



OOZING OOMPH

Actor Sara Ali Khan raises the hotness quotient across internet by giving a fusion twist to traditional wears

LEISURE P2



GRIM SITUATION

Russian rocket strikes continue near the troubled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant

INTERNATIONAL P9



FINAL CHAPTER

Serena Williams gears up for one final attempt at glory at the US Open which may be her last event

SPORTS P12

FOURTH JUMBO ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, August 28: There is no let up in elephant deaths due to electrocution in the state as pregnant female elephant died after coming in contact with live wires laid by poachers in a jungle near Asanbahali in Ghagramunda panchayat under Mahabirod forest range in this district, Sunday.

On being informed, Forest officials rushed to the spot and started an investigation. The carcass was buried after conducting post-mortem.

When contacted, divisional forest officer (DFO) Prakash Chand Gogineni confirmed the development stating that pregnant pachyderm aged less than 25 years died after coming in contact with live wires laid by poachers for killing wild boars. He said that a probe is underway. Forest officials have arrested one of the two poachers responsible for the death and seized the live wires.

Notably, this is the fourth elephant casualty due to electrocution in the last four days. A tusker died due to electrocution in Angul district Saturday barely two days after a pair of female elephants met the same fate in Keonjhar district, August 25.



DUST & DEBRIS: Massive smokes and dust come out after the demolition of the Supertech's twin towers with the use of 3,700 kg explosives in compliance with a Supreme Court order, in Noida Sunday

AGENCIES

CASTLES OF CORRUPTION REDUCED TO RUBBLE

₹1,100cr spent on relief per annum

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 28: On an average, the Odisha government has distributed nearly ₹1,100 crore each year as relief to the people affected by various natural calamities including cyclones and floods, during the last five years.

According to data from the state revenue and disaster management department, the Odisha government has released funds to the tune of ₹5,479.02 crore to various districts for distribution of relief to the affected people in between 2017-18 and 2021-22.

The funds were released out of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

While ₹848.68 crore were released in the financial year 2017-18, this was increased to ₹1,227.92 crore in 2018-19 and ₹2,340.29 crore in 2019-20.

The relief expenditure remained a little low during 2020-21 and 2021-22 at ₹423.10 crore and ₹639.03 crore, respectively.

Due to its geographical location and impact of climate change, Odisha has been facing natural calamities like cyclones, floods



PAYING FOR NATURE'S WRATH

While ₹848.68 crore were released in the financial year 2017-18, this was increased to ₹1,227.92 crore in 2018-19 and ₹2,340.29 crore in 2019-20

The relief expenditure remained a little low during 2020-21 and 2021-22 at ₹423.10 crore and ₹639.03 crore, respectively

and drought almost each year.

During the above-mentioned five years, the eastern state has faced several such calamities including cyclonic storms Titli in 2018, Fani in 2019, Amphan in 2020, and Yaas, Gulab and Jawad in 2021.

Besides heavy rainfall, floods

and drought also hit some districts of the state during the five years. This year too, many districts of the state are still reeling under floods.

Among all the natural disasters that affected Odisha during these five years, cyclone Fani had caused severe losses hitting many districts including Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack.

During the five years, the state government has released the highest amount of ₹1439.47 crore to Puri district, which was severely hit by cyclone Fani. Ganjam, another coastal district of Odisha which was affected by cyclone Titli, has received ₹808.69 crore for relief measures. **Contd...4**

Speeding truck rams auto; 5 killed

All the deceased are from Bangura village including a man, his son and his elder brother from the same family

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanager, August 28: At least five persons including a minor were killed after a coal laden truck rammed an auto-rickshaw on the front at Patharkhamba Square on National Highway-53 under Kamakhyanager police limits in Dhenkanal, Sunday morning, police said.

The deceased were identified as Adikanda Samal, 52, his younger brother Akrura Samal, 40, alias Dhelu, Akrura's son Dibyanjan,



14, their kin Prahallad Samal, 56 and auto-rickshaw driver Anant Samal, 24, alias Bunty. All the deceased were from Bangura village including a man, his son and his elder brother from the same family.

All of them died on the spot, the officer said. The driver and helper of the truck are absconding, and efforts are underway to track them, he said.

A pall of gloom and mourning

descended in the whole village after report of the deaths spread. Wailing of the bereaved family members rocked the whole village. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and state Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick expressed their deepest condolence over the deaths.

The state government has announced immediate financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased from the Chief Minister's relief fund and ₹25,000 each for the bereaved family as ex-gratia from the District Red-Cross fund, Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi said.

According to eye-witnesses, the occupants of the auto-rickshaw were on their way to crush Mahua seeds at an oil producing unit at Muktapasi in Parjang block when a Cuttack bound speeding coal laden truck coming from Talcher hit them on front.

The impact was so intense that the auto-rickshaw was hurled almost 30 metre away to the roadside. All of them died on the spot while the driver and helper of the truck fled the scene leaving behind the vehicle. **Contd...4**

Lightning strikes claim 5 lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Jharsuguda, August 28: Five persons were killed and two were injured in separate incidents of lightning strike in Mayurbhanj and Jharsuguda districts, Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Rani Munda, 25, wife of Gopi Munda, her niece Pana Munda of Bagdega Nimdihi village under Bahalda police limits and Shyam Charan Purty, 26, of Barudihi village under Tiring police lim-

its in Mayurbhanj district. The other two deceased are Kasturi Rohidas, 50, and her son Dolamani Rohidas, 27, of Darlipali village in Jharsuguda district.

The first incident occurred when Rani, accompanied by her daughter and niece of Bagdega Nimdihi village under Bahalda police limits in Mayurbhanj had gone outside to attend nature's call. They took shelter under a tree due to heavy rain while they were returning home. However, lightning struck

them killing Rani and her niece at the spot and leaving her daughter injured. A farmer Shyam Charan was killed in lightning when he was ploughing his farmland at Barudihi village under Tiring police limits in Mayurbhanj.

Lightning struck Kasturi and Dolamani when the mother-son duo was in Basupali to attend the 13th day ritual of a deceased relative. Another person, identified as Mahendra Rohidas, sustained grievous injuries in the incident.

CLASH OF TITANS

India beat Pak by five wickets



AGENCIES

Dubai, August 28: Hardik Pandya's all-round brilliance powered India to a thrilling five-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in an Asia Cup game Sunday.

Pandya ended with figures of 3/25 in 4 overs while restricting Pakistan to 147 in 19.5 overs and then smashed 33 off 17 balls with the winning six in the last over bowled by left-arm spinner Mohammed Nawaz.

Ravindra Jadeja contributed with 35 off 29 balls. When India bowled, senior seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar had the best figures of 4 for 26.

When India chased, former skipper Virat Kohli scored 35 off 34 balls. Naseem Shah was Pakistan's best bowler with figures of 2/27.

Earlier, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Hardik Pandya starred with the ball as India bowled out Pakistan for 147 in the Asia Cup clash in Dubai. Bhuvneshwar picked four for 26, while Hardik also returned with figures of three for 25 after India invited Pakistan to bat at the Dubai International Stadium. **More P12**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Ideally, the houses of Authority officials should have been demolished. That would have set a better example

Rairangpur jubilant with buzz over Kalpana

KALPANA, WIFE OF JHARKHAND CM HEMANT SOREN, COULD SUCCEED HIM IN CASE HE IS DISMISSED OWING TO A MINING LEASE EXTENSION CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, August 28: People of Rairangpur sub-division in Mayurbhanj district are jubilant as another daughter of the soil is making the news headlines about a month after Droupadi Murmu became the first tribal constitutional head of India. The people are happy at the possibility of Kalpana Soren, wife of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, succeeding him in case he is dismissed because of a mining lease extension case against him.

Kalpana hails from Tentala village of Bahalda block. She is the eldest daughter of retired defence personnel Ampa Murmu. She had done her schooling at the Kendriya Vidyalaya at Baripada, the district

headquarter town of Mayurbhanj district. Later Kalpana got her B Tech degree from an institute in Bhubaneswar and then did her MBA, her uncle Jagannath Murmu said.

"I am happy as well as unhappy I am sad because my son-in-law Hemant Soren is facing political turmoil. I am happy at the same time that my daughter Kalpana is reportedly tipped to become the Jharkhand's next chief minister," Kalpana's father Ampa said. "We are in a situation where both sides of the coin are in our favour. Whatever happens, the victory is ours," he added.

Jagannath said that the people of Mayurbhanj and Rairangpur are happy as the entire country is now discussing the probable po-

litical elevation of a daughter of the soil.

"The election of Droupadi Murmu as President of India made us happy. Now, if our daughter Kalpana becomes the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, where Droupadi had once been the governor, it will be a double bonanza for us," he said.

The marriage of Hemant and

Kalpana Soren was solemnised according to Santhal rituals here February 7, 2006.

"Several Santhal people and I had danced at the wedding.

The then Union Minister and JMM chief Sibusoren, Hemant's father, had also attended the marriage," Jagannath recalled. Kalpana's

father now stays at his own house at Murgabadi in Baripada town.

Rabindra Nath Patnaik, who is on the managing committee of Aurobindo Integral School in this town where Droupadi once taught, said the speculations of Kalpana assuming the Jharkhand chief minister's office is certainly good news for all in the area as this non-descript tribal dominated subdivision has hit the national headlines once again.

Sujata Murmu, a former Mayurbhanj zilla parishad president who attended the swearing-in of Droupadi in the Central Hall of Parliament, said that if Kalpana becomes the Chief Minister of Jharkhand it will further boost the morale of tribal girls and women in Odisha.



WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 33.2°C	34.6°C
MIN 24.1°C	25.0°C
Humidity 92%	81%
Rainfall 0.0mm	0.0mm
Forecast Partly cloudy sky	

leisure



NO ICE IN DRINKS FOR AUDIENCE DURING RICKY GERVAIS SHOWS

Actor-director-writer Ricky Gervais, who has written and directed the British television mockumentary sitcom *The Office*, has banned his audience from having ice in their drinks. The reason? The comic reckons the clinking of the cubes in people's glasses interrupts the flow of his stand-up shows.

AT 50, JENNIFER GARNER RISES UP TO 'TEENAGE DIRTBAG' CHALLENGE

The *Dallas Buyers Club* star Jennifer Garner recently shared a series of throwback photos from her teen years in a video. The Golden Globe winner, 50, proved that she's still hip to the trends as she jumped on the 'Teenage Dirtbag' TikTok challenge trend.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesh. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

TAURUS

You are likely to be in a mood to get away from the daily grind and take a much needed break. You would naturally try to stay free from future concerns and commitments and keep all your woes and worries aside for the day. An adventurous and fun filled outing or a trip to some happening resort, along with your friends and family members is a near certainty, assures Ganesh.

GEMINI

You will long for some privacy today, says Ganesh. You may end up earning a large amount of money, mostly through some private venture. The day will be a greatly profitable one for cashiers, money lenders and those in retail business.

CANCER

You will not only make plans, but will also act on them. So you can save money, time and energy for creative pursuits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accomplishments in career or business.

LEO

Today, Ganesh advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet.

VIRGO

Matters of religion and spirituality rise to the fore today. Throw yourself into a single-minded pursuit to be successful in your chosen field, and make the most of your skills and natural talent, says Ganesh. Matters of relationships will see you more critical and analytical than emotional.

LIBRA

Ganesh says the higher officials in your work place may be displeased with you and you will face issues with them. Due to this you will feel mentally depressed and down but towards the afternoon you will be able to please them with your impressive work ability. Ganesh says that today is not a good day to try out any new business ventures.

SCORPIO

At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-lion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop, even when winning, counsels Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesh. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

CAPRICORN

The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesh. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either. A visit to holy places for some peace of mind is also likely.

AQUARIUS

The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesh.

PISCES

You are likely to find yourself as part of a team involved in tackling a difficult project or task today. The role you will play in this Endeavour will be noteworthy. Your efforts will yield excellent results.

Maanvi talks about body positivity

Mumbai: Maanvi Gagroo is known to be vocal about things around her – films or social issues. The actress has been speaking about body positivity much before it became a talking point. Perhaps, it stems from her own personal journey in film-dom. She says, "It's true that I've always advocated body positivity, way before it became



AGENCIES

Hrithik touches fan's feet, wins netizens' hearts

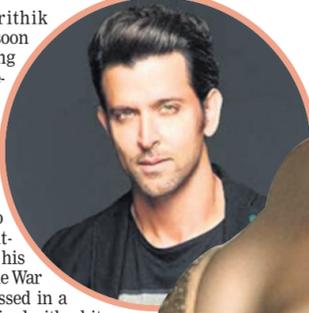
Mumbai: Actor Hrithik Roshan, who will be soon seen in the upcoming film *Vikram Vedha*, recently won the Internet's heart as he touched his fan's feet during an event recently.

Celebrity pap Viral Bhayani shared a video of a fitness event attended by Hrithik, on his social media, where the War star can be seen dressed in a fluorescent T-shirt paired with white pants and a cap. As a fan came on stage to greet Hrithik, he touched the actor's feet.

In a reflex action, Hrithik bent down to touch the fan's feet leaving the netizens pleasantly surprised. Reacting to Hrithik's sweet gesture, a fan wrote in the comment section, "So sweet of you @hrithikroshan."

Complimenting the actor, fans called him a "very good superstar," and the "most humble superstar."

Hrithik last film 'War', where he appeared alongside Tiger Shroff, was a blockbuster. The actor is returning to the big screen three years after his last outing with *Vikram Vedha*, which is a remake of the Vijay Sethupathi-R. Madhavan neo-noir action thriller film of the same name.



IANS

Sara sets temperatures soaring across internet

Mumbai: Raising the hotness quotient across the internet, the social media is currently flooded with pictures of actress Sara Ali Khan as she put her sartorial foot forward while giving a fusion twist to traditional wear.

The Pataudi Princess serves major fashion goals this festive season as she flaunts washboard abs in a golden tiered gharara with bling bralette and one can't take one's eyes off.

The pictures feature Sara, dolled up for a promotional shoot, in a hand embroidered sequinned bralette that came with a deep neckline to ooze oomph. A few days back, the *Kedarnath* actress showcased a pair of red tiered gharara pants and layered the attire with a matching red cape that sported floral prints all over in contrasting white, pink and green hues and came with mirror and cowrie shell detailing.

Leaving her luscious silky tresses open down her shoulders in mid-parted hairstyle, Sara accessorised her look with a pair of jhumki earrings and a statement finger ring.

AGENCIES

Nia slams media for its 'stupidity'

New Delhi: Nia Sharma of *Naagin 4* fame says it is an act of 'stupidity' to link her with Paras Kalnawat, who is well-known in the TV universe for his role in *Anupamaa*.

Reacting to the dating rumours going around since they were confirmed as contestants on *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10*, Nia said that just because she is single, her name cannot be linked with anyone.

She said: "That was stupidity on the part of the media because we were confirmed as the first two contestants on the show and first time I met Paras Kalnawat was here on the show on the first day of the promo and I said, 'Hey, hi boyfriend', and he said, 'Hey, hi Nia, and apparently we're dating and all of that'. That's how we laugh. And so I mean, it is so frivolous for me to even be commenting and explaining this."

Nia added: "This is absolutely absurd that suddenly an article comes out about two confirmed contestants on the show dating each other. Just because I'm single I can't be linked to everybody. I may look single but I'm not available to everybody."

IANS



FUN post

PEANUTS



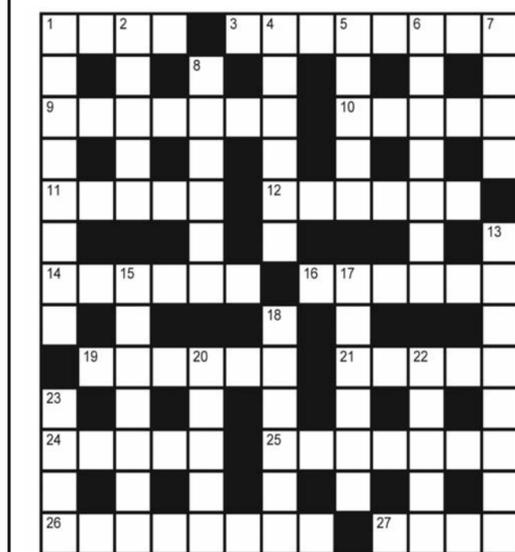
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

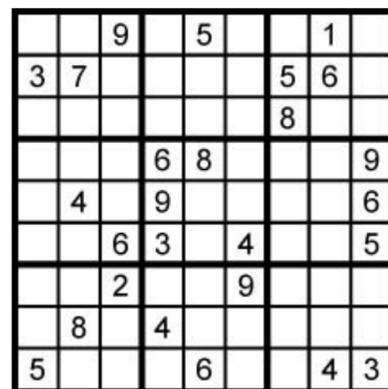
- 1 Primary
- 3 4-leaf Clover
- 9 Kind of guy
- 10 Church offering
- 11 Repeat
- 12 Malodour
- 14 Red deer
- 16 Hammer
- 19 Swamp
- 21 Musical drama
- 24 Port-au-Prince's land

Down

- 25 Humanity
- 26 Wishful thinkers
- 27 Surrender
- 1 Discount (4,4)
- 2 Metal bar
- 4 Torment
- 5 Metric linear unit
- 6 Type of illusion
- 7 Razor-sharp
- 8 Not quite there
- 13 Span
- 15 Oath
- 17 Exist in large quantities
- 18 Chemical cousin
- 20 Self-evident truth
- 22 Cream of the crop
- 23 Outbuilding

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

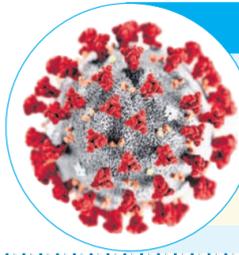


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SCIENCE EXPO

A student demonstrates during a science exhibition organised by Sikhya Bikash Parishad in Puri, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,57,44,204	58,09,31,004	64,87,848
India	4,44,08,132	4,37,93,787	5,27,754
Odisha	13,26,929	13,15,929	9,172

State's new record in crimes against women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Odisha has set an unwanted record in crimes against women.

As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2021 figures, Odisha Police registered 31,352 cases of crimes against women in 2021 against 25,489 in 2020 and 23,183 such cases in 2019.

At 137.8 crimes per one lakh population, the crime rate against women comes second only to Assam at national level where the figure stood at 168.3.

Odisha has also topped the states in cases of 'assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to outrage their modesty', as per the recently released NCRB report.

The report further states, altogether 14,853 cases of 'assault or use of criminal force on women with intent to outrage their modesty' were recorded in the state last year. At 65.3 crime rate, Odisha has earned the infamy of having witnessed the most number of such cases. Assam came second with 26.1 crime rate in 2021.

As many as 9,431 cases were registered under Section 354 of IPC (as-

NCRB REPORT



ODISHA HAS ALSO TOPPED THE STATES IN CASES OF 'ASSAULT OR USE OF CRIMINAL FORCE ON WOMEN WITH INTENT TO OUTRAGE THEIR MODESTY'

sault on women), 1,520 were registered on the charge of sexual harassment (Section 354A) and 3,357 cases were related to attempt to disrobe (354B). While 148 cases were on voyeurism (Section 354C), 397 incidents were related to stalking (Section 354D), as per the data.

As per NCRB 2021 figures, Odisha Police registered 31,352 cases of crimes against women in 2021 against 25,489 in 2020. The state had registered 23,183 such cases in 2019. At 137.8 crimes per

one lakh population, the crime rate against women comes second only to Assam where the figure stood at 168.3.

The Odisha Police registered 27,792 cases related to different crimes against women including rape, acid attack and murder under various Sections of IPC in 2021. As many as 3,560 cases of women related crime were registered under Special and Local Laws (SLL) in Odisha in 2021.

Odisha also topped the list of

states registering most cybercrime and IT-related cases where women were the victims. The state police registered as many as 565 cyber-crime cases in which women were the victims. The cases include publishing sexually explicit material, creating fake profiles with morphed images and blackmailing of women in 2021.

In order to conceal its alleged failure in maintaining the law and order situation, the Odisha Police often claims that women victims approaching the police show their growing confidence on the policing. However, with the latest NCRB data, the claims fall flat.

The state police have closed 3,263 out of the 6,248 cases wherein police submitted final reports accepting that the incidents were true but it could not gather enough evidence or trace the accused.

Similarly, the conviction rate in women related cases also slipped further to 8.3 per cent against 9.2 in 2020. Out of the 2,313 cases in which trials were completed, only 193 ended in conviction, while in 2,120 cases, the accused were acquitted due to poor probe.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



MSME parks in every dist soon: Chief Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Aiming to boost the Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in the state, Chief Secretary, Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Sunday stated that the state government has planned to set up MSME parks in every district.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of Propack Odisha 2022, organised by the Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME), Mahapatra said that in order to setup the MSME parks the industries will get all infrastructure support including land, electricity and water.

"The Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO) has been given more than Rs 450 crore to develop required infrastructure across the state. In last few years we have seen 30-40 per cent growth in finance to MSMEs through banks, which is encouraging. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has also taken two rounds of meeting with



bankers of the state in this regard," the Chief Secretary said. Meanwhile, addressing the occasion Pratap Kesari Deb, minister MSME, Odisha said, "Odisha has got the best infrastructure for industries in all terms. Large and heavy industries are coming to Odisha. The industry bodies should come forward and suggest policy changes for better initialization. The younger generation must take risk and should not only look for

support from only the government." On the occasion, Principal Secretary of Finance department Vishal Dev asked the banks to ensure finance availability for MSMEs. Terming the MSME sector an important pillar of economic development he said that discussions have been made with both public and private sector banks to ensure regular flow of funds to the sector.

'Odisha on course of building robust healthcare system'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The state is well on track to build a robust network in the public healthcare system in the next five years, Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das said Sunday.

While speaking at the National-level Workshop 'Think Tank' on Perspective Plan of Odisha University of Health Sciences (OUHS) at a private hotel here, Das said the state government has been investing crores on strengthening the health infrastructure.

The state government has been continuously augmenting the healthcare system by recruiting large number of personnel over the past few years. This apart, several new medical colleges have up with an intake capacity of 750 MBBS students, Das said, adding,

The Health Minister said the state government is committed to extend all cooperation and support for early establishment and functioning of OUHS

"The state is well on track to build a robust network in the public healthcare system in the next five years."

The Health Minister added that the state government is committed to extend all cooperation and support for early establishment and functioning of OUHS. Odisha government will provide 10-acre land for the new university, he said.

The workshop brainstormed a perspective plan for the university which was notified by the Health

department August 15 this year.

The panellists deliberated on the university's organisational structure, development of innovative curriculum, research and collaboration with national and international centres of excellence, digitization of university functioning, faculty development, learning material development, internal collaboration and the role of a constituent college.

According to sources, medical institutions are now being governed by general universities in the state. The medical institutions will be affiliated to OUHS after their de-affiliation from the current universities in a phase-wise manner. Odisha is perhaps the only state where medical colleges are governed by general universities and each medical college is affiliated to a separate university, it was learnt.

'Ahimsa Rath' reach Subarnapur, Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The 'Ahimsa Rath', which were flagged off by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the Independence Day to spread the message of non-violence, reached Subarnapur and Bargarh Sunday.

The chariots were welcomed by the district administrations. In Subarnapur, the chariots toured places like Dunguripali, Ulunda and Sindurpur where school students welcomed them.

Similarly, in Bargarh, the chariots were welcomed by district collector and the MLA. In Bargarh, the chariots will tour many places till August 30.

The CM had flagged off the chariots during the state-level celebration of 76th Independence Day at the Idco Exhibition Ground in Unit-III area.

Sarangi urges CM to extend support for cancer hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking support for the establishment of Tata Memorial Hospital for Cancer within NISER campus in Bhubaneswar.

In the letter Sarangi said, "It is a matter of delight for all of us in Odisha that Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Tata Trusts have agreed to build Tata Memorial

THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE TATA TRUSTS ARE CONTRIBUTING RS 650 CRORE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR CANCER WITHIN NISER CAMPUS IN BHUBANESWAR

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP HAS ALSO AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE AROUND 10-13-ACRE OF LAND FOR THE PURPOSE

THE BHUBANESWAR MP SAID THAT THE AIM SHOULD BE TO GET THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE NOBLE INITIATIVE LAID WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Hospital for Cancer within NISER Campus at Bhubaneswar."

She mentioned that the DAE and the Tata Trusts are contributing Rs 650 crore. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, government of India, has also agreed to contribute

around 10-13 acres of land for the purpose. Sarangi requested the state government to extend support to the project in way of provision of around 50 acre of adjoining land, water supply electricity from Argul and Medhasal electric grid, and convenient public trans-

port systems from the railway station and airport to the proposed site.

She underlined the importance of cooperation stating that Cancer hospital could be a good example of convergence. The ministries of government of India, the relevant departments of the state government and Tata Trusts are all needed to work together, supplementing each other's efforts, for the success of this project, she added.

She also said that the aim should be to get the foundation stone laid within the next three months. Officials have confidently informed that once the work gets started, it can be completed within 18 months.

IN SYNC



Artists perform during the 11th Guru Shree Samman Pradan Utsav at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Ransomware cyber attacks spike to over 1.2mn per month

The volume of ransomware threats detected spiked to more than 1.2 million per month between the January-June period, a report has revealed.

In the past 12 months, cyber-security researchers at Barracuda Networks identified and analysed 106 highly publicised ransomware attacks.

They found the dominant targets are still five key industries: education, municipalities, healthcare, infrastructure and finance.

Researchers also saw a spike in the number of service providers that have been hit with a ransomware attack.

"Ransomware attackers remain defiant and continue to operate their business with extended extortion attempts. As ransomware and other cyberthreats continue to evolve, the need for adequate security solutions has never been greater," said Parag Khurana, Country Manager, Barracuda Networks India.

While attacks on municipalities increased only slightly, the analysis showed that ransomware attacks on educational institutions



Ransomware attackers remain defiant and continue to operate their business with extended extortion attempts. As ransomware and other cyberthreats continue to evolve, the need for adequate security solutions has never been greater

PARAG KHURANA | COUNTRY MANAGER, BARRACUDA NETWORKS INDIA

more than doubled, and attacks on the healthcare and financial verticals tripled.

Many cybercriminals target small businesses to gain access to larger organisations. As a result, it is essential for security providers to create products that are easy to use and implement, re-

gardless of a company's size, said the report. Most ransomware attacks don't make headlines, though. Many victims choose not to disclose when they get hit, and the attacks are often sophisticated and extremely hard to handle for small businesses, said the report.

43 children among 257 fresh Cov cases

With 9,436 new Covid-19 cases being reported in a day, India's tally of infections rose to 4,44,08,132, while the count of active cases has declined to 86,591,



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,26,929 Sunday as 257 more people, including 43 children, tested positive for the virus, a health department bulletin said. The death toll, too, mounted to 9,172 after a 65-year-old woman succumbed to coronavirus in Sundargarh district, it said. The state had recorded 289 new infections and one fatality Saturday. Odisha now has 1,980 active cases, while 13,15,724 patients have recovered from the disease so far. The daily positivity rate stood at 1.79 per cent, with 14,389 samples being tested since Saturday, the

bulletin added. With 9,436 new Covid-19 cases being reported in a day, India's tally of infections rose to 4,44,08,132, while the count of active cases has declined to 86,591, according to Union Health Ministry data updated Sunday. The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 5,27,754 with 30 new fatalities being recorded. In addition, 27 deaths have been recorded by Goa, the data updated at 8 am showed. The count of active cases now comprises 0.19 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.62 per cent, the ministry said.

A decline of 720 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours, the data showed. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.93 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 2.70 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has surged to 4,37,93,787, while the case fatality rate stood at 1.19 per cent, as per the data. According to the ministry, 211.66 crore doses of Covid vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive. India's Covid-19 infection tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 2020, 30 lakh August 23, 40 lakh September 5, 50 lakh September 16, 60 lakh September 28, 70 lakh October 11, 80 lakh October 29, 90 lakh November 20 and the one-crore mark December 19, 2020. The country crossed the grim milestones of two crore cases May 4, 2021, three crore June 23, 2021 and four crore January 25 this year. Thirty fresh fatalities due to the disease were reported in the country - six from Maharashtra, five from Delhi, four from Chhattisgarh, three from West Bengal, two each from Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, and one each from Goa, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Sikkim.

PUJA PREP



Dignitaries at a preparatory meet for Durga Puja organised by the Bidanasi Durga Puja Committee in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Bhub MP offers to help BMC in garbage disposal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: Bhubaneswar MP wrote a letter to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor, Sulochana Das extending her help towards resolving the garbage issue in the City. In the letter, Sarangi said that all need to work hand in hand for a "Better Bhubaneswar". She also assured the Mayor that as the Member of Parliament from Bhubaneswar she is with the Mayor and her team. She said that more than a fortnight has passed but the sanitation condition in the City is not improving. There are heaps of garbage lying everywhere in the city, causing tremendous discontentment among the residents of various localities. Expecting that the issue will be sorted out by the Mayor and her team in next 3-4 days, she offered her help when needed. In case, situation remains the same or worsens, please allow me to meet you in your office September 2 at 5pm. Let us work out a solution. At this juncture, we should not indulge in blame game and supplement



each other's effort, she said. Many areas of Bhubaneswar are stinking with garbage as a deadlock over the dumping of waste into a designated yard led to piling up of litter in several localities. Residents of Daruthenga panchayat, a few kilometres away from the City, have not been allowing trucks of the BMC to dump waste

at the Bhuasuni dumpyard for the past two weeks over various demands. This resulted in a domino effect as the temporary transit station in the state capital brimmed with garbage, leading to dump trucks being unable to collect waste from the bins. Many streets in residential areas were stinking with litter scattered around the bins, which were full to capacity. The problem was compounded by intermittent rain and workers of some private agencies stopping waste collection over payment issues. Although the workers have resumed work, the stalemate continued Saturday as talks with the Daruthenga sarpanch and the BMC did not lead to any major breakthrough.

Odisha's 108 helpline gets natl recognition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 28: The popular 108 ambulance service of Odisha was highly appreciated and recognised at a prestigious national level platform for its remarkable service delivery to ensure the last mile connectivity of patients across state. The emergency service managed by the Ziqitza Healthcare Limited (ZHL) on behalf of the Odisha Health Department and the National Health Mission (NHM) received the coveted ET Leadership Excellence Awards 2022 for its relentless work on emergency medical service under the 'Pre-Hospital care' category at Roseate House in New Delhi. The award was feted over for providing a swift and timely service in emergency situation by transporting patients to nearest hospital, which has saved countless lives in the state. Speaking about the award, Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head-ZHL, Odisha said, "ET Leadership Excellence Awards 2022 is a fitting acknowledgement of the commendable efforts of Ziqitza Healthcare who has been the force behind 108 Ambulance in Odisha that has served more than 70 lakh citizens. It is recognition of their hard work and dedication. From the last nine years, we have been operating 108 ambulance service in the state". It can be mentioned that the ET Leadership Excellence Awards honours exceptional contribution in the fields of IT, Consumer Durable, Health, Retail, FMCG, Education, Real Estate, Fashion, Entertainment, among others. The 108 ambulance service was started in 2013 with a modest fleet of 280 ambulances which expanded in last nine years to cover the entire state and at present operates a fleet of 1,124 ambulances and six boat ambulances. ZHL not only worked towards ferrying patients in distress to save human lives by reducing the treatment time but also helped in guiding patients and their families to the nearby medical facilities, training on giving first aid and CPR to revive critical patients besides creating awareness on health issues.

HILLS ON WHEELS



A team of 20 from the Bhubaneswar Cycling and Adventure Club recently took a challenging cycling journey in the Himalayas

OP PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM P1

State gives ₹1,100cr...

Each of the 30 districts has received some funds from the state government towards distribution of relief or compensation to the affected people or families. The state, apart from the natural disasters, is providing ex-gratia to the people who died due to drowning, snake bite, lightning, etc, an official said. After thorough field verification, the relief or livelihood assistance is being provided to the beneficiaries through DBT, the official said. If the total loss of public and private property is estimated, the total loss to the state will be much more than the amount spent towards relief measures, he asserted. With the aim to face the natural calamities, the state government has initiated steps to build disaster resilient infrastructure in the vulnerable areas. Chief Minister Naven Patnaik has also been demanding special category status for Odisha for a long time. During the last Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog held earlier this month, Patnaik had said that Odisha is impacted almost every year by natural disasters. As it is important to have disaster resilient infrastructure to protect the state and its people from the vagaries of nature, the CM had requested the central government to make Odisha a special focus state and allocate funds for disaster proofing.

Speeding truck...

On being informed, Bangura villagers rushed to the spot and ransacked the truck. They demanded compensation for the bereaved families and arrest of the driver by staging road blockade at Patharkhamba Square and Muktapasi Square. Sub-Collector Jyoti Shankar Sahu, SDPO Ranjan Kumar Deo, IIC Sarat Chandra Mahalik and public representatives rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control by placating the agitators. State Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallick also reached the spot and held discussions with bereaved families and later with the Chief Minister. The agitators relented after the Chief Minister's office announced the immediate financial assistance and ex-gratia. The bodies were later cremated after post-mortem.

Heatwave linked to declining wheat production in India

India's wheat production is projected to have declined nearly three per cent to 106.84 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year. The decline is likely to have been caused by a heatwave that resulted in shrivelled grains in the northern states of Punjab and Haryana. There were reports that India was planning to import wheat in view of the shortage but the government denied it. This year, India recorded its warmest March in 122 years with a severe heatwave scorching large swathes of the country in the month. The average temperatures observed pan-India in April was 35.05 degrees Celsius, which was the fourth-highest for the month in 122 years. Agriculture experts, however, underscored the need to raise the issue of climate change impacting India's food security at the COP27 which is scheduled for November. They noted that COP27 can be a critical turning point to connect food security and nutrition with climate change.

Shweta Saini, a senior consultant at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), said food security and green energies have to be balanced at these international negotiations. "For countries like India where the malnutrition rate is very high and it is an agriculture-centric country, we feel the commitment for food security and green energies has to be balanced. So, while India is talking about biofuel, the question we should be looking at is whether food can be used for fuel," she said. The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 allows production of ethanol from damaged food grains like wheat and broken rice. Devinder Sharma, a food policy and agricultural trade expert, said at COP27, countries like India need to stop their "obsession" with GDP. "Till the economy is not structured in a way to radically challenge the climate crisis, nothing will change, and that is something that



needs to be brought out in the discussions at COP27," he said. The COP is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It includes representatives of all the countries that are signatories to the UNFCCC. The COP assesses the effects of measures introduced by the parties to limit climate change against the

overall goal of the UNFCCC. Agriculture experts have flagged the recent rise in mysterious diseases causing dwarfing of crops, saying this too may be the result of climate change. "There is dwarfing (of crops) happening in Punjab and Haryana, and that is mysterious because no one knows why it is happening. We have to see how closely it is

connected to climate change," Saini said. Sharma added that climate change might be behind the mysterious disease causing dwarfing. Saini and Sharma also pointed out that there were other Rabi crops which were affected by climate change. "The heatwave that we were expecting five-six years down the

line has already happened. It affected the wheat crop and we also know it led to loss of other crops and most Rabi crops that were harvested then such as barley. Vegetables were affected too and even paddy was affected because of monsoon," Sharma said. Saini said heat doesn't always impact the crops, but because of the heat, there are pest attacks at times, and that is another symptom of climate change. "We still have to figure out if climate change has a role in it," she added. Sharma said not just India but every country must focus on food self-reliance. "There is no escape if we don't have adequate stocks. We will be standing with a begging bowl and it will lead to food riots. Climate change has become a major factor in the geopolitical situation of our country, and we need to acknowledge that," he added. The first impact of climate change via heatwaves was felt on food security and that needs to be dealt with, Saini said.

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Locals sore as industrial slump impacts Ganjam



The Odisha government has never thought of promoting agriculture-based industry which is based on 'Kewda' or 'Kia' flowers

The establishment of perfume industry with these flowers could have given a huge fillip to the agrarian economy of the district, jobs to hundreds of locals and revenue for the state government but it is yet to become a reality

'Kewda' flower grows in abundance in Chhatrapur and Rangailunda blocks. Many perfume producers, mostly from Uttar Pradesh are visiting the district and preparing perfumes from the flowers in their respective own states. The revenue which the Odisha government could have earned is now going to other states, some locals said

of former Odisha CM Janaki Ballav Patnaik while Santosh Satapathy, IAS was then district collector.

A political storm and mass movement protesting against the acquisition of land soon developed. Former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik was then the Opposition leader.

He along with, CPI's central committee member AB Vardhan, environmentalist Medha Patkar and others threw their weight behind the agitation. As a result, the Tatas finally withdrew from the project.

As of now, people who lost their lands due to the project are demanding the return of their plots. The local residents are also clamouring for the revival of the Aska Sugar Mill, the establishment of a riverine port project near Bahuda river mouth and to turn Gopalpur port into an all weather port.

Reports said that the Odisha government built the Gopalpur port at an expense of ₹140 crore in 1990s. Marine trade continued from this port till the 1990s till it was destroyed in the Super Cyclone of 1999.

The port was privatised in 2006. However, even though 16 years have gone by it is yet to become an all-weather port.

ers could have given a huge fillip to the agrarian economy of the district, jobs to hundreds of locals and revenue for the state government but it is yet to become a reality. During land acquisition for the steel plant many 'kewda' plantations were destroyed but even today the flower grows in abundance in Chhatrapur and Rangailunda blocks.

Many perfume producers, mostly from Uttar Pradesh are visiting the district and preparing perfumes from the flowers in their respective own states. The perfume prepared is sold both in India and abroad. The revenue which the Odisha government could have earned is now going to other states.

Agriculture and trading continue to be the mainstay of the people while people from socially and economic backward classes migrate to other states to earn a living. Reports said as the Berhampur Lok Sabha seat, has a major chunk of Telugu voters, Rao contested from the constituency and won in 1996. He managed to influence the Tatas and laid the foundation stone for a port-based mega steel plant at Gopalpur: Ratan Tata and the then managing director JJ Irani were also present at the ceremony. Private land of over 3,500 hectare was acquired at throwaway prices for the project.

Villages like Sindhigaon, Patrapur and Mansurkota were acquired and razed for the establishment of the steel plant. The lands were acquired at the behest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, August 28: Industrialisation has failed to gather pace in Ganjam district with no big ticket investments coming after the withdrawal of Tata Steel from developing a mega steel plant in Gopalpur; a report said. The pace of industrialisation has slowed down considerably in the last few years with the sector failing to provide any ray of hope for local residents.

The foundation stone for the mega steel plant project by the Tatas was laid by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao in 1995. An organisation owned enterprise Indian Rare Earths Ltd (IREL) is functioning at Matikhil in Chhatrapur block but it has failed to make its mark due to slow progress.

A ship-breaking yard was established near the Gopalpur port in 1996 with much fanfare. However, it was later closed down sowing the hopes and aspiration of the residents.

The fortunes of the Aska Cooperative Sugar Industries Ltd are also on the wane.

However, the Odisha government has never thought of promoting agriculture-based industry which is rich in 'Kewda' or 'Kia' flowers. The flowers of the 'kewda' plant grow on a small tree or shrub. It can be cultivated and also can be found in the wild in coastal areas. The establishment of perfume industry with these flow-



PAYING TRIBUTES

Malkangiri SP Nitish Wadhvani and district police honouring the parents of jawan Jayaram Kabasi who got martyred in a Maoist encounter at Bondaghat two years back

100-bed ESI hosp to come up in Jajpur; CPWD bags contract

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, August 28: After a long wait, the dream of workers in Jajpur district is going to be fulfilled, as the administration has identified five acres of land at Manitira for the much-needed 100-bed ESI hospital in Kalinganagar Industrial Complex. Sources said that ESI regional director Parthasarathi Panda has discussed the setting up of the ESI hospital with District Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore and has presented final blueprint of the project recently. The hospital will be constructed in the Danagadi tehsil area.

Panda said that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been awarded the task to prepare the digital map of the hospital building.

Earlier, it had been planned that the hospital will come up at Duburi near the Kalinganagar Industrial



Complex. The ESI had directed the administration to find a plot of land for it. However, despite eight years passing by, land could not be identified in the Duburi locality

Later, plots of five acres of land were identified at three places each in Sukinda and Danagadi tehsil areas. A report about the land had been submitted to the ESI authorities

Complex. The ESI had directed the administration to find a plot of land for it. However, despite eight years passing by, land could not be identified in Duburi locality.

Later, plots of five acres of land were identified at three places each in Sukinda and Danagadi tehsil areas. A report about the land had been submitted to the ESI authorities.

It should be stated here that the ESI runs dispensaries near Pankapal Ferrochrome factory and Dhanmandal in this district. However, these dispensaries are plagued by staff crunch, leading to inconveniences for the labourers seeking medical assistance. Many labour union leaders had been pressing for an ESI hospital in the district.

Body recovered

Berhampur: Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered Sunday the body of an elderly man from the train tracks near Jhami temple in this town. The deceased who is yet to be identified, is around 62. Preliminary inquiries suggested that the deceased might have jumped on the tracks and committed suicide over mental depression arising out of some family dispute in the wee hours of Sunday. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and preserved the body in the morgue for identification after conducting a post-mortem. Till the time of filing this report, there has not been any claim for the body.

Assets worth ₹50 lakh gutted in fire

Basudevpur: Properties worth over ₹50 lakh were destroyed after a major fire swept through a fabrication unit manufacturing aimirahs at Deuli Square near this town in Bhadrak district, Saturday. The blaze is suspected to have occurred due to short circuit in the factory's electrical installations. However, no casualty was reported in the incident.

IIC shunted; kin presses for impartial probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

G Udayagiri, August 28: Family members of woman police sub-inspector, Swagatika Behera, who died by suicide due to alleged mental harassment and torture by her immediate senior, staged a sit-in outside the G Udayagiri police station in Kandhamal district, Sunday.

The family members also lodged an FIR with sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Tirupati Rao Patnaik. In the complaint, the deceased's mother levelled allegations against Rebaty Sabar; the IIC of G Udayagiri police station.

She alleged that her daughter was under intense pressure all the time and she used to say that the IIC was harassing her mentally.

The grief-stricken mom said that as a widow she had undergone a lot of hardships in bringing up her daughter and other children. She pointed out that the deceased was her sole support and sought justice for Swagatika, she said.

Swagatika was found hanging from the ceiling fan at her residence, Saturday morning. She was immediately rushed to a local hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. According to the deceased's brother, Swagatika was under extreme duress because of misbehaviour, use of slangs and the harassment inflicted by her boss. Sagarika's brother demanded a thorough and impartial probe into the case and immediate suspension of the IIC.

Contacted, the SDPO confirmed to have received the complaint against the IIC. "The matter is being investigated," the SDPO said.

'Gaja Sathis' to contain elephant menace in Similipal

NEW RECRUITS WILL ALSO ASSIST FOREST DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO TRACK THE MOVEMENT OF PACHYDERMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Betanoti/Patana, August 28: To ensure safety of elephants in Similipal forest under Betanoti forest range of Mayurbhanj district, scores of 'Gaja Sathis' will keep track of the animals. Such a step is significant as every year a large number of pachyderms die due to electrocution and poaching. Also a large number of people die in elephant attacks every year in the state.

Sources said that the Forest department has decided to appoint 175 'Gaja Sathis' in the range. They will work in tandem with regular police officials in patrolling and guarding the elephants in various pockets.

As per the directive of the Odisha government, the range office has been instructed to recruit 175 'Gaja Sathis' from villages close to various elephant corridors and nearby forests.

'Gaja' Sathis will also make people aware about the need to ward off man-animal conflicts whenever elephants stray into habitations, said Betanoti forester Prashant Kumar Singh

The recruitment process has already started. Training of the 'Gaja Sathis' will begin September 1.

Apart from keeping vigil on the elephant herds, 'Gaja' Sathis will assist forest officials in their work. They will also launch an awareness campaign about the need to prevent man-elephant conflicts whenever the animals stray into human habitations, said Betanoti forester



Prashant Kumar Singh.

Sources said that at present there are nine elephants wandering in Durgapur forest under this range while two are roaming around about in KCPur and Badam forest ranges.

Meanwhile, reports from Patana of Keonjhar district said elephants are on a damaging spree in Partana range during the last few weeks.

A herd of elephants also strayed from Karanja range of Mayurbhanj district and entered Saharapada range Saturday night. The animals damaged four houses at Chatarpana, Baikala and Khuntapada villages. They also consumed large quantities of rice which had been stored and damaged paddy on acres of land.

The herd was split into two

groups and they strayed into the Jagannathpur and Gojitangiri forests, said ranger Ghasinath Patra. People in the area have been spending sleepless nights due to elephant menace, he added.

For the last few days, the animals have been unleashing a reign of terror in several other villages such as Jamumalia, Talasarua, Haladibata, Nuagan and Dubeipantha.

They damaged crops and houses in Patana a few days ago as Forest department personnel failed to contain the marauding elephants, locals alleged

Affected people alleged that they are not being provided with the right amount of compensation for the losses they have suffered due to the wild elephants. As a result many persons are not being able to repair their houses damaged by the pachyderms

CYCLOTHON FOR HEALTH



Students participated in a cyclothon organised by Marwari Yuva Manch on the eve of National Sports Day at Sohela in Bargarh district, Sunday

School sans building running on temple premises for 7 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Salipur, August 28: The Odisha government is spending lakhs of rupees to improve infrastructure of schools and has taken a host of measures to ensure quality education. However, the condition of the Dasasahi Project Primary School under Salipur education circle in Cuttack stands in contrast with the government's efforts. The school is being run on the premises of Murkundi Baneswar Shiv temple for the last seven years. Local people, guardians and even teachers have expressed their unhappiness over the state of affairs.

Sources said that over 40 students are studying in the school from Classes I to X. They pointed out that since the school does not have land of its own a building has not been constructed. So students attend classes inside the temple. Many in the district are wondering as to how a school is allowed to function without physical in-



fracture for so many years.

The part of the temple where students attend classes has no doors and windows. They are crammed into a small space and feel suffocated, sources pointed out. "Most of the time monkeys, dogs and cattle have free access to the temple premises. Only two teachers have been appointed to conduct classes. On days of festivals and rituals, classes remain suspended. The mid-day meal for the students is also prepared inside the temple premises, they added.

Though people of nearby villages have taken up the issue of a

Headmaster Nrushingha Charan Das said the school has no land of its own and the S&ME dept has been intimated

proper building with officials of the School and Mass Education department, so far no steps have been initiated for allotment of government land.

Headmaster Nrushingha Charan Das said the school has no land of its own. "We do not have the physical infrastructure to run a school. The district administration and the district Education department have been intimated about the need for a building, but no concrete steps have been taken," he lamented.

When contacted, Block Education Officer Jagabandhu Satpathy also confirmed that the school has no land of its own. After land provision, steps will be taken to construct a building.

FOCUS CORPORATES

THE CAPTURE ECONOMY



To counter big money, rebalancing of democracy and empowering people to engage politically as a countervailing force across the globe are necessary

health care, and global warming. In UK corporate lobbying is part of politics and this helps change decisions in their favour. The corporate power has turned Britain into a less honest state, a Guardian report says.

A World Bank publication "Seize the State, Seize the Day": State Capture, Corruption, and Influence in Transition, says some firms in transition economies have been able to shape the rules of the game to their own advantage at considerable social cost, creating what it calls a "capture economy" where public officials and politicians privately sell "a range of rent generating advantages a la carte to individual firms." "The State capture, influence and administrative corruption are all shown to have distinct causes and consequences," the study says.

A 1981 report in Economic and Political Weekly says that dependence of the private economy in India has come to mean its dependence on the political parties. For the last over two decades, corporations are supposed to have played roles in decision making. The top 20 companies continue to have 70 per cent profits, as per Marcellus Investment Managers, and higher product prices in a supposedly subdued market.

India has brought transparency into donations through electoral bonds in 2016, late Union minister Arun Jaitley mentioned in his 2017 Budget speech. Election Commission told the Supreme Court in March 2019 in an affidavit that the electoral bonds wreck transparency in political funding and with removal of cap on foreign funding, they invite corporate powers to impact Indian politics.

Corporates are becoming cleverer and know their ways. To counter big money, rebalancing of democracy and empowering people to engage politically as a countervailing force across the globe are necessary. It sounds good, but not easy, so prices and profits may not be put in check for the consumers. INFA

The high inflationary trend that has gripped India is stated to be a global phenomenon of corporate adventure to maximise profits through controlling the political system even in times of economic distress. The Western inflation trends have severely impacted the Indian economy, forcing the government to squeeze expenditure, the Reserve Bank of India increasing interest rates, plummeting rupee and the society compromising on lifestyle.

Indian inflation has risen to 6.82% in July from 6.43% in June and 3.92% a year back. As per the wholesale index, it is at 13.93%. Primary articles cost 15.04% more, food 9.41%, manufactured products 8.16% and fuel and power 43.75%. International Monetary Fund puts India's growth at 7.4%, faster than the rest of the world, though some others show lower figures.

In the US, inflation remains at 8.7%, a bit lower than the highest reached in 40 years at 9.1%. Inflation in Britain is at the highest level since 1982. At the August weekend, the UK hiked electricity and gas bills by 90%, in a dramatic worsening of the cost of living crisis. Overall consumer inflation is at 10.1%. The economy may head for a negative growth next year, the Citibank predicts, and prices are likely to rise by 18%.

In contrast, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das says that the central bank is moving towards the 4% inflation target in a steady manner, without much growth sacrifice. After hitting its peak in April 2022, Das expects retail inflation to ease to 4% by 2023-24. Assuming crude oil prices at \$105 per barrel, the RBI Governor stated that the current account deficit (CAD) will be manageable and its financing to be done in a reasonably comfortable manner in 2022-23. Real GDP growth projection as per the August MPC is fixed at 5.4% though overall growth rate forecast remains unchanged at 7.2%. It looks

brighter but the way companies are raising prices and maintaining a profit trend it may hurt the people world over and the Indian government in particular which is rushing through many infrastructure projects.

In 2021, US companies logged their most profitable year since the 1950s, as many took advantage of economies of scale and other more efficient production processes. Yet, firms increasingly held on to the savings they gained from these reduced costs, rather than passing them on to customers in the form of lower prices, according to Alexander J Mackay. He says that between 2006 and 2019 the difference between prices charged and the marginal cost incurred by a company climbed about 25 per cent. The new US commerce department data show corporate earnings jumped 35% in 2021, while workers got an 11% bump.

In 2017, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse noted that America faces a crisis of corporate capture of democratic government, where the economic power of corporations has been translated into political power with disastrous effects on people's lives. He warned

that "corporations of vast wealth and remorseless staying power have moved into our politics to seize for themselves advantages that can be seized only by control over government" through what he calls, the "immense pressure deployed by the corporate sector on our government." Corporate interests can vastly outspend labour or public interest groups on the US elections, Whitehouse said.

In 2014, business interests spent \$1.1 billion on state candidates and committees compared to the \$215 million that labour groups spent. That same year, business political action committees (PACs), spent nearly \$380 million in federal elections, while labour union PACs gave close to \$60 million. In 2016, it is estimated that \$1 out of every \$8 went to super PACs. They, from corporate sources, raised \$1.8 billion for the 2016 elections. Whitehouse found that \$800 million of political spending were from obscure donors.

Mackay apprehends that large political contributions will prevent Congress from tackling the important issues facing Americans today, like the economic crisis, rising energy costs, reforming



Shivaji Sarkar

THE TOP 20 COMPANIES CONTINUE TO HAVE 70 PER CENT PROFITS AND HIGHER PRODUCT PRICES IN A SUPPOSEDLY SUBDUED MARKET

Plano, Texas

Esmeralda Upton's outburst against some Indian women in Plano, Texas this past week is an indication of changing attitudes towards people from this subcontinent living in the US. While Esmeralda, a Mexican American, is herself an immigrant, her abuse towards Indians also indicates an isolation of the Indian origin people which may not be limited to North America alone. Reporting of the incident in the Indian media has been skewed and those few reports saw the light of day primarily, maybe, because the involved person herself was an immigrant. The real reasons behind the dislike towards Indians are not to be found in any report. The easy way out has been to blame local politics and changing voter demographics in the US. However, envy for a financially successful and educated group of people with one ethnic root has been touted to be the major reason for the attack. On the other hand, delving into not so old history of the Indian community not only limited to the US but also in other English speaking countries such as the UK, Australia and South Africa as well as in nations such as Thailand and Singapore clearly indicates distrust and dislike for the community, resulting in violence. The beating up and murder of Indian students in Australia, the attacks on Indian shopkeepers in many areas in the UK, the emergence of gangs such as Dot Busters in Canada and the US with a prime objective of assaulting Indians and attacks on them in Thailand are examples of hatred for Indians. Further down memory lane, one may recollect the bitter mass deportation of mostly Gujarati Indians from Idi Amin's Uganda as also the chasing out of Indians from South Africa after the end of apartheid in that country. Everyone is aware that Indians were chased out of South Africa primarily because they had, as a community, supported the White rulers against the Black freedom fighters. In Uganda and former Rhodesia, the rich Indian community had meticulously kept itself away from the local populace, thereby becoming friendless and isolated. In current times, a similar scenario may well be playing out in many countries. Unless properly researched, it may be difficult to make sweeping statements. But some indications could possibly be taken from recent events. For instance, many Indian Hindus believe that the Indian

Moslem rejoices and distributes sweets when the Pakistan cricket team scores a victory. It could very well be possible that when Indians living in the US and other English speaking countries celebrate festivals like Deepavali or Independence Day by marching en masse on Main Street with the Indian flag flying, then their very core allegiance to the land that has offered them immense prosperity and success comes under a question mark. Recorded American history tells us that the very old Japanese community in the US was incarcerated immediately after the Pearl Harbour attack. Consequently, many young Japanese Americans had to volunteer and join the US forces in the war in the Pacific to prove their loyalties. It is a known fact that Indians living in many different countries have mostly been disdainful towards the locals. For instance, most Indians in the US and Canada are mortally scared of the African American. This fear keeps them from socializing with the Blacks or the Hispanics. On the other hand, the Caucasian American does not socialize much with the Indians. Whatever interactions exist are limited to professional sphere. It is to be noted that the Indians in the US are in direct competition for medium and high paying white collar jobs that the Whites desire unlike the employment opportunities in the menial jobs sphere that the Hispanics and Blacks normally take up. Another reason for isolation of Indians could be their recent upsurge in political activism connected with their motherland. Politics separates people like nothing else and when politics is added with religion then the divide is even sharper. The recent political activism of people of Indian origin in the US trying to prove their Hindoo background could certainly be a trigger for many more unpleasant incidents in the future.

Let it be forgotten, the Indians living abroad who are forced to bear the brunt of attacks and abuses are those who benefitted the most from the Indian taxpayer. Studying in an IIT, medical college or other such institute of higher learning in India that had been painstakingly built since Independence with the poor taxpayers' money, these fellows thought fit to desert their motherland when it needed them the most. They ran away for personal aggrandizement and thought would never have to look back. Even the second and third and later generations of Indian origin offspring turned to their religious 'roots' when isolation struck them hard. The emergence of a political party with religious overtones could have emboldened the Indian living overseas. This could have resulted in hardening of their attitudes towards religious beliefs of the locals. Instead of melting and mixing, the Indian seems to have become a sore thumb in the eyes of people like Esmeralda. The community has to do some very hard thinking about its future.

O Piate
Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

- Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. **FRANCIS OF ASSISI**
- The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. **HELEN KELLER**
- Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you. **WALT WHITMAN**

WORDSWORTH

Bedizened

To bedizen is to dress up in a gaudy way: But every time one of the trapezoidal doors on Douglas Stein's set blows open, it is to let in a bewigged and bedizened buffoon very nearly her match (New York Times, 4 Jun. 2010). Despite this example, if we were true to the history of European culture, we might argue that it is only women who can be bedizened. It would be fruitless to do so, of course, because its users apply the word as often to men as to women, as well as to houses, cars, Christmas trees, theatrical sets and anything else that can be accused of being decked out with finery to vulgar excess. The female connections exist because the word is linked to distaff, which people now use most often for matters relating to females. That's because spinning thread with the yard-long wooden rod called a distaff was traditionally women's work. The staff part of the word presents no difficulties, but few of us now know that the dis beginning derives from an ancient Low German source that meant a bunch of flax. (The implication that the distaff was first used for spinning linen thread, not wool, is confirmed by the archaeological evidence.) Nearly 500 years ago, the verb *verzen* appeared, presumably from the same source as *dis* (though nobody knows how), which meant to dress a distaff for spinning. A century or so later it started to refer to decking a person or a thing with finery. Within decades, *be-* had been added to it to make the verb stronger. Ever since, *bedizened* has implied that the bedecking has gone to excess.

LOL

Love for material goods

A lawyer was driving his big BMW down the highway, singing to himself, "I love my BMW, I love my BMW." Focusing on his car, not his driving, he smashed into a tree. He



miraculously survived, but his car was totalled. "My BMW! My BMW!" he sobbed. A good Samaritan drove by and cried out, "Sir, sir, you're bleeding! And my god, your left arm is gone!" The lawyer, horrified, screamed "My Rolex! My Rolex!"

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Following science: Easier said than done



Nicholas B. Dirks

WHEN WE ENCAPSULATE ALL OF SCIENCE WITHIN A SINGLE WORD, WE IMPLICITLY EQUATE IT WITH TRUTH

In recent years, and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, attacks on science and scientists have been escalating to an alarming degree. Health officials and the broader scientific community have pleaded with policymakers and the public to "follow the science." Yet such slogans fall flat with those who have little regard for scientific authority, not least because science proponents have been using the same blanket term as those who attack it.

When we encapsulate all of science within a single word, we implicitly equate it with truth. In fact, many fields of science are still undergoing constant revision. The importance of this distinction became all too clear during the early stages of the pandemic, when health authorities were charged with providing guidance to the public before all the details about the virus were known.

Science has always come under attack. From Galileo's demonstration that the Earth is not at the center of the universe to Darwin's argument that human beings descended from earlier apes, scientists were long seen as a threat to religious authority and its own claims of true knowledge. One might have thought that modernity would have finally given science a decisive advantage, leading inexorably to more general acceptance of its findings. But a constantly evolving process is not a sure-footed competitor to those

trafficking in timeless absolutes. And though it may feel counter-intuitive, scientists themselves should resist the popular characterisation of science as a body of knowledge.

In his 2019 book, *The Crisis of Expertise*, sociologist Gil Eyal argues that the appeal to "science" and the moral panic about the "assault on science" are beside the point, because not all of "science" is in fact under assault. No one, for example, "disputes quantum mechanics, nor, for that matter, is any solid-state physics discipline under assault." Indeed, most of science is widely seen as "settled," whether formally in terms of fundamental theories and understandings, or informally in the sense that most people assume that planes can fly, gravity is real, and hydrogen peroxide can bleach your hair. And yet, while most people trust medical professionals with everything from their annual check-ups to their cancer therapies, they also subscribe to a wide range of idiosyncratic notions about health, pharmaceuticals, and medical procedures. What the science journalist Michael Specter calls "denialism" is reflected in a broad array of biomedical issues, from fear of vaccines to belief in the effectiveness of nutritional supplements and, sometimes, miracle cures.

Eyal points out that most debates around science concern "what is called 'regulatory science' and 'policy science,' a collection of sub-disciplines, research programmes, and techniques that have in common the need to arrive at a policy recommendation." These debates tend to reach a fever pitch when there are contentious public-policy issues that are inextricably bound up with ongoing science - as in the case of vaccine mandates, masks, drug approvals, and decarbonisation (which entails massive allocations - or reallocations - of resources).

In all these cases, the peril arises after the experts have made their views known. When the process moves into realms beyond the purely scientific - legal disputes, public policy, even electoral politics - trouble frequently ensues. If expertise is seen to be associated with one side in legal proceedings, political debates, and cultural questions (such as diet and lifestyle), that perception tends to undermine rather than buttress the authority of science and scientists more generally.

The dilemma is that the scientific fields most relevant to policy debates are in a constant state of testing, revision, and debate by scientists themselves. But that is exactly how it should be. As the philosopher John Dewey argued in the early twentieth century, science proceeds not as a single truth or set of truths, but as a method; it is not a body of knowledge, but a process for developing more reliable knowledge. This focus on method is meant to ensure that scientific research and discovery proceeds in a rigorous and

transparent fashion. The distilled version of the scientific method taught in grade school hardly captures the wide range of ways that scientists practice their disciplines and test their hypotheses. As important as it is to ensure that science advances methodically, we must also not lose sight of the possibilities opened up by thinking outside the box. Historically, we owe some of the most important scientific discoveries to the imaginative brilliance of visionaries such as Galileo, Darwin, Albert Einstein, James Watson and Francis Crick, and Jennifer Doudna.

Just as good science requires a balance between creativity and method, so, too, building trust in science requires scientists and their public advocates to communicate their findings and processes more effectively. That includes being open about the uncertainties - and serendipities - that are inherent to scientific discovery, and drawing clear distinctions between what is and is not considered settled science. We must accept, and impress upon the public, that science owes its greatest achievements not only to its perpetual expansion into new frontiers, but also to its abiding humility. Otherwise, the public will continue to be disappointed - and disillusioned - by many types of scientific claims.

The writer is a former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley.
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Ensure transparency

Sir, A power sector engineers' body has asked the government to not introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament "in haste" and to hold discussions with all the stakeholders on the proposed Bill. All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) chairperson Shailendra Dubey has stated that the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, issued a few days ago, is incomplete and insufficient to amend the Electricity Act, 2003. He stated that when the Electricity Act, 2003, was enacted, the Electricity Bill, 2001, was sent to the Standing Committee on Power Affairs of Parliament and long talks were held for two years with all stakeholders. Now if any amendment is required in the Electricity Act, 2003, then the same method should be adopted, he suggested. There should be complete transparency, comments should be sought from all, discussions should be held with all and it should not be passed in haste by placing in Parliament on just a few days of notice as this amendment has far-reaching effects on electricity consumers and electricity workers. He further said that as far as giving a choice of power supply to the consumer is concerned, this is a complete hoax. In fact, this bill will give a choice not to consumers but to the private electricity supplying companies. If this bill is passed then it will open the flood gates of privatisation.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Demolishing 'tall promises'

Sir, India's tallest building Noida's Twin Towers were razed to the ground in pursuance of a Supreme Court order. In spite of stringent RERA regulations, builders in the country always try to cheat innocent homebuyers by making 'tall promises'. There are a large number of people who fall prey to the tactics of the builders and end up in loss. With millions of such illegal constructions in the country and measures now stepped up to demolish or seal them, the one word that rises out of the rubble would be 'caution'. The development authorities across India will be more vigilant of how real estate projects are executed and transactions are carried out. This symbolic act of demolition would surely help to increase the confidence of homebuyers and act as a warning to builders of all that could go wrong when they ignore construction regulations.

Sagar Gambhir, LUDHIANA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

The Haryana government will write to the Goa government requesting it to recommend a CBI probe into the death of BJP leader Sonali Phogat

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

Investigation is on in a case involving the chief pontiff of a prominent murti based in Chitradurga, who has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the truth will come out from the probe

BASAVARAJ BOMMALI | KARNATAKA CM

If schools in the northeastern state are not good then we can together fix them

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

SHORT TAKES

Heroin seized

Chandigarh: Punjab Police Sunday seized 38 kg heroin concealed in a toolbox of a truck coming from Gujarat, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said here. He said two persons, truck driver Kulwinder Ram and Bittu, both residents of Balachaur in SBS Nagar district, were arrested, while a case was filed against two smugglers, identified as Rajesh Kumar and Som Nath. Inspector General of Police, Ludhiana Range, Surinder Pal Singh Parmar said the police at a check post signalled the truck to stop. The driver tried to flee but the police party managed to arrest him and his accomplice and recovered the drugs wrapped in a tarpaulin and concealed in a toolbox of the truck.

6 killed in accident

Bareilly: Six persons were killed in Bahedi police circle in Bareilly on Sunday when a tanker collided head on with a tractor trolley. Over a dozen persons injured in the incident have been admitted to a hospital. All the deceased and the injured were coming from Sitarganj in Uttarakhand to a Gurudwara in Bareilly. The driver of the tanker fled the scene.

Nadda in Tripura

Agartala: BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday arrived here on a two-day visit to Tripura, during which he is scheduled to address a rally and review organisational preparedness for next year's assembly elections. Chief Minister Manik Saha and BJP state president Rajib Bhattacharjee were among those who welcomed Nadda at Agartala airport. The BJP national president would hold a series of meetings with state leaders and take stock of the preparations being made ahead of next year's elections.

3 siblings drown

Bilaspur: Three minor siblings drowned while bathing in a pond at a village in Chhattisgarh's Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) district Sunday, police said. The incident occurred in Bahuta Dol village, under Marwahi police station limits, this afternoon, Anil Agrawal, station house officer (SHO), Marwahi said. The victims' parents were busy working on a farm and the children went to a "dabri" (small pond) for a bath, he said. Tulusi Singh, his wife and their children Chandni (16), Sudhar (11) and Bhagwati (8), were natives of nearby Patharri village, had come to Bahuta Dol for farm work, he said. When the couple found that the children were missing for a long time, they started looking for them and spotted their clothes near the water body, he said.

Unmarried partners, queer relationships constitute family: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: "Familial relationships may take the form of domestic, unmarried partnerships or queer relationships", the Supreme Court has observed, while noting that an "atypical" manifestation of a family unit is as real as its traditional counterpart and deserves protection under the law. The predominant understanding of the concept of a "family" both in the law and in society is that "it consists of a single, unchanging unit with a mother and a father (who remain constant over time) and their children. "This assumption ignores both, the many circumstances which may lead to a change in one's fa-

miliar structure, and the fact that many families do not conform to this expectation to begin with. Familial relationships may take the form of domestic, unmarried partnerships or queer relationships," a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said in an order uploaded on Sunday. The observations are significant as activists have been raising the issue of recognising LGBT marriages and civil unions as well as allowing live-in couples to adopt after the apex court decriminalised homosexuality in 2018. The apex court made the remarks in its verdict that held that a working woman cannot be denied her statutory right to maternity leave for her biological child



only because her husband has two children from a previous marriage and she had availed the leave to take care of one of them. The bench said that a household may be a single parent household for any number of reasons, including the death

Ghulam Nabi Azad (free) now but Amethi has been liberated long ago
SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

EYE-OPENER

Hyderabad, a key global hub of information technology, has emerged as one of the major centres of cybercrimes with about 10 per cent of the cyber frauds nationally occurring here



Fifth arrest in Phogat death case



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, August 28: Goa police Sunday made its fifth arrest in connection with the Sonali Phogat death case. "Rama Mandrekar was arrested this morning for supplying drugs to Dattaprasad Gaonkar, who later supplied it to Sudhir Sangwan (PA of Phogat)," a top police official said.

On Saturday, police seized 'Methamphetamine' drugs given to Phogat in the washroom of the Curlies restaurant, where she had partied. Based on the disclosure of arrested accused Sangwan, the drugs given to the deceased were seized from the washroom of the Curlies restaurant.

Initial investigation had revealed that the drugs were supplied to Sangwan by Gaonkar, who was working as a room boy in Hotel Grand Leoney Resort in Anjuna, where Phogat and Sangwan were staying.

Gaonkar was arrested on Saturday. After interrogating him, police arrested Rama Mandrekar from Anjuna for allegedly supplying drugs to the former. Phogat had come to Goa on August 22 and was staying at a hotel in Anjuna. She felt uneasy on Monday night and the next morning, she was taken to the St. Anthony hospital in Anjuna where she was declared brought dead. Police are further investigating the case.

Polling for Cong prez Oct 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Facing internal upheaval, the Congress on Sunday announced that the election for its president would be held on October 17, asserting that it is the only party in the country which follows such a democratic exercise.

The result will be declared on October 19. If only one candidate is left in the fray after the withdrawal of nominations, the name of the president will be declared on October 8 itself, the party's Central Election Authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said after a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC).

The party last saw a contest for the post in November 2000. The BJP, which has often criticised the Congress over dynastic politics due to the control of the Gandhi family over it, mocked it as "Mughal-style coronation".

Sonia Gandhi is the longest-serving party president and has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over. Jitendra Prasad had lost to Sonia Gandhi in 2000 and prior to that Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot in 1997. While many Gandhi loyalists



Sonia Gandhi is the longest-serving party president and has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over

Sources point out that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is among the frontrunners to occupy the post. The schedule of the election was approved unanimously at the online meeting of the CWC which took place under the shadow of the shock resignation of veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday and his stinging letter to the

party president in which he lashed out at Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing the party's entire consultative mechanism". However, there was no mention of Azad's exit or any leader urging Rahul Gandhi to take over as party chief at the meeting which lasted barely 30 minutes. Azad was a CWC member and part of the group of 23 dissident leaders who had written to Sonia Gandhi in August 2020 seeking large-scale reforms and an organisational overhaul, including elections at all levels. The online CWC meeting was presided over by Sonia Gandhi, who is abroad for medical check-ups. She was seen flanked by former party chief Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are accompanying her abroad. Two days after Azad termed the election process as a "farce and sham" and blamed the leadership for this "fraud", Anand Sharma, another G23 member, raised questions at the CWC meeting on the preparation of electoral rolls for the AICC president's election and asked whether due process under the party's constitution was followed or not, sources said. They added that Sharma claimed he has received complaints that neither any virtual nor physical meeting was held to finalise the electoral rolls.

NOIDA DEMOLITION

Doctors warn against several health hazards

Massive dust pollution can lead to itching in the eyes, nose and skin; coughing, sneezing, breathing difficulty, lung infection, nasal congestion, asthmatic attacks and aggravate heart problems, doctors say



An anti-smog gun is used to curb pollution in the vicinity of Supertech twin towers, ahead of its demolition in Noida, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: As the nearly 100-metre-tall Supertech twin towers were razed to the ground on Sunday, doctors said people living nearby, especially those suffering from respiratory diseases, should take extra care and avoid the area for a few days if possible. The demolition of the structures generated an estimated 80,000 tonnes of debris and sent huge clouds of dust billowing in the air. The doctors said most dust particles have a diameter of 5 microns or less and can remain suspended in the air for a few days in the absence of favourable meteorological conditions like strong winds and rain. Massive dust pollution can lead to itching in the eyes, nose and skin; coughing, sneezing, breathing difficulty, lung infection, nasal congestion, asthmatic attacks and aggravate heart problems, they said. Dr Jugal Kishore, head of Community Medicine Department at Safdarjung Hospital, said, "The dust particles will remain suspended in the air for quite some time in case of low wind speed. People suffering from respiratory problems - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and bronchitis - should avoid the area, if possible." "They should limit exposure to the affected area for at least 48 hours. Others living in and around the area should avoid exercise for a few days," he said. Dr Kishore said people having respiratory diseases should keep taking medicine

regularly and consult doctors if their problems aggravate.

Dr Yudhyavir Singh, assistant professor, Critical Care, AIIMS, said, "Particulate matter of size smaller than 2.5 microns will be a problem. This is likely to increase episodes of coughing, sneezing, asthmatic attacks, lung infection, nasal congestion and breathing difficulty. "Viruses may also piggyback on the fine particles and increase infection rate as it's the flu season." "People should take precautions and keep a buffer stock of medicines. Use N-95 masks and eyeglasses till pollutants dissipate. Wear full-sleeved clothes and avoid morning walks for a few days. Consult doctors if problems worsen," he said. Dr Dipankar Saha, former chief of the Central Pollution Control Board's air lab, said Noida authorities should keep an eye on the air pollution level till the debris is cleared with the help of low-cost sensors.

"Modelling should be done to ascertain the zone of influence. The people living in and around the area should monitor air quality and step out only in unavoidable circumstances. Avoid exposure for a few days. Water sprinkling on regular intervals will help immensely," he said. The air pollution problem will persist till the debris is cleared and it is certainly going to affect the health of people. A study may be done to ascertain the health impact of this demolition, Dr Saha said.



Devotees transport larger-than-life size idols of Lord Ganesha from a workshop to a pandal ahead of the Ganesh Utsav in Mumbai

Kuru Kolumn

Nitish's turning point

Various theories and reasons are being attributed to the parting between Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP. There is no dearth of analysts who say that die was cast the day Chirag Paswan decided to field candidates in Bihar Assembly polls in March 2020 and JD (U) was reduced to a mere 43 seats in a House of 243. These analysts say that the RCP Singh episode was the ultimate straw in the camel's back in the midst of public spat between the BJP and JD (U). The turning point came July 12 when Narendra Modi visited Patna to attend the centenary year

function of the Bihar Assembly. The invitation card issued by the Bihar Assembly Speaker's office did not contain the names of Governor Fagu Chauhan, CM Nitish Kumar and Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav. The two-page invitation card (in Hindi) had only one name; Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha. It was considered an insult to the Chief Minister though Nitish Kumar attended the function but the die was cast on this day. Sources close to Nitish Kumar say that it was against the protocol and all norms to omit the CM's name. It is pointed out that wherever the Prime Minister goes for a function, the draft invitation card, minute-to-minute program, list of invitees etc are pre-approved by the PMO. The JD (U) wondered how the PMO overlooked this lapse. The Speaker belonged to the BJP and the incident became the turning point and the parting came in less than four weeks.

Nadda is fitness freak

BJP chief JP Nadda has a new passion these days; health. He has shed almost 8 kilos and intends to lose another 5 kg. He does his morning workouts for almost an

hour at his Motilal Nehru Marg residence. Even while travelling, he finds places to do his morning drill. He has set up a small gym too and does his morning yoga drill and a coach is there to ensure that every posture is perfect. Though he is busier after becoming BJP chief in 2020 but he can't afford to gain weight at the age of 61 years.

The downhill road for Babus

The Centre has promoted 31 officers to the ranks of additional and joint secretary. Of these 31, only 12 are IAS officers, while the remaining 19 are non-IAS officers. It reflected the Modi government's attempt to break "babu dominance" and address the crunch of IAS officers available for deputation. In the past seven years, the IAS cadre at the level of joint and additional secretaries has systematically shrunk. A civil list prepared by the DoPT stated that the number of IAS officers posted as joint secretaries at the Centre was around 77. In 2015, this number stood at 249 IAS officers (from a total of 391 joint

secretaries), according to a 7th Central Pay Commission report published in November that year. The number of IAS officers posted as additional secretaries also fell to 76 this year from 98 in 2015. The Centre has 108 posts for additional secretaries, as stated in the Central Pay Commission report. The positions for additional secretaries has gone down to around 34, while the rest are in-situ upgradation. Of the total 84 secretaries in the central government, 57 are IAS officers now. According to the August 13 appointment order for joint secretaries, only two of 15 officers - promoted as joint secretaries are from the IAS cadre, while the rest are non-IAS officers from the Central Civil Services (Group A). Another order dated August 8 for the appointment of 16 additional secretaries has ten IAS officers and the rest are from other central services. The IAS, the IPS and the IFS are the only three All India Services. The Central Civil Services - officers of which the government is bringing to the fore - comprise services such as the Indian Revenue Service (IRS), the Indian Postal Service (IPoS), Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service, Indian

Railway Service, Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS), etc.

Is Pawan Bansal dark horse

It is now clear that no member of the Gandhi family will hold any party post after the elections are held. There is speculation that Congress leader Ambika Soni may be chosen to lead the party. Incidentally Soni unfurled the national flag at the AICC headquarters August 15 in place of party president Sonia Gandhi. This was seen as a clear signal that Soni's position in the party's pecking order has improved. She had earlier lost out to Ahmed Patel, Sonia Gandhi's all-powerful late political secretary but has bounced back after Patel's death. The other names doing the rounds are Ashok Gehlot, Sushil Kumar Shinde and Mallikarjun Kharge or even Kamal Nath. Many whisper in the party that Pawan Bansal could be the dark horse who is Sonia Gandhi's personal pick for the post of treasurer after the demise of Motilal Vora.

Lack of quality textbooks to hit 'MBBS in Hindi' move

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 28: Though the Madhya Pradesh government has taken a path-breaking decision to start MBBS course in Hindi from the 2022-2023 academic session, experts in the medical field have expressed reservations over the move because of unavailability of quality books in the language on the subject.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently announced that from the new academic session, the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) course will be taught in Hindi at the Bhopal-based Gandhi Medical College (GMC) to first year students. Currently, medical education is imparted only in English.

Besides, Chouhan also announced that B.Tech degree and polytechnic diploma courses, in six colleges each, will be taught in the Hindi language as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) from July 2022.

State medical education minister Vishvas Sarang, the driving force behind the move, said Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to come out with the initiative to teach MBBS in Hindi.

"We are starting MBBS course in Hindi for the first time in the country. No other state is offering medical education in the mother-tongue... Madhya Pradesh is the first to do so," he told PTI.

Sarang said textbooks, especially in physiology, anatomy and biochemistry, are being prepared in Hindi for students and they will be made available soon.

However, experts in the medical



Governments should leave this issue to professionals instead of deciding in which language medicine and surgery should be taught

DR BHARAT CHHAPERWAL

fraternity remain sceptical about the "MBBS in Hindi" move. Former vice-chancellor of Indore-based Devi Ahilyabai Vishwa Vidyalaya (DAVV) and a senior paediatrician, Dr Bharat Chhaperwal, said, "I am not against imparting medical education in Hindi, but are quality textbooks with updated advancements in the field available for students?"

Research articles published in quality medical journals like 'Lancet', 'British Medical Journal' and 'New England Medical Journal', among others, take three to four years at least to find a place in textbooks, he said.

Chhaperwal said he is not against Hindi, but as a medical professional he feels not enough preparations were made before an-

nouncing the decision. "Governments should leave this issue to professionals instead of deciding in which language medicine and surgery should be taught," he said.

A senior Bhopal-based doctor, Pushpendra Sharma, who has done his MBBS and a course equivalent to MS Surgery from the Odessa State Medical University in Ukraine, said a lot of efforts will be required to make the move successful.

"It is not such a simple task to start teaching MBBS in Hindi. The move requires a lot of preparations as medical terminologies need to be translated in Hindi first. It is a tough call," he remarked.

Asked how some other countries are managing to impart medical education in their native language, Sharma said they had been doing so for ages and therefore have developed a rich course content for students.

A former director of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), speaking on the condition of anonymity, termed the decision as "unfortunate", but did not elaborate.

Egalitarianism a myth, casteism thrives

Instances of families being pushed to the periphery of the society over caste issues abound in different parts of Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 28: Political patronage of forces that fuel casteism, and growing intolerance and hatred towards other castes and religions are barriers to effectively form an egalitarian society, according to social observers of Assam.

Education in the real sense of the term and not degrees, and steadfast efforts to eliminate socio-cultural inequalities are required to create an environment of support and positive societal narrative, they said.

Instances of families being pushed to the periphery of the society over caste issues abound in different parts of Assam, though it took the incident of a person being deprived of proper last rites due to his inter-caste marriage to bring the matter up for discussion among people.

Earlier this month, the buried body of a 65-year-old villager was exhumed and cremated as per Hindu rituals by the Darrang district authorities days after his death, as locals refused to help his family with cremation due to social ostracisation owing to his inter-caste marriage 27 years ago.

The body of Umesh Sharma had to be buried initially as it was only his brother who came forward to help the widow with the last rites. The deceased had married a woman belonging to a 'lower caste'.

Sarma's wife, Pranita Devi, claimed that the family has been ostracised ever since her marriage and though they were 'allowed' to mingle with their neighbours on normal days, they are treated as



PICTURE USED FOR REPRESENTATION

'near untouchables' at social functions.

Dr Pallavi Deka, who teaches Political Science at Handique Girls' College, Guwahati, asserted that the Darrang incident is not an isolated one. "The worry is that we often boast of not being so casteist here in this part of India. But that is a farce," she said.

Casteism is as real in the state as religious fanaticism is in the country, with both phenomena growing and intolerance being heightened, Deka claimed.

She sounded sceptical about any early solution as "intolerance and hatred have become political propaganda".

Sushanta Talukdar, the editor of online magazine nezine.Com, also said, "Prevalence of an egalitarian society in Assam is a myth."

He, however, hastened to add that examples of inter-caste and inter-religious marriage being accepted in many households are also there.

While time heals the scars in most of these cases, a coordinated attempt to keep people divided along caste lines has also been at work, Talukdar claimed.

The worry is that we often boast of not being so casteist here in this part of India. But that is a farce

DR PALLAVI DEKA | TEACHER IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

He said, "Political patronage to such regressive forces has exposed the fault lines, which, if not checked, will bring the efforts by progressive people to build an inclusive society that will also be egalitarian to a complete halt."

According to Jayanta Kumar Sarma, professor and director of Bhupen Hazarika School of Mass Communication, KK Handique State Open University, casteism is akin to class struggle.

"Casteism and class struggle are real. But painting all members of a community with the same brush will be wrong," he said.

Dr Pronami Bhattacharyya, an assistant professor at Royal Global University here, pointed out that caste issues cannot be perceived on a daily basis but come to the fore in the Assamese society during

marriages. "However, unlike other regions of the country, marriages in Assam do see a combination of rigidity and flexibility. Families initially object to an inter-caste marriage but many of them later accept it," she said.

The marriage of Hemen Sarma is a case in point. Hemen Sarma, who tied the knot with a woman of a 'lower caste' about eight years ago, said, "We were not ostracised but my family initially barred us from visiting them. It is only about a year ago that we have been allowed to stay with my family."

"My family is based in Guwahati city. We had been raised in a secular atmosphere, but when it came to accepting my wife, things got changed. I couldn't understand what went wrong," Hemen said.

His in-laws had welcomed the couple at their home since their wedding, just as deceased Umesh Sarma's in-laws had continued to maintain relations with their daughter and her new family.

"The so-called lower caste families accept inter-caste marriage as they see it as social upliftment," Hemen said.

27 ASSAM DISTRICTS FACE INTERNET SHUTDOWN DURING GOVT EXAM HRS

AGENCIES

Guwahati, August 28: Internet services across 27 districts of Assam were suspended for over four hours Sunday for the second time this month to prevent possible malpractices during written examination for recruitment in various state government departments.

The authorities decided to go ahead with the decision to suspend internet services during exam hours, after the Gauhati High Court refused to stay it following a writ petition against the order.

Besides, prohibitory orders under Section 144 have also been clamped in all the 27 districts where the examinations are being conducted, a senior official said.

More than 14.30 lakh candidates are expected to appear for recruitment of nearly 30,000 Grade-III and IV posts of various government departments (August 21, 28 and September 11). While the Grade-IV tests were held August 21 in two shifts, the Grade-III examinations are being held Sunday. The tests for more posts under Grade-III are scheduled for September 11.

All examinations are being con-



ducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA).

"Last week, internet services were suspended in 26 districts. This time Barpeta has been added to the list," a senior official of the Home and Political Department told PTI. According to a state government order, mobile internet

services will be temporarily stopped from 10 am to 12 noon and from 2 pm to 4 pm, he said.

August 17, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said that internet services would be suspended during the examination hours to avoid possible malpractices during the recruitment

The authorities decided to go ahead with the decision to suspend internet services during exam hours, after the Gauhati High Court refused to stay it following a writ petition against the order

process. Assam Police said Section 144 of CrPC has been in and around the examination venues for all the three days in order to hold the examination in "free, fair and transparent manner".

Prohibitory orders have also been imposed within a radius of 100 metre of the SEBA office in Guwahati till the receiving, depositing and scrutinising process of the answer scripts is complete.

The chief minister had Saturday evening chaired a meeting of senior officials via video conferencing to take stock of the preparation, and asked them to ensure that nobody resorted to unfair means during the examination.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 28: At least 200 people were injured in centuries-old tradition of stone-pelting between two villages flanking the banks of the river Jam in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district.

As per the reports, the injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Maharashtra's Nagpur where conditions of half-a-dozen of them are stated to be critical.

Locally called 'gotmar' the fair is held every year on a particular day and every time hundreds of people participate and get injured. The annual 'gotmar' (stone pelting) fair is held on the fifteenth day of the dark fortnight (Shanichari Amavasya) of Hindi month of Bhadrpada. Residents of two villages, located on either side of the river Jam in Chhindwara district enthusiastically participate in this dangerous ritual.

It forms a part of a tradition that goes back to at least five centuries. On the occasion, the district administration declares public holiday and even liquor shops remain shut. Surprisingly, the stone-pelting is held in the presence of heavy police personnel who sim-



ply watch as they are not supposed to interfere in the so-called ritual.

According to reports, since 1955, over a dozen people have succumbed to injuries from stone pelting. While at least 100 people were reportedly injured in 2020, the count was 250 in the following year. Officials recall that in 1978 and 1987, the local police had to resort to firing after mobs from both sides attacked each other as well as the police personnel.

District officials said several attempts over the years to dissuade the villagers to give up the dangerous ritual have failed. Even during the two Covid years, some residents managed to keep up the

tradition despite all preventive measures.

Every year, the local administration deploys teams of doctors and paramedics at the fair venue for timely treatment of those injured.

As a part of the annual fair, the two sides stock up rocks and pelt each other with them, injuring dozens. Legend has it that two love-birds (the girl from Sanwargaon and the boy from Pandhurna village) died after being caught in the middle of stone-pelting involving the two sides near the Jam river.

This year, the fair was held Saturday.

African cheetahs offer hope to blackbuck-troubled farmers

With grasslands being their most favoured habitat, blackbucks permanently reside in farmlands and often damage crops in the initial phases of cultivation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 28: Madhya Pradesh Forest Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah is on a study tour of South Africa along with some senior forest officials. Sources said that the minister's visit is connected to the much talked about translocation of cheetahs from South Africa to Kuno Palpur Sanctuary located in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district.

Earlier, wildlife officials in Madhya Pradesh had assumed that the first batch of cheetahs will reach Bhopal by August 15. However, it could not happen.

It is not just the wildlife lovers, but also farmers in the Gwalior-Chambal division who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the cheetahs from Africa. The world's first inter-continental translocation of the

fastest moving animal -- from Namibia and South Africa to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park -- whose final dates are far from being decided, will not only give a fillip to wildlife tourism, but also promises to bring smiles to the faces of farmers in three districts.

Farmers in the three districts of Gwalior-Chambal region, including Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna, may find in the cheetahs the solution to their long standing problem of the Indian antelope 'blackbuck' damaging their crops every season. As part of the efforts to build a wide and suitable prey base for the cheetahs before they arrive in the Kuno National Park, the state forest department is working on a project of translocating blackbucks from Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna districts to



the new home of the cheetahs.

"The rains have temporarily hit the progress of the blackbuck translocation project, but it will gain momentum once the monsoon eases. We hope to go ahead with the exercise on the ground by October, which will see the blackbucks being translocated through the Boma technique from Shivpuri, Ashok Nagar and Guna districts to Kuno National Park and other ideal

jungles having suitable habitat for the Indian antelope," said CS Ninama, Chief Conservator of Forests in Madhav National Park.

Ninama said that the team of the Kuno National Park is already working on developing a prey base for the cheetahs, but with blackbucks considered the most ideal prey for the cheetahs, approval has been given to the project to translocate the blackbucks from

the three districts of Gwalior-Chambal region, where they are a major problem for the farmers.

With the grasslands being their most favoured habitat, the blackbucks permanently reside in the agricultural fields of farmers and often damage the crops in the initial phases of cultivation by crushing the nascent crop. The farmers of the three districts, despite the blackbucks being a major problem for their early crops, haven't harmed them, but have been raising the issue with the authorities.

Cheetahs became extinct in India in the 1950s. The plan for their reintroduction has been in the pipeline since decades. The central government had initially approached Iran, where the Asiatic cheetah, the same sub-species that went extinct in India, exists, and was even keen on cloning the species. But, on Iran's refusal to help India, owing to the low number of the species there, the central government turned to the African sub-species.

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS CLAIMS 85 LIVES IN ASSAM



AGENCIES

Guwahati, August 28: At least 85 people have died of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Assam in the last two months, a bulletin by the health department said.

Ten deaths were reported over the last nine days, including one Saturday. Since July this year, as many as 390 cases of the infection have been detected, the bulletin said.

JE is a viral brain infection that spreads through mosquito bites. The virus, found in pigs and birds, is passed to mosquitoes when they

bite infected animals. Given the surge in JE cases over the past few months, a District Rapid Response Team was formed in July to deal with the situation. All Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines communicated by National Health Mission, Assam, are being followed in the districts for case detection, management and referral, official sources said.

Nine medical colleges and 10 district hospitals in the state, equipped with requisite facilities, have been designated as JE treatment centres, they added.

international



I want truth and recognition, instead of repentance
EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

DIANA'S CAR FETCHES \$866,000 IN AUCTION

A sporty Ford Escort that was once princess Diana's runabout sold at auction for £737,000, a few days before the 25th anniversary of her death. The modest car, with just 24,961 miles (40,000 km) on the clock, went under the hammer at Silverstone Auctions in Warwickshire in central England



of the day quote

The poor are the most adversely affected by the crisis. We need to provide them social welfare during the economic reforms



DINESH GUNAWARDENA | SRI LANKA, PM

Self-centred politics can cause irreparable damage to Pakistan as unfortunately, a party is playing politics over the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the lender's board meeting is around the corner



SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN, PM

If we give up on a rules-based society and permit unilateral changes of the status quo by force, the impact of that will extend not only through Africa, but all the world



FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPAN, PM

SHORT TAKES

6 dead after truck hit community barbecue

The Hague: The death toll from an accident when a truck drove off a dike and slammed into a community barbecue in a village south of Rotterdam rose to six Sunday and police said a further seven people are in hospital, including one in critical condition. Police spokeswoman Mirjam Boers said the truck driver, a 46-year-old Spanish man, is suspected of causing the accident that happened early Saturday evening in the village of Nieuw-Beijerland.

6 Indian fishermen held by Lankan Navy

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested six Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said Sunday on the second such incident in a month. The fishermen were arrested Saturday off Talaimannar, a settlement located on the northwestern coast of Mannar Island, the Navy said in the statement.

Israeli strike targeted missile depot in Syria

Beirut: Satellite imagery showed widespread destruction at a giant military facility in western Syria targeted in a recent Israeli airstrike, and the head of a Syrian opposition war monitor said Sunday the strike targeted a depot housing hundreds of middle-range missiles for Iran-backed fighters.

Egypt, US, Spain hold naval drills

Cairo: The Egyptian, US and Spanish navies held a joint maritime exercise within the range of Egypt's Northern Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, said the Egyptian military. Ships of the US and Spanish naval forces took part in the joint drills following their visit to Egypt's Alexandria Naval Base, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement by Egyptian military spokesman Gharib Abdel-Hafez.

Power cuts melt ice cream stocks

Gaza: Lengthy power cuts in the Gaza Strip have melted stocks of ice cream, forcing shops to stop selling it just when a heatwave has boosted demand. With summer temperatures hitting 34 degrees Celsius (93 Fahrenheit), ice cream is a popular and relatively inexpensive treat in Gaza, home to 2.3 million people squeezed into a narrow coastal strip between Israel and Egypt.

US warships transit Taiwan Strait, first since Pelosi visit

AGENCIES

Washington, August 28: Two US Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait Sunday, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory.

The US Navy, confirming a report, said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation. Such operations usually take eight to 12 hours to complete and are closely monitored by China's military.

In recent years US warships, and on occasion those from allied nations such as Britain and Canada, have routinely sailed through the strait, drawing the ire of China which claims Taiwan against the objections of its democratically elected government.

Pelosi's Taiwan trip in early August infuriated China which saw it as a US attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. China subsequently launched military drills near the island which have since continued.

"These (US) ships transited through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," the US Navy said.

The operation demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, and the US military flies, sails and operates anywhere international law allows, the navy said.

The Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command said it was following the ships and warning them.

"Troops in the theater remain on high alert and are ready to thwart any provocation at any time," it added in a statement.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the ships were sailing in a southerly



Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54), deployed to the US 7th Fleet area of operations, conducts underway operations in the Taiwan Strait

China conducted many military exercises in the strait as it sought to punish Taiwan after Pelosi visited the self-ruled island against Beijing's threats

China has sent many warships sailing in the Taiwan Strait and waters surrounding Taiwan since Pelosi's visit, as well as sending warplanes and firing long-range missiles

direction and that its forces were observing but that "the situation was as normal".

The narrow Taiwan Strait has been a frequent source of military tension since the defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with the communists, who established the People's Republic of China.

Pelosi's visit to Taiwan was followed around a week later by a group of five other US lawmakers, with China's military responding by carrying out more

exercises near the island.

Senator Marsha Blackburn, a US lawmaker on the Senate Commerce and Armed Services committees, arrived in Taiwan Thursday on the third visit by a US dignitary this month, defying pressure from China to halt the trips.

The administration of US President Joe Biden has sought to keep tension between Washington and Beijing from boiling over into conflict, reiterating that congressional trips are routine.

The United States has no formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan but is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

China has never ruled out using force to bring Taiwan under its control.

Taiwan says the People's Republic of China has never ruled the island and so has no claim to it, and that only Taiwan's 23 million people can decide their future.

Lee Jae-myung to lead SK Oppn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, August 28: Firebrand lawmaker Lee Jae-myung was elected to lead South Korea's main opposition party Sunday, months after his narrow presidential defeat to conservative opponent Yoon Suk Yeol left the liberals in disarray.

Lee's dominant win in the Democratic Party chairperson's race ends a monthslong leadership void for the liberals, who still control a majority in the Parliament.

It revives his rivalry with Yoon, a relative political novice who has seen his popularity decline since taking office in May amid a worsening economy, policy mishaps on education and other domestic issues, and mishandled Cabinet appointments.

Lee, who won nearly 78% of the votes from party members, was announced as the Democrats' new chairperson in a convention held at a gymnastics stadium in the capital, Seoul. In his acceptance speech, Lee criticized the Yoon administration over what he described as failures to address the country's stark economic inequalities, but also said he was willing to cooperate with Yoon and the ruling conservative party if "they take the right path for the people and country."

He stressed that his key mission is to bring the Democrats back to power. Yoon edged Lee by a historically narrow margin of 0.7 percentage points in the March election. Yoon's spokesperson, Kim Eun-hye, issued a statement Sunday congratulating Lee on his win at the convention and calling for bipartisan cooperation to address the country's problems.



Cities near Ukrainian nuclear plant shelled



A view of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 28: Russian artillery fired at Ukrainian towns across the river from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant overnight, local officials said Sunday, adding to residents' anguish as reports of shelling around the plant fuelled fears of a radiation disaster.

Russia's defence ministry said there was more Ukrainian shelling of the plant over the past 24 hours, just a day after Moscow and Kyiv traded accusations of targeting Europe's biggest nuclear plant, which has prompted grave international concern.

Ukrainian nuclear company Energoatom said it had no new information about attacks on the plant. Captured by Russian troops in March, but still run by Ukrainian staff, the complex on the southern front line of the war has been one of the major hotspots in the six-month-old conflict.

Regional governor Oleksandr Starukh said on Telegram Sunday that Russian forces struck residential buildings in the region's main city of Zaporizhzhia, about a two-hour drive from the plant, and the town of Orikhiv further east.

On Saturday, Starukh told Ukrainian television residents were being taught how to use iodine in case of a radiation leak.

Moscow reports more shelling near Russia-held plant

No new information from Ukraine nuclear operator

Russian shells strike towns in region - governor, military

IAEA awaits clearance to visit Zaporizhzhia plant

Ukraine's military reported shelling of nine more towns in the area on the opposite side of the Dnipro river from the plant in its daily report, while the RIA agency quoted the Russian defence ministry as saying its air force struck a Motor Sich (MSICH.UAX) plant in the region where helicopters were repaired. Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said nine shells fired by the Ukrainian artillery in two separate attacks landed in the nuclear plant's grounds.

The United Nations and Kyiv have called for a withdrawal of military equipment and personnel from the plant to ensure it is not a target.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy warned Friday the situation at Zaporizhzhia remained "very risky" a day after it took hours to reconnect two of its reactors to the grid after shelling cut them off.

'US drones entering Afghan through Pak'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

According to our information the drones are entering through Pakistan to Afghanistan, they (US) use Pakistan's airspace, we ask Pakistan, don't use your airspace against us

MULLAH YAQOOB MUJAHID | TALIBAN DEFENCE MINISTER

Kabul, August 28: The Taliban's interim Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub Sunday has claimed that the US drones were entering the war-torn country through Pakistan, the media reported.

While narrating the one-year performance of the ministry alongside the Army Chief Mullah Fasih Uddin and the spokesperson of the ministry at a press conference in Kabul, Yaqub said: "We hadn't caught all routes of the drones but our intelligence reported that the US drones were entering through Pakistan."

The defence minister also stated that the number of IEA's national army reached 150,000 soldiers with eight border groups and each consisting of 3,000 personnel.

Yaqub further demanded all neighbouring countries return their helicopters and aeroplanes and also added that no one would be allowed to station their defence items on their soil. Previously, the Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told the media that the war-ravaged country had registered its protest with the US government against using their drones in Afghanistan's airspace.

The Al-Qaeda chief's killing in a US drone strike indicates that the US has over the horizon capability to take out high-value targets and importantly without having any US footprints on the ground in Afghanistan.

forces affiliated with Bashagha. Traffic had returned to many roads as residents inspected damage to their property.

The clashes erupted and ended suddenly. But the brief nature of the flare up has not quashed fears of a wider conflict resuming between rivals after months of stalemate in a nation that has endured more than a decade of chaos and violence.

Libya has had little peace since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that ousted longtime autocrat Muammar Gaddafi, splitting the nation in 2014 between rival eastern and western factions and dragging in regional powers. Libyan oil output, a prize for the warring groups, has repeatedly been shut off.

Bashagha's prospects of seizing control in Tripoli, which lies in

TOUCHING THE SKY



Fighter jets fly over Budapest, Hungary, during a postponed celebration

PTI PHOTOS

Tripoli calm, Libya riven after worst fighting in years

REUTERS

Tripoli, August 28: Charred cars and buildings pockmarked by bullets scarred Libya's capital Sunday, the day after intense fighting killed 32 people yet appeared to leave the Tripoli government more firmly entrenched.

Battles raged across the city throughout Saturday as forces aligned with the parliament-backed administration of Fathi Bashagha failed to take control of the capital and oust the Tripoli-based government of Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah.

On a tour of the city on Sunday, Reuters saw workers clearing glass and debris from streets littered with spent ammunition casings, as fighters aligned with Dbeibah stood in front of bases seized from

forces affiliated with Bashagha. Traffic had returned to many roads as residents inspected damage to their property.

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Bashagha's prospects of seizing control in Tripoli, which lies in



west Libya, appear badly dented for now but there is no sign of a broader political or diplomatic compromise to end the struggle for power

in Libya.

The powerful eastern faction that backed Bashagha, including parliament speaker Aguila Saleh

Workers clear debris after rivals clashed

Street battles raged across Tripoli Saturday

Elections, already delayed, now seem further off

Oil-producing Libya racked by violence since 2011

and commander Khalifa Haftar with his Libyan National Army, have given little indication that they are ready to reach an accommodation with Dbeibah.

Saleh's parliament, based in east Libya, said Dbeibah's government had exceeded its term and appointed Bashagha to replace him early this year after the collapse of a political process to prepare for elections. Dbeibah chal-

lenged this.

VOTE PLANS IN TATTERS
"Dbeibah looks more solid and more permanent now than he did 48 hours ago," analyst Jalel Harchaoui said. "Haftar and Aguila Saleh have to decide whether they can live with a configuration in which they have almost no control over Tripoli."

He said backroom negotiations could follow among main players and their foreign backers. But the rivals might also seek to build new military coalitions capable of expanding their areas of control, he said.

National elections, scheduled for last year as part of a UN-sponsored peace process, were abandoned amid disputes about the rules governing the vote. They now appear even further off.

When nature unleashes its fury, it is tough to overcome the hardships it causes. This year floods and rains have left a trail of destruction in many parts of India. Flash floods caused by heavy rainfall have led to several deaths while many have been left stranded. OrissaPOST takes a deep look into the widespread devastation and the possible reasons behind such calamities



FLOOD MAYHEM

RAIN PAIN

A total of 1,098 deaths were reported by the states and Union Territories on account of hydrometeorological disasters, including landslides, flash floods and cloudbursts till July 17, 2022, according to Lok Sabha data.

Extreme weather events like flooding led to deaths of nearly 6,000 people and damages worth Rs 59,000 crore due to floods in the last three years.

If the country-wide data is available, the cost of damage due to floods could be much higher.



Immediate impacts of flooding include loss of human life, damage to property, destruction of crops, loss of livestock, non-functioning of infrastructure facilities and deterioration of health condition owing to waterborne diseases.



with rains disrupting electricity and water supply, and damaging road infrastructure.

Heavy rain has also caused havoc in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northern India.

As many as 22 people have lost their lives in floods. The rains inundated hundreds of villages, swept away mud houses, flooded roads and destroyed bridges in some parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand states.

Floods and landslides reported to have caused extensive damage in various districts in Assam. Most number of deaths due to hydrometeorological disasters this year were reported from Assam and Himachal Pradesh at 196 each, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 120 deaths.

While Maharashtra recorded a total of 322 deaths on account of natural disasters in 2021, the number has significantly gone down this year, with 108 deaths being reported from the region so far. The resurgent monsoon caused widespread havoc across Kerala.

On 8 July 2022, flood caused by cloudburst in Amarnath has killed at least 16 people and left

dozens of other pilgrims missing. In Tripura, flooding in several rivers has caused 12,000 people to leave their homes.

Assam's second largest city, Silchar, have been inundated for six days. Heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides claim 18 lives in Arunachal Pradesh.

In August, at least 36 people died in flash floods and landslides triggered by rains in Himachal Pradesh.

WAKE-UP CALL

Climate change and ill-planned human interventions in the Himalayas have accentuated the vulnerability of the hills to disasters, resulting in a manifold increase in loss of property and human lives, experts say.

"Climate change has added another layer of vulnerability. It is acting as a force multiplier and making landslides, flash floods and cloudbursts more disastrous," said Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP).



According to a 2020 study by Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology, black carbon concentrations near the Gangotri glacier rises by 400 times in summer due to forest fires and burning of agricultural waste, which can trigger glacial melt because of the light-absorbing nature of black carbon.

No credible disaster management system

- The fragility of the mountains has increased due to ill-thought human interventions - dams, hydropower projects, highways, mining, deforestation, buildings, unregulated tourism and pilgrimage.
- Food security is at risk in the hills, with landslides, flash floods and soil erosion affecting agricultural land.
- According to a report released by NITI Aayog in August 2018, around 50 per cent of the springs in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) are drying up.
- Springs, a natural discharge from the ground water aquifer has a significant impact in maintaining the Himalayan ecosystem.
- There are five million springs across India, of which nearly three million are in the IHR alone.
- Over 200 million people in India depend on springs, of which 50 million people reside in the 12 states of the region, the report said.
- A report by the National Institute of Disaster Management in 2015 said dam construction is one of the reasons for increasing flash floods in the region.

WEATHER WHIPLASH

The climate crisis has intensified risk conditions for extreme weather events across the world. Erratic seasonal swings have caused floods, wildfires, heatwaves and droughts on an unprecedented scale

Pakistan: The death toll from the devastating floods in Pakistan has crossed the 1,000-mark after another 119 people died due to deluge-related incidents across the country in the last 24 hours, according to the official data. Floods triggered by the torrential rain since June 14 have wreaked havoc, inundating a vast swathe of flat land in the south and southwest of the country. "So far, 1,033 people have died and 1,527 persons injured across Pakistan," the NDMA, the main body tasked to deal with calamities, said.

Afghanistan: In the past one month, at least 178 people have lost their lives as a result of devastating flash floods in Afghanistan, an official said. Another 250 were wounded in the heavy rain falls and flash floods that severely affected 13 of the country's 34 provinces, a spokesman of the Taliban's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Nasim Haqqani, told dpa news agency.

China: The death toll after a flash flood in China's Qinghai province has increased to 17, with another 17 people still missing, local authorities have confirmed. Twenty people who were previously reported as missing have been rescued and some 4,500 firefighters, policemen, servicemen, emergency response personnel and local residents were carrying out search and rescue operations. Xinhua news agency quoted a top provincial official as saying.

Indonesia: Heavy rainfall has taken its toll in western and eastern parts of Indonesia. At least 3 people have died in floods and landslides in West Papua Province on New Guinea Island, while flooding in provinces of Sumatra Island has affected over 35,000 people. Heavy rainfall affected Sumatra Island, Indonesia, from 17 August 2022 causing floods and landslides.

Kentucky, USA: Heavy rain has pummeled mountain communities in the US state of Kentucky. Water rushed down hillsides, swallowing towns, washing away homes and trapping hundreds of people. At least 30 people have been killed.

Sydney: The start of July brought the fourth set of floods in 18 months to the Australian state of New South Wales. The Greater Sydney area was especially affected, with eight months worth of rain falling in just four days. Roads were turned into rivers and tens of thousands of people evacuated from their homes.

Northeastern Brazil: Landslides wiped flooding following torrential rains wiped away housing in Brazil's northeastern Pernambuco state in May, killing at least 100 people.

South Africa: In April, intense rains hit the eastern coast of South Africa, causing floods and landslides that claimed more than 400 lives, destroyed over 12,000 houses and forced an estimated 40,000 people from their homes.



According to the World Bank, central districts in India are the most vulnerable to climate change because they lack the infrastructure and are largely agrarian

road and highways sector.

Several states in the country saw massive floods this monsoon due to extreme rainfall events and it is becoming a regular phenomenon and expected to intensify in coming years, according to climate experts.

In a written reply to a question, the Lok Sabha reported a loss of 1,593 lives due to natural calamities in 2021-22 (till 17 July) while 1,989 and 2,422 human lives were lost in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

Floods have affected nearly 8,00,000 people and displaced thousands from their homes in Odisha,

ACCORDING TO IMD DATA, THE AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OVER NORTHWEST AND CENTRAL INDIA FOR APRIL THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE HIGHEST IN 122 YEARS



Climate change is driving extreme heat & flooding

Scientists are confident some types of flooding will increase in future scenario in which humans continue warming the planet with greenhouse gas emissions at the current rate. Floods can surge all year round, in every region of the world. But discerning the relationship between any given flood and climate change is no small feat, experts say, made difficult by limited historical records, particularly for the most extreme floods, which occur in

frequently. "With increasing temperatures as a result of global warming in South Asia and the consequent exceeding levels of heat and humidity, it is predicted that we will have more intense, longer and frequent heat waves in India," according to environmentalist and climate scientist Shakil Ahmad Romshoo from Srinagar. The national capital recorded its second hottest April this year since 1951 with a monthly average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius.

Other north Indian states, including the hill areas of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, also recorded temperatures way above the normal level this season. While north India battled high temperatures, parts of Kerala and Lakshadweep islands saw heavy rainfall. Besides, the weather office sounded a red alert across five districts in Kerala. Earth's average temperature has in-

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Think globally, act locally. We have the knowledge and the technology to reduce our impact on climate.

Eleven percent of all global greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans are caused by deforestation - compared to the emissions from all of the cars and trucks on the planet.

Science has made clear what actions we must take to fight climate change, but it is high time that we tuned our mind and soul towards nature to bring about the large-scale change we need to save the planet.

India has formally updated its nationally determined contribution (NDC) to fight climate change, confirming to the United Nations apex body that it will reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 45% from 2005 levels by the year 2030, and to have installed capacity for non-fossil fuel-based power sources equivalent to the country's 50% requirement by 2030.

increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, said global climate change expert Harjeet Singh.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report released in 2021 warned that rising temperatures will lead to increased incidence of heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons, Singh, senior advisor, Climate Action Network-

International (CAN-I), said.

The experts added that climate change is not only raising temperatures and making India's heatwaves hotter, but also changing weather patterns that further drive dangerous weather extremes.

The low pressure anomaly caused by the weather event known as La Nina over the Indian subcontinent has been inviting

If the fight against climate change has to be fought by the developed and developing nations together, then developed nations will have to give two facilities to developing nations -- climate finance and technology transfer

BHUPENDER YADAV | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

westerly winds and the blast of hot air from the Middle East into India. The impact of severe heat waves on different sectors, including health, work, quality of life and the economy, is well documented. According to official records, heat waves have caused over 24,000 deaths from 1992 to 2015 across the country.

The scientists said if the frequency of heat waves continues as is predicted, these will adversely impact food, water and energy security in the region.

business

of the day quote

Powell sounded ultra hawkish in his brief speech at Jackson Hole. Markets will be concerned about the tight monetary conditions persisting longer than expected. The near-term impact on equity markets will be negative

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Sebi's move opened up avenues for mutual fund houses to be able to launch silver ETFs. Considering that a lot of investors use silver as a hedge against inflation, this offered an easier avenue for them

KAVITHA KRISHNAN | SENIOR ANALYST - MANAGER RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INDIA

We are building 1,000 megawatt data centres. Today, the industry stands at 550 MW. Building 1,000 megawatt data centre in the next one decade is something which is our business plan

SANJAY BHUTANI | SENIOR VP AND HEAD OF DATA CENTRE BUSINESS, ADANICONNEX

SHORT TAKES

Windfall profit tax hits fuel export

New Delhi: India's diesel exports fell by 11 per cent in July and overseas shipment of petrol dropped by 4.5 per cent after the government slapped a windfall profit tax on such sales, official data showed. Diesel exports dropped to 2.18 million tonne in July from 2.45 million tonne a month back, data from the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell showed. Similarly, petrol exports fell to 1.1 million tonne from 1.16 million tonne in June. In July, India exported 4.68 million tonne of petroleum products, 82 per cent of which was petrol, diesel and ATF.

Disney bags ICC events' rights

New Delhi: Disney Star will broadcast International Cricket Council (ICC) events in India after bagging the digital rights to both men's and women's global competitions through to the end of 2027, the sport's governing body announced. The ICC said that Disney Star won the rights following a single round, sealed-bid process. In June, Disney-owned Star India retained the broadcast rights to the Indian Premier League for Rs 235.75 billion (\$3 billion).

Akasa Air suffers data breach

New Delhi: Akasa Air, which started operations less than a month ago, has suffered data breach resulting in certain customer information being accessed by unauthorised individuals. The airline Sunday apologised for the data breach and said the incident has been "self-reported" to the nodal agency, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team. In a communication, the airline said a temporary technical configuration error related to its login and sign-up service was reported August 25.

Reliance Capital bid deadline ends

New Delhi: The deadline for submission of bids for debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd ends Monday amid concerns of investors over the company's most-valuable arm Reliance General Insurance Company. IDBI Trusteeship Services Limited acting in its capacity as a debenture trustee on behalf of Credit Suisse, had invoked the pledge of Reliance Capital's 100 per cent shareholding in Reliance General in November 2019 and transferred the shares to its account.



Both the likelihood and the cost of current high inflation becoming entrenched in expectations are uncomfortably high. In this environment, central banks need to act forcefully

ISABEL SCHNABEL | BOARD MEMBER, ECB

ZOMATO KICKS OFF GROCERY DELIVERY

Zomato kicked off a pilot test of delivering groceries via Blinkit on its main platform in Delhi-NCR, as the online food aggregator aims to "accelerate" the 10-minute delivery platform's journey to profitability. The pilot test is currently being organised at select circles in Delhi-NCR, and after analysing the response, it will be expanded to other cities as well



Suzuki drives deeper into India with global R&D company

REUTERS

Gandhinagar, August 28: Suzuki Motor Corp will set up a global research and development (R&D) company in India, its president said Sunday, pushing deeper into a market that is set to become an electric vehicle (EV) hub for the Japanese car maker.

The new company, a wholly owned unit of Suzuki Japan, will strengthen the carmaker's R&D competitiveness and capabilities in India and other global markets. Toshihiro Suzuki told an event in Gandhinagar, the capital of western Gujarat state.

"India has become one of the most important countries for Suzuki Group," he said, adding that Suzuki would keep investing heavily in the country.

Suzuki, which already builds combustion engine cars in India for its local unit Maruti Suzuki and for export, will in 2025 start producing EVs at its factory in Gujarat. It is also setting up a separate plant in the state to build batteries for EVs starting 2026.

The Japanese carmaker has said it will spend more than Rs 104 billion (\$1.3 billion) on its electrification plans in India, making it one of Suzuki's biggest battery and EV investments globally. It has already invested Rs 650 billion in the country.

"India plays a significant role as a global automobile production hub in Suzuki Group," Suzuki said.

Suzuki also has a joint venture with Japan's Denso Corp and Toshiba Corp to build lithium-ion batteries for hybrid cars for local use and exports.

Suzuki is the majority-owner of Maruti, which dominates India's car market with its small, low-cost vehicles. But the company faces growing competition as buyers shift to bigger cars such as sports-utility vehicles (SUVs) and regulators demand safer and greener cars, increasing costs.

India is also pushing carmakers to build more electric cars by offering companies billions of dollars in incentives.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said EVs are starting "a silent revolution in the country" and that his government was acting to boost demand and supply of these clean vehicles.

"This silent revolution is set to bring major changes," he told Sunday's event, which marked 40 years of Suzuki's partnership with Maruti.

Supertech incurs ₹500cr loss on Noida twin towers

The twin towers were part of Supertech's Emerald Court project at Sector 93 A on Noida Expressway.

The current market value of over 900 apartments in the two towers is being estimated at over ₹700 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Realty firm Supertech Ltd has incurred a loss of about ₹500 crore, including construction and interest costs, because of the demolition of its twin towers in Noida, the company's Chairman RK Arora said Sunday.

The nearly 100-metre-tall twin towers - Apex and Ceyane - were demolished at 2.30 pm Sunday as per a Supreme Court order that found their construction within Emerald Court premises in violation of norms. More than 3,700 kgs of explosives were used in this operation. The cost of the demolition itself is estimated at about ₹20 crore.

"Our overall loss is around ₹ 500



crore, taking into account the amount we have spent on land and construction cost, the charges paid to authorities for various approvals, interest paid to banks over the years and the 12 per cent interest paid

My first reaction when the demolition happened is that it was the demolition of not just the building but also the builders' and the authorities' ego and complacency that they could do as they please

ABHAY UPADHYAY | PRESIDENT, FPCE

back to buyers of these two towers, among other costs," Arora told PTI. "We constructed these towers as per the building plan approved by the Noida development authority," he added.

Asked about the demolition cost, Arora said Supertech is paying ₹17.5 crore to Edifice Engineering, which was tasked with safely pulling down the structures, including the premium amount for a ₹100-crore insurance cover. In addition, there are several other costs associated with the demolition.

Edifice had roped in South African experts Jet Demolitions for the project.

The Forum For People's Collective Efforts (FPCE), an umbrella body of homebuyers that played an important role in enactment and implementation of real estate law RERA, added that the responsibility of development by the authorities should have been fixed in this case.

Realtors' apex body CREDAI (National) President Harsh Vardhan Patodia told PTI that the "decision is symbolic of the New India that we are living in, which is all about best practices, governance and following the law. We stand by the authorities and Supreme Court in this decision".

Most of the organised developers are adhering to all guidelines laid down by the authorities and this will act as a good reminder for those who do not, Patodia added.

"This will set a good precedent for the housing sector. It will serve as a deterrent for developers to violate building norms and laws," said Dhruv Agarwala, CEO of REA India, which owns the portals Housing.Com, PropTiger.Com and Makaan.Com.

STRONG CORPORATE EARNINGS

Foreign investors pump ₹49,250cr in August so far

FPIs CONTINUED TO BUY EQUITIES INSPITE OF RISE IN US BOND YIELDS AND RISING DOLLAR



- FPIs are now buying stocks of financials, capital goods, FMCG and telecom on market stability
- US inflation slowed down from a 40-year high in June to 8.5% in July on lower gasoline prices
- FPIs infused a net amount of Rs 4,370 crore in the debt market during the month under review

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors have become aggressive shoppers of Indian equities and pumped in Rs 49,250 crore so far in August on improvement in corporate earnings and macro fundamentals.

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in the entire July, data with depositors showed.

FPIs had turned net buyers for the first time in July, after nine straight months of massive net outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the India equity markets.

"In the coming months, FPI flows will largely depend on commodity prices and geopolitical concerns, corporate results and signs from the US Fed on interest rates movements," Vivek Banka, founding member of fintech platform GoalTeller, said.

According to data with depositors, FPIs pumped a net amount of Rs 49,254 crore in Indian equities during August 1-26. This is the highest investment made by them so far in the current year.

"Stronger corporate earnings in spite of higher crude oil prices and fears of global recession are the primary reasons for fund infusion by FPIs," Jay Prakash Gupta, founder of Dhan, said.

Consequently, it also eased recession fears in the US to some extent thus improving sentiments and investors' risk appetite, he said. "On the domestic front, correction in the Indian equity markets provided investors a good buying opportunity," he added.

FPIs used this opportunity to hand-pick high-quality companies and invest in them. They are now buying stocks of financials, capital goods, FMCG and telecom.

Apart from India, flows were positive in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand, while it was negative for Philippines and Taiwan during the period under review.

Centre takes steps to boost domestic defence industry

India, facing tough challenges from neighbours on its northern and western frontiers, is one of the largest importers of arms globally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a fresh list of 780 components and subsystems which will only be procured from domestic industry after a ban on their import kicks in under a staggered time-line of around six years.

It is the third such "positive indigenisation" list comprising line replacement units, sub-systems and components used for various military platforms, equipment and weapons, and the aim is to minimise imports by the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).

The defence ministry has set specific timelines for import ban of the items, spanning a period from December 2023 to December 2028.

"Singh has approved the third positive indigenisation list of 780 strategically important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-



systems/Components with a timeline beyond which they will only be procured from the domestic industry," it said in a statement Sunday.

This list is in continuation to the two similar positive lists that were brought out in December 2021 and March 2022.

"Indigenisation of these items will be taken up through different routes under 'Make' category," the ministry said. The 'Make' category aims to achieve self-reliance by involving greater participation of the Indian industry in defence manufacturing.

"Projects involving design and development of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry

can be taken up under this category," the ministry said.

It said the indigenous development of these items will bolster the economy and reduce the import dependence of DPSUs.

"In addition, it will help to harness the design capabilities of domestic defence industry and position India as a design leader in these technologies," the ministry said.

It said the DPSUs will soon float Expression of Interest (EOIs) and Request for Proposal (RFPs).

In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to promote domestic defence production.

According to estimates, the Indian armed forces are projected to spend around \$130 billion (one billion is equal to Rs 100 crore) in capital procurement over the next five years. The government now wants to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and has decided to support domestic defence manufacturing.

The defence ministry has set a goal of a turnover of \$25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next five years which includes an export target of \$5 billion worth of military hardware.

BITCOIN DIPS BELOW \$20K, MAY REACH \$10K LEVEL

Bitcoin represents 40 per cent of the \$1 trillion global cryptocurrency market

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 28: After showing some stabilisation in the last few weeks, world's largest cryptocurrency Bitcoin has plunged once again below \$20,000 after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's keynote address.

Bitcoin initially showed little reaction to Powell's remarks, but then nosedived sharply and Sunday it was hovering around \$19,975 per digital coin which is more than 60 per cent drop in its value since last year when it reached a record-high of \$68,000 in November.

Bitcoin prices had stabilised around the \$23,000 to \$24,000 level



after plunging below \$20,000 in June.

The prices of ethereum and other leading digital currencies have also rallied in the past two months, leading to hopes that this nascent market may have reached its bottom.

But the optimism could be premature, and fleeting. Companies with direct ties to the crypto land-

scape continue to struggle, according to media reports.

Bitcoin, despite the hype about it being digital gold, has turned out not to be an asset that performs well when inflation pressures are mounting and interest rates are spiking.

Reports last month suggested that Bitcoin may tumble to \$10,000 this year. A latest Bloomberg 'MLIV Pulse survey' revealed that the Bitcoin price is heading back to \$10,000.

Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary has also stated that Bitcoin price has not hit bottom yet. According to experts, the Bitcoin price will hit \$10,000 before recovering to the \$30,000 level.

Bitcoin has seen its worst-ever days in recent months amid the eco-

nomie meltdown, leaving several crypto exchanges and trading platforms winding up operations, laying off people, and freezing fresh hirings.

The global cryptocurrency market lost at least \$670 million in the April-June quarter (Q2), and 97 per cent of the losses were due to hacks and scams.

More than half of all Bitcoin daily trading volumes are reportedly fake, as the world's largest cryptocurrency nosedives again amid global economic turmoil. According to a Forbes analysis of 157 crypto exchanges and trading platforms, more than half (51 per cent) of all reported trading volume is likely to be fake or non-economic.

'DOUBLE STANDARDS' Russia blasts West's criticism of India over oil import

Historically, Russia has not been a major source of fossil fuel for India but the imports of discounted Russian crude oil have seen a massive increase in the last few months, notwithstanding the simmering tension between New Delhi and several Western nations over it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 28: The criticism of India by the Western countries over its import of Russian crude oil while exempting themselves from their "own illegitimate sanctions" is a reflection of their unprincipled position and double standards, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov said Sunday.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, the envoy said trade between India and Russia has been on a significant upswing and several payment systems are in place including an option even to use currencies of

third countries with certain "partners" in Asia and in the Middle East offering viable choices.

"Those in the West who criticise India not just slyly keep silent about the fact that they themselves actively buy Russian energy resources exempting them from their own illegitimate sanctions, but in doing so explicitly demonstrate their unprincipled position and double standards while claiming otherwise," Alipov said.

His comments came days after the external affairs minister strongly justified India's import of Russian crude oil saying it is his



India-Russia trade and said the trade volume in the first six months of this year alone was \$11.1 billion. It was around \$13 billion for the entire 2021

moral duty to ensure best deals for the country.

The ambassador said Europe has "completely lost" its independent voice while "appeasing" the

US's ambitions for power; and is now trying to sustain its economic well-being while triggering an escalation of energy prices for the rest of the globe.

As for the impact of the Western sanctions, obviously their side effects were miscalculated, both politically and economically. The rise of fuel and food prices triggered galloping inflation worldwide, and even developed economies risk falling into recession

DENIS ALIPOV | RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

"For what reason should India pay for that," Alipov asked.

The ambassador suggested there was no impact of Western sanctions against Moscow on India-Russia trade and said the trade volume in the first six months of this year alone was \$11.1 billion. It was around \$13 billion for the entire 2021.

"We have every reason to believe

that by the end of this year we will reach a historic record, and that is not only due to large-scale supplies of hydrocarbons which have grown more than 10 times," he said.

Talking about several payment systems for bilateral trade, Alipov said one of them is using the national currencies, adding the volume of trade in national currencies amounted to over 40 per cent in recent years.

Alipov said there has been growing interest from both Russia and India to further diversify trade ties taking advantage of "emerging opportunities".

"The overall purpose is to supplement each other's economic strategies as both our countries aim to increase the level of self-reliance and are keen to explore new markets facilitated by sustained mechanisms of financial transactions and logistics," he said.

Hardik heroics ensure victory

INDIA BEGIN ASIA CUP CAMPAIGN AFTER BOWLERS LED BY BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR RESTRICT PAKISTAN



Hardik Pandya

Dravid joins team

Dubai: Head coach Rahul Dravid tested negative for Covid-19 and he joined the Indian team ahead of their Asia Cup opener against Pakistan here Sunday. "Team India head coach Rahul Dravid has tested negative for Covid-19 and has joined the team in Dubai. Interim coach, VVS Laxman who was present with the team in Dravid's absence, has returned to Bangalore to oversee the India A programme," the BCCI said in a statement.

He fell to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz (3/34) hitting the ball down the long-on fielder's throat. It was clear that he was struggling to find his timing right through the innings.

Kohli, returning to international cricket, looked rusty even though he hit some lovely shots square of the wicket. There were far too many inside edges and mistimed drives to give him the confidence that he is so desperately looking for. He fell to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz (3/34) hitting the ball down the long-on fielder's throat. It was clear that he was struggling to find his timing right through the innings.

When Pakistan batted opener Mohammed Rizwan (43, 42b, 4x4, 1x6) was the top-scorer for them. However, he never looked like taking the game away from the Indians. Arshdeep Singh (2/33) and Avesh Khan (1/19) also contributed with the ball to restrict the opposition. However, it was Bhuvneshwar who started the downfall getting rid of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (10). Bhuvneshwar, surprised Azam with a bouncer in his second over and the batter went for the pull only to top edge to Arshdeep at short fine-leg.

BRIEF SCORES

Pakistan 147 in 19.5 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 43, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4/26, Hardik Pandya 3/25) lost to India 148 for 5 in 19.4 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 35, Virat Kohli 35, Hardik Pandya 33 n o, Mohammad Nawaz 3/34) by five wickets.

the scheme of things. Without him, India would have not even got close to winning the game Sunday.

Earlier Bhuvneshwar and Pandya worked in tandem with the ball to restrict Pakistan. While Bhuvni (as he is called by teammates) struck at the beginning of the innings and at the death, Pandya picked up vital wickets in the mid-

Passi own goal sinks EB as ATKMB win Kolkata derby

5TH SUCCESSIVE WIN FOR MOHUN BAGAN AGAINST KOLKATA ARCH RIVALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, August 28: An own goal by Sumeet Passi doomed East Bengal's fate as ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) returned to winning ways by the smallest of margins in the in the marquee 'Kolkata derby' of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here Sunday.

Playing in front of a packed crowd of about 70,000, ATKMB went ahead in a freakish manner when Liston Colaco's low flag-kick found Eliandro make a hash of a clearance not being able to get a touch and the ball deflected into the net off an onrushing Passi, who was literally blindsided and couldn't move his body out of line. If anyone was to be blamed, it was the Brazilian forward, who had come down to defend his team's citadel.

The result also revived the 16-time champions' hopes in the tournament as they secured their first win after a shocking defeat to I-League outfit Rajasthan United and a draw against Mumbai City FC.

Mohun Bagan now have four points from three matches in Group B and face Indian Navy in their decisive concluding pool fixture September 5. East Bengal are now yet to win in a derby since securing a 2-0 victory in the I-League January 27, 2019.

Stephen Constantine's men could barely hold forte as ATKMB kept up pressure from both flanks during the first 45 minutes. It could have been worse for East Bengal who almost conceded a second in the 54th minute but Kamaljit Singh fisted



East Bengal and ATK Mohun Bagan players vie for the ball during the Durand Cup encounter in Kolkata, Sunday

away a pile-driver from star India midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan.

East Bengal came out with a more attacking intent in the second half but there was little support for their Brazilian forward Eliandro, while their long ball strategy was easily dealt by the defenders of the Mariners.

A 64 per cent first half possession underlined the Mariners dominating display up front as they controlled the match playing deep into the opposition box. However, credit should be given to the newly-formed East Bengal line-up under the former Indian coach as they held the Mariners with their resolute defence helmed superbly by Spanish centre-back Ivan Gonzalez.

Charis Kyriakou was also good, while Lalchungnunga was at his resolute best as they did nothing wrong till that split of second lapse by Passi.

East Bengal slowly tried to get into the game after the half-hour mark and got their first shot at goal from a powerful Gonzalez long-ranger which narrowly missed the target.

Tempers flared up soon after the changeover when the young Asish Rai swung his arm on Gonzalez only to escape with a yellow card. Former India U-17 World Cupper Aniket Jadhav had a good chance to score for East Bengal, but shot wide late into the second session.

SHORT TAKES

4 Indians make cut

Skafto (Sweden): Vani Kapoor and three other Indian women made the 36-hole cut at the Didriksons Skafto Open golf tournament, a Ladies European Tour event, here Sunday. Vani in a stretch of seven holes had five birdies on the front nine. She dropped one shot on the back nine to finish the day with a card of three-under 66. She was tied-32nd, while the other Indians making the cut were Tvesa Malik (69), Amandeep Dral (70) and Diksha Dagar (71), who all were T-45.

Bayern held

Berlin: Borussia Gladbach goalkeeper Yann Sommer made a record 19 saves to help his team hold Bundesliga champions to a 1-1 draw at Munich, Saturday. Sommer produced an outstanding game by thwarting attack after attack from the home team. Bayern had 33 attempts at goal and could beat Sommer only once when Leroy Sané finally equalised in the 83rd minute. However, it was Marcus Thuram who shocked the home fans with the opener in the 43rd for Gladbach.

Liudmila triumphs

Cleveland: Liudmila Samsonova of Russia won her second straight WTA Tour title, beating seventh-seeded Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 6-1, 6-3 in the final at the 'Tennis in The Land' tournament here Saturday. This was her second title on the trot and it can be said that she has warmed up nicely for the US Open starting Monday. Samsonova, ranked No 45 in the world, did not lose a set in five matches here. She had earlier won the Citi Open crown in Washington a few days back.

Verstappen wins

Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium): Formula One (F1) leader in the points table Max Verstappen quickly carved his way through the field from 14th position on the grid to win the Belgian Grand Prix here Sunday and widen his lead in the title race. Sergio Perez finished second while Carlos Sainz (Jr) started from the pole for Ferrari, but finished a disappointing third. Verstappen's lead in the table widened to 93 points over Red Bull teammate Perez. He started 14th on the grid, but by the end of the 12th lap, Verstappen was leading the field.

Pogba facing extortion threats

BROTHER'S MYSTERIOUS VIDEO CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR WORLD CUP WINNER

AGENCIES

Paris, August 28: Paul Pogba revealed Sunday that he is being threatened and targeted for extortion by gangsters after his brother Mathias published a bizarre video online promising 'big revelations' about the World Cup winner. A statement signed by Pogba's lawyers, his mother Yeo Moriba and current agent Rafaela Pimenta said that the videos published Saturday night 'are unfortunately no surprise'.

"They are in addition to threats and extortion attempts by an organised gang against Paul Pogba," read the statement. "The competent bodies in Italy and France were informed a month ago and there will be no further comments in relation to the ongoing investigation," it added.

Mathias Pogba, 32, published videos in four languages promising 'great revelations about (his) brother Paul and Pimenta', who took over as head of the company of former agent Mino Raiola who died in April.

Mathias said the 'whole world, as well as my brother's fans, and even more so the French team and Juventus, my brother's teammates and his sponsors deserve to know



certain things'.

Also a professional footballer, Mathias said people needed to know what he knew in order to judge whether his brother 'deserves his place in the French team and the honour of playing in the World Cup, if he deserves to be a starter at Juventus'. "All this is likely to be explosive," Mathias concluded without adding any substance to his 'revelations'. According to two sources close

to the Pogba family, large sums of money are being demanded from Paul if he wants to avoid the dissemination of the allegedly compromising videos.

Paul, who won the World Cup with France in 2018, returned to Juventus on a free transfer this summer after six years at Manchester United, and is currently sidelined with a knee injury. The 29-year-old is expected to return to action next month

Arsenal march on with late winner

AGENCIES

London, August 28: Gabriel made amends for a dreadful error by scoring the winner in a 2-1 victory Saturday at home to Fulham as Arsenal won their fourth straight game to start the Premier League season. Aleksandar Mitrovic punished a mistake by Gabriel to give Fulham a surprise lead on 56 minutes, but Martin Odegaard equalised with a deflected effort just past the hour. Gabriel then bundled in after a scramble from a corner with five minutes to play to keep Mikel Arteta's side two points clear of reigning champions Manchester City at the top.

"Big boost, winning like this is really nice," Arteta told 'Sky Sports' after the game. "We made a mistake and they punished us but then how we reacted against adversity... the way we went about it, the team believed. They wanted to win the match, they went for it and we managed to do it," Arteta added.

Asked if Arsenal were primed to make a title challenge, Arteta downplayed expectations. "No, this is just the start of the season. We are in a long, long marathon. So wouldn't like to think too ahead," he said.

Fulham incidentally, suffered their first defeat in four outings on their top-flight return.

UPCOMING AIFF ELECTIONS

Bhaichung alleges political interference

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, August 28: Former India captain and AIFF presidential candidate Bhaichung Bhutia alleged Sunday that political pressure has led to his home state body Sikkim Football Association (SFA) not supporting him in the upcoming general body elections. The 45-year-old Bhutia is set for a straight fight for the AIFF president's post in the September 2 polls.

Bhutia's opponent, former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey, is believed to be the front-runner with backing from politically important state associations like Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh. Chaubey is a BJP leader in Bengal.

Bhutia's nomination was proposed and seconded by Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan state associations. He did not get support from his own state association.

Bhutia alleged meddling from some ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) party leaders by way of pressurising Sikkim FA president Menla Ethenpa to vote against him.

"I suggest that the few SKM party leaders trying to interfere into the elections to back off. They

All papers in order, says RO

New Delhi: The returning officer (RO) for the All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections, scheduled for September 2, found all the 20 nomination papers to be in order after scrutiny Sunday. The 20 nomination papers pertain to two candidates each for the posts of president, vice-president and treasurer, and 14 for the executive committee members. "After conducting scrutiny of nomination forms for the posts of president, vice-president, treasurer and executive committee members, all 20 nomination forms have been found correct," RO Umesh Sinha said. "Candidates can withdraw their nomination papers before 1.00pm Tuesday," he added.

have persuaded the SFA president to vote against me when he should be requested to abstain," he said at a press conference here.

"I really don't want his (Ethenpa's) vote but direct meddling by political figures will hamper the development of football in the state and the country as a whole," the furious former national captain added.

Serena buckles up for last hurrah

23-TIME GRAND SLAM TITLE WINNER ALL SET TO BID ADIEU TO TENNIS

AGENCIES

New York, August 28: Serena Williams rose from her sideline seat after a break during a training session inside Arthur Ashe Stadium, here Saturday and as she walked to the baseline at the end of the court covered by shade, a few voices from the stands called out in unison, "Serena, we love you!"

About to hit some serves in preparation for the first round of the US Open which starts Monday - and what could wind up being the last singles match of her career - the 23-time Grand Slam champion did not break stride, although she did turn her head in the fans' direction, acknowledging the sentiment with a smile.

"It's the end of a great career. And hopefully she can finish it off feeling good about herself and enjoying the moment and enjoying the crowd and listening to the people, to everyone, saying how much they love her," said Rennae Stubbs, who won four Slam titles in women's doubles and has been working with



BEGINNING OF GREATNESS: Serena Williams (right) after winning her maiden US Open in 1999 with Martina Hingis

Serena, alongside coach Eric Hechtman, since last week. "She responds to that in a positive way and not in a negative manner. She embraces it. My goal is to have her hopefully enjoy this moment," Stubbs added.

With the temperature in the 80s (Fahrenheit) and not a trace of a breeze, Serena was out there a little less than an hour, pausing at one point to eat some fruit. This followed an earlier hitting session on a smaller practice court adjacent

to Ashe. While every match - in singles and doubles - and each practice session involving Serena, who turns 41 next month, is sure to draw plenty of eyeballs, yes the pressure will be on the legend.

Serena's career will come full circle as her final match will be at the site of the first of her 23 Grand Slam singles wins, the 1999 US Open. Then just a teenager, Serena burst onto the scene to stun World No. 1 Martina Hingis in the final and lay the first stepping stone on her path to two decades of dominance.

"If I could just pick one thing that she possesses incredibly strongly compared to other players and champions, it's a strong determination to go through difficult stages and to win no matter what, year after year," Marin Cilic, the 2014 US Open men's champion was quoted as saying by 'CNN'.

Serena's greatness is not only limited to court. She has won every doubles Grand Slam title at least twice to go with two mixed doubles crowns. Few tennis players have transcended the sport like Serena and her presence will undoubtedly be missed on the Tour.

But then as Serena herself said a few weeks back, she 'will have to evolve away from tennis' as she hates the word 'retirement'.

6th straight win for Odisha Juggernauts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pune, August 28: Suraj Lade's excellent attacking show and Vishal's powerful defence powered Odisha Juggernauts to their sixth successive win in the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho here Sunday. The Odisha Juggernauts defeated Telugu Yoddhas 48-39.

Lade captured four opposition defenders to score 10 points while Vishal showcased tremendous defensive skills to spend 3.53 minutes on the mat, adding six bonus points for his side as they notched-up stunning comeback win by nine points.

Gowtham MK was the other top performer for Odisha with nine points while, Adarsh Mohite impressed with nine points for the Telugu Yoddhas.

Odisha Juggernauts are currently at the top of the group standings with 21 points in their kitty. They are four points ahead than second-placed Gujarat Giants.

However, it was the Telugu Yoddhas who started the match aggressively as Mohite gave them four points within a fraction of seconds by skillfully dismissing Odisha Juggernauts' skipper Dipesh More and Dinesh Naik.