seek independence, is also miss-

Troops to stay combat-ready: China

Beijing: China's military has "completed various tasks" around Taiwan but will conduct regular patrols, it said Wednesday, potentially signalling an end to days of war games but also that Beijing will keep up its pressure on the island. Last week's drills included launches of ballistic missiles, some of which flew over the island's capital of Taipei, and simulated sea and air attacks in surrounding skies and waters. In a brief statement, the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said its joint military operations around Taiwan had "successfully completed various tasks and effectively tested the integrated combat capabilities of the troops".

Taiwan's defence ministry said 17 Chinese fighter jets crossed the median line Wednesday

China would not try to invade Taiwan for the next two years: Washington

It added, "Theatre forces will keep an eye on the changes in the situation in the Taiwan Strait, continue to carry out training and preparation for combat, organise regular combat readiness patrols in the direction of the Taiwan Strait, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Taiwan's Defence Ministry released a video of exercises by its armed forces, saying its military was "at the ready, keeping our country safe".

'US MAIN INSTIGATOR OF UKRAINE CRISIS'

London: China, which Russia has sought as an ally since being cold-shouldered by the West over its invasion of Ukraine, has called the United States the "main instigator" of the crisis. In an interview with the Russian state news agency TASS published Wednesday, China's ambassador to Moscow, Zhang Hanhui, accused Washington of backing Russia into a corner with repeated expansions of the NATO defence alliance and support for forces seeking to align Ukraine with the European Union rather than Moscow.

Only Taiwan's 23 million people have the right to decide on the future of Taiwan, and they will never accept an outcome set by an autocratic regime

AFFAIRS COUNCIL | TAIWAN

ing from the latest white paper.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council condemned the white paper, saying it was "full of lies of wishful thinking and disregarded the facts" and that the Republic of China - Taiwan's official name - was a sovereign state.

Taiwan has lived under the threat of Chinese invasion since 1949, when the defeated Republic of China fled to the island after Mao Zedong's Party won a civil war.

Wildfire rages in France, 8,000 people evacuated

France, like the rest of Europe, is struggling with successive heatwaves and its worst drought on record. Dozens of wildfires are ablaze across the country, including at least four other major ones

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, August 10: Firefighters were battling a wildfire in southwestern France Wednesday in a region known for its pine forests that was ravaged by flames last month. The blaze forced the evacuation of about 8,000 people and destroyed at least sixteen houses. A major highway near the city of Bordeaux was closed Wednesday afternoon due to the fire raging nearby.

Authorities in Spain's northern Basque Country region said France has stopped freight trucks from crossing the border at Irun due to the fire.

Photos released by firefighters

showed flames raging through pine forests, sending clouds of dark gray smoke soaring into the sky. More than 60 square kilometers (23 square miles) have burned in the Gironde region and the neighbouring Landes in the latest wildfire to erupt in a European nation as the continent sweaters through a hot and dry summer.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin announced that more firefighters have been sent to the site in an effort to contain the fire. In total, more than 1,000 firefighters, nine aircraft and two helicopters have been mobilized, he said.

The Gironde region was hit last month by major wildfires that forced the evacuation of more than 39,000 people, including residents and tourists.

France is this week in the midst of its fourth heat wave of the year as the country faces what the government warned is its worst drought on record. Temperatures in the south of the country are expected to reach up to 40 degrees Celsius.



Guarani Indigenous people protest during the International Indigenous People Day in Defence of Territories and Indigenous Lives, against the government of president Jair Bolsonaro and for the demarcation of lands in Sao Paulo, Brazil

'Russia using power plant as nuclear shield'

Ukraine and Russia have accused each other of imperilling the safety of the vast plant - Europe's largest - by attacking one another in its vicinity

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 10: Ukraine Wednesday accused Russia of exploiting its position in a nuclear power plant it had seized to target a nearby town in a rocket attack that killed at least 13 people and left many others seriously wounded.

The town Ukraine says Russia targeted - Marhanets - is one that Russia has alleged Ukrainian forces have used in the past to shell Russian forces who are holed up at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant which they took over in March.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has urged both sides to exercise restraint, warning of the "very real risk of a nuclear disaster."

And foreign ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries Wednesday demanded that Russia immediately hand back control of the plant to Ukraine, something Moscow seems unlikely to do.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the Ukrainian allegations of a rocket attack on Marhanets and Reuters could not independently verify the allegations.

Moscow says it does not deliberately target civilians in what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine aimed at preemptively safeguarding its own security against expansion of the NATO military alliance.

Andriy Yermak, President



Ukraine says 13 killed in Russian rocket attack

Accuses Russia of shelling from near nuclear plant

Russia says it does not deliberately target civilians

Has accused Kyiv of shelling power plant from struck town

Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, accused Russia of launching attacks on Ukrainian towns with impunity from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

in the knowledge that it was risky for Ukraine to fight back.

"Eighty reactive rockets fired at residential buildings," Yermak wrote on the Telegram messaging service, referring to the attack on Marhanets.

"The terrorist nation is continuing to fight against civilians. The cowardly Russians can't do anything more so they strike towns ignobly hiding at the Zaporizhzhia atomic power station," he wrote.

Ukraine, which accuses Moscow of waging an unprovoked imperial-style war of aggression, says around 500 Russian troops with heavy vehicles and weapons are stationed at the plant, where Ukrainian technicians continue to work.

Russia says its forces are behaving responsibly and doing everything they can to ensure the facility's safety. Moscow has accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the plant, something Kyiv denies.

In a first, UK restaurant puts carbon footprint on menu

CARBON FOOTPRINTS OF BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS HAVE COME UNDER GROWING SCRUTINY AS COUNTRIES SCRAMBLE TO LIMIT GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASES TO 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS AND TO ACHIEVE NET-ZERO EMISSION BY 2050

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Bristol, August 10: The menu at The Canteen in southwest England doesn't just let diners know how much a dish costs. They can also check its carbon footprint.

The carrot and beetroot pakora with yoghurt sauce is responsible for just 16 grams of CO2 emissions. The aubergines with a miso and harissa sauce with tabbouleh and Zaatar toast caused 675 grams of carbon dioxide.

As customers weigh their options, the menu at the vegetarian restaurant in Bristol includes a comparison with a dish that it does not serve: the emissions from a UK-produced hamburger. The menu notes that a real beef



burger's emissions is "10 times the amount of its vegan alternative". The Canteen became in July the

The move is a way to see what we are doing; to understand and improve ourselves

first restaurant to agree to put its carbon footprint on the menu under a campaign spearheaded by UK

vegan campaigning charity Viva! The average British person has an annual carbon footprint of more than 10 tonnes, according to UK government figures.

Britain has set the ambitious goal of reducing harmful emissions by 78 percent by 2035, compared with 1990 figures, in order to meet its international climate change commitments.

'Climate emergency' Switching to a plant-based diet is one of the most effective ways for an individual to reduce their carbon footprint, experts from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said in April.

The livestock industry replaces CO2-absorbing forests with land for grazing and soy crops for cat-

tle feed. The animals also belch huge amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

"In England if you're a big chain restaurant, it's the law that you have to have calories on (the menu)," restaurant's manager, Liam Stock said. "But a lot of people are saying... they're more interested in carbon."

Laura Hellwig, campaigns manager at Viva!, said the carbon footprint figure should become compulsory.

"We are in a climate emergency and consumers have to be able to make informed choices," said the activist.

In her view, "most people would actually choose for the planet" if confronted with a comparison between the carbon footprint of a meat-based meal and a vegan dish.

business

of the day quote

We anticipate that EVs will shut 60 per cent of the forging and casting industries in the next few years, resulting in unemployment and unit closures

VIKAS BAJAJ | PRESIDENT, AIFI

The trend in quarterly attrition rates is still looking good for us. The LTM (metrics) will catch up. Quarterly (attrition number) is a trend which gives us a good indication of how each immediate quarter will come

SALIL PAREKH | CEO, INFOSYS

We have not finalised the quantum, but it will be of a size somewhere around \$100 million. We don't need it to deliver the target of 80-90 per cent growth but it will turbo charge our growth in subsequent years, so we don't need it this year

ADHIL SHETTY | FOUNDER & CEO, BANKBAZAAR.COM

SHORT TAKES

Gold eases from one-month peak

New Delhi: Gold prices slipped Wednesday from a more than one-month high due to an uptick in bond yields, while investors awaited US inflation data which is expected to influence the pace of Federal Reserve rate hikes. Spot gold was down 0.3% at \$1,789.29 per ounce, as of 05:12 GMT, after hitting its highest since July 5 at \$1,800.29 Tuesday. US gold futures fell 0.3% at \$1,806.10. Benchmark US 10-year Treasury yields edged higher to 2.7990%, increasing the opportunity cost of holding non-interest bearing gold.

Coal India Q1 net almost triples

New Delhi: Coal India Ltd Wednesday reported almost three-fold rise in consolidated net profit at ₹8,832.86 crore for June quarter 2022-23 on the back of higher sales. The company had posted a net profit of ₹3,169.86 crore in the year-ago period. Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a filing to BSE. Revenue from operations during April-June period increased to ₹35,092.17 crore from ₹25,282.75 crore in the year-ago quarter. Net sales in the first quarter rose to ₹32,497.9 crore from ₹23,293.65 crore earlier.

JSW Neo Energy buys Mytrah Energy

New Delhi: JSW Energy Wednesday said its arm JSW Neo Energy will acquire 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity from Mytrah Energy for ₹10,530 crore. JSW Neo Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Energy, has agreed to acquire a portfolio of 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity -- comprising 17 SPVs and one Ancillary SPV -- from Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited, a statement said. Necessary definitive agreements have been signed between the parties, it added.

Bank credit rises 14.52%: RBI data

Mumbai: Bank credit rose 14.52 per cent to ₹123.69 lakh crore and deposits increased 9.14 per cent to ₹169.72 lakh crore in the fortnight ended July 29, according to RBI data. In the fortnight ended July 30, 2021, bank advances stood at ₹108 lakh crore and deposits at ₹155.49 lakh crore, as per the Reserve Bank of India's Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as July 29. In FY 2021-22, bank credit rose 8.59 per cent and deposits rose 8.94 per cent.



So, in some ways, we are not losing cash in that business anymore. We got to adjust EBITDA breakeven in the food delivery business

AKSHANT GOYAL | CFO, ZOMATO

IRAN'S CRYPTO MOVE TO TACKLE US SANCTIONS

Iran made its first official import order using cryptocurrency this week, the semi-official Tasnim agency reported Tuesday, a move aimed at circumventing US sanctions that have crippled the economy. The order, worth \$10 million, will allow the country to trade through digital assets that bypass the dollar-dominated global financial system and to trade with other countries similarly limited by US sanctions, such as Russia



CURBING MALPRACTICE

RBI tightens digital lending norms

Issuing a detailed set of guidelines for digital lending, the RBI mentioned about the concerns primarily related to unbridled engagement of third parties, mis-selling, breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates, and unethical recovery practices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 10: The RBI Wednesday mandated that digital loans must be credited directly in the bank accounts of borrowers and not through any third party, as it put in place strict norms to curb rising malpractice in digital lending space.

Besides, the Reserve Bank of India said digital lending entities and not the borrowers should pay fees or charges payable to Lending Service Providers (LSPs) in the credit intermediation process.

The RBI had constituted a Working Group on 'digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile applications' (WGDL) January 13, 2021.

It further said regulatory framework to support orderly growth of credit delivery through digital lending methods while mitigating the regulatory concerns has been framed up.

"This regulatory framework is based on the principle that lending business can be carried out only by entities that are either regulated by the Reserve Bank or entities permitted to do so under any other law," it said.

The Reserve Bank's regulatory framework is focused on the digital lending ecosystem of RBI's Regulated Entities (REs) and the LSPs engaged by them to extend various permissible credit facilitation services.

"All loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of borrower and the RE without any pass-through/ pool



The RBI has done a great balancing act of taking the initial steps in safeguarding the end consumer without stifling growth in the fintech sector. This first set of guidelines can be summarised as a step in the direction of responsible lending

ANKIT MEHRA | CEO & CO-FOUNDER, GYANDHAN

account of the LSP or any third party," the RBI said. Also, any fees, charges, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower, it added.

It further said a standardized Key Fact Statement (KFS) must be provided to the borrower before executing the loan contract.

This has been mandated to be followed by REs, their LSPs, and Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) of REs, among others.

If any complaint lodged by the borrower is not resolved by the RE within the stipulated period (currently 30 days), he/she can lodge a complaint under the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

The RBI further said data col-

lected by DLAs should be need-based, have clear audit trails and only done with prior explicit consent of the borrower.

Option may be provided for borrowers to accept or deny consent for use of specific data, including option to revoke previously granted consent, besides option to delete the data collected from borrowers by DLAs/ LSPs.

RBI also said certain recommendations of the working group have been accepted in-principle, but they require further examination.

Also, there are recommendations which require wider engagement with the central government and other stakeholders in view of the technical complexities, setting up of institutional mechanism and legislative interventions.

TWITTER TRIAL LOOMS

Elon Musk sells Tesla shares worth \$6.9bn

REUTERS

Washington, August 10: Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk sold \$6.9 billion worth of shares in the electric vehicle maker, saying the funds could be used to finance a potential Twitter deal if he loses a legal battle with the social media platform.

"In the (hopefully unlikely) event that Twitter forces this deal to close *and* some equity partners don't come through, it is important to avoid an emergency sale of Tesla stock," he said in a tweet late Tuesday.

Musk in early July tore up his April 25 agreement to buy Twitter for \$44 billion. Twitter has sued Musk to force him to complete the transaction, dismissing his claim that he was misled about the number of spam accounts on the social media platform as buyer's remorse in the wake of a plunge in technology stocks. The two sides head to trial October 17.

"Street will read through this poker move that chances of Twitter deal more likely now," Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, tweeted.

In other comments on Twitter Tuesday, Musk said "yes" when asked if he was done selling Tesla stock, and also said he would buy Tesla stock again if the Twitter deal does not close.

Musk, the world's richest person, sold \$8.5 billion worth of Tesla shares in April and had said at the time there were no further sales planned. But since then, legal experts had suggested that if Musk is forced to complete the acquisition or settle the dispute with a stiff penalty, he was likely to sell more Tesla shares.

Musk also teased Tuesday that he could start his own social media platform. When asked by a Twitter user if he had thought about creating his own platform if the deal didn't close, he replied: "X.com"

India to supply petrol with 20% ethanol from April '23

PM SAID THE COUNTRY SAVED ₹50,000 CRORE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY BLENDING ETHANOL WITH PETROL IN THE LAST 7-8 YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panipat (Haryana), August 10: India will start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol at select petrol pumps from April next year and will ramp up supplies thereafter as it looks to cut oil import dependence and address environmental issues.

Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said a fifth of petrol will be made up of ethanol by 2025. "E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025," he said.

India, which achieved the target of supplying petrol mixed with 10 per cent ethanol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) ahead of schedule in June this year, has advanced



the target of making petrol with 20 per cent ethanol by five years to 2025.

The original target for doping 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane and other agri commodities, in petrol originally was November 2022. On the occasion of World Biofuel Day Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant here.

The plant is part of a long series of steps taken by the government over the years to boost the production and use of biofuels in the country. Built at a cost of over ₹900 crore by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the plant near the firm's Panipat refinery will turn about 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) annually into around 3 crore litres

of ethanol.

Creating an end-use for the agri-crop residue would empower farmers and provide an additional income generation opportunity for them, Modi said.

The project will have zero liquid discharge. Through the reduction in the burning of rice straw, the project will contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gases equivalent to about 3 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per annum, which can be understood as equivalent to replacing nearly 63,000 cars annually on the country's roads.

Puri said 10 per cent ethanol blend translated into a forex impact of over ₹41,500 crore, reduced greenhouse gas emissions of 27 lakh tonne and also led to farmers being paid over ₹40,600 crore expeditiously.

India is the world's fifth largest producer of ethanol after the US, Brazil, EU and China. Ethanol worldwide is largely used for consumption but nations like Brazil and India also dope it in petrol.

Supply of petrol with 20 per cent ethanol will result in a saving of an estimated \$4 billion annually.

JSPL Foundation gives financial aid to 508 underprivileged girls

Bhubaneswar: JSPL Foundation, the CSR wing of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), provided scholarships to 508 meritorious girls from weaker sections of the society in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The initiative was taken to support the vocational training and higher education under its Jindal Swayam Sampanna Nari programme. Shailu Jindal, Chairperson of JSPL Foundation, inaugurated the programme and distributed the scholarship letters to the selected girls in a hybrid ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Jindal said, "Jindal Swayam Sampanna Nari is a part of our endeavour to empower talented females and young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to become self-sufficient. Many talented girls are not able to fulfill their ambition to develop their skills or pursue higher education because of financial constraints. I am sure that our initiative will be the wind beneath their way for fulfilling their dreams and empower them sustainably". Under the programme, 508 girls were selected through a selection process started in March 2022. They will be supported with financial assistance towards the course fee and other associated fees for pursuing vocational training or academic courses in professional/general streams in the institutions/colleges of their choice.



Indian firms swapping \$ for Asian currencies to buy Russian coal

FOR DEALS IN A CURRENCY OTHER THAN THE DOLLAR, LENDERS WOULD POTENTIALLY HAVE TO SEND DOLLARS TO BANK BRANCHES IN THE COUNTRY OF THE ORIGINAL CURRENCY, OR BANKS THEY HAVE TIE-UPS WITH, IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT CURRENCY TO SETTLE THE TRADE

REUTERS

New Delhi, August 10: Indian companies are using Asian currencies more often to pay for Russian coal imports, according to customs documents and industry sources, avoiding the US dollar and cutting the risk of breaching Western sanctions against Moscow. Reuters previously reported on a large Indian coal deal involving the Chinese yuan, but the customs data underline how non-dollar settlements are becoming commonplace.

India has aggressively stepped up purchases of Russian oil and coal since the war in Ukraine began, helping to cushion Moscow from the

effects of sanctions and allowing New Delhi to secure raw materials at discounts compared to supplies from other countries.

Russia became India's third-largest coal supplier in July, with imports rising by over a fifth compared with June to a record 2.06 million tonne.

In June, Indian buyers paid for at least 742,000 tonne of Russian coal using currencies other than the US dollar, according to a summary of deals compiled by a trade source based in India using customs documents and shared with Reuters, equal to 44% of the 1.7 million of tonne of Russian imports that month. Indian steelmakers and cement



manufacturers have bought Russian coal using the United Arab Emirates dirham, Hong Kong dollar, yuan and euro in recent weeks, according to customs documents separately reviewed by Reuters. The yuan accounted for 31% of

the non-US dollar payments for Russian coal in June and the Hong Kong dollar for 28%. The euro made up under a quarter and the Emirati dirham around one-sixth, the data from the trade source showed.

KEEPING DOLLAR AT A DISTANCE

Two traders based in India that purchase coal for domestic customers and a trader based in Europe that deals with Russian coal said they expected the share of non-dollar transactions for Russian coal to

- India has ramped up imports of Russian coal since Ukraine war
- June customs data shows non-dollar payments now common
- Chinese yuan, Emirati dirham trades becoming more popular
- Banks and traders seek to avoid dollar, wary of sanctions

increase as banks and other parties explore ways of cushioning themselves against any further tightening of sanctions. Buying Russian coal using the US dollar is not illegal for Indian firms.

Reuters was able to corroborate customs documents for four of the 11 vessels in the summary of Russian coal trades in June provided by the trade source, which showed payments made using the yuan, euro and the Emirati dirham, using ship-tracking data and by speaking to a private customs agent based in India.

Another three vessels in the 11 deals in the trader's summary were paid for using the Hong Kong dollar and the yuan, two trade sources familiar with the transactions confirmed.

Domestic airfare caps to be removed from August 31, says govt

The ministry had imposed lower and upper limits on domestic airfares based on flight durations when services were resumed May 25, 2020 after a two-month lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: Limits imposed on domestic airfares will be removed from August 31, after a span of approximately 27 months, the Union Aviation Ministry said Wednesday.

"The decision to remove air fare caps has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel (ATF). Stabilisation has set in and we are certain that the sector is poised for growth in domestic traffic in the near future," Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Twitter. ATF prices have been coming down during the last few weeks after jumping to record levels, primarily due to the Russia-Ukraine war that began February 24.

On August 1, the price of ATF in Delhi was ₹1.21 lakh per kilo-litre, which was around 14 per cent lower than last month. The ministry had imposed lower and upper limits on domestic airfares based on flight durations when services were resumed May 25, 2020 after a two-month lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

For example, airlines currently cannot charge a passenger less than ₹2,900 (excluding GST) and more than ₹8,800 (excluding GST) for domestic flights of less than 40 minutes.

The lower caps were there to protect the financially weaker airlines and the upper caps to protect passengers from high fares.

On Wednesday, the Civil Aviation Ministry stated in an order: "After review of the current status of scheduled domestic operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel...It has been decided to remove the fare bands notified from time to time regarding the airfares with effect from August 31, 2022."

The airlines and airport operators must, however, ensure that the guidelines to contain the spread of Covid-19 are strictly adhered to and Covid-appropriate behaviour is strictly enforced by them during travel, it added.

Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan had June 19 said that he would be happy if the lower and upper limits on airfares were increased but the best solution would be for the airlines to have absolute freedom on airfares.

'India could emerge as Asia's strongest economy next yr'

Morgan Stanley expects India's growth to average 7% for 2022-2023 and contribute 28% and 22% to Asian and global growth, respectively

REUTERS

Washington, August 10: India could emerge as Asia's strongest economy in 2022-2023 as it is best-positioned to generate robust domestic demand, helped by economic policy reforms, a young workforce and business investments, Morgan Stanley economists said.

Morgan Stanley's projection comes as Asia's third-largest economy grew 9.2% in the fiscal year 2022, a sharp recovery from a 6.6% contraction in the previous year as Covid-19 lockdowns took a severe toll on its economy. The country now expects GDP growth for 2022-2023 at 8%-8.5%.

"Lower corporate taxes, the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and India as a potential beneficiary of supply chain diversification will catalyse and sustain domestic demand, especially



in investment," the economists said in a note dated Tuesday.

In 2019, India had cut corporate tax rates to woo manufacturers and revive private investment, and launched the PLI scheme in 2020 to aid domestic manufacturing.

Morgan Stanley's outlook also comes as developed economies paint a gloom picture, with business activity in the United States and eurozone contracting in July, as per their PMI data.

"The economy is set for its best run in over a decade as pent-up demand is being unleashed," the brokerage said, adding that "healthy" corporate balance sheets and business confidence bodes well for India's investment outlook.

While India, like other economies, raised interest rates to battle inflation, Morgan said the country's Rs 39.45 trillion budget for the current fiscal year has continued to tilt towards lifting public investment.

'NEED TO MOVE ON'

DISAPPOINTED HARMANPREET FEELS INDIA'S CWG FINAL LOSS HARD TO DIGEST, BUT THE TEAM HAVE TO LEAVE THE HEARTBREAK BEHIND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 10: The bitter loss to Australia in the Commonwealth Games final is "hard to digest" but the Indian hockey team will have to move on, said star drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh, promising a thread-bare analysis of the side's performance in Birmingham.

In one of their worst performances in recent times, India suffered an embarrassing 0-7 drubbing at the hands of defending champions Australia to settle for a silver medal Sunday. "It is hard to digest a loss by such a big margin," the India vice-captain said in a Hockey India (HI) release after returning to the country early Wednesday morning.

"Definitely the entire team is disappointed by the way we played but it's important we move on from this bitter outing. Like Chief Coach mentioned, we lacked the energy and tempo required to match-up to a team like Australia."

While the final was a forgettable

experience, India marched into the summit clash on the back of some fine performances in the group stage as they beat Ghana 11-0, drew against England 4-4, beat Canada 8-0 and Wales 4-1 followed by a 3-2 win against South Africa in the semifinal.

"There are many lessons from this campaign that we can work on and improve upon. Every match we played will be analyzed thoroughly when we return to camp after a two week break and we will be starting from scratch," said Harmanpreet.

The 26-year-old from Amritsar was in sublime form throughout the tournament as he scored nine goals and was the second highest goal scorer along with Wales' Gareth Furlong.

"This was a memorable outing for me personally despite the final not going our way. For the first time after the pandemic, we were playing in front of such big crowds and many Indian fans had turned up," he said.

"My wife travelled to Birmingham to watch our matches,

and this was the first time she was watching me play a big tournament live. This is my first Commonwealth Games medal, so in all it was a special outing for me on a personal note," he said.

Furlong scored nine goals from penalty corners, while Harmanpreet scored eight from PCs and one from a penalty stroke. He also scored a hat-trick, in India's 4-1 win against Wales. England's Nicholas Bandurak remained the highest goal-scorer of the tournament with 11 goals.

India will now prepare for the upcoming FIH Hockey Pro League season 2022/23 which begins in October. India is scheduled to play New Zealand and Spain at home. The team will return to the national coaching camp in Bangalore, August 29.



Lanning takes indefinite break

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, August 10: World Cup-winning captain Meg Lanning is unlikely to lead Australia in the tour of India later this year as the skipper is taking an indefinite break from the game to "focus on myself."

Australia are slated to tour India mid-December for five T20s before the home series against Pakistan and the T20 World Cup in South Africa next year.

"After a busy couple of years, I've made the decision to take a step back to enable me to spend time focusing on myself," Lanning said in a statement Wednesday. "I'm grateful for the support of CA and my team-mates and ask that my privacy is respected during this time," she added.

The announcement comes days after Lanning led Australia to a gold medal at the Commonwealth

Games in Birmingham. "We're proud of Meg for acknowledging that she needs a break and will continue to support her during this time," Cricket Australia's head of performance, women's cricket, Shawn Flegler said.

"She's been an incredible contributor to Australian cricket over the last decade, achieving remarkable feats both individually and as part of the team, and has been a brilliant role model for young kids."

"The welfare of our players is always our number one priority, and we'll continue to work with Meg to ensure she gets the support and space she needs."

The 30-year-old had made her international debut in 2010 and was named captain in 2014. She has led Australia 171 times. In the past two years, she has led the team to a T20 and a 50-over World Cup titles alongside an Ashes series win.



THERE ARE MANY LESSONS FROM THIS CAMPAIGN THAT WE CAN WORK ON AND IMPROVE UPON. EVERY MATCH WE PLAYED WILL BE ANALYZED THOROUGHLY WHEN WE RETURN TO CAMP AFTER A TWO WEEK BREAK AND WE WILL BE STARTING FROM SCRATCH

HARMANPREET SINGH

Fencer Bhavani Devi defends her CFC title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 10: India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Fencing Championship (CFC) here, defending the title she won last time.

The 42nd ranked Indian fencer defeated second seeded Australian Veronika Vasileva 15-10 in the senior women's sabre individual category final Tuesday.

Since becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, the Chennai-born Bhavani has had a steady rise in her sport. The year began with the World Cup in Istanbul where she finished 23rd after missing out a spot in the last 32.

Thereafter Bhavani's World Championship campaign in July at Cairo ended in the second round. The Commonwealth Fencing Championship is her 10th international tournament this year.

Speaking after her win, Bhavani said, "It was a tough final and I am glad I could add another gold medal for India this year. It has been a great journey for me this year and I would like to continue this momentum for the upcoming tournaments. The support back home has been great for me throughout."

Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General of the Fencing Association of India, sees her as the torchbearer of fencing in the country. "She has been an inspiration to every fencer in India, and it is because of her that many youngsters now dream of making it big in the global fencing map," said Mehta.

"This gold medal only adds to our belief that fencing in India is growing and I am confident that the day is not far away when we will have Indian fencers competing at the top international tournaments regularly including the Olympics," he added.



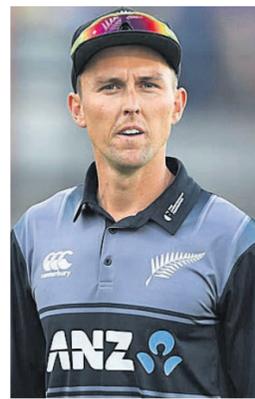
Boult released from NZC contract

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, August 10: Leading New Zealand fast bowler Trent Boult has been released from his contract with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to spend more time with his young family.

Boult has taken 317 wickets in Tests and 169 in ODIs and with his new ball partner Tim Southee has played a major role in the recent successes of a New Zealand team which won the inaugural World Test Championship and reached the finals of the last two ODI World Cups.

The 33-year-old left-arm pacer recently has been in discussions with national cricket officials about the increasing burden



of touring overseas with a young family at home.

"We respect Trent's position," NZC chief executive David White said Wednesday.

"He's been completely honest and up-front with us about his reasoning and, while we're sad to be losing him as a fully-contracted player, he leaves with our best wishes and our sincere thanks."

"Trent has made a massive contribution to the Black Caps since his test debut in late 2011 and is now considered one of the best multi-format cricketers in the world. We're very proud of what he's achieved."

Boult will still be eligible to be selected for New Zealand, though

it is likely priority would be given to contracted players. "We've had several conversations and I know Trent understands that, in terms of selection, NZC will continue to make a priority of those players with either central or domestic contracts," White said.

Boult said he understands the implications of his decision. "I still have a big desire to represent my country and feel I have the skills to deliver at international level," he said.

"However, I respect the fact that not having a national contract will affect my chances of selection. Having said that, as a fast bowler I know I have a limited career span and I feel the time is right to move into this next phase."

Pak boxers missing in Birmingham after CWG: PBF secretary



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, August 10: Two Pakistani boxers have gone missing in Birmingham after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games, the national federation said Wednesday.

Pakistan Boxing Federation (PBF) secretary Nasir Tang confirmed the news that boxers Suleman Baloch and Nazeerullah disappeared a couple of hours before the team's departure for Islamabad.

The Birmingham CWG ended Monday. "The travel documents including their passports are still with federation officials who accompanied the boxing team to the games," Tang said. He said the team management has informed the Pakistan High Commission in the UK and the relevant authorities in London about the disappearance of Suleman and Nazeerullah.

Tang said the documents of the missing boxers have been kept as per the standard operating procedure for all athletes who travel from Pakistan. The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has formed a four-member committee to investigate the matter of the missing boxers.

Pakistan failed to win any medal in the boxing competition of the Commonwealth Games where it ended up with eight medals, including two gold, won in weightlifting and javelin throw.

The incident came just two months after a national swimmer, Faizan Akbar also disappeared while competing in the FINA World Championships in Hungary.

Akbar, however, didn't even bother to compete in the championships and went missing with his passport and other documents just hours after reaching Budapest. He could not be traced since June.

MI Cape Town, MI Emirates unveiled



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 10: The owners of Mumbai Indians, Reliance Industries Limited Wednesday unveiled the franchises for the UAE's International League T20 and Cricket South Africa T20 League.

The two franchises will be known as MI Emirates and MI Cape Town, the corporate house said in a press release. While MI Emirates will be a part of the UAE league, MI Cape Town will feature SA league.

Nita M Ambani, Director of Reliance Industries, said, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome 'MI Emirates' & 'MI Cape Town', the newest additions to our #Onefamily. "For us, MI goes beyond cricket. It embodies the ability to dream, be fearless and foster a positive attitude in life. I am sure that both MI Emirates and MI Cape Town will embrace the same ethos and take MI's global cricket legacy to even greater heights."



FIFA looks to start WC a day earlier

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, August 10: The World Cup in Qatar could start one day earlier than scheduled with FIFA looking at a plan to let the host nation play Ecuador November 20, a person familiar with the proposal told this agency, Wednesday.

The person said a decision could be made within days by a committee comprised of FIFA president Gianni Infantino and the heads of the six continental soccer bodies.

The proposal to create a 29-day tournament instead of the long-planned 28 has been favored by Qatari officials and South American soccer body CONMEBOL, with talks also involving the Qatar and Ecuador soccer federations, the person said.

The World Cup is set to open November 21, a Monday, with the Netherlands facing Senegal at 1 pm local time in Doha. Qatar and Ecuador are also in Group A but that match was scheduled to start six hours later on the same day.

The match schedule — with the official opening ceremony at the third match when Qatar was scheduled to play — was finalised after the draw was made in Doha April 1.

A Sunday start for the World Cup had been ruled out several years ago when a shorter, 28-day schedule requiring four games each day during the group stage was agreed to by FIFA after talks with



influential leagues in Europe which will play club games through November 13.

However, a Qatar-Ecuador game involves few players who are with European clubs and would give the host nation an exclusive day to open its tournament.

The opening ceremony could now actually be before the opening game, at Al Bayt Stadium, and open up the early evening slot Monday for the Netherlands and Senegal.

The 2022 World Cup is the first in the tournament's 92-year history to be played outside of the traditional northern hemisphere summer. The previous 21 editions were all played between late-May and the end of July.

FIFA finalized a decision in 2015 to avoid the searing heat in Qatar's summer and move to November

and December, despite opposition from most of European soccer unhappy at shutting down their domestic leagues for several peak weeks.

The Nov 21-Dec 18 tournament schedule was agreed to so that European clubs could play on the Nov 12-13 weekend before releasing their players to the 32 World Cup teams.

The final will be played on a Sunday that is Qatar's National Day, allowing a full week for players to return to clubs before the Premier League plays its traditional Boxing Day games Dec 26.

Qatar bid to host in June-July promising innovative stadium cooling technology to overcome heat expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) during the first World Cup held in the Middle East.