



KRITI'S WISHLIST

Actor Kriti Sanon shares a list of actors from Hindi film industry and Hollywood who she wants to be at her 'Swayamvar'

LEISURE P2



WELCOME INITIATIVE

The Forest department of Tamil Nadu is setting up an AI system to prevent elephant deaths due to train-related accidents

TWO STATES P8



SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION

Massive explosions hit a military depot in Crimea, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people

INTERNATIONAL P10

7 security personnel die in J-K bus mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, August 16: Six ITBP personnel and a policeman died while 32 others -- who were returning from Amarnath Yatra duty -- sustained injuries Tuesday when a bus fell in deep gorge in Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir.

A police bus carrying 37 Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel and two policemen fell into the gorge between Chandanwari and Pahalgam, a police official said.

He said while two ITBP personnel died on the spot, five others, including the policeman, succumbed to injuries later.

Condition of six of the injured personnel is stated to be critical, the official said, adding they are being airlifted to Srinagar for specialised treatment. The 37 ITBP personnel and two from the JKP were being de-inducted from the Amarnath Yatra duty that concluded August 11, a senior officer said.

An ITBP spokesperson said in Delhi that, "A bus carrying 39 personnel fell down into a roadside river bed after its brakes reportedly failed. The troops were on their way from Chandanwari to Pahalgam. Casualties are feared and more details are awaited."

FLOOD SITUATION GRIM



Fire Services personnel evacuate villagers of Gatroutpatna in Cuttack to safety, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

- Chief Minister stresses on zero casualty
- 14 more sluice gates of Hirakud dam opened
- Collectors of 10 districts put on high alert
- Weatherman forecasts formation of a fresh low pressure over northern Bay of Bengal by Friday

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The flood situation in the Mahanadi river system remained grim Tuesday as over two lakh people in 10 districts were affected by the calamity, a senior official said here.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked officers concerned to ensure 'zero casualty' as the state combats flood in the Mahanadi river system with a number of villages in 10 districts already inundated, officials said.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said that as preliminary data, two lakh people have been affected due to the flood while around 24,000 hectares of farmland have been hit.

Of them, 1.20 lakh people in 237 villages were marooned and over 26,000 people have been evacuated.

The flood has been triggered by heavy rainfall in the catchment areas due to the week-long low

pressure and depression, the officials said.

"The flood situation in the Mahanadi river system is grim. The next 48 to 72 hours are critical for the state as about 12 lakh cusec floodwater will flow at Mundali barrage near Cuttack and the water level in other connecting rivers will remain at about 10 lakh cusec," Jena said after Patnaik reviewed the situation.

The SRC said that efforts are on to maintain maximum water level within 12 lakh cusec in order to keep it within a medium flood range. The administration had Monday closed eight more gates at Hirakud dam for the purpose. "However, as the water level has been increasing in Hirakud reservoir, 14 more gates of the dam have been opened till Tuesday evening," Jena said, adding that altogether 40 gates have been opened.

The flood situation in the Mahanadi river system turned grim after the water level in Hirakud reservoir crossed 626 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet by 12 noon, Jena said.

"While above 7.88 lakh cusec water is entering the Hirakud reservoir, about 4.45 lakh cusec was being discharged from the dam through 26 gates. As expected above 11.7 lakh cusec of floodwater is passing through Mundali barrage near Cuttack making the flood situation grim downstream, particularly in the Mahanadi delta region," he said. **Continued on P4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Go ahead, you can drink from that pot. Nobody will kill you. We don't have a caste system!

| MARKET WATCH | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| INDEX | VARIATION |
| SENSEX | 59842.21 ↑ 379.43 |
| NIFTY | 17825.30 ↑ 127.10 |
| DOLLAR | ₹--- |
| EURO | ₹--- |
| GOLD | ₹51,807 ↓ ₹778 |
| SILVER | ₹57,596 ↓ ₹1,680 |

| WEATHER | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| | BHUB | CTK |
| TEMP. MAX | 34.2°C | 34.6°C |
| TEMP. MIN | 25.8°C | 25.0°C |
| Humidity | 80% | 85% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |
| Forecast | Light to Moderate Rain | |

WOMEN'S U-17 WORLD CUP NOT TO BE HELD IN INDIA

FIFA bans AIFF for 3rd party influence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: In a massive setback for the country, world football governing body FIFA Tuesday suspended India for 'undue influence from third parties' and said the U-17 Women's World Cup cannot currently be held in India as planned.

This is the first time the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history, with FIFA saying there have been 'flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes'.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the AIFF with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes," the FIFA said in a statement.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council said the lifting of the suspension will be subject to repealing of the Committee of Administrators' (CoA) mandate in full.

"The suspension will be lifted



once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affairs."

"The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India October 11-30, 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary."

In the wake of the latest development, the Centre sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on the AIFF matter. **MORE P12**

Oppn slams PM over release of Bilkis Bano case convicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Opposition parties Tuesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the release of 11 people convicted for rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case of 2002 Gujarat riots within hours of his praise for 'Nari Shakti' in the Independence Day speech and alleged that this is the 'real face' of 'New India' under the BJP.

They said the remission for the convicts, serving life imprisonment for the gang rape of a pregnant Bilkis Bano and murder of seven of her family members, was a violation of the Centre's guidelines and demanded withdrawal of the order.

The convicts, who were also charged with killing the pregnant Muslim woman's three-year-old daughter, were welcomed with sweets and garlands outside the jail Monday.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said PM Modi should tell the country if he himself believed in his words when he spoke about the safety, respect and empowerment of women.



Relatives celebrating with the convicts

"The BJP government in Gujarat released 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case. This decision brings out the BJP government's mindset," he told reporters.

"Yesterday, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the prime minister spoke big things about women's safety, women's power, women's respect. A few hours later the Gujarat government released those behind the rape. We also saw that the convicts in the rape who were released are being honoured. Is this the Amrit Mahotsav," Khara said.

"Who is the real Narendra Modi? The one who serves falsehood from the ramparts of the Red Fort or the one who gets his Gujarat government to release those behind rape. This Congress party and the country want to know," the Congress leader asked.

In a tweet, the CPI(M) also strongly condemned the release of the convicts, saying "this is the real face of New India - convicted killers and rapists released" and activist Teesta Setalvad 'who fought for justice was jailed'.

STF SEIZES FIVE FIREARMS, NABS 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has arrested a dreaded criminal and seized five firearms from his possession in Dhenkanal district, an official said Tuesday. The arrested was identified as Nidhi Naik, a resident of Chhatia under Dhenkanal Sadar police station.

Following a tip-off, a joint team of STF sleuths and Dhenkanal police Monday conducted a raid and nabbed the accused on Chhatia - Tibalpur road near Gundichapada panchayat. Police later found Naik in possession of five country-made revolvers and six live bullets. The sleuths also recovered several incriminating materials from the possession of Naik. **P3**

Spl OTET '22 August 29

Cuttack: The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha Tuesday announced the date for conducting the Special Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET) 2022.

As per the BSE notification, the Special OTET for both the categories (Paper I and II) of candidates will be conducted August 29, 2022. The exam will be held from 8am to 10:30am (Paper I) and 12noon to 2:30pm for Paper II.

The candidates, who have to fill up their forms online, can download their admit cards from the official website- www.bseodisha.ac.in.

The candidates can download the admit card by entering their registration number or email id from August 24.

8 get life term for murder

Kendrapara: A court here sentenced eight people to life imprisonment Tuesday for murdering a panchayat head over a past enmity six years ago. District and sessions judge GC Behera convicted the assailants and slapped a fine of Rs 10,000 each for brutally killing Chitrasen Das, who was the sarpanch of Singiri gram panchayat in Aul block.

On June 8, 2016, the 46-year-old was going to Singiri when the eight men attacked him with sticks, iron rods and knives. Das was rushed to the community health centre, where he was declared dead.

Chinese 'spy' ship docks at SL port despite Indian concern

BEIJING SAYS VESSEL NOT A THREAT TO SECURITY INTERESTS OF ANY COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo/Beijing, August 16: A high-tech Chinese research ship docked Tuesday at the strategically important Hambantota port China leased from the Sri Lankan government, days after Colombo asked Beijing to defer the port call amidst India's concern over the vessel's presence in its neighbourhood.

The Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang 5' arrived in the southern Sri Lankan port of Hambantota at 8.20 am local time. It will be docked there till August 22 for replenishment, Sri Lankan officials said. The ship was originally sched-

uled to arrive at the Chinese-run port on August 11 but it was delayed in absence of permission by the Sri Lankan authorities.

Sri Lanka had asked China to defer the visit amid India's concerns over it. On Saturday, Colombo granted the port access to the vessel from August 16 to 22 on condition that it will keep the Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched on within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Sri Lanka and no scientific research to be conducted in Sri Lankan waters. Sri Lanka has said that the security clearance was granted from the Ministry of Defence for the visit of the vessel for replenishment purposes during the stipulated period.

It said no rotation of personnel would take place during the port call and the Sri Lankan government was requested to provide the necessary assistance by the Chinese Embassy in Colombo.



Sri Lankan port workers hold a Chinese national flag to welcome Chinese research ship Yuan Wang 5 as it arrives in Hambantota International Port in Sri Lanka, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

The security and cooperation in the neighbourhood are of utmost priority in handling the issue

of the Chinese vessel Wang Yang 5, the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry said in a statement last week.

The local telecommunications regulatory authority had issued a No Objection Letter for the use of

frequencies and communication equipment subject to non-interference and non-protection basis.

There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian defence installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port.

China says the ship is used for scientific research, but the US Defense Department says the ship is under the command of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and is capable of tracking satellites and missile launches.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday the ship is conducting scientific research "in accordance with international law."

It "does not affect the security and economic interests of any country, and should not be interfered with by third parties," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said in Beijing. **Continued on P4**

leisure



JOLIE HIGHLIGHTS AFGHAN WOMEN'S PLIGHT AFTER TALIBAN TAKEOVER

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie wants the world to take cognizance of what's happening with women in the theocratic state under Taliban ruled Afghanistan. She recently wrote in an op-ed in *Time* magazine, where she recalled her experience of meeting an Afghan refugee woman in Rome.

JOHNNY DEPP TO DIRECT FILM AFTER 25 YEARS

Following his monumental win against ex-wife Amber Heard in his USD 50 million defamation lawsuit, Johnny Depp is gearing up to return to filming. *The Pirates of the Caribbean* actor is set to make his return as a director with a biopic on the Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today nostalgia tinges your mood, and this reflects in your dealings at work, where others see your softer side. You even spend carefully, seeming to be wiser regarding your savings. Ganesha sees profits for cashiers and money lenders.

TAURUS
Today is a perfect day to relax and enjoy your health, feels Ganesha. However, precaution should be the buzzword while dealing in money matters. You may develop a new interest in jewellers, artists, bankers and orators. Dinner will be laced with all the deserving delicacies of a hearty meal.

GEMINI
It is a good day for you to participate in cultural events and group activities, predicts Ganesha. You are likely to be an important part of some convention or joint venture, but don't get too bogged down by it. In the evening, you may take a fancy to fine arts, such as drawing or classical music.

CANCER
Ganesha suggests you not to be sentimental or hasty. Try to handle things deftly in stead of dodging bad episodes or turning a blind eye to them. You will give priority to domestic and private life in stead of career or business aspects.

LEO
You will feel more emotional today and share your feelings with your friends and near ones. For those who are searching for a life-partner, this might be the time when you will get hitched. You will develop a new perspective on some issues in the office.

VIRGO
You will begin your journey on the long, hard road to success, predicts Ganesha. Hard work will be the key to any progress that you make. Avoid short cuts, and all the toil and trouble will pay off with rich returns as recognition and rewards will come your way.

LIBRA
Today promises a definite sense of pride and joy from children who bring home glory, says Ganesha. Fiscal gains are also on the cards, and you may consider it worthwhile to put your money into lucrative businesses.

SCORPIO
You may expect the day to be as dull and mundane as those boring repeat telecasts of sitcoms. But remember, it's not always going to be grey! The dance of planets will usher in new change for a better tomorrow. Keep hoping and who knows you may stumble upon something very interesting, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
You will find yourself rubbing shoulders with Lady Luck today. Sharpen your multi-tasking skills as you will keep busy and have only occasional moments of respite. Good will and green print, you might find them both with ease and in abundance, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You are in hot water, but do not lose hope during these turbulent times. Maintain a calm head over your shoulders and deal with the problems, guides Ganesha. Also, do not jump to conclusions or be argumentative with the people around you, as you may end up being at the losing end.

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

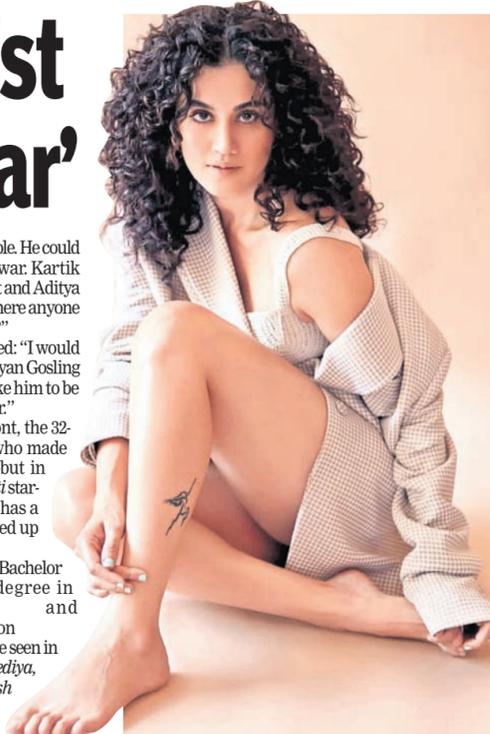
PISCES
The apple of your eye is what you will have your sights set on today. It is likely that you will find yourself attending a Parent-Teacher meet, says Ganesha. However, fortunately, it is likely only to receive news about how proud your children are making you. Buy them something to make them happy, or take them out on a picnic. Either way, it is spending quality time with the kids today that will be on your agenda

Kriti shares wishlist for her 'Swayamvar'



Mumbai: From Vijay Devarakonda to Kartik Aaryan, Aditya Roy Kapur and even Ryan Gosling, actress Kriti Sanon wants them to be at her swayamvar. Kriti in a conversation talks about her interest in organising a swayamvar for herself and also shared who all should be a part of it. During a live show on *Roposo*, Kriti said: "Vijay Devarakonda is good looking and he sounds sensible to me. I have seen some of his interviews too and he seems to be

very real and sensible. He could be in the Swayamvar. Kartik Aaryan could be in it and Aditya Roy Kapur too. Is there anyone else who is single?" The actress added: "I would love to work with Ryan Gosling and I would also like him to be in my Swayamvar." On the work front, the 32-year-old actress, who made her Hindi film debut in 2014 with *Heropanti* starring Tiger Shroff, has a gamut of films lined up for release. Kriti, who has a Bachelor of Technology degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, will be seen in movies such as *Bhedha*, *Ganpath*, *Adipurush* and *Shehzada*.



'I'M A PUBLIC FIGURE, NOT PUBLIC PROPERTY'

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is currently busy promoting her upcoming film *Dobaaraa*, recently made headlines after she got into a heated argument with the paparazzi. She lost her cool after the paparazzi misbehaved with her at an event. According to Taapsee, the photographer was rude to her and that made her angry. She ended the argument and told

the paparazzi with folded hands, "It is only you who is always right and the actor is the one who is always wrong." In a recent interview, the *Judwa 2* actress reacted to the entire episode. She said that the photographer was so rude to her that she felt he was doing her a favour by clicking her photos. She also said that even her parents don't talk to her in that tone. Taapsee fur-

ther said that actors are not illiterates to lose their cool on video without reason. The actress said that she did not want to retaliate and hence she folded her hands and accepted whatever the photographer had to say. In the end, Taapsee also said, "I am a public figure and not public property." Anurag Kashyap's *Dobaaraa* is scheduled to release August 19.

FOUR-DAY CULTURAL EVENT

Chinta O Chetana's monsoon extravaganza 'Barsha' begins



BHUBANESWAR: The 44th edition of 'Barsha', a four-day cultural event comprising dance, music and painting to pay tribute to monsoon by Chinta O Chetana, was inaugurated at Rabindra Mandap here Tuesday. The first evening of the festival was dedicated to former Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy, a former President of Chinta O Chetana. The event opened with a dance recital by eminent Odissi dancer Kumkum Mohanty who performed Geeta Gobinda. Arupa Gayatri Panda, who came next, presented a recital on monsoon.

Subhashree Panda for social service, CRPF commander Khirrod Kumar Behera for bravery and Kumkum Mohanty for Odissi were felicitated for outstanding contributions to their respective fields. This apart, 60 CRPF jawans and 40 members of 7th battalion were also felicitated on the occasion. The event was attended by spiritual guru Ramnarayan Das Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta, Culture Secretary Madhusudan Padhi, National President of Chinta O Chetana Sashibhusan Behera, President Sahadeva Sahoo and musician Laxmikant Palit. Chinta O Chetana, a premier socio-cultural organisation of the state, was founded by Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab in 1980. The organisation is also committed to the cause of socially, economically and educationally downtrodden communities, said its state secretary Surendra Das. Apart from its emphasis on cultural activities, the organisation lays stress on social service and economic development as part of the wholesome development of the people wherever it works. PNN



A recital by Kumkum Mohanty

Awards for Abhishek, Vani at IFFM

Melbourne: The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2022 (IFFM) after much fanfare has announced the winners for the coveted awards of its 13th edition. The Leadership in Cinema Award was given to Abhishek Bachchan while Vaani Kapoor was awarded with Disruptor in Cinema award for her path breaking performance in *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui*. Reacting to the honour,

Vaani said, "It's so special and kind of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne to recognise such a film and giving so much dignity, respect and love." On the other hand, Abhishek shared, "I thank IFFM for giving me Leadership in Cinema award, I am extremely ecstatic being considered for this prestigious award by the Victorian Government and the film festival." This apart, the team of

Jalsa starring Vidya Balan, Shefali Shah was awarded with the Equality in Cinema Award along with the Best Actress award for Shefali Shah. Filmmakers Shoojit Sircar and Aparna Sen won for *Sardar Udham* and *The Rapist* respectively. Mohit Raina and Sakshi Tanwar also received Best Actor and Actress award for their Web Series, *Mumbai Diaries 26/11* and *MAI* respectively.



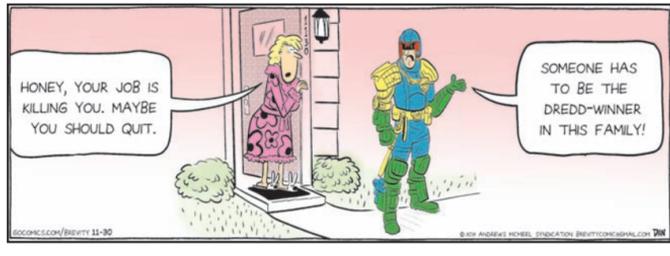
PEANUTS



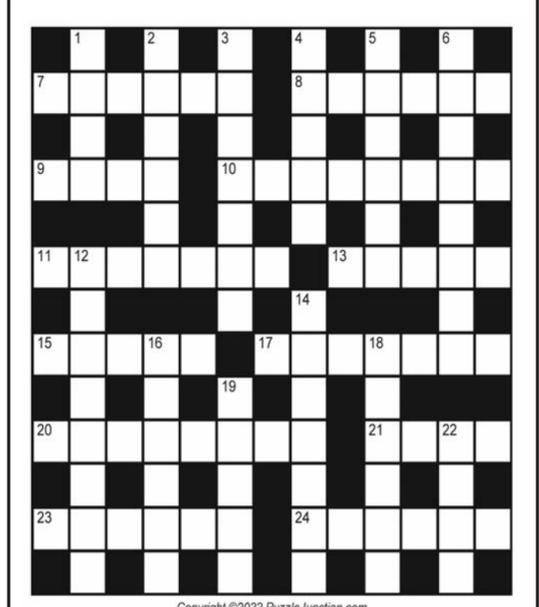
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



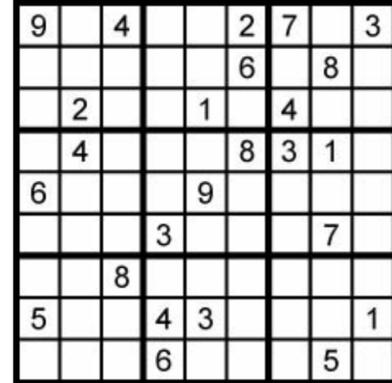
FUN post CROSSWORD



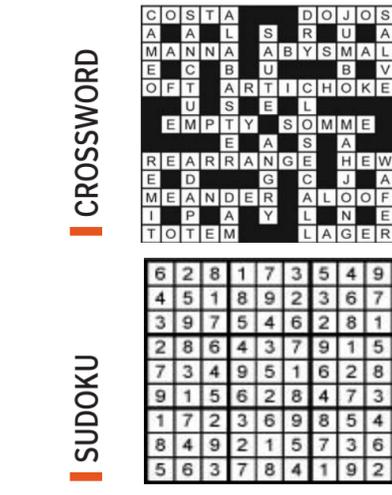
- Across**
7 Handgun
8 Garden decorations
9 Ditty
10 Invigorate
11 Carpet cleaner
13 Exhaust
15 Footfalls
17 Oath
- Down**
20 Alarming
21 High point
23 Rabbit warren
24 Ramen unit
- Across**
5 Large eel
6 Divers wear them (3,5)
12 Beware (5,3)
14 Wyverns
16 Some racehorses
18 Grassland
19 Opinions
22 Stubborn sort

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



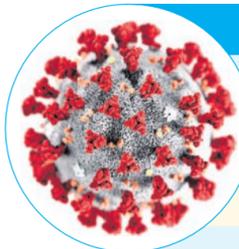
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



LEFT IN THE LURCH

A few shanties marooned by flood in River Mahanadi near Bhadimula Nursery in Cuttack, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 59,63,13,072 | 57,04,31,952 | 64,57,440 |
| India | 4,42,77,194 | 4,36,38,844 | 5,27,098 |
| Odisha | 13,23,307 | 13,11,394 | 9,157 |

Centre's tap water promise an eyewash

About 48% rural households in the country don't have tap water connection

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort here on the occasion of 76th Independence Day, has set a target to make India a developed nation in the next 25 years.

Interestingly, there were plenty of promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the formation of government in 2014. The Prime Minister had given an assurance to fulfil his promises by 2022, when the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Tap water connection to all households was among the promises that Modi had made to this nation soon after forming the government in 2014.

In his first Lok Sabha speech in June 2014, Modi had said that nobody should be left without a house, tap water connection, electricity



In his first Lok Sabha speech in June 2014, Modi had said that nobody should be left without a house, tap water connection, electricity and toilet by 2022, the year when the country would celebrate 75th year of Independence

However, the BJP government has failed to achieve the targets set by it for the 75th year of Independence

and toilet by 2022, the year when the country would celebrate 75th year of Independence. However, the BJP government has failed to achieve the targets set by it for the 75th year of Independence.

About 48 per cent rural households in the country don't have tap water connection, says the data of Union Jal Shakti Ministry. As per the data, there are more than 19 crore rural households in the country out of whom 9.9 crore or 52 per cent have functional tap water connection.

Interestingly, the figure is little less than the national average in Odisha where only 50 per cent rural households have functional tap water connection. According to the Jal Shakti Ministry data, there are 88.5 lakh rural households in Odisha and of them 44.7 lakh households have been provided with the functional tap water connection.

255 new Cov cases, 1 fatality in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 16: State's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,23,307 Tuesday as 255 more people, including 43 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The toll rose to 9,157 as a 60-year-old man succumbed to the infection in Rayagada district.

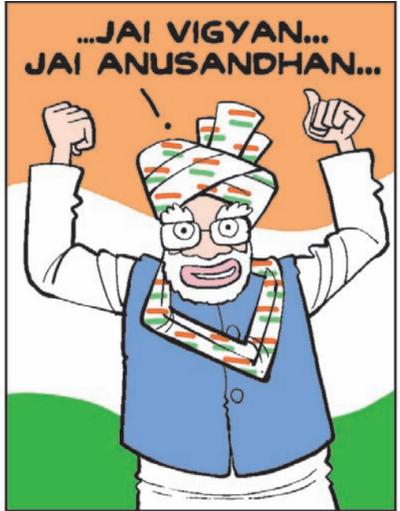
Odisha had logged 381 infections and one fatality Monday.

The state now has 3,462 active cases, while 13,10,635 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 479 in the last 24 hours.

Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

The daily positivity rate was at 2.67 per cent as 12,771 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



STF SEIZES 5 FIREARMS, NABS 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch has arrested a dreaded criminal and seized five firearms from his possession in Dhenkanal district.

The arrested was identified as Nidhi Naik, a resident of Chhatia under Dhenkanal Sadar police station.

Following a tip-off, a joint team of STF sleuths and Dhenkanal police Monday conducted a raid and nabbed the accused on Chhatia - Tibalpur road near Gundichapada panchayat. Police later found Naik in possession of five country-made revolvers and six live bullets. The sleuths also recovered several incriminating materials from the possession of Naik.

He also failed to show documents issued by any designated au-



Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of STF sleuths and Dhenkanal police Monday conducted a raid and nabbed the accused on Chhatia - Tibalpur road near Gundicha Pada panchayat

The arrested was identified as Nidhi Naik, a resident of Chhatia under Dhenkanal Sadar police station

Naik failed to show documents issued by any designated authorities granting him licence to carry the firearms

AFTER QUESTIONING, THE STF HANDED OVER NAIK TO DHENKANAL SADAR POLICE WHO ARRESTED HIM BY REGISTERING A CASE (362/22) IN THIS REGARD

thorities granting him licence to carry the firearms. After questioning, the STF handed over Naik to Dhenkanal Sadar Police who arrested him by registering a case (362/22) in this regard. "The drive against illegal arms and ammunition is being conducted since 2020. The STF has

alone seized 73 firearms and 152 rounds of live ammunition," an STF official claimed Tuesday.

In another incident, the STF seized 28 tonne Australian hard coke, coking coal, during a raid at Tibalpur near Charampa under Bhadrak Rural Police limits Monday. An accused identified as

Parshuram Mahalik of Goudunipokhari village under Bansada police limits has also been arrested.

The STF sleuths Monday received reliable information about the transportation of stolen Australian hard coke from Dhamara to Jajpur district and other places in a 12-wheeler truck which was being escorted by dreaded criminals in a Bolero. Later, a team of STF with the help of Bhadrak police conducted a raid and seized the truck loaded with Australian hard coke, contraband coke weighing 28 tonnes, the Bolero and other materials from the possession of the accused.

The cops continued the probe by registering a case (426/22) under various sections of IPC and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



An excavator engaged by Bhubaneswar Development Authority razing encroachments at Laxmisagar in City, Tuesday

Murderous attack on youth in broad daylight

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 16: Cocking a snook on Commissionerate Police, six bike-borne miscreants launched a murderous attack on a youth in Jayadev Vihar area under Nayapalli police limits in broad daylight Monday.



The victim, identified as Nilanchala Behera of Nilachakra Nagar at Salia Sahi in Nayapalli area, sustained severe injuries on his hands and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital here.

Sources said the victim, who has a shop near Mayfair road, was on his way home when the miscreants on two bikes chased

him. Some of the miscreants held his hands while one of them assaulted him with sharp weapons.

Nayapalli police rushed to the spot and sent the victim to Capital hospital. Meanwhile, the accused fled the spot leaving their bikes there when the police arrived. The victim's statement was recorded in Capital Hospital.

Police have identified the accused and launched a manhunt to nab them at the earliest.

"Earlier, the victim along with the assailants were involved in a similar case of attempt to murder May 10, 2021. Nilanchal was then arrested and forwarded to court. We have received a complaint from the victim's family and registered a case. We are looking into the reasons behind the assault," said a police official.

According to some locals, the victim had recently fallen out with Muphi reportedly over some love affair.

ILMS helped reduce backlog of cases: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 16: The Information Technology (IT) department Tuesday unveiled a book on integrated legal monitoring system (ILMS), which enabled transparent and efficient case management.

The book chronicles the journey of implementing the robust and seamless solution that helped the state government cut down the backlog of legal cases with better oversight and enhanced governance, according to an official release.

"The ILMS has resulted in a drastic reduction in legal caseload for the government departments," said IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera, who launched the book in Bhubaneswar in the presence of officials of the Odisha Computer Application Centre. Behera said the digital solution made legal case management easier for the departments with features like generating alerts for scheduled date of hearing, filing of counter response, court orders and timeline for compliance.

IT secretary Manoj Mishra said, "Odisha had been one of the 'pio-

neer states' in leveraging technologies even for niche areas like legal case management."

Post implementation of this system, there has been a phenomenal reduction in the backlog of cases, with the Mass Education department witnessing a decline of 59 per cent in pendency of court cases.

According to figures by the National Judicial Data Grid, 42.4 million cases are pending at different courts, and in over 40 per cent of these accumulated cases, a government department or office is a party to litigations.

Asteroids may have brought water to Earth

Water and organic matter was brought to Earth by asteroids, finds Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe.

The findings, published in the scientific journal Nature Astronomy explains the mystery of how the Earth, which consisted almost entirely of molten magma in its initial formation, came to be covered in water, Kyodo News reported.

A team of astronomers from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency drew the analysis based on samples from the Ryugu asteroid collected by the Hayabusa2 space probe.

"In a broad sense, it is possible that small celestial bodies brought things that led to water and life on Earth," Motoo Ito, a senior researcher of geomaterials science at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, was quoted as saying.

In December 2020, a capsule that had been carried on a six-year mission by Hayabusa2 delivered more than 5.4 grams of surface material to Earth from the Ryugu asteroid, located over 300 million km away.

While Ryugu particles displayed a



close compositional match to that of Earth's water; there were some slight differences, leading researchers to hypothesise that Earth may have also sourced its water from places other than asteroids, the report said.

An analysis of eight particles, totalling approximately 59 milligrams, from the Ryugu asteroid found in almost all of them organic matter and water not in liquid form but a hydroxyl group consisting of one oxygen atom bonded to one hydrogen atom, with a composition similar to that of water contained in cosmic dust and comets.

Protected by a "cradle" of phyl-

losilicates, they were believed to have endured harsh environmental changes after leaving the outer solar system, where water and organic matter are present.

Organic areas comprising a matter known as aliphatic hydrocarbon were also found within the relatively coarse-grained phyllosilicates. The surrounding coarse grains, which are more resistant to heat, may have prevented water and the organic matter from being altered by the environment, the report said.

Hayabusa2 left Earth in 2014 and reached its stationary position above Ryugu in June 2018 after travelling 3.2

HAYABUSA2 SPACE PROBE

A team of astronomers from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency drew the analysis based on samples from the Ryugu asteroid collected by the Hayabusa2 space probe

While Ryugu particles displayed a close compositional match to that of Earth's water, there were some slight differences, leading researchers to hypothesise that Earth may have also sourced its water from places other than asteroids

billion km on an elliptical orbit around the Sun for more than three years.

The probe touched down on the asteroid twice the following year, collecting the first-ever subsurface samples from an asteroid.

Researchers have previously found that Ryugu, born from a parent body formed in the outer solar system, travelled to the inner solar system and that its particles contain amino acids - organic compounds said to be the "source of life." IANS

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

CBI charge-sheet against 4 including Rourkela loco pilot



MODUS OPERANDI

Mastermind of the crime, Ajay Kumar Gupta, lured minor victims by offering them his mobile phone for playing video games, giving them chocolates, sweets, small gifts and some money

He took nude photographs of victims and also threatened them with dire consequences if they raise voice against their exploitation

The minor victims had no option but to follow the directions of Gupta and Kumar at this stage

officials said. "Later on, the accused (Gupta) also called another person (Avnish Kumar Singh) who runs a private institute in Chandauli for sexually assaulting children," the statement said.

The CBI found that the children were forced and instigated to perform sexual activities with each other as well.

"The accused captured such activities on a mobile phone and further transmitted the same through various social media platforms and applications such as WhatsApp and Telegram etc," the CBI statement said.

The agency had registered a fresh case against Bhawan and Kumar, based on Interpol input, April 29 this year on allegations that they shared and exchanged photos and videos of children in obscene, indecent, and sexually explicit manner between January 2015 and February, 2016.

During the probe, links between Kumar, Gupta and Singh were also established and victims were identified, they said.

The agency arrested the three who are now in judicial custody while Bhawan was already in judicial custody in connection with the Banda case.

from Chandauli during 2019-22, recorded their acts to be sold on internet and messaging apps, they said.

In its charge-sheet filed before a Chandauli Special Court recently, the CBI has slapped stringent provisions of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against all the four accused.

The CBI has alleged that loco pilot Kumar, posted at South Eastern Railway, Rourkela, was in touch with Bhawan, Gupta and several unidentified individuals through Blued and Grindr – both social networking platforms for LGBTQ community, the agency has said.

The agency has alleged that Kumar was also receiving money from Gupta for sharing the sex abuse material, they said.

"It has been revealed that the said person (Gupta) lured minor victims by interacting with them in a friendly manner, offering them his mobile phone for playing video games, giving them chocolates, sweets, small gifts and some money.

"He took nude photographs of victims and also threatened them with dire consequences if they raise voice against their exploitation," a statement from the agency said.

The minor victims had no option but to follow the directions of Gupta and Kumar at this stage,

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: The CBI has filed a charge-sheet against four people, including the mastermind and a railway loco pilot posted in Rourkela, for alleged sexual abuse of three children aged between 9 and 12 years for over three years, officials said Tuesday.

The CBI has also alleged that assistant loco pilot Ajit Kumar, alleged mastermind Ajay Kumar Gupta, his accomplice Avnish Kumar Singh, both from Chandauli, and former junior engineer in Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department Ram Bhawan were disseminating Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) through WhatsApp and Telegram, they said.

Bhawan was arrested in November, 2020 for allegedly exploiting over 50 children in Banda where he was posted and circulating explicit videos and images of his actions with children on social media and messaging groups.

During the probe, the CBI had received information from Interpol, Singapore about a module run by Gupta in which Kumar and Bhawan were also active participants in disseminating CSAM material, they said.

The investigation showed that Gupta, Kumar and Singh had allegedly sexually exploited three children, in 9-12 years age group,

Chinese 'spy' ...

Continued from P1

The ship's arrival at the Hambantota port became controversial as China leased the port from Sri Lanka in 2017 for 99 years after Colombo failed to pay debts related to the construction of the facility. In Colombo, China's envoy in Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong on Tuesday played down the controversy surrounding the arrival of 'Yuan Wang 5' in Hambantota, calling such visits "very natural."

Ambassador Qi was present at the port to welcome the ship, along with several Sri Lankan parliamentarians from the breakaway group of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party.

"This kind of research ship visiting Sri Lanka is very natural. In 2014 a similar ship came here," Qi told reporters when asked about the visit. Asked about India's concerns, the Chinese ambassador said, "I don't know, you should ask the Indian friends." The arrival of the Chinese ship came a day after India gifted a Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka which will enable the island nation to tackle multiple challenges like smuggling and other organised forms of crime in its coastal waters more effectively.

Flood situation grim

Continued from P1

The flood backwater has entered villages, agricultural fields and is flowing over different bridges in the districts of Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Boudh, Cuttack, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Puri districts.

There is a major breach on Mahanadi river embankment is coastal Jagatsinghpur district and several on embankments of small rivers. "The officials of the Water Resources department are busy in closing the embankments on a war footing," the SRC said after a discussion with the engineers of the flood control and management.

Patnaik reviewed the flood situation and asked officials to ensure 'zero casualty' in the calamity, besides immediate repair of roads and communication channels affected by the flood, Jena said.

"The CM has said that every life is precious for the state and all efforts should be made to ensure that not a single life is lost in the calamity," the SRC said.

While putting collectors of 10 districts, including Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Boudh, Cuttack, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Puri, on high alert, Patnaik directed evacuation of people living in low laying areas and from places inundated by the flood water. He also asked the Chief Secretary and SRC to ensure that the rescue and relief teams remain at the affected and vulnerable areas.

The government has authorized district collectors to close schools and educational institutions in the flood hit areas and to undertake evacuation of people from all the vulnerable pockets, Jena said.

The weatherman has also forecast the formation of a fresh low pressure over northern Bay of Bengal by Friday which could bring in widespread and heavy rain in the state from Thursday.

NETAJI IN PHOTOS



High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BR Sarangi visiting Netaji Photo Gallery at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack on Independence Day

NEXUS ESPLANADE OBSERVES I-DAY



Bhubaneswar: Nexus Esplanade celebrated the Independence Day by organising a host of programmes in the Capital city. Centre director Parth Pratim Nayak was present on this occasion along with all on-roll and outsourced staff members. The celebration began in the morning with the flag-hoisting by the shopping mall staff. The day-long programme then started with a freedom ride in which more than 50 riders from Odisha bikers club participated. The event was flagged-off by K Ravi Kumar, the Arjun Award winner from Odisha who won gold medal at the 2010 edition of CWG in weightlifting. To mark the celebration, free face and hand painting was on offer for all the customers. The

fun-filled day saw different activities including dance and music.

SOA CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Bhubaneswar: The Independence Day was celebrated at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Monday with the Vice-Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mahapatra unfurling the National tricolour. Speaking on the occasion, Mahapatra said though India had attained freedom 75 years ago, the people are yet to be conscious about their duties and responsibilities. Quoting reports, he said Indians had the lowest social consciousness. "It is difficult to educate an educated person," he said. The event was also addressed by Pro-Chancellor Amit Banerjee who expressed happiness that SOA had com-

pleted 25 years of its existence this year which coincided with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. A book containing lectures was released on the day by SOA Founder, President Manojranjan Nayak in a separate function. Nayak said the lecture series had helped in enhancing the brand of the university. The book has been edited by Nachiket K Sharma. Those who were present on this occasion were Director of University Outreach Programme, Chancellor of the University, DP Ray, Pro-Chancellor, Amit Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Pro-Vice-Chancellor cum Registrar, Bibhuti Bhusan Pradhan, Chairman of SOA's Advisory Board, Damodar Acharya, Consultant to SOA, RP Mohanty, Deans of different institutions functioning under SOA, Directors and senior officials.

I-DAY CELEBRATION AT CIPET

Bhubaneswar: Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology: Centre for Skilling and Technical Support (CIPET: CSTS),

Mancheswar celebrated the 75th Independence Day in the institute's premises. BP Patro, Director & Head of the institute unfurled the National flag with the staff and students in attendance. Speaking on this occasion, Patro highlighted the significance of



15th August and recalled the sacrifices of martyrs who laid down their lives for the country. To mark the occasion, a Prabhat Ferry was organised as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Ferry was led by CIPET administrative officer, Jayant Kumar Das. The Institute staff and students participated in the programme. Under the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, Tri-colours were also distributed to various institutions and industries in the vicinity and the message of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was disseminated.

Patriotic fervour marks I-Day celebrations in City

SAI International School



At SAI International Residential School (SIRS) Independence Day was celebrated in the presence of chief guest, Pinak Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack, and Chairperson, SAI International, Silpi Sahoo. The Investiture ceremony began with Sai Vandana followed by the chairperson welcoming the esteemed guest for the evening. Student Council members and various office bearers of differ-

ent clubs were inducted into office with badges and the sashes. Abhay Raj Veda and Saniya Mazumdar were inducted as Head Boy and the Head Girl of SIRS respectively. Pinak Mishra enlightened the students on the role of police in the society. He highlighted the importance of law and order and how the police keep in control the criminal activities. He also invited students to join the police force and serve the nation.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar

AIIMS Bhubaneswar observed the Independence Day. Executive director of the national institute, Ashutosh Biswas, attended the ceremony as chief guest and hoisted the national flag. Speaking on the occasion Biswas congratulated all as India completed 75 years of independence. He offered tributes to a galaxy of freedom fighters and emphasized on the need to remember their vision and dream for India. Biswas, in his speech, exhorted all the employees of AIIMS to stay fit and maintain a good health. It will cer-

tainly encourage them to serve the society with more enthusiasm, added Biswas.

To mark the occasion, students and faculties of AIIMS organised breathtakingly beautiful and patriotic cultural programmes. Biswas felicitated employees from different departments for their outstanding contribution and dedication in their respective fields. Similarly, meritorious students who participated in, and won at, different competitions held to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign got awarded.

BJEM School

BJEM School, Bhubaneswar celebrated the Independence Day and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with much enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. Gracing the occasion as the chief guest Raghunath Mishra, retired bureaucrat and chairman of the school, hoisted the Tricolour in the august presence of P K Jena, manager, SMC, Sandhya Jena, principal, Pallabi Mohapatra, vice principal, the staff members, students and other dignitaries. The national anthem was sung with deep feelings of patriotism and with respect to all the freedom fighters who played



key roles in achieving the wealth of freedom. The chief guest highlighted how the day is celebrated to commemorate the glorious history of sacrifice, Indian culture and the achievements of the nation so far. He also urged the students to realize, understand and cherish our coveted freedom and work towards a progressive and peace-

ful nation. Jena appealed the students to value the hard earned freedom achieved by the selflessly devoted freedom fighters of the country at the cost of their lives and happiness. The principal in her welcome address urged the students to take pride in being an Indian and fulfill their duties with responsibility.

DAV Unit-VIII

The unique hue of Tricolour reflected radiantly in each and every heart of Unit-VIII DAVian, when our nation celebrated Independence Day. Students of the school cabinet, NCC, scout, guide, Red Cross and NSS trumpeted triumphantly today when the principal Ipsita Das conveyed her warm greetings on Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as the nation celebrated 75 years of unparalleled achievements. The flag was hoisted by the chief guest Padmashree Tulasi



Munda who provoked young minds to bring an end to all kinds of discriminations and break down all the barriers hindering the wheel of progress. The great freedom fighter Nilamani Samal inspired and in-

culcated patriotic spirit in the students by his victorious anecdotes of the golden past days. Students beamed with pride on receiving prizes from the eminent personalities for different competitions.

ODM School

ODM School, Bhubaneswar celebrated the Independence Day and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. On the occasion, the School organised a competition "Leader in Me" to test the leadership skills of the students. Chairman of ODM educational group Satyabrata Minaketan hoisted the Tricolour in the presence of students and teachers.



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Old bridge on NH-326 collapses in Koraput

POST NEW NETWORK

Koraput, August 16: An old bridge on NH-326 connecting Bangalaguda and Lendrimalguda in Koraput district collapsed Tuesday severely affecting vehicular movement. The bridge collapsed due to incessant rainfall in the district, sources said.

As the bridge collapsed, all communications between Koraput and Podagad was cut-off while vehicular movement between Kakirigumma and Lakshampur in Rayagada district was also severely disrupted.

The exact reason behind the collapse of the bridge is yet to be ascertained. It is however, being suspected that it might have caved in due to incessant rainfall which may have weakened the soil on which the pillars of the bridge were standing.

Koraput District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar has directed all the concerned engineers to visit the spot and submit a report after reviewing the situation. He has also instructed that repairing of the broken portion should be carried out on war footing.

All communications between Koraput and Podagad was cut-off while vehicular movement between Kakirigumma and Lakshampur in Rayagada district was also severely disrupted

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Students, NCC cadets and people from various walks of life participate in a procession carrying a 110-metre Tricolour on the occasion of Independence Day in Malkangiri, Monday

Six districts face flood fury

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi/Nayagarh/Kendrapara/Jajpur, August 16: A large number of villages in Bhadrak, Nayagarh, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Jharsuguda and Boudh districts lie marooned at present due to floods in various river systems.

Reports from Aradi said that a total of 10 villages in Olaga, Aradi, Nandapur and Sundarpur panchayats under Chandballi block in Bhadrak district have been severely affected by floods. Reports said, following heavy rains, people in these panchayats have been marooned. A portion of NH-20 is lying submerged under floodwater near Bodak, disrupting vehicular movement between Aradi and Jajpur.

Sources said Tuesday that more than 100 families in Bodak, Muan, Santara and Doharapatana have been cut off from the rest of the world due to rising floodwaters. Also residents of Bhuinpur, Koilakha and Palatpur are spending sleepless nights fearing possible breach of the Patana-Malikasahi embankment.

Reports from Jajpur said, a breach as wide as 80 feet has formed on the embankment of Kani river, a tributary of Baitarani river. Over 15,000 people in 18 villages under Dasarathpur block are marooned. Panchayats like Kasapa, Mallikapur, Duduranta, Dattapur, Nijampur, Kanya, Kamardiha, Khannagar,



A 80-feet breach has formed on the embankment of Kani river, a tributary of Baitarani river in Jajpur district

Thalkudi, Susua and Mangalpur are suffering due to floods.

Reports from Nayagarh district said some parts of Gania, Bhapur and Khadapara blocks have been inundated by floodwaters of the Mahanadi river due to torrential rains. Sources said that 27 villages in the three blocks have been inundated. Floodwater has entered scores of houses at Dankarisahi, Chhamundia and Badamula.

A total of 32 schools - 11 in Gania block, nine in Khandapara block and 12 in Bhapur block remained closed both Monday and Tuesday due to the deteriorating flood situation.

Five rivers in Kendrapara district are in spate, sources said. They informed that due to release of water

from the Hirakud dam and incessant rains, 13 villages have been hit by floods in the district. Aitipur, Dihabalarmpur and Balsingh villages of Marshaghal block remained cut off from the rest of the world. People in the flood-hit villages have not been evacuated and they are yet to get any relief. Locals are also fearing a breach on the Chitrotpala river embankment at Bhadala under Garadpur block as floodwater has created a big crevice.

Sources said that over 5,000 hectare of farmlands along the riparian pockets have been inundated damaging paddy and vegetable crops. The administration has started supply of relief in flood-hit areas and is taking measures to strengthen weak em-

Communication to many villages in Bhadrak, Nayagarh, Kendrapara and Jajpur districts remained cut off

A breach as wide as 80 ft was created on the embankment of Kani river, a tributary of Baitarani. Over 15,000 people in 18 villages under Dasarathpur block in Jajpur district are at present marooned

banks. Due to heavy rains in the upstream areas of Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh, 19 mouzas in Jharsuguda district are experiencing floods. Floodwater is wreaking havoc in villages like Tikhili, Saradhama, Remta, Kandheikela, Sukhasodha, Semilia and Kanakora. A total of 142 people have been evacuated to safe places and shelters. The administration has also provided them with food and other relief materials. Officials and people's representatives also visited the flood-hit



People plugging a crevice on Chitrotpala river embankment at Bhadala under Garadpur block in Kendrapara district

TB plays havoc in Sukinda valley

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, August 16: Despite huge funds being spent towards eradication of tuberculosis through directly observed therapy (DOT) for the treatment of patients, the killer disease continues to wreak havoc in tribal-dominated Kaliapani locality of Sukinda valley in Jajpur district. Quite a few people have lost their lives due to tuberculosis, posing a question mark on the efficacy of DOT in the area.

Sources said that two months back Raju Mahakud, a resident of Makendiasahi of Sukinda mining locality died of tuberculosis while his wife



died about nine days ago. Their daughter Sima became the latest victim of the disease two days back and breathed her last. Sima had passed her HSC exams this year only.

The disease had taken the life of another resident of Makendiasahi about nine days back. As tuberculosis is spreading rapidly, it has created panic among the residents both at Makendiasahi and

Malharasahi.

Social activists expressed concern over the spread of the killer disease in the locality. They pointed out that as per national TB treatment guidelines, a trained healthcare worker or any other designated individual provides the prescribed drugs and helps patients to swallow it in a proper manner. However, the activists alleged that DOT method of treatment is not being followed as per guidelines.

Various outfits and social activists have urged the administration to take immediate measures to prevent the disease from spreading in the tribal-dominated areas.

Obstruction of Palur Saheb canal hits fishermen hard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, August 16: The Odisha government is constructing a bridge on Palur Saheb canal to facilitate movement of fishermen who have been evacuated from the erosion-hit 'Podampeta' village to 'New Podampeta' village, sources said Tuesday. However, the construction of the bridge is causing huge difficulty to fishermen living in the same locality.

The 'New Podampeta' village has been established under the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP) scheme where the evacuated fishermen have been rehabilitated in fresh houses built for them.

The building of the bridge is underway for which the construction company has encroached upon the canal route and piled up large number of sand bags. This has turned into a curse for 95 per cent of the fishermen who eke out their living from the nearby Chilika lake.

The affected fishermen are from Gajapati Nagar, Gourang Patna under Ganjam block, Rambha, Sabulia, Keshpur, Langaleswar of Khallikote block, Kumarpur, Patanasi Maleshwari, Khamunha, Rasakudi, Balinasi, Hariapur and Srirampur under Krushnprasad block of Puri district.

The Chilika lake lies to the north of the under-construction bridge and is around 10 km from the canal. Sand bags have obstructed the proper flow of water and its subsequent drainage from the canal. As a result, the water has become stagnant for the last six months leading to algae forming over it.

The water has also turned toxic and unfit for consumption. Obstruction of water flow has also harmed the aquatic animals laying eggs near the Rushikulya river mouth. The eggs flow into the lake through the canal. A long pause in the flow of water has led to shortage of food for the fish population in the lake leading to a further decline in catch for the fishermen.

Fisherman Gourahari Behera of Gajapati Nagar under Ganjam block alleged that this development has hit them hard and most of the fishermen and their family members have migrated to other states and are working in various companies to earn a living.

Behera pointed out that had the authorities taken steps to drain out the canal water through pipes before starting construction of the bridge, the present situation could have been avoided. He demanded that the bridge be completed as quickly as possible and removal of encroachments from the site of the canal.

Members of 3 panchayats visit JSW Vijayanagar plant

Paradip: Representatives of three panchayats - Dhinkia, Nuagaon and Gadakujunga under Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur district - visited August 15 the JSW Vijayanagar plant to celebrate the 76th Independence Day with Managing Director of JSW Steel, Sajjan Jindal and Chairperson of the JSW Foundation, Sangita Jindal. Dhinkia sarpanch Kishore Parida, Nuagaon panchayat sarpanch Suchitra Mohanty and Gadakujunga panchayat sarpanch Kavitha Das were part of the teams, accompanied by JSW officials including Dabindar Sanga, senior officer - Security and Administrative department, Subash Parida and Abhijit Mohanty, senior officers of JSW Utkal Steel Ltd (JUSL). The panchayat members got first-hand experience of steel making at the plant and presented idols of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra to Sajjan and Sangita Jindal. "I am so happy to meet people from coastal Odisha at Vijayanagar on the auspicious occasion of our Independence Day," Mrs Jindal said.

PPL TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES I-DAY WITH MUCH FANFARE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, August 16: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) township and plant site wore a very patriotic and festive look August 13 to 15. The employees, their family members, workers, security personnel and vendors put in a lot of effort to make the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme a huge success and make the event a grand one.

Starting from Navratna Administrative Building, Guest House, Konark Club, Children Park, Multipurpose Hall, DAV School, Hospital, Employees' quarters were adorned with the Tricolour giving the entire area an impressive look. Pranab Bhattacharyya, Chief Manufacturing Officer & Unit Head hoisted the National Flag and addressed the employees and their family members. He distributed prizes to employees and security members on their various achievements. Arun Kanti Acharya, Head Security and Sanjay Ketan Sethy, Manager (Administration) conducted the proceedings.

सेन्ट्रल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ पेट्रोकेमिकल इंजीनियरिंग एण्ड टेक्नोलॉजी (सिपेट)
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)
CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (CSTS), BHUBANESWAR
(Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)
S-379, Sector-A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010
Email: cipetsat@gmail.com/mcti@cipet.gov.in, Website: www.cipet.gov.in

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION Date: 17.08.2022

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors/ Authorized Dealers for the supply of Plastics Raw Material at CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar.

| Sl.No. | Tender Number | Materials Details | Qty. |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 01. | CIPE:CSTS/BBSS/PP REPROCESS/2022-23/04 | PLASTICS RAW MATERIAL-PP REPROCESS | 16,500 Kg. |
| 02. | CIPE:CSTS/BBSS/PP REPROCESS-COLOUR/2022-23/05 | PLASTICS RAW MATERIAL-PP REPROCESS(COLOUR - RED,BLUE, GREEN) | 16,500 Kg. |

Interested bidders may submit their quotation on or before 25.08.2022 at the above address. The other details are available at CIPET website - www.cipet.gov.in.
Director & Head, CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar reserves right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.
Director & Head

Bank of India GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges / expenses) by Dt.01.09.2022, then from 11.00 AM of Dt.02.09.2022 their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at Respective Branch Premises given below and/or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard, Nuapatana, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007, Contact Person: Mr. Prabhat Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Mr. Debasish Subudhi (Mob-9861342494). For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the reserve price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction / auction portal.

| Sl. No. | A/c. No. | Name & Address of the Borrowers | Gross Wt. In Gms. | Net Wt. In Gms. | Balance U/S as on specified date | Total Dues (Excluding Unapplied Charges) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| PATTAMUNDAI BRANCH, BY PASS ROAD, PATTAMUNDAI, DIST.: KENDRAPARA | | | | | | |
| 1. | 517277610000091 | Santosh Behera, At: Praharajpur, Pattamundai, Dist.: Kendrapara | 11.57 | 8.57 | ₹14,119/- | ₹14,119/- |
| CHANDAKA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 68 (P), ANNAPURNA COMPLEX, RASULGARH, BHUBANESWAR-751010 | | | | | | |
| 1. | 555377610000365 | Ishani Madhusmita, Plot No.: A/73, Kalpana Area, BJB Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751014 | 29.66 | 26.55 | ₹1,12,459/- | ₹1,51,518/- |
| PURI BRANCH, CLERK ROAD, NEAR JHADESWARI CLUB, PURI | | | | | | |
| 1. | 555277610000247 | Padmanav Samantaray, S/o.: Laxmidhar Samantaray, At: Gadabalabhadrapur, Kanas, Dist.: Puri | 23.100 | 20.500 | ₹44,242.87 | ₹46,319.01 |
| 2. | 555277610001316 | Gitarani Rath, W/o.: Rabinarayan Rath, At: Talanuasahi, Dist.: Puri | 112.340 | 81.100 | ₹3,17,971.67 | ₹3,44,058.29 |
| 3. | 555277610001558 | Sanjay Kumar Tripathy, 1st sa , Kapileswarpur, Dist.: Puri | 40.840 | 3.500 | ₹10,250/- | ₹10,853.73 |
| 4. | 555277610001626 | Debasish Palai, S/o.: Laxmidhar Palai, At: Shyamakali Lane, Balisahi, Dist.: Puri | 53.720 | 48.400 | ₹1,40,838.27 | ₹1,44,607.76 |
| 5. | 555277610001687 | Sitakanta Mohanty, S/o.: Rajkishore Mohanty, At: Jaduani Library Chhak, Kundhaibenta Sahi, Dist.: Puri | 54.910 | 47.700 | ₹1,71,925.34 | ₹1,76,686.83 |
| 6. | 555277610001752 | Sandeep Kumar Mohapatra, S/o.: Pramod Kumar Mohapatra, At: Pratap Purusottampur, Dist.: Puri | 110.440 | 29.000 | ₹1,04,000/- | ₹1,07,986.13 |
| 7. | 555277610001839 | Banamali Sahoo, S/o.: Benudhar Sahoo, At: Bankimuhan Sahi, Dist.: Puri | 15.290 | 13.800 | ₹46,796.21 | ₹48,307.18 |
| KENDUPALLI BRANCH, AT/ PO.: KENDUPALLI, PS: BAIDYESWAR, DIST.: CUTTACK, PIN-754009 | | | | | | |
| 1. | 513977610000085 | Manash Kumar Khuntia, S/o.: Late Bauri Bandhu Khuntia, At/PO.: Kendupalli, PS.: Baidyeswar, Dist.: Cuttack-754009 | 32.30 | 24.200 | ₹1,04,441/- | ₹1,04,441/- |
| 2. | 513977610000086 | Manash Kumar Khuntia, S/o.: Late Bauri Bandhu Khuntia, At/PO.: Kendupalli, PS.: Baidyeswar, Dist.: Cuttack-754009 | 36.80 | 27.56 | ₹89,606/- | ₹89,606/- |
| RANIHAT BRANCH, BAJRABATI ROAD, BUXIBAZAR, CUTTACK | | | | | | |
| 1. | 510665310000152 | Bhaktahari Behera, S/o.: Dolagobinda Behera, At: Brahmankhanda, Raghunathpur, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur-754132 | 31.21 | 25.01 | ₹98,000/- | ₹98,000/- |
| 2. | 510665310000104 | Debadatta Das, S/o.: Rajkishore Das, At.: Mirchandpur, Badadogada, Dist.: Jajpur-755007 | 35.76 | 31.36 | ₹1,30,231.40 | ₹1,30,231.40 |
| 3. | 510665310000168, 510665310000169, 510665310000170, | Krushna Chandra Sabat, S/o.: Keshab Chandra Sabat, At: Saanta Sahi, Buxibazar, Dist.: Cuttack-753001 | 163.59 | 144.5 | ₹5,64,230.31 | ₹5,64,230.31 |
| 4. | 510665310000107 | Lata Malla, W/o.: Padan Barik, At: Shanti Vihar, Apania Mandir, PO.: Chauilaganj, Dist.: Cuttack-753004 | 49.47 | 48.3 | ₹2,10,464.71 | ₹2,10,464.71 |

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 17.08.2022 Zonal Manager, Bank of India

FOCUS INDIA@75

FIGHTING NEPOTISM



In his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort, the Prime Minister highlighted two key challenges facing the nation – corruption and nepotism. There will be some immediate guffaws, given that the ruling political establishment is not beyond practising both. But away from scoring political points, what does it really mean to fight the two ills?

Seventy-five years of Independence marks a significant milestone in the history of a nation rising. We can quibble over past events, remain distraught about the present socio-political strains or look to the future to ask what must be done to move to a better place.

In his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort, the Prime Minister highlighted two key challenges facing the nation – corruption and nepotism. There will be some immediate guffaws, given that the ruling political establishment is not beyond practising both. But away from scoring political points, what does it really mean to fight the two ills? Inevitably, immediate attention gets drawn to the political battleground, given that dynasty has been used by the BJP and its friends to mostly refer to the leadership of the Congress, the Samajwadi Party and other assorted political heirs and a number of anti-BJP players in various states. Uddhav Thackeray of Maharashtra's Shiv Sena is only the latest example (and victim) of the BJP statecraft in this regard.

But on August 15, the Prime Minister did make the significant point that his understanding of nepotism is not about politics alone – “not at all”, as he put it. In the Prime Minister's words: “Unfortunately, it (nepotism) is being nourished in other Indian institutions as well. Family bias, nepotism has gripped many of our institutions today. This is sadly harming the immense talent pool of our country. The future potential of my country is suffering. Those who are legitimate contenders of these opportunities and are genuinely eligible get side-lined due to nepotism. This is a good reason for corruption.”

In this characterisation of the twin ills, corruption is caused in part by nepotism, and the widening of the frame of familism beyond the political arena appears to take the issue into many other facets of Indian life. It challenges the widely held notion in the Indian context that a family member who has moved up the ladder is expected to help others in the family rise. This is the way a family stays together, ties

are strengthened and indeed new bonds built as each helps the other – private space that inevitably spills into public space and often makes its biggest impact there. The family system builds on these connections. A rather rustic if naked example of this was once displayed by the former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal who reportedly said something to the effect on political fortunes in Haryana – if not my son, then whose son would I make the Chief Minister! The BJP sits in power in Haryana today with the great grandson of Devi Lal, Dushyant Chautala as the Deputy Chief Minister and son Ranjit Singh as a minister.

To make matters complex, the I-Day speech notes the significance of the family as well. “The joint family system is an asset,” the Prime Minister said.

So, it would be fair to ask if the Prime Minister and the party he leads are really up to fighting nepotism? Or is this the launch of a new election campaign look-

ing to a third term for the BJP in 2024, and in that sense is one more clichéd political narrative for the headlines? If this is not the case, then how precisely will nepotism be contained?

The immediate answer is merit, which is a loaded term given the way it has been used in popular perception by those talking against reservations for the backward castes and the downtrodden. An early answer to merit was offered by Vishwanath Pratap Singh who once famously said to the effect: “What am I to do with a person who has a head when he doesn't have a heart to serve the people.”

Yet, there is no question that the modern state apparatus will have to be protected from the ills of power and patronage, from the club-like mentality that keeps out ordinary people and feeds on power and privilege. In this, the one institution that has not been discussed is India's corporate sector and its growing reach and power. Is the son or daughter

of a chairperson sitting on the board of a company his or her parents built, and then inheriting the business, a case of nepotism?

This leads to the touchy question of tax, and how wealth is inherited and transferred tax-free in India so that some of the biggest sources of power and privilege are untouched by the political campaign against nepotism and corruption.

The corporate sector itself has been working internally for better governance standards. But equally, tales of inner deals and backroom machinations have only grown, not died, just because the BJP came to power.

This then may be a good place and time to discuss the return of the inheritance tax, which India had up until 1985 when it was scrapped on the argument that it had not achieved the goal of reducing unequal distribution of wealth and of garnering resources for developmental use. On the other hand, most developed economies have such a tax. Even in the United States, a country with distinct capitalist approaches and a strong anti-tax bias, the inheritance tax remains in vogue though the threshold at which it kicks in changes often. Called the federal estate tax, or the “death tax” by some, the levy has a history of 100 years in the United States. It makes those with the highest ability pay, raises revenues, promotes charitable giving and puts some brakes, albeit light ones, on power and privilege. Further, the tax is on market value, not book value, and kicks-in with valuations above 12 million USD, with a top rate of 40 per cent.

In the Indian context, some have asked for the return of this tax. There has been talk that the BJP would reintroduce it. Yet, the actual return of the tax will be a big step politically, an anti-nepotism tax of sorts that can give a very different kind of fillip to the agenda on fighting nepotism and building a less unequal society.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.
@THEBILLIONPRESS



Jagdish Rattanan

IT WOULD BE FAIR TO ASK IF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PARTY HE LEADS ARE REALLY UP TO FIGHTING NEPOTISM?

Fearless Disrespect

Salman Rushdie had once said – Respect for religion has become a code phrase meaning ‘fear of religion.’ Religions, like all other ideas, deserve criticism, satire and, yes, our fearless disrespect.

In a world where religious fanaticism seems to be taking over societies across the globe, a public message of disrespect and satire requires immense courage. Rushdie who was brutally attacked with a knife on stage at a public function has not only survived but has now been taken off ventilator support. This proves the 75 year old author has tremendous mental strength which helped him overcome the wounds from the attack. After Rushdie was taken off ventilator, his son Zafar Rushdie has said his father, in spite of the imminent danger still retains his ‘defiant and feisty sense of humour.’ Rushdie suffered a damaged liver and severed nerves in an arm and an eye in the attack. His agent Andrew Wylie said he was likely to lose the damaged eye. His condition is stated to be still critical and he will have to remain in hospital for some more time to receive extensive medical treatment.

The attack on Sir Salman Rushdie has disturbed the sane world as it has become an indication of the terrible dangers posed by religious fanatics. The irony is that the attempt on his life was made when he was about to take part in a discussion in an auditorium in New York on how the US can provide a safe haven, an asylum, to those who make freedom of speech and expression an article of their faith. A 24 year old man, identified as Hadi Matar, with sympathies for extremist Shia causes and Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, went up on stage and repeatedly stabbed the author. Rushdie incurred the wrath of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the spiritual head of Iran, in 1989 for his book, The Satanic Verses, and a fatwa was issued for assassinating him over perceived insults to Islam in the book. Rushdie had to go into hiding fearing his life. He was charged with showing disrespect to the founder of Islam through his references that were termed blasphemous. Various Iranian groups had placed a bounty of more than \$3 million on the author's head since more than three decades. Though much water has flown since then and the government in Iran has maintained a studied silence on the fatwa, it is yet to revoke it. That it has not changed its mind much becomes clear from the defence of the attack by a spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kannaani. While denying Tehran was involved in the assault, he justified the stabbing in remarks that represented the Islamic Republic's first public comments on the attack. Regarding the attack, he made it clear that Iran does not consider anyone “deserving reproach, blame or even condemnation, except for (Rushdie) himself and his supporters.” His remarks show Iran remains as rigid against free thinking as it was during Ayatollah Khomeini's time.

The dastardly attack has once again brought to the fore the question of how the right to dissent, which is the cornerstone of democracy and human development, can be defended. Writers and thinkers over the ages have been subjected to persecution, violence and even death for challenging orthodoxies. In recent times, India witnessed the killing of three such free thinkers who stood up against dogmatic acceptance of blind faith and superstition and cynical political use of distorted religion. The lives of journalist Gauri Lankesh, physician Narendra Dabholkar and scholar MM Kalburgi were snuffed out by assassins driven by intolerance, superstitious beliefs and skewed religious doctrines.

It is a matter of great relief that Rushdie is recovering and answering questions of the investigators. His ability to laugh at this stage raises hope that he will soon be able to wield his pen which may become more fiery than before. Salman Rushdie has shown umpteenth times he cannot be cowed down.

WISDOM CORNER

- Better remain silent, better not even think, if you are not prepared to act. **ANNIE BESANT**
- The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands. **ANNE FRANK**
- Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed. **ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER**

WORDSWORTH

Widget

The usual sense of widget is some small device or mechanical contraption not sufficiently important to be graced by a name of its own. The word seems to be a variation on gadget, perhaps influenced by whosit or whoosit. We have not come across any reference to small children, not even winsomely tiresome ones. Could it be that your family is confusing the word with gadget? Gidget was the small teenager heroine in a series of California surf films (the first from 1959) and two television series. Her nickname was invented as a blend of girl and midget. A widget, on the other hand, is often a term for some small manufactured item, otherwise not particularised. It has long been used in business studies, and sometimes in advertisements, as a generic name for an item. It also turns up in computing as an example of a generic product, for example in tutorials explaining how to write and use databases, and also as an element of at least one operating system. In recent years in Britain it has become the name for a specific thing: a plastic device in the bottom of a can of beer that introduces nitrogen into the liquid to give it a creamy head, in order to make it look more like draught beer. H G Wells invented a family called the Widgetts in Ann Veronica in 1909. It would be nice to think that this was the source of the word, but it looks – alas – like a coincidence, since the word's debut is otherwise in America more than a decade later. It appears in the play Beggar on Horseback, by George Kaufman and Marc Connelly, which was first performed in 1924. The play is a parable that warns of the perils of trading one's artistic autonomy for filthy lucre. The character Neil McRae is a struggling young composer, engaged to the daughter of a rich but philistine businessman. In a nightmare sequence, he visualises what life would be like in a big bureaucratic business, in which ideas come from the Inspiration Department. His possible future father-in-law explains that his firm is in the widget business: “Yes, sir! I suppose I'm the biggest manufacturer in the world of overhead and underground aerial widgets”. The joke, of course, is that the young composer never finds out what these widget things really are.

Wikitorial

This word hit public attention when the Los Angeles Times wrote: “Watch next week for the introduction of ‘wikitorials’ – an online feature that will empower you to rewrite Los Angeles Times editorials.” The experiment was based on the same software that is behind the Wikipedia. At its best this produces excellent results, but all too often shows its contributors' biases and limited knowledge. These and similar terms are based on the Hawaiian word wiki, meaning “quick”. The LA Times experiment – based around an editorial about the Iraq war – proved disastrous. Responses to it degenerated from sensible revisions into a sort of electronic mob rampage containing pornography and racial abuse and had to be pulled within 48 hours. Despite this, the paper plans to try again, with better controls, and it is likely that the word has a future.

IN JEST THIS

When your car makes strange sounds



Melvin Durai

CAR MANUFACTURERS NEED TO ADDRESS THIS GROWING PROBLEM OF ANIMALS LIVING IN CARS WITHOUT PAYING RENT

The other day, after driving my car around, my older daughter gave me some news that no car owner wants to hear: “The car is making some strange sounds.”

“Strange sounds” often means that you have to take your car to a garage and get some bad news from a mechanic. And if you're as clueless as me about cars, the mechanic can tell you just about anything, such as “the front brakes need to be replaced,” “the shock absorbers are not absorbing shocks anymore” and “the cat sitting on the gas tank needs to be removed.”

I'm not sure how much it costs to remove a cat, but Shelby Ingram, a woman in Johnson City, Tennessee, US, would know. She had been hearing strange sounds from her Toyota Highlander and took the car to a Toyota dealership. An automotive technician removed some panels and spotted a kitten stuck on top of the gas tank. He was able to set the kitten

free and the grateful animal thanked him by biting him three times. This incident will undoubtedly result in a new chapter in the next edition of “Auto Repair for Dummies.”

If you own a car, you may think it's unlikely that you'll ever have to pay a “cat removal” bill. This may be true, but it's not just cats you have to worry about: it's all kinds of animals, including rats, snakes, and even cheetahs. Some of them are looking for shelter in your car; some are seeking food, and some just need a ride and don't want to pay Uber.

You don't have to worry about cheetahs in most parts of the world, but if you're driving through the Serengeti in Tanzania, you may want to keep your windows closed. In March 2018, a cheetah jumped into a Land Cruiser and joined several tourists on their safari. The tourists tried their best to not look frightened, and the cheetah eventually jumped out of

the car, obviously pleased that it could give its fellow cheetahs a first-hand report on the growing market of ride-sharing.

Finding a cheetah in your car can be quite scary, but no more frightening than discovering a snake in your engine compartment. If this happens to you, it's wise not to drive your car to a garage. Instead, use your phone to do a search for “snake charmers in my vicinity.”

This is what an Odisha man did in July 2020 when a seven-foot cobra crawled into the engine of his parked car in the Sindhekela area of Bolangir district. A snake charmer rescued the snake and released it into a nearby forest. I'm not sure how much a snake charmer charges for extracting a snake, but I presume it's a little less than my dentist charges for an extraction.

When it comes to expenses, the animal that produces the highest repair bills for the average car

owner is undoubtedly the human. But aside from humans, the biggest culprits are rodents, particularly rats. Rats love to enter engine compartments and chew on wires. This has become a bigger problem in recent years, because car manufacturers have switched from petroleum-based insulation for wires to soy-based insulation, which is more environmentally friendly. Rats love this friendly environment. The only thing missing are signs that say “Welcome, rats!” and “Enjoy the soy!”

Car manufacturers need to address this growing problem of animals living in cars without paying rent. Car owners do not need additional expenses, especially with rising fuel prices.

Thankfully, after my daughter told me about the “strange sounds” coming from my car, I drove it around and did not hear anything unusual. Hopefully those “strange sounds” have moved to the nicer car that my neighbour drives.

National Flag & the homeless

Sir, Indians everywhere observed their national festival – the Independence Day – with fervour. This year was special on two counts – one, seventy-five years of Independence for which the seventy-sixth year was observed as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav; and two, citizens across the length and breadth of the country were allowed to unfurl the National Flag atop their residences following the amendment made by the Union government to Flag Code specified for the use of the Tricolour. More so, the flag reflects in itself the hopes and aspirations of the people who pay due regard to the Tricolour that embodies national honour and valour. While observing the occasion to rededicate ourselves for the development of our motherland, we shouldn't have overlooked the helplessness of a section of people of our society who equally deserve to see the National Flag fluttering atop their houses – our fellow brethren who don't have a house of their own. According to 2011 Census, India's homeless population counts 1.77 millions which accounts for only 0.15 per cent of our total population. Even though this figure is very negligible, governments both at the Centre and the states must make due efforts to provide houses to this tiny section so that observing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav would truly fit into our year-long celebrations.

Sanjib Kumar Das, CUTTACK

Flood management needed

Sir, Odisha is geographically prone to natural calamities. Cyclone, drought, cloud burst and sunstroke are hitting the state very hard. Odisha is vulnerable to catastrophic natural disasters at regular intervals. Now, a flood is going to affect coastal districts of the state due to incessant rain in the upper catchment area. Increasing inflow of flood water in the Hirakud dam in Sambalpur is adding to the difficulties of the common man. A proper water management of river Mahanadi between Odisha and Chhattisgarh is the need of the hour. A high level meeting between the two states for suitable flood management will go a long way in wiping out the distress and hardship of the inhabitants of the two states. Relief and rehabilitation should go on full swing post flood situation in the state. Farmers should get a waiver of outstanding loans for crop loss. The two states should cast away their differences for the greater interest of their inhabitants.

PrabhuDutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

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
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

Often customers walk away without asking for a bill after they make a purchase. The objective behind the app is to prevent this



PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

We are ready to work with the Centre to improve health services and education. I also request the Centre to stop calling them freebies



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

Today Bharat is in a respectable and commendable position in the world. But the work is not over, the journey has not ended and all must dedicate ourselves to the noble task for the development of the country



DATTATREYA HOSABALE | RSS SAR KARYAWAH (ALL INDIA GENERAL SECY)

SHORT TAKES

IS man sent to judicial custody

New Delhi: A Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here Tuesday remanded Mohsin Ahmad, an alleged IS man, to 30-day judicial custody. Ahmad was arrested by the agency from Delhi's Batia House August 6. He was produced before the court after the expiry of his police remand.

Three killed after being hit by train

Gurugram: Three youths, who had gone out to enjoy the holiday on Independence Day, died after being hit by a train in Gurugram district, police said. The incident took place Monday when the Rewari-Delhi diesel multiple unit (DMU) train ran over three youths while going from Garhi to Pataudi in Gurugram district. According to the police, the incident took place when the victims reached the other track to avoid the train coming from one side.

Clash along Assam, Arunachal border

North Lakhimpur: A group of miscreants allegedly attacked a Village Defence Party in Assam's Lakhimpur district injuring six persons in the area bordering Arunachal Pradesh, police said Tuesday. The incident has sparked tension with local units of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) staging a blockade on the road leading to Arunachal Pradesh Tuesday morning. A senior police officer said the incident took place in Rupahi Rajgarh area at around 1 am on Monday after the VDP questioned four youths from the neighbouring state on finding them moving in a vehicle in the locality.

3 die in K'taka road accident

Raichur (Karnataka): Three people were killed Tuesday in a road accident in Karnataka's Raichur district. The deceased have been identified as Basavaraj Mosali, Bheemavva Mosali and eight-year-old Naresh, all residents of Kallur village in Siriwara taluk.

Man beaten to death

Jaipur: In what can be called yet another mob lynching incident in Alwar, Chiranjilal (45) lost his life after being brutally thrashed by 20-25 people in Rambas village of Govindgarh town in Alwar district. Official sources confirmed that the victim went to relieve himself in a field Sunday morning at around 5 a.m. when 20-25 people came in a Scorpio and a pickup and thrashed him mercilessly. Hearing his screams, people ran to the field and saw Chiranjilal lying unconscious on the ground.



It is my promise to the people of this great nation that I shall strive everyday for our dream India

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

BAL AADHAAR INITIATIVE

In the renewed effort to reach out to more children in the 0-5 age group under the Bal Aadhaar initiative, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has enrolled more than 79 lakh children during the first four months (April-July) of the current financial year



MONSOON WOES



Devotees cross a flooded road near Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers, after a rise in the water level of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers following monsoon rains in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

MVA slams CM's 'Goon Sena'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, August 16: The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi attacked Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde after two of his MLAs grabbed headlines - one for professing and the other for practicing - violence, here Tuesday, ahead of the Maharashtra Legislature Session starting Wednesday.

The two law-makers are: Prakash Surve from Magathane (Mumbai) and Santosh Bangar from Kalamnuri (Hingoli), whose fury in words and deeds have gone viral on social media evoking sharp reactions. An aghast Nationalist Congress Party's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar sarcastically asked why the regime - whose fate is still pending in Supreme Court - displays so much 'masti'. Shiv Sena Deputy Leader Raghunath Kuchik lashed out at the CM's Group labelling it as "not Shinde Sena but Goonde Sena", and even warned of retaliation



after getting the green signal from the Sena President and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole asked whether - after grabbing power illegally - 'power has gone to their heads' as they are now inciting violence and indulging in violent acts against a government servant, and said the party will raise it in the Legislature. Addressing a meeting on Sunday, Surve said while the (Shinde) Group will not get into a scrap with anyone, if someone antagonizes them, then they will not be spared, and added darkly - "nobody's 'dadagiri' must never cross their limits or it will spell chaos for democracy. "Today they are doing all this, tomorrow they will run 'Kangaroo Courts' to deliver instant justice, without trial as per their whims and fancies. The Congress demands strict exemplary action against the errant MLAs from the CM and DCM," Londhe said.

(bullying) would be tolerated... you bash them up, I will protect you". "If you can't break their arms then break their legs... 'Thok do', show them their place. Don't worry... I, Prakash Surve will get you out on bail the next day," the Shinde Group MLA thundered, even as his band of supporters lustily cheered. On Monday, Bangar went a step ahead to allegedly abuse, threaten and even assault a catering manager for reportedly dishing out sub-standard mid-day meals to unorganised labourers in the Hingoli district. Bangar shouted and abused the unidentified manager and then slapped him for serving 'burnt chapatis', plain rice and bland vegetables, claiming he had received complaints in the matter. He later called up another official and barked an earful, accusing him of corruption and warned he would "show them who is Bangar" as the person at the other end attempted to mollify him.

Mumbai police bust drugs factory in Guj

AGENCIES

Mumbai, August 16: Notching another big success in 10 days, the Mumbai Police have busted a drugs factory at Ankleshwar in south Gujarat and seized drugs worth ₹1,026 crore and nabbed one person, as part of an investigation into an ongoing case, officials said here Tuesday.

Till now, the total seizures in the case - the probe was launched March 29 with multiple raids in Govandi suburb of Mumbai, Ambernath in Thane and Nalasopara in Palghar, besides Ankleshwar in Gujarat - has touched a staggering ₹2,435 crore. In the latest action August 13, the Anti Narcotics Cell, Worli Unit,

seized 513 kg Mephedrone, plus 812 812 kg of white powder and 397 kg of chemicals used to prepare the narcotic drugs, said an official.

The factory raided is situated in the GIDC complex at Panoli in Ankleshwar, and the latest action happened barely 10 days after the previous major drugs haul worth ₹1,403 crore from Nalasopara town in Palghar district, bordering Gujarat. So far, seven persons have been arrested in this case, including a woman and a couple of qualified chemists, who allegedly prepared the mixtures of various chemicals to manufacture the final drugs. Earlier August 4, the ANA arrested three persons, including two suppliers, from Nalasopara and seized 702 kg of Mephedrone worth ₹1403.50 crore.

Rlys conducts test run of longest freight train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: The Railways conducted a test run of the 3.5-km-long freight train, Super Vasuki, with 295 loaded wagons carrying over 27,000 tonnes of coal between Korba in Chhattisgarh and Rajnandgaon in Nagpur on August 15, as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

The train run by the South East Central Railway left Korba at 13:50 and took 11.20 hours to cover the distance of 267 km. This is the longest and heaviest freight train ever run by the Railways, the national transporter said, adding the train takes about four minutes to cross a station.



The amount of coal carried by Super Vasuki is enough to fire 3000 MW of power plant for one full day, officials said. This is three times the capacity of existing railway rakes (90 cars with 100 tonnes in each) which carries about 9,000 tonnes of coal in one journey. The train was formed by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains

THE TRAIN RUN BY THE SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY LEFT KORBA AT 13:50 AND TOOK 11.20 HOURS TO COVER THE DISTANCE OF 267 KM

THIS IS THE LONGEST AND HEAVIEST FREIGHT TRAIN EVER RUN BY THE RAILWAYS

as one unit. The Railways plans to use this arrangement (longer freight trains) more frequently, especially to transport coal in peak demand season to prevent fuel shortages of power stations, the officials said. Earlier this year, coal shortages had pushed the country into a severe power crisis.

WB: TMC observes 'Khela Hobe Dibas'

KOLKATA: The TMC Tuesday observed 'Khela Hobe Dibas' with party leaders organising football matches to promote sports, and taking out rallies against the alleged biased functioning of central agencies in West Bengal.

'Khela Hobe' (the game is on) had been the battle cry of the Trinamool Congress during the assembly polls last year when the party defeated the BJP to storm back to power for the third consecutive term. Last year, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee announced that August 16 would be observed as 'Khela Hobe Dibas'. "I want to extend my heartfelt wishes on #KhelaHobeDibas. After the exemplary success of the event last year, we look forward to greater participation by the youth today. Let this day uphold the zeal of our young citizens, who are the most credible harbingers of progress!" Banerjee tweeted Tuesday.



There has been a sudden spike in attacks on minorities, labourers and police personnel in the valley since the beginning of this year

The death toll in targeted attacks has gone up to 21 this year which includes two Kashmiri Pandits

After the incident, the administration had assured that the presence of security forces where minorities were living would be increased. An obscure Kashmir Freedom Fighter group claimed responsibility for the attack but security forces believe it to be an act by the terrorists of banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Heated arguments were witnessed outside the residence of the victim when officials from the administration visited the family. The brother of Balkrishen Bhat confronted the officials and accused them of failing in their duties to ensure the safety of minorities. "After my brother was shot, I personally met the Deputy Commissioner of Shopian and Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir for our safety. They told me nothing can be done and we should continue to stay where we live," Anil Bhat claimed.

An agitated Bhat held the administration responsible for the killing and alleged it has failed in its duty to safeguard people's safety. There are only two or three Kashmiri Pandit families in Chotigam, nearly 10 km from the Shopian district headquarters and 70 km from Srinagar. The region is a hotbed of terrorism and is considered a stronghold of the terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Moahammed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

North India may face freshwater shortage by 2060: Study

A study, published in the journal 'Nature Climate Change', projects that climate change, under a scenario of weak climate policy, will cause irreversible decline in freshwater storage in North India and adjoining Asian regions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Parts of North India could face irreversible decline in freshwater availability by 2060 due to climate change, according to a study. A team of international researchers noted that the Tibetan Plateau, known as the "water

tower" of Asia, supplies freshwater for nearly 2 billion people who live downstream.

The study, published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change, projects that climate change, under a scenario of weak climate policy, will cause irreversible declines in freshwater storage in the region.

This could lead to a total collapse of the water supply for central Asia and Afghanistan and a near-total collapse for Northern India and Pakistan by the middle of the century, the researchers said. "The prognosis is not good," said Michael Mann, distinguished professor of atmospheric science at Penn State, US.

"In a 'business as usual' scenario, where we fail to meaningfully curtail fossil fuel burning in the decades ahead, we can expect a near-collapse - that is, nearly 100 per cent loss - of water availability to downstream regions of the Tibetan



Plateau," Mann said. According to the researchers, despite its importance, the impacts of climate change on past and future terrestrial water storage (TWS) in the Tibetan Plateau have largely been underexplored. "The Tibetan Plateau supplies a substantial portion of the water demand for almost 2 billion people," said Di Long, associate professor of hydrologic engineering, Tsinghua University, China. "Terrestrial water storage across this region is crucial in determining water availability, and it is highly sensitive to climate change," Long said. Mann added that a solid benchmark for the TWS changes that have already occurred in the Tibetan Plateau has been lacking. In addition, he said, the absence

of reliable future projections of TWS limits any guidance on policymaking, despite the fact that the Tibetan Plateau has long been considered a climate change hotspot. The researchers used "top-down" - or satellite-based - and "bottom-up" or ground-based measurements of water mass in glaciers, lakes and below-ground sources. They combined the data with machine learning techniques to provide a benchmark of observed TWS changes over the past two decades (2002-2020) and projections over the next four decades (2021-2060). The researchers used a novel neural net-based machine learning technique to relate these observed changes in total water storage to key climate variables, including air temperature, precipitation, humidity, cloud cover and incoming sunlight. The researchers found that climate change in recent decades has

led to severe depletion in TWS (15.8 gigatons/year) in certain areas of the Tibetan Plateau and substantial increases in TWS (5.6 gigatons/year) in others, likely due to the competing effects of glacier retreat, degradation of seasonally frozen ground, and lake expansion.

The team's projections for future TWS under a moderate carbon emissions scenario suggest that the entire Tibetan Plateau could experience a net loss of about 230 gigatons by the mid-21st century (2031-2060) relative to an early 21st century (2002-2030) baseline. Excess water loss projections for the Amu Darya basin - which supplies water to central Asia and Afghanistan - and the Indus basin, which supplies water to Northern India, and Pakistan, indicate a decline of 119 per cent and 79 per cent in water-supply capacity, respectively, the researchers added.

TN to deploy AI to prevent elephant deaths

Who will bell stray cattle in Gujarat?

In the last ten months, 4,860 attacks have been reported in 33 districts and cities by the local media, in which 28 persons have lost their lives



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, August 16: Two recent incidents of stray cattle injuring people, including former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, have not only revealed the extent of menace but also exposed the administration's will to tackle the situation.

Patel was hit by a cow in Mehsana on Friday, and on Saturday a bull entered Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's cavalcade in Porbandar. In the last ten months, 4,860 attacks have been reported in 33 districts and cities by the local media, in which 28 persons have lost their lives. The highest deaths were reported from Porbandar (6), Banaskantha (5) and Patan (four), but the highest number of incidents have been reported from Ahmedabad 524, followed by Dahid (282), Amreli (259), Surat (248).

The state government passed the Gujarat Cattle Control (keeping and moving) Bill on March 31. According to this, pastoralists living in eight major cities and 156 towns were to be fined for leaving their cattle free on the roads. However, within two weeks, the government put the Bill on the backburner after pastoralists and Maldharis opposed this and decided to launch statewide agita-

tion. Fearing electoral dent in the vote bank in upcoming Assembly elections, the government decided not to go ahead with the Bill.

"Law and imposing a fine is not the solution," believes Nagji Desai, President of Maldhari Panchayat. According to him, there are two possible solutions to stray cattle issues in cities and towns, first its state should stop expanding cities and merging villages. In 2021, alone in Ahmedabad 38 villages were merged. He questions without grazeland how the government expects pastoralists to feed their domestic cattle.

The second solution is to create Pastoralists Vasahats kilometers away from the major cities. For example, pastoralists living in Ahmedabad city can be rehabilitated some 20 to 30 kilometers away from the city like Sanand, Kalol, Dehgam and Kheda, where the state can provide them houses, stable and land for fodder or grazeland. The Rajasthan government has created Maldhari Vasahats.

State Congress chief Jagdish Thakor last week made a promise that if his party comes to power it will give pastoralists the farmer's status so they can buy agricultural land on which they can grow fodder to meet the needs of rearing domestic cattle.

An amount of Rs 7 crore is sanctioned for the project. The forest department has already floated tenders from reputed agencies to install the artificial intelligence system in the sector. The last date for submitting bids is September 8

A detailed survey and study was carried out by the Tamil Nadu forest department along with Railways and have identified a 13 km area of forest land most vulnerable. This is based on the frequency of elephant crossing

and railway station master if the elephant crosses the orange zone.

If by any chance the elephant is entering the red zone, alerts will be sent to the district forest officials, divisional engineers of railways, who will intimate the loco pilot. Details of the elephant and its distance from the track will be intimated to the loco pilot much in advance. A senior officer of the forest department said that after the tender is awarded, work will commence within two months.



and have identified a 13 km area of forest land most vulnerable. This is based on the frequency of elephant crossing.

The Tamil Nadu forest department and the Ministry of Railways have decided to install an Artificial intelligence system in the area to warn about ele-

phant crossings. According to the department officials, the problem areas would be identified into three zones. The 50 m area from the centre to the track will be red zone, the next 50 m will be orange zone and further 50 m will be the yellow zone.

An acoustic (hooter) alert and

a luminous alert would be installed at all sensor towers and in the console room. If an elephant enters the yellow zone, an alert will be generated in the console room and the message will be passed to the forest watchers. Message and alerts will be sent to forest guards, watchers, forest range officers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 16: The forest department of Tamil Nadu is to set up an artificial intelligence system to prevent elephant deaths due to train related accidents on the tracks between Madhukkarai and Walayar in Coimbatore district.

An amount of Rs 7 crore is sanctioned for the project. The forest department has already floated tenders from reputed agencies to install the artificial intelligence system in the sector. The last date for submitting bids is September 8.

Two railway lines pass through the Madukkarai forest range between Madhukkarai and Walayar. The distance of one stretch is 1.8km and the other is 2.8km. Both the tracks have several hotspots for elephant crossing, and it is to be noted that 11 wild elephants have died since 2008 due to collisions with speeding trains.

A detailed survey and study was carried out by the Tamil Nadu forest department along with Railways

Drug menace: Surveillance intensified



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Aug 16: Due to increasing drug menace in the state, the Tamil Nadu Police have intensified surveillance at inter-border checkpoints.

The state police have also installed Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at all these checkpoints to prevent smuggling of contraband from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, over 250 accounts of drug peddlers have already frozen. According to an informed officer of the state police's narcotics wing, the accounts of all those who have been supporting the drug smugglers will also be frozen. The state police will also launch the 'Kaaval Madram' scheme to spread awareness among school and college students against drug menace.

A pilot project is currently underway in Vellore district. Vellore Superintendent of Police, Rajesh Kannan said that Kaval Madrams will be opened in all schools and colleges in the district to create awareness against drug abuse and sexual harassment.

Kejriwal promises free education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhuj, August 16: In another pre-poll guarantee for Gujarat, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday announced free and quality education to the people of the poll-bound state and auditing of private schools if the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was elected to power in the year-end Assembly elections.

The AAP convener also promised to improve infrastructure of the existing government schools and open new ones in large numbers across the state if his party comes to power in the state currently ruled by the BJP.

"All those born in Gujarat will get free and quality education. We will not force anybody. If parents have money, they can send their kids to private schools. But if they do not have money, we will not let the lack of money come in their way of good education for their kids. We will provide them best education for free," he said at a town hall meeting here.

Kejriwal said if the AAP forms the next government in Gujarat, all private schools will be audited and made to return "extra money" collected from parents like what has been done in Delhi, where his party is in power.

The Delhi CM said an AAP government will ensure that the practice of private schools selling textbooks and uniforms to students is stopped forthwith.

TIRUCHI TO PLANT 2 LAKH PALMYRA SAPPLINGS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 16: A massive drive to convert 400 acres of unutilised or barren land into a dense forest within a period of time is underway at Tiruchi district in Tamil Nadu.

The Tiruchi district administration officials said that the land identified is a "Porambokku" land at Lalgudi Taluk in the district and 25,000 palmyra saplings have been already planted. The district administration and Lalgudi Taluk officials said that around 2 lakh saplings would be planted on the 400-acre land.

The palmyra saplings are planted at a distance of 12 feet from each other so that it is not crowded when they grow up. According to the District Rural



The Tiruchi district administration officials said that the land identified is a 'Porambokku' land at Lalgudi Taluk in the district and 25,000 palmyra saplings have been already planted

development department officials, a private firm is sponsoring all the saplings and the planting and maintenance including

watering is being done by the workers of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNRREGS).

Heavy rain in Gujarat; alerts issued

Due to the rain, 74.62 per cent water capacity is currently available in reservoirs, including the Narmada dam in the state. Due to this, the problem of agriculture and drinking water has been resolved in Gujarat for the upcoming year



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, August 16: Heavy rain lashed different parts of Gujarat Tuesday, the Met Department said.

Amid the heavy rain, the department will issue an orange alert in eight districts and a yellow alert in seven districts of Gujarat on Wednesday. Apart from this, an orange alert has also been issued in three districts of south Gujarat.

Heavy rain inundated Ahmedabad since Monday due to which the city is facing water-logging in several areas. Ahmedabad

received nearly half an inch of rainfall since Tuesday morning. According to the Met department forecast in Surat, there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rain in south Gujarat till Thursday.

Surat has witnessed heavy rain since Tuesday morning. Two inches of rainfall has been recorded in Varachha since Tuesday morning while three inches of rainfall was witnessed in Udhana-Limbayat area from Monday evening till Tuesday 6 a.m. The water in streams has reached danger levels due to the heavy rain. The Mithikhadi area of Limbayat has been completely

inundated.

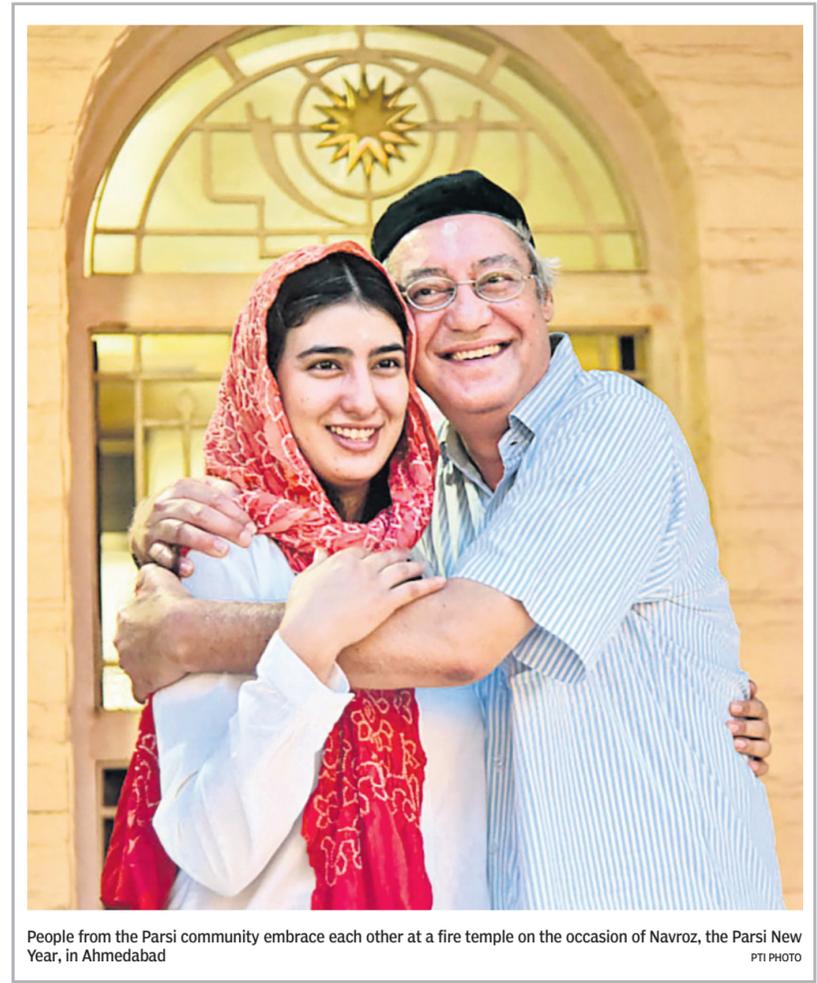
According to the forecast by the Met Department, an orange alert was issued in north Gujarat's Banaskantha and Sabarkantha on Tuesday.

An orange alert has also been issued in Saurashtra's Jamnagar while a yellow alert has been sounded in Patan, Mehsana, Aravalli, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Kutch, Morbi, Dwarka and Gir Somnath. There is a possibility of heavy rain in Surat, Navsari, Valsad and Kutch in south Gujarat on August 17. In the last 18 hours, 209 talukas received rain, with the highest in Vyara in Tapi district and Dolwan receiving 5.76 inches of rain.

Due to the rain, 74.62 per cent water capacity is currently available in reservoirs, including the Narmada dam in the state. Due to this, the problem of agriculture and drinking water has been resolved in Gujarat for the upcoming year.

As much as 85.56 per cent of the season's rainfall has been recorded in Gujarat, which is the highest rainfall recorded till August 14 in the last eight years. In 2021, the state recorded only 36.84 per cent of the season's average rainfall till August 14 with 12.18 inches. Therefore, the amount of rainfall this time is more than double as compared to that in 2021. This time more than 40 inches of rain has been recorded in 41 talukas of the state.

Kutch has received 137 per cent, south Gujarat 95 per cent, Saurashtra 78 per cent, north Gujarat 76 per cent and east central Gujarat 73 per cent of rainfall.



People from the Parsi community embrace each other at a fire temple on the occasion of Navroz, the Parsi New Year, in Ahmedabad

PTI PHOTO

TN cops begin probe into missing statues of Chola kings

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, August 16: Tamil Nadu Idol wing police have commenced investigation into the missing statues of two Chola kings from the 12th century. An archaeological enthusiast, K. Senguttuvan, had complained that the idols that were located at Sornakadeswar temple in Neivanai village of Kallakurichi district were missing.

In his complaint, Senguttuvan stated that he had found the sta-

ues missing when he had gone to the temple on a field visit. A case was filed by the Ulundurpet police and the case transferred to the Idol wing police.

Senguttuvan in the complaint stated that Sornakadeswar was an ancient temple and Chola kings had given huge donations to the temple. He said that he had gone on a field visit to the temple after reading history on it and found to his surprise that two idols of Chola kings that were erected opposite the main entrance of the



temple had gone missing. In the complaint, the archeologist also said that when he enquired with the local people it was revealed that the idols were missing for the past 20 years.

The French Institute of Puducherry had preserved the photographs of these two statues and the picture, according to the records available with the French institute, was taken on September 10, 1967. This, according to Senguttuvan, was the only vital evidence of the idols in the temple.

Some miscreants who don't know the archeological value of these idols would have stolen them and sold them abroad at a huge price. The state archeological department must take initiative to prepare a list of artifacts mentioned in Tamil historic books and protect them

K. SENGUTTUVAN
ARCHEOLOGICAL ENTHUSIAST

Ulundurpet Police SHO said that an FIR has been filed under Sections 379, 25 (1) of IPC and Antiques & Art Treasures Act 1972. The SHO said that idol wing police were investigating the case.

Senguttuvan said, "Some miscreants who don't know the archeological value of these idols would have stolen them and sold them abroad at a huge price. The state archeological department must take initiative to prepare a list of artifacts mentioned in Tamil historic books and protect them."

national

of the day quote

I am desirous of fulfilling the aspirations of every single individual of Tamil Nadu. I am involving myself everyday in that initiative



M K STALIN | TN CM

While the shopping festival will be a big opportunity for traders, shopkeepers, tourism and hospitality industry to increase their business and revenue, the Food Truck Policy will open avenues for growth of the capital's night time economy



MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

At present inflation is at peak. Unemployment is increasing. Farmers' economic problems have increased



AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

4th phase of CUET to begin August 17

New Delhi: The fourth phase of Central University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG 2022 will begin from Wednesday with nearly 3.6 lakh candidates expected to appear in the exam. The exam for additional 11,000 candidates, who were to appear in the fourth phase from August 17-20, has been postponed to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for centre, officials said.

Double murder in national capital

New Delhi: A 70-year-old bedridden woman and her daughter-in-law were found murdered at their home in northeast Delhi's Subhash Park area Tuesday, police said. The two women, Vimla Devi and her daughter-in-law Doli Rai (45), were stabbed multiple times, causing the latter's intestines to come out. It is suspected that the assailant was known to the family as there were no signs of forced entry, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Sanjay Kumar Sain said Rai's sons Sarthak and Shashank had gone to Rishikesh and Mussoorie for two-three days. They found the bodies after they returned home and informed the police.

Explosive material found in SUV

Amritsar (Pb): Some explosive material was found hidden under the sports utility vehicle of a police official here, officials said Tuesday. A car cleaner noticed the object under the sports utility vehicle (SUV) of Sub Inspector Dilbagh Singh at Ranjit Avenue locality, police said. A CCTV footage shows that two motorcycle-borne unidentified people kept the explosive material under the SUV and then fled the spot.

Teesta Setalvad moves top court

New Delhi: Activist Teesta Setalvad has moved the Supreme Court seeking bail after she was arrested for allegedly fabricating documents to frame high-ranking officials, including then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, in the 2002 riots cases. A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and comprising justices JK Maheshwari and Hima Kohli said: "Upon being mentioned by Aparna Bhat, Advocate on Record for the petitioner seeking urgent listing of the matter, the registry is directed to list the matter on August 22 before a bench presided over by Justice Uday Umesh Lalit."



It is blame-worthy that the Centre, without properly fulfilling that responsibility, is insulting by calling welfare schemes as freebies

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

PROMOTING NATIONALISM

The Maharashtra government has appealed to the people in the state to sing the national anthem at 11 am Wednesday as a part of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence



Rajnath hands over multiple indigenous weapons to Army

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 16: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday handed over to the Army a wide range of indigenous military equipment including unmanned aerial systems and quick reaction fighting vehicles to crank up its combat capabilities in eastern Ladakh in the backdrop of the prolonged border face-off with China.

The other key equipment that the Army received included surveillance hardware, patrolling boats, 'Future Infantry Soldier as a System', a new anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', infantry protected mobility vehicles, rugged and automatic communication system, upgraded sights system for tanks and advanced thermal imagers.

The handing over of the new equipment was part of the government's efforts to enhance the combat readiness of the armed forces in view of the military stand-off with Chinese troops in several friction points for over two years.

The new boats -Landing Craft Assault (LCA)-equipped with advanced surveillance gadgets and other equipment are being deployed to keep a strict vigil over the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh.

The 134-km-long lake at an altitude of 13,900-feet is considered strategically significant. China controls around two-thirds of the lake. Last year, the Army had ordered 12 LCA boats to strengthen its existing fleets of vessels.

"The LCA is much more versatile and has overcome the limitations of launch, speed and capacity. It has enhanced the capability to operate across the water obsta-



cles in eastern Ladakh," the defence ministry said.

It said the infantry protected mobility vehicles and assault boats will enable the troops deployed along the borders to respond to any "challenge in a befitting manner". The ministry said these vehicles will provide mobility and more protection to a large number of infantry soldiers posted at the Northern borders, adding quick reaction fighting vehicles will enhance mobility of the troops in eastern Ladakh.

"It facilitates quick deployment of troops and will enable much faster reaction. It will facilitate in creating moral ascendancy in our Northern borders," the ministry said about the advantages of these vehicles. In his remarks, Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that the equipment and systems will enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Army and increase their efficiency. "It is a shining example of the country's growing self-reliance prowess, in partnership with the private sector and other institutions."

Rajnath Singh handed over the weapons to the Army amid increasing challenges at the country's borders

The weapons include AK-203 assault rifles and F-INSAS (Future Infantry Soldier as a System) rifles as well as the new anti-personnel mine 'Nipun'

They have been developed by Nagpur-based private firm Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) and other Indian defence manufacturing companies

Singh said the infrastructural needs of the Armed Forces are increasing with constantly-changing times and urged them to strive for excellence. The ministry said the 'Future Infantry Soldier as a System' (F-INSAS) is aimed at equipping the soldiers with three primary sub systems.

The first system is the AK-203 assault rifle with day and night holographic and reflex sights. The sights are mounted on the weapon and also on the helmet to enable a 360-degree visibility and accuracy in operational conditions. In addition to the primary weapon system, the soldiers will also be equipped with multi-mode hand grenades along with multi-purpose knives. The ministry said the new anti-personnel mine named 'Nipun' will enhance the protection provided to the troops on the borders as it is more potent and effective than the existing ones. It said the Mini Remotely Piloted Aerial System (RPAS) will remove the operational limitations faced by the IAF aircraft and the heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at tactical level.

SHIVAMOGGA CLASHES

Man involved in stabbing shot at

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shivamogga (KTK), August 16: A man suspected to be involved in the stabbing of a garment shop employee here suffered injuries Tuesday when police opened fire on him after he allegedly attacked them, while a right wing activist was assaulted in the city, a day after a two groups had a face-off over installing pictures of VD Savarkar and Tipu Sultan.

Mohammed Zabiullah alias Charbi (aged 30), a resident of Marnami Bailu in this district headquarters town allegedly tried to attack a police team that went to pick him up in connection with the attack on Prem Singh, who was stabbed Monday, police said. Monday's skirmish between the two groups saw the ruling BJP and the Congress spar over the matter, even as the local MLA from the saffron party issued a warning against "Muslim Goondas".

The injured person is recovering in a hospital after the incident. According to police, Singh (20) was stabbed after two groups clashed over putting up banners of Hindutva icon Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and 18th century Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan Monday Prohibitory orders under section 144 of the IPC were imposed in the town.

A case of attempt to murder was registered against Nadeem, Tarveer, Zabiullah and Abdul Rehman in connection with the attack on Singh and they were arrested. The district administration also declared holiday to schools and colleges in Bhadravati and Shivamogga towns today. On Tuesday morning, when a police team went to detain Zabiullah, he allegedly tried to attack them.

DALIT BOY'S DEATH

NCPCR seeks strict action as pressure mounts on Raj govt

AGENCIES

Jaipur/New Delhi, August 16: The Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan came under more pressure Tuesday over the death of a Dalit boy with the apex child rights body seeking strict action and 12 Congress councillors in a municipal body sending their resignation letters to the Chief Minister.

Indra Meghwal, a student of a private school in Surana village of Rajasthan's Jalore district, was beaten up by his teacher July 20 for allegedly touching a drinking water pot. The boy succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Ahmedabad August 13.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in a letter to the district magistrate said the matter is serious and sought copies of the FIR, action taken by the administration against the accused and a transcript of the action taken by police within seven days.

They backed party's Baran-Atru MLA Pana Chand Meghwal, who Monday had sent his resignation letter to Gehlot, saying he doesn't have the right to remain a legislator if he can't protect his community.

Baran's Ward No.29 councillor Yogendra Mehta said they sent their resignation letters in support of the MLA and against the government's failure to protect the Dalits.

THE CHILD RIGHTS BODY SOUGHT STRICT ACTION BY THE RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEATING TO DEATH THE DALIT BOY FOR TOUCHING A DRINKING WATER POT

12 CONGRESS COUNCILLORS IN THE RAJASTHAN'S BARAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SENT THEIR RESIGNATION LETTERS TO CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT, EXPRESSING ANGUISH OVER ATROCITIES AGAINST THE DALITS

The other councillors who sent their resignation letters are Rohitashva Saxena, Rajaram Meena, Rekha Meena, Leeladhar Nagar, Hariraj Erwal, Piyush Soni, Urvashi Meghwal, Yashwant Yadav, Anwar Ali, Jyoti Jatav and Mayank Mathodia, he said. They will submit copies of their resignation letters to the Kota divisional commissioner Wednesday, Mehta added.

In Kota's Itawa civic body, nominated councillor Suresh Mahawar also sent his resignation letter to the CM.

Meanwhile, political leaders made a beeline for the boy's home in Jalore's Surana village. Congress leader and former state deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot reached the boy's home and said a strong message needs to be given to win the Dalit community's trust.

Bihar cabinet expansion: 31 legislators take oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 16: Thirty-one legislators, including Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav's brother Tej Pratap Yadav, were sworn-in Tuesday as part of Bihar's new cabinet under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

As anticipated, the RJD being the single largest party in the state, has secured a lion's share of the ministerial berths.

Among the ministers who took oath Tuesday, 16 were from RJD, 11 from Nitish Kumar's JD(U), two from the Congress, one from Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and an Independent MLA. From the JD(U) the legislators who took oath as ministers are: Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Ashok Chaudhary, Sharavan Kumar, Lesi Singh, Sunil Kumar, Sheela Mandal,

Jayant Raj, Jama Khan, Sanjay Jha and Madan Sahani.

From the RJD, the new ministers are: Tej Pratap Yadav, Alok Mehta, Dr Surendra Yadav, Dr Ramanand Yadav, Samir Mahaseth, Prof Chandrasekhar Yadav, Anita Devi, Jitendra Rai, Sudhakar Singh, Lalit Yadav, Kumar Sarvajeet, Kartik Master, Surendra Ram, Mohammad Israil Mansuri (RJD), Shah Nawaz Alam (RJD) and Shamim Ahmed.

From the Congress, the new ministers are: Afaq Alam and Murari Prasad Gautam. Sumit Kumar Singh is an Independent MLA and Santosh Kumar Suman is from the HAM.

The legislators took oath in the Raj Bhawan. The total ministers in Bihar government reached 33 as Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav already took the oath of Chief Minister and deputy Chief Minister.



Students of SN Public School light candles to pay homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

CATTLE UNDER THREAT FROM DEADLY VIRUS

Many states of the country including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are battling a deadly cattle virus that is spreading rapidly, leaving thousands dead and many more afflicted.

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) as it is called is a viral infection of cattle, originally found in Africa which has spread to countries in the Middle East, Asia and Eastern Europe. Transmitted by blood sucking insects like mosquitoes and ticks, its clinical signs include fever, lacrimation, hyper salivation and characteristic skin eruptions. Diagnosis is by histopathology, virus isolation or PCR.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a specialised agency of the United Nations, has termed it as a vector-borne disease caused by a Capripox virus which is an emerging threat to livestock worldwide. First reported in Bangladesh, by August-September the same year it

was reported from neighbouring India. As of today Pakistan is also in the grip of LSD which affects cows more than buffaloes.

While collated information remains sketchy, according to published reports, the total number of cattle deaths, mostly cows, due to LSD reported in India has crossed 20,000 with Rajasthan (14,000), Gujarat (3268) and Punjab (2200) accounting for the highest number. The number of infected cows in these three states is put at around five lakhs with Rajasthan accounting for 3.10 lakh cows, Gujarat 84,000 and Punjab around 60,000. Unofficial figures put the death and infected figures at many times these numbers.

In Gujarat, the Centre has swung into action directly monitoring the situation. Union Home and Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah has directed the state government and all milk cooperative unions along with their apex marketing body, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) to undertake a mass

vaccination drive. State government sources confirmed that 3775 villages in 23 of the total 33 districts in the state have been affected with Kutch district that neighbours Pakistan reporting the highest casualty. The government has so far vaccinated 37.25 lakh cattle. Animal Husbandry Minister Raghavji Patel said that a 7-member team led by Kamdhenu University Vice-Chancellor Naresh Kevalva has been constituted to monitor and guide efforts in the affected districts. In Vadodara, restrictions have been imposed banning movement of cattle from one village to another. Rajasthan and Punjab have also put contingency measures into force, banning all cattle fairs till further notice.

For Gujarat, another major source of worry is the lion sanctuary of Sasan Gir, the lone abode of the Asiatic lion in the globe. The sanctuary is spread over Amreli, Junagadh, Gir Somnath and Bhavnagar districts of Saurashtra and all four districts have reported cases of LSD. With a fair

share of the lion movement spilling into neighbouring villages, the dangers of their scavenging on abandoned or diseased bovines leading to its spread in the lion species is stark and real though there is no evidence to suggest whether lions are vulnerable to LSD. "We obviously cannot afford to take any chances and have asked the animal husbandry department to take up vaccination of cattle in all villages surrounding the sanctuary on a war-footing", said a forest department official.

Meanwhile the state animal husbandry department dreads an accompanying nightmare, that of the possibility of the more contagious PPT virus finding its way among small ruminant animals like sheep and goat.

According to sources in the GCMMF, all cooperative dairy milk producers are alarmed at the fall of milk procurement. The problem is considerably acute in Rajasthan where animal husbandry constitutes a major economic activity in

the arid and semi-arid regions. The state accounts for about 7 per cent of the country's cattle population and contributes over 12.72 per cent of the total milk production.

The situation is believed to be serious in Pakistan as well where it is estimated that five million dairy farmers and meat sellers are suffering from the economic fallout of the LSD outbreak. Its livestock industry contributes 11 per cent to the country's GDP.

While culling of diseased cattle is resorted to as a controlling measure in Israel, Gulf countries, Europe as well as Pakistan, it is not an option that anyone is prepared to even discuss as a last case scenario in India given the sacred nature and religious sentiments attached to the bovine. The mention of the option, invited only blank stares even from veterinary scientists and those who did discuss did so in their private capacity.

RK MISRA

international



India's influence as a regional and global power is steadily on the rise, and I am confident that the greater your level of engagement, the greater the positive change
ISAAC HERZOG | ISRAELI PRESIDENT

UK BRACES FOR HEAVY RAIN
The UK Met Office Tuesday issued a yellow thunderstorm warning for most of the country with conditions potentially causing heavy rain and more flash flooding as well as transport disruption and power cuts



of the day quote

The US will be a key partner in India's journey in the next 25 years as it aspires to ascend to new heights of prosperity
TARANJIT SANDHU | INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US

Berlin will not back several fellow European countries that have called for an EU-wide move to stop issuing tourist visas to Russian citizens
OLAF SCHOLZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Morrison had been operating in secret, keeping the Australian people in the dark and misleading Parliament over who was in charge of what portfolios. This has been government by deception
ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

20 killed in collision
Lahore: At least 20 people were burnt alive and six injured in a collision between a passenger bus and an oil tanker in Pakistan's Punjab province Tuesday, rescue officials said, the second major road accident in the province in three days. The accident occurred on a motorway in Multan, some 350 kms from Lahore, reportedly because of overspeeding, police said. Traffic remained suspended on the motorway for several hours after the accident.

Jill Biden tests positive for Covid
South Carolina (US): US First lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 and was experiencing "mild symptoms", the White House announced Tuesday. She had been vacationing with President Joe Biden in South Carolina when she began experiencing symptoms on Monday. She has been prescribed the antiviral drug Paxlovid and will isolate at the vacation home for at least five days.

Six wounded in shooting
Memphis (US): Six people were wounded in a shooting that led to a lockdown of a hospital early Tuesday in Memphis, Tennessee, authorities said. Memphis police said the six were shot shortly after midnight by people in a black SUV near Methodist North Hospital. Two children were taken to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in critical condition, police said in a statement. The condition of one of the children later improved to non-critical, police said. Four other people were taken in critical condition to Regional One Health Medical Centre.

Nepal, US military exercise kicks off
Kathmandu: The Nepali Army and the US Army on Tuesday began a month-long joint military drill here on Tuesday, focusing on law enforcement and military decision-making during a conflict, the Himalayan nation's Army said in a statement. A contingent of the US army arrived in Kathmandu earlier on Tuesday morning under the leadership of Captain Black Ducatel for holding the 39th edition of the 'Ex-Balance Nail' military exercise, according to the Directorate of Public Relations and Information statement. The joint military exercise is being conducted between the Ranger Battalion under the Singh Mahavir Planning and Coordination Division of the Nepali Army and the US Army contingent from August 16 to September 15, the statement said.

Explosions hit military depot in Crimea

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Kyiv, August 16: Massive explosions and fires hit a military depot in Russia-annexed Crimea on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people, the second time in recent days that the Ukraine war's focus has turned to the peninsula.
Russia blamed the blasts at an ammunition storage facility in Mayskoye on an "act of sabotage" without naming the perpetrators. As with last week's explosions, they led to speculation that Ukraine may be behind the attack on the peninsula, which Russia has controlled since 2014.
Separately, the Russian business newspaper Kommersant quoted local residents as saying that plumes of black smoke also rose over an air base in Crimea's Gvardeyskoye. Ukraine has stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility for any of the fires or explosions, including last week's at another air base that destroyed nine Russian planes.
If Ukrainian forces were, in fact, responsible for any of the explosions, they would represent a significant escalation in the war. Crimea holds huge strategic and

SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION



CRIMEA HOLDS HUGE STRATEGIC AND SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR RUSSIA AND UKRAINE
RUSSIA BLAMED THE BLASTS AT AN AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITY IN MAYSKOYE ON AN "ACT OF SABOTAGE" WITHOUT NAMING THE PERPETRATORS
KYIV HAS RECENTLY MOUNTED A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON VARIOUS SITES IN THE REGION, TARGETING SUPPLY ROUTES FOR THE RUSSIAN MILITARY THERE AND AMMUNITION DEPOTS
symbolic significance for Russia and Ukraine.
The Kremlin's demand that Kyiv recognise the peninsula as part of the Russia has been one of its key conditions for ending the fighting, while Ukraine has vowed to drive the Russians from the peninsula and all other occupied territories.
Videos posted on social media showed thick plumes of smoke rising over raging flames in Mayskoye, and a series of explosions could be heard in the background. The Russian Defence Ministry said the fires at the depot caused damage to a power plant, power lines, rail tracks and some apartment buildings. It said in a statement that "there were no serious injuries".

Earlier, Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti reported a fire at a transformer substation after "a loud thump sound" in what appeared to be a result of the blasts at the depot. The Dzhankoi district, where the blasts happened, is in the north of the peninsula, about 50 kilometres from the Russian-controlled region of Kherson in southern Ukraine.
Kyiv has recently mounted a series of attacks on various sites in the region, targeting supply routes for the Russian military there and ammunition depots. Last week's explosions at Crimea's Saki air base sent sunbathers on nearby beaches fleeing as huge flames and pillars of smoke rose over the horizon.
Ukrainian officials emphasised on Tuesday that Crimea — which is a popular destination for Russian tourists — would not be spared the ravages of war experienced throughout Ukraine. Rather than a travel destination, "Crimea occupied by Russians is about warehouses explosions and high risk of death for invaders and thieves", Ukraine presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter, though he did not claim any Ukraine responsibility for the blasts.

FLURRY OF VISITS

China sanctions seven top Taiwanese officials



The sanctions were announced by Beijing following trips to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in early August and a US Congressional delegation led by Democratic Senator Ed Markey Monday
sanctions against seven Taiwanese government officials and politicians, saying they pushed a pro-independence agenda for the break-away island.
The Taiwan Affairs Office of the ruling Communist Party of China said on Tuesday that those sanctioned and their family members would not be allowed to enter mainland China, Hong Kong or Macau.
They will not be permitted to do business with the Chinese mainland. Their affiliated companies and financial sponsors would not be allowed to gain profits from the mainland, a spokesman of the office was quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency as saying. The Taiwan Affairs Office would take other necessary measures and those sanctioned would be held accountable for life," the spokesman said.
For a period of time, a small number of Taiwan independence die-hards have tried their best to collude with external forces to carry out independence provocations, deliberately inciting cross-strait confrontation, and wantonly undermining the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. They performed extremely poorly during Pelosi's trip to Taiwan, China's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson said.
"The names of die-hard separatists announced on Tuesday are only a part of the list," the spokesperson said. Among the seven people on the sanction list, six are members of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of Taiwan. They include Hsiao Bi-khim, Taiwan's representative to the US and Ker Chien-ming, the DPP caucus head of the legislature.

Beijing, August 16: China Tuesday announced sanctions on seven "die-hard" pro-independence Taiwanese politicians and officials, including Taipei's representative to Washington, amid concerns over the increasing visits by foreign dignitaries to the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing.
The sanctions were announced by Beijing following trips to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in early August and a US Congressional delegation led by Democratic Senator Ed Markey Monday. Also Last week, Lithuanian Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications Agne Vaiciukeviciute visited Taiwan. Lithuania is part of the European Union.
China has already imposed sanctions against Pelosi and Agne and held high-intensity military drills in Taiwan Strait, sparking fears of an armed conflict with Taiwan, which China claims as part of its mainland.
After Pelosi's visit, China is concerned that there will be a flurry of visits by top officials from the US and allied countries to the self-ruled Island. China announced

MASSIVE FISH DIE-OFF



Dead fish are removed from the Oder river at a mobile catch basin, as water contamination is believed to be the cause of a mass fish die-off, by the German border, in Krajnik Dolny, Poland

Poll result null, void: Odinga



Nairobi, August 16: Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga rejected as "null and void" the result of an August 9 presidential election he was declared to have lost, adding on Tuesday that Kenya's democracy faces a long legal crisis.
His first comments on the result came minutes after four of the seven election commissioners said they stood by their decision a day earlier to disown the result of the

presidential poll, saying the final tallying process had been "opaque".
"Our view is that the figures announced by (electoral commission chairman Wafula) Chebukati are null and void and must be quashed by court of law," Odinga, who was making his fifth bid for the presidency, told a news conference. He broadcast the dissenting commission members' own news conference at his own venue before taking the stage.
Speaking for the group, electoral commission deputy chairperson Juliana Cherera said the results that gave current deputy president William Ruto a wafer-thin victory over Odinga were erroneously aggregated. She said the elections had been conducted in a proper manner.

Miners mark 10th anniv of Marikana massacre

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Marikana (South Africa), August 16: A sombre gathering of about 5,000 people marked the 10th anniversary of what has become known as the Marikana massacre, when police opened fire on striking miners, killing 34 in 2012.
"10 Years of Betrayal," said T-shirts worn by many at the commemoration, expressing bitterness that those killed have not received justice and that promises of better pay and conditions for the miners have not been fulfilled.
Clustered on a small hilltop near where the shootings took place, the miners sang mournful songs and chants. Many at the event wore green and black, the colors of the



Zameka Nungu and Nosihle Ngweyi, two widows who lost their husbands during the brutal killing of miners, speak about how life has not changed for the better, in front of the hill where police killed 34 miners in 2012 in the 'Marikana massacre'

Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union that led the strike. A small contingent of police monitored the gathering.
"Ten years later, there has not been justice. We all saw the miners being killed in broad daylight but nobody has been arrested for it," the regional secretary of the mine workers' union Phuthuma Manyathi told South Africa's eNCA broadcaster before the gathering.
The Marikana killings were preceded by days of violence in which 10 other people were killed, including police and security guards. Videos of police opening fire on the miners shocked South Africa and were broadcast around the world, sparking outrage.

SUPPORT MEASURES TO BE IMPROVED

China to discourage abortions to boost low birth rate

China, which imposed a one-child policy from 1980 to 2015, has officially acknowledged it is on the brink of a demographic downturn

REUTERS
Hong Kong, August 16: China will discourage abortions and take steps to make fertility treatment more accessible as part of efforts to boost one of the world's lowest birth rates, its National Health Authority said Tuesday.
Support measures from taxation and insurance to education and housing would be improved and implemented, with local governments encouraged to boost infant care services and family friendly workplaces, according to guidelines published on the authority's website. The authority said it would carry out reproduc-

tive health promotion to enhance public awareness while "preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing abortions that are not medically necessary."
China's fertility rate of 1.16 in 2021 was far below the 2.1 OECD standard for a stable population and among the lowest in the world. The guidelines come as China's uncompromising "zero-COVID" policy of curbing outbreaks with strict controls on people's lives may have caused profound damage on their desire to have children, demographers say.
The authority said it would guide local governments to gradually include assisted reproductive tech-



and not accessible to unmarried women. New births in China, with a population of 1.4 billion, are set to fall to record lows this year, demographers say, dropping below 10 million from last year's 10.6 million babies - which were already 11.5% lower than in 2020.
China, which imposed a one-child policy from 1980 to 2015, has officially acknowledged it is on the brink of a demographic downturn. It replaced that policy with a two-child policy in 2016, and changed it again in 2021, allowing married couples to have up to three children.
Over the past year authorities have started to introduce measures such as tax deductions, longer maternity leave, enhanced med-

ical insurance, housing subsidies, extra money for a third child and a crackdown on expensive private tutoring.
The guidelines on Tuesday mark the most comprehensive notice at a national level, including the reference to reduce abortions, which have been generally readily accessible for many years.
The authority said the measures were crucial for "promoting the long-term balanced development of the population." The number of abortions carried out stood above 9.5 million between 2015 to 2019, according to a National Health Commission report published at the end of 2021.

of the day quote

Overall we are in a position to provide end-to-end services to start-ups

DINESH KHARA | SBI CHAIRMAN

We continue to drive innovation in the offline payments market and with our PoS (Point of Sale) devices, merchants are able to drive higher customer loyalty

BHAVESH GUPTA | PAYTM CEO, LENDING & HEAD PAYMENTS

We are expecting the heavy duty truck segment to be far off this year from the 2018-19 level, but it may still reach around 2.20-25 lakh units

VINOD AGARWAL | MD, VOLVO EICHER COMMERCIAL VEHICLE

SHORT TAKES

Future Consumer defaults on payment

New Delhi: Future Consumer Ltd (FCL) has defaulted on the payment of ₹51.85 crore towards principal and interest due on non-convertible debentures, a regulatory filing said Tuesday. The default which happened on August 15, 2022, includes an interest amount of ₹10.73 crore and a principal amount of ₹41.12 crore, FCL said in a regulatory filing. "The Company has been unable to service its obligations towards payment of the amount of principal and interest due on unlisted Non-Convertible Debentures issued by the Company to CDC Emerging Markets Ltd," said FCL. The default is on the amount issued for a sum of ₹200 crore. This was allocated on February 15, 2018, with a coupon rate of 11.07 per cent per annum.

SpiceJet shares climb nearly 2 pc

New Delhi: Shares of SpiceJet Tuesday climbed nearly 2 per cent after the company entered into a settlement with aircraft lessor Goshawk Aviation and its affiliated entities. The stock advanced 1.96 per cent to settle at ₹46.75 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it climbed 4.14 per cent to ₹47.75. Tuesday, SpiceJet announced that it has entered into a settlement with aircraft lessor Goshawk Aviation and its affiliated entities related to two Boeing 737 Max aircraft and one Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft. Goshawk Aviation Limited is one of the main lessors of Max aircraft of SpiceJet, the airline's statement noted. "The settlement with Goshawk follows SpiceJet's successful settlements with De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited, Credit Suisse, Boeing, CDB Aviation, BOC Aviation and Avolon," it mentioned.

Adani Logistics to acquire ICD Tumb

New Delhi: Adani Logistics, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, Tuesday said it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire ICD Tumb (Vapi) from Navkar Corporation for ₹835 crore. Adani Logistics Ltd (ALL) in a statement said the deal comprises the acquisition of the operational ICD (inland container depot) with a capacity to handle 0.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit). Associated 129 acres of land provides an additional expansion path to increase capacity and cargo in near future, as additional industrial corridors and logistic parks get added along these DFC (Dedicated Freight Corridor) routes, it noted. The company said the acquisition is in line with its strategy to build integrated transport utility and pan India logistics infrastructure.



Macroeconomic and geopolitical developments are unlikely to turn back or stall business-critical technology modernisation

DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE | MINDTREE CEO

WPI inflation eases to 13.93 pc in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: The wholesale price-based inflation eased to a five-month low of 13.93 per cent in July on easing prices of food articles and manufactured products. The WPI-based inflation softened for the second consecutive month in July, raising hopes of further decline in wholesale prices in the months to come. The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation, after scaling a record high of 15.88 per cent in May, declined to 15.18 per cent in June. It was 13.43 per cent in February. It was 11.57 per cent in July last year. The WPI inflation continued its declining trend for the second month in July but remained in double-digits for the 16th consecutive month beginning April last year. Inflation in food articles in July eased to 10.77 per cent from 14.39 per cent in June. The rate of price rise in vegetables declined substantially to 18.25 per cent in July against 56.75 per cent in the previous month. In the fuel and power basket, in-



flation was 43.75 per cent in July compared to 40.38 per cent in the last month. Inflation in manufactured products and oil seeds was 8.16 per cent and (-) 4.06 per cent, respectively. CRCL LLP CEO and Managing Partner DRE Reddy said higher crude oil prices and input costs still weigh on the producers and pass-through has resulted in pushing the retail inflation higher. "The global economy is recovering as we witness an increase in demand for metals, oils, crude and fertilisers. Moving forward, as the crude prices soften in the

summer season and supply issues getting resolved will help ease WPI inflation in the next few months," Reddy added. The Reserve Bank of India mainly looks at retail inflation to frame monetary policy. Retail inflation remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the seventh month in a row and was 6.71 per cent in July. To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI has hiked the key interest rate three times this year to 5.40 per cent. The central bank had projected retail inflation to average 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Amul, Mother Dairy to hike milk prices by ₹2 per litre from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Leading milk suppliers Amul and Mother Dairy will increase milk prices by ₹2 per litre with effect from Wednesday on account of rising input costs. This is the second hike by Amul and Mother Dairy in nearly six months. In the beginning of March, both had increased milk prices by ₹2 per litre. The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which sells milk and other dairy products under the Amul brand, Tuesday said it has decided to increase the milk prices by ₹2 per litre in Ahmedabad and Saurashtra of Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, West Bengal, Mumbai and other markets effective from August 17. The hike of ₹2 per litre will translate into a 4 per cent increase in MRP (Maximum Retail Price) which is lower than the average food inflation, it said in a statement.



"This price hike is being done due to an increase in overall cost of operation and production of milk. The cattle feeding cost alone has increased to approximately 20 per cent compared to last year. Considering the rise in input costs, our member unions have also increased farmers' price in the range of 8-9 per cent over the previous year," GCMMF said. The co-operative passes on almost 80 paise of every rupee paid by consumers for milk and milk products to the milk producers.

Gold jewellery demand likely to contract: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 16: Gold jewellery demand in India is likely to decline in the second and third quarters of this fiscal due to hike in import duty, high volatility in prices and inflationary pressure, according to a report. While demand is likely to contract by 8 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of FY23, the decline is expected to be higher at 15 per cent in the third quarter due to the exceptionally high base in the same period of FY22, Icara said in a report. According to the report, the exceptional third quarter performance in FY22 was due to the post-Covid reopening of the economy and the substantially high demand in the wedding and festive seasons. Nonetheless, overall industry is expected to grow by a moderate 10 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) in FY23 on the back of strong performance in the first quarter of FY23 and steady demand in wedding and festive season in the current fiscal. The organised jewellery retail industry's revenue is likely to grow at a higher pace of 14 per cent y-o-y in FY23, driven by continued store expansions, the report added.

"In addition, an increase in other discretionary spending on things like travel due to lower restrictions and a likely reduction in the share of jewellery purchases in overall wedding expenditure, which was higher last year due to restrictions around gatherings, are also factors that can affect demand. Rural demand for gold is also likely to be impacted by uncertain monsoons in the current year and higher interest rates on agricultural loans which could dent disposable incomes," Icara Senior Vice President and Group Head Jayanta Roy said. The jewellery retail sector is estimated to have grown by a robust 88 per cent y-o-y in the first quarter of FY23, driven by strong demand during the Akshaya Tritiya season and continued momentum in wedding purchases, the report further stated. This strong growth comes on a relatively low base of the first quarter of FY22, it added. Meanwhile, the report revealed that the industry consumption surpassed pre-pandemic levels in the April-June quarter of FY23, given the sharp recovery after the pandemic-induced disruptions witnessed during the first quarter of the last two fiscals.

PRE-BOOKING OF GALAXY Z FOLD4 STARTS

Samsung has started pre-booking of the most expensive 5G smartphone series Galaxy Z Fold4 in the country with top model priced at around ₹1.85 lakh a unit. While global starting price of Samsung Galaxy Z Fold4 is same as Galaxy Fold3, Indian consumers will have to pay a bit higher price because of depreciation in rupee.



LIC launches special drive to revive lapsed policies

AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 16: Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Tuesday announced the launch of a campaign for revival of individual lapsed policies. This special drive, to be carried out from August 17 to October 21, 2022, is extended to all non-ULIP policies with very attractive concession in late fee. All policies except ULIP (Unit linked Insurance Plan) can be revived within 5 years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to policy conditions, LIC said in a statement. There is a 100 per cent waiver of late fee for Micro Insurance Policies to facilitate affordable restoration of risk cover, it said. The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed. Life insurance cover is a risk management, for contingent, unexpected loss of life, it said, adding, this campaign gives an opportunity for LIC's policy holders to revive their lapsed policies and continue the benefit of insurance to protect the financial interests of their family.

Nifty above 17,800 on easing inflation



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 16: Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by over 379 points while Nifty closed above the 17,800 level following gains in oil & gas, banking and auto shares on easing inflation concerns. The 30-share BSE benchmark index advanced 379.43 points or 0.64 per cent to settle at 59,842.21, logging its third straight day of gains. During the day, it jumped 460.25 points or 0.77 per cent to 59,923.03. Extending its gaining streak to a sixth session in a row, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 127.10 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 17,825.25 as 42 of its constituents advanced. Easing inflation concerns after the wholesale price-based inflation slowed down to a five-month low of 13.93 per cent in July and buying in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC twins added to the momentum.

"The easing of inflationary pressures has encouraged domestic investors to remain optimistic about the pace of economic recovery. Better-than-expected CPI numbers, aided by slower increase in food and fuel prices, may limit the pace of rate hikes by the RBI," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. From the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 2.28 per cent. Mahindra Group on Monday announced that it would launch five new electric sports utility vehicles for both domestic and international markets, with the first four expected to hit the road between 2024 and 2026. Maruti gained 2.19 per cent, Asian Paints by 2.09 per cent, and Hindustan Unilever by 1.9 per cent. UltraTech Cement, HDFC and HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra and Reliance Industries were among the lead gainers.

BIZ BUZZ

PHASE OF DISRUPTIVE CHANGE IMMINENT, SAYS TK CHAND

Bhubaneswar: National Institute of Technology Foundation (NITF) and AIC-NITF celebrated #Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav by distributing National Flag to students and staff. Dr Tapan Kumar Chand was the chief guest of the occasion. He hoisted the National Flag. In his address to the engineering students, start-ups and staff he talked about the emerging opportunities in the wake of Industry 4.0. "We are on the threshold of Fourth Industrial Revolution," said Dr Chand, driven by Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, AR & VR, IOT, Cloud Management & Design Thinking. This phase will bring disruptive change, he said, adding jobs will be created and jobs will be destroyed. New opportunities will emerge for which students should acquire the required skill. He also called upon students to be innovative entrepreneurs.



CD ratio of banks operating in state improves: Prasad

Bhubaneswar: Soma Sankara Prasad, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, visited Bhubaneswar zone from 12th to 14th Aug 2022. During his visit he reviewed the performance of select branches. He also met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik August 12 and apprised to him that despite the pandemic, the CD ratio of the banks operating in the state has improved from 62 to 72% as on March 31. The Chief Minister stressed upon opening of branches in unbanked rural centres. August 14, Prasad inaugurated a new branch at Raniola, an unbanked rural centre under Niali block of Cuttack district.



Union Bank of India observes Partition Horror Remembrance Day



Bhubaneswar: Union Bank of India, born on 11 Nov 1919, is a government owned bank with 120+ million customers. After amalgamation with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank which came into effect Apr 1, 2020, the amalgamated entity became one of the largest PSU banks in terms of branch network with around 9,500 branches having business of ₹17.5 lakh crore (approx). The bank observed Partition Horror Remembrance Day August 10 to 14 and Chandrasekharpur-2 Damana Square Branch, Bhubaneswar was chosen by the Dept of Finance to organise an exhibition showcasing this event. The occasion was graced by Ramakanta Pradhan, FGM, Bhubaneswar, Sovan Sengupta, RM, Bhubaneswar Region, Ashok Mishra, DRM, Bhubaneswar Region along with senior officials, valued customers and branch officials.

Fuel demand continues to fall in Aug as monsoon sets in

Monsoon restricts mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking, also drops with the onset of rains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Diesel demand in India fell for the second month in a row as the onset of monsoon chipped away consumption in key sectors like agriculture, preliminary industry data showed Tuesday. Petrol and diesel demand had fallen month-on-month in July. While petrol consumption is almost flat in the first half of August,

diesel - the most widely used fuel in the country - saw demand drop 11.2 per cent during August 1-15 to 2.82 million tonnes from 3.17 million tonnes in the same period of the previous month. The arrival and intensity of monsoon weigh heavily on diesel demand in the country and consumption traditionally is lower in July-September than in April-June. Monsoon restricts mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking, also drops with the onset of rains. Diesel demand was, however, 32.8 per cent higher year-on-year, supported by strong economic growth and a relatively low baseline for the same period in 2021 when the second wave of COVID-19 had impacted the economy. Consumption of diesel was 58.2



per cent higher than the 1.78 million tonnes demand during August 1-15 in 2020. It was 23 per cent more than pre-COVID August 2019, the data showed. Petrol sales inched up 0.8 per cent to 1.29 million tonnes in the first half of August when compared to

1.28 million tonnes of consumption in the same period of the previous month. The consumption was 30.6 per cent higher than August 2021 and 43.4 per cent more than the first fortnight of August 2020. It was 36 per cent more than pre-COVID August

2019. Auto fuel demand in June was supported by a surge in summer travel to colder areas of the country to escape from the heat and vacations during annual breaks at educational institutions. Thereafter, it fell in July and now in August. As the aviation sector opens up, India's overall passenger traffic (both domestic and international) at airports inched closer to pre-COVID-19 levels. Accordingly, jet fuel (ATF) demand grew by 42.2 per cent to 2,48,100 tonnes from August 1 to 15 when compared year-on-year. It was 121 per cent higher than August 2020 but 18 per cent lower than pre-COVID August 2019. Month-on-month, sales fell 0.75 per cent. With strong economic growth of 7.1 per cent, India's oil demand has been rising steadily since the country eased pandemic lockdowns.

"Monsoon months traditionally are low consumption months but overall oil demand will continue on its growth trajectory during the rest of the year," an industry official said. The government on March 25, 2020, imposed a nationwide lockdown to control the spread of coronavirus. The complete lockdown, which halted mobility and crippled business, was slowly eased after two months. Cooking gas LPG sales were up 8.19 per cent year-on-year to 1.14 million tonnes in the first half of August. LPG consumption was 15.3 per cent higher than in August 2020 and 5.5 per cent more than in August 2019. Month-on-month too, the demand fell 7.8 per cent when compared to 1.24 million tonnes of LPG consumption during the first half of July, the data showed.

FIFA MOVE STUNS INDIA

Indian football great Bhutia feels world football body's ban call on Indian board 'extremely harsh' but also an opportunity to get house in order



Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium was among the hosts for U-17 Women's World Cup matches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 16: Former captain Bhauchung Bhutia Tuesday termed the FIFA's decision to ban Indian football "very harsh" but in it also saw an opportunity to get the country's sport in order.

India was suspended by world governing body FIFA for "undue influence from third parties", the development jeopardising the country's prospects of hosting the U-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled from October 11-30.

"Very unfortunate that FIFA has banned Indian football and at the same time I feel it's a very harsh decision of FIFA to ban Indian football," Bhutia, one of the sport's icons in the country, said.

"But at the same time I feel it's a great opportunity for us to get our system right. It's very important that all the stakeholders - the federation, the state associations, to come together and get the system right and every body work for the betterment of Indian football," the Sikkimese sniper added.

FIFA said the suspension was issued immediately and that the transgression - constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes. This is the first time the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been banned by FIFA in its 85 year history.

The AIFF ran into trouble after former president Praful Patel stayed in office beyond his term with the Supreme Court ruling it invalid and ousting him from the post. The SC had placed the AIFF under a Committee of Administrators (CoA).

Former India star Shabbir Ali called it extremely unfortunate and a massive setback for Indian football. "Whatever has happened is extremely unfortunate and it is a setback for Indian football. That said, I am hopeful that the suspension will be lifted sooner than later once the elections are held, which FIFA has categorically mentioned as well," he said.

"The U-17 Women's World Cup should be held in India and I am optimistic that things will fall in place and India won't be robbed off the showpiece event," added the Dhyan

Chand Awardee, who was one of India's best players in the 1970s and 80s.

The FIFA though has not closed all options for India as it said it is in talks with the sports ministry and hopeful of a positive outcome regarding the women's age group showpiece event.

Former player Mehtab Hossain blamed those running football in the country for the setback. "Both the former officials and the CoA should be blamed squarely for this fiasco. When FIFA instructed the officials to conduct an election as soon as possible and put the house in order, what were we waiting for? We took our own sweet time and now we have to pay the ultimate price," Mehtab said.

"Neither the former bosses nor anyone from the CoA will suffer now. It's the players, fans



U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP INDIA 2022

CoA surprised too

NEW DELHI: The Committee of Administrators (CoA) Tuesday said it was "surprised" at FIFA's "unfortunate" decision to ban the AIFF despite closing in on a consensus on matters concerning the elections and structure of constitution. "The CoA is surprised that the FIFA decision has come when extensive discussions were going on for the past few days between all stakeholders, including FIFA-AFC, AIFF, CoA, and the Sports Ministry as per the Order of the Supreme Court," the CoA said in a statement. "While the CoA was committed to implement the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order regarding the elections of the AIFF, passed August 3, 2022, it was also in constant dialogue with all stakeholders. In the discussions held among the FIFA-AFC, AIFF, CoA, and the Sports Ministry in the past few days, it was suggested that the present elections of the AIFF Executive Committee may be conducted with the Electoral College consisting of 36 state representatives." This is the first time the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year existence, with the Bureau of the FIFA Council saying there have been "flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes".

who will be dealt with a severe blow. It's a huge blow for Indian football," he added.

Timeline of ultimate embarrassment

It all started to go from bad to worse as controversial former AIFF president Praful Patel, whose third term in office ended in December 2020, stayed in office citing a pending Supreme Court case. As per rule, 12 years is the maximum term permitted to a national sports federation chief under the Sports Code. With FIFA suspending AIFF after the stroke of midnight on the 75th anniversary of Indian independence, the PTI gives a timeline of what transpired to this ban.



MAY 18: Supreme Court verdict forces Patel and his executive committee to step down. SC also appoints a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former top court judge AR Dave, former CEC SY Quraishi and ex-Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly.

MAY 23: Patel requests FIFA chief Gianni Infantino to not impose a ban on the country after the sports body was placed under a Committee of Administrators.

MAY 29: The CoA member Quraishi says a newly-elected body of the AIFF should be in place by September end and a modified constitution will be submitted to the SC by July 15.

JUNE 11: The CoA and members of some affiliated units meet to discuss the way forward on holding the long-pending elections of the national federation at the earliest under a new constitution adhering to the national sports code, FIFA and AFC Statutes.

JUNE 21: First round of talks between the visiting FIFA-AFC team and CoA running the affairs of Indian football has 'goes off well'.

JUNE 22: The AIFF member units meet the visiting FIFA-AFC team and informed them that the Supreme Court intervention in the national sports body was 'out of necessity'.

JUNE 23: The visiting FIFA-AFC team sets deadlines to clean up the mess, asks the stakeholders to get the constitution approved by July 31 and conduct elections by September 15.

JULY 13: The CoA sends final draft constitution of AIFF to FIFA.

JULY 16: The CoA submits AIFF draft constitution to Supreme Court for its approval.

JULY 18: AIFF state units expressed unhappiness over several provisions in the final draft constitution, prepared by the CoA, but say willing to find middle ground. The state associations, represented by a seven-member panel, had written to the FIFA that several clauses of the final draft are discriminatory and illogical.

JULY 21: Supreme Court endorses the need to expedite the elections to the AIFF.



JULY 26: FIFA recommends AIFF to have 25 per cent eminent player representation in its Executive Committee as co-opted members instead of the 50 per cent stipulated in the draft constitution by CoA.

JULY 28: SC bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant say it will hear the modalities for holding the elections August 3.

AUGUST 3: SC directs AIFF executive committee to expeditiously hold elections as per the schedule proposed by the CoA, which is currently running the affairs of the national federation. The top court said that the Electoral College for the executive committee of AIFF would have representatives from 36 state associations and 36 representatives of eminent football players.

AUGUST 5: SC approves the CoA time-line for AIFF elections, polls to be held August 28 and the poll process will start August 13.

AUGUST 6: FIFA threatens to suspend the AIFF and strip of its right to host the women's U-17 World Cup in October due to a third party 'influence'.

AUGUST 7: The CoA assures FIFA that it is on course to set the AIFF.

AUGUST 10: The CoA files a contempt petition against Patel for 'interfering with the proceedings' of the SC.

AUGUST 11: SC warns the state units of 'exercising its authority' if Patel attends its meetings and interferes with the administration of justice.

AUGUST 13: AIFF includes 36 'eminent' players, including Bhauchung Bhutia and IM Vijayan, in the list of voters comprising the electoral college for the general's body elections, which are to be held August 28.

AUGUST 15: FIFA informs the Sports Ministry that it remains firm in its opposition to individual members' inclusion in the electoral college for the AIFF's elections.

FIFA suspends AIFF due to 'undue influence from third parties' and says the U-17 Women's World Cup 'cannot currently be held in India as planned'.

Hockey World Cup 2023 in Odisha faces FIH scrutiny



SEIF AHMED, Acting president, FIH

New Delhi, August 16: A delegation from International Hockey Federation (FIH) is in the capital to discuss the way forward and avert a possible suspension of Hockey India (HI), currently placed under a Committee of Administrators.

A two-member delegation, led by newly-appointed acting president Seif Ahmed, arrived here Monday for an emergency meeting to assess progress made with regards to the adoption of a new Constitution at HI.

India is scheduled to host the 2023 Men's World Cup. The FIH delegation is scheduled to hold a meeting with the Delhi High Court-appointed three-member CoA here Wednesday. The delegation is also scheduled to meet senior sports ministry officials, besides top officials of the Odisha government, the hosts for next year's World Cup.

The FIH had last month sought a 'detailed timeline' from the CoA on adoption of an amended Constitution and holding of fresh elections at HI.

If the HI fails to adopt a Sports Code-compliant Constitution at the earliest, the country runs the risk of losing the hosting rights of World Cup, scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29.

According to a source, the required amendments in HI Constitution have already been made and elections to the executive

board of the sports body are expected to be held October 1.

"The CoA members are scheduled to meet FIH delegation Wednesday. The amendments to the HI Constitution, as per Delhi High Court orders, have already been done and it will be put before the FIH Wednesday," the source told this agency.

"As per the Delhi High Court orders, some amendments, like removing illegal posts, were needed to be made in HI Constitution to bring it in line with the National Sports Code, which has been done. Now the FIH will have to ensure whether it is in line with their Constitution.

"The CoA is in no mood to hang in there, and plans to hold the elections of HI executive board by October 1," he added.

The world body delegation met with senior sports ministry officials Tuesday and is set to visit next year's World Cup host cities - Bhubaneswar and Rourkela - Thursday and Friday to oversee preparations.

It will also hold discussions with senior Odisha government officials, including Vineel Krishna, Secretary Sports and Youth Services and Special Secretary to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Besides the FIH acting president, the world body delegation includes CEO Thierry Weil. The FIH CEO had last month said they were hopeful of hosting the World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

Nunez sent off as Reds drop points

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool, August 16: Two glaring misses then a red card for a reckless headbutt. It was a home debut to forget for Liverpool's big off-season signing, Darwin Nunez.

Fortunately for the Reds, another South American came to the rescue at Anfield as a dazzling individual goal by Luis Diaz salvaged a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace in the Premier League Monday.

In his first competitive start for Liverpool, Nunez lost control after jostling with Joachim Andersen off the ball and thrust his head into the face of the Palace defender, with referee Paul Tierney watching on close by in the 57th minute.

The red card was immediately brandished and Nunez had to be calmed down by his teammates as he attempted to confront Tierney. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp blanked Nunez as the Uruguayan striker headed down the tunnel. "It's a red card," Klopp said. "He was provoked all the time but that is not how to behave."

Nunez, an off-season signing from Benfica, earned his first start after a couple of impressive, goalscoring displays off the bench in the Community Shield against Manchester City and then against Fulham, and also because Roberto Firmino was missing through injury.

He missed a very presentable early chance against Palace by miscuing a close-range volley at the back post, and then hit the post from a similar range in the final minute of the first half.

Maybe some frustration had set by the time he was red-carded. As they jostled at the edge of Palace's penalty area, Nunez threw his head back at Andersen and missed. Then, when confronted moments later by the aggrieved defender, Nunez turned into Andersen and butted him square in the face.

Already trailing because of



INTENSE DUEL: Darwin Nunez (in red) fouls Joachim Andersen during the match; (inset) Nunez headbutts Anderson, Monday

Wilfried Zaha's 32nd-minute goal, Liverpool was really up against it. But even down to 10 men, Klopp's team still dominated possession and Diaz earned his team a point by cutting in from the left, slipping between two defenders, and curling a shot into the far corner in front of the Kop. The Colombia international's goal came four minutes after the red card.

Liverpool have now drawn their first two games - Klopp's team was held 2-2 by Fulham in the opening weekend - and are already four points behind

Manchester City and Arsenal, the early pacesetters.

Their third match will be at Old Trafford next Monday against a beleaguered Manchester United team that has lost both of its games.

Nunez will be suspended for that, while Klopp is set to be without a slew of key players, with the likes of Thiago Alcantara, Diogo Jota, Ibrahima Konate and Joel Matip currently injured. Firmino missed the game as a precaution, according to Liverpool, so could be fit in a week's time.

Dhawan 'always ready' to help the youngsters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Harare, August 16: He might have been relegated to vice-captaincy after KL Rahul's late inclusion but team's senior-most player is always ready to lend a helping hand to the youngsters who seek out for him.

Dhawan was all set to lead the team in a three-match ODI series here but now that he will be performing the duties of a deputy, he is ready to put his best foot forward.

"I quite enjoy sharing my experience with the youngsters in the team. I first came here in 2014 (actually 2013), when Duncan Fletcher was the Indian coach. If they (youngsters) reach out to me for any suggestions, I am (always) there to answer them," Dhawan told reporters at a media conference here.

The 36-year-old southpaw is rather happy that skipper Rahul will get the much-needed game time ahead of the all-important Asia Cup.



"It is a very good news that KL (Rahul) is back and will be leading the side as well. He is one of the main players of this Indian team. It will be a good outing for him before the Asia Cup gets underway. I am sure he will gain a lot from this tour," Dhawan said.

While India is back in the southern African nation for the first time since 2016 and haven't played much against them in the last few years, Dhawan was of the opinion that should not take Zimbabwe, especially after their recent series win against Bangladesh.

"They have won against Bangladesh. They are playing good cricket. It's good for us and we cannot take anything for granted. It's about the process. Regardless of the team we are facing, we always make sure we do things right so that we end up getting the right results. That will once again be our focus as a team," Dhawan said.

Dhawan went on to add that the series against Zimbabwe will be crucial for a number of youngsters in the squad like Shubman Gill, Avesh Khan, Ishan Kishan, and the exposure they are getting will be extremely beneficial to them in the coming days.

Ahmed in for Sundar

NEW DELHI: All-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed Tuesday received his maiden India call-up as he replaced an injured Washington Sundar for the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe starting this week. The 27-year-old Shahbaz has been rewarded for his stellar performance in the 2022 IPL season, where he turned out for Royal Challengers Bangalore. The Bengal left-arm spinner collected 219 runs and four wickets in 16 matches, leaving a mark. The Southpaw has a batting average of 41.64 and a bowling average of 19.47 from 18 first class games. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Shahbaz Ahmed as the replacement for Washington Sundar for the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe," the BCCI said in a statement. Washington had injured his shoulder while playing a County game in England, ruling him out of the Zimbabwe tour.