



BITTER PAST

Actor Taapsee Pannu reveals that she was considered an unlucky charm at a point in her career

LEISURE P2



PAK'S OFFER

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offers to hold talks with India in order to address all serious and outstanding issues

INTERNATIONAL P10



TREESA-GAYATRI THROUGH

The pair of Treena Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advances to the second round of the Australia Open badminton tournament

SPORTS P12

20 DIE IN MAHA CRANE MISHAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 1: At least 20 persons, including 10 labourers, were crushed to death and three others injured as a girder launcher collapsed during the construction of a viaduct for the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Thane district early Tuesday morning, officials said.

The girder launcher along with a segment launcher (crane), weighing 700 tons, came crashing down from a height of 35 metres, the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) said in a release.

The deceased included two engineers, said the MSRDC, the executing agency of the expressway project that links Nagpur with Mumbai.

Thane police registered an offence against two contractors for allegedly causing death by negligence following the incident.

The incident occurred sometime after midnight at Sarlambe village in Shahapur tehsil, around 80 km from Mumbai.

The three injured persons were being treated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalva in Thane.



ON THE BOIL: Flames and smoke rise from a shop set ablaze by miscreants in a fresh case of communal violence after Monday's attack on a VHP procession in adjoining Nuh district, at Badshahpur area in Gurugram, Tuesday

FRESH VIOLENCE ROCKS HARYANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram/Chandigarh, August 1: Mobs killed a cleric in a late night attack on a mosque, torched an eatery and vandalised shops as communal violence that began in Haryana's Nuh spilled over into Gurugram, taking the death toll to five, police said Tuesday.

A mob set fire to an under-construction mosque in Gurugram's sector 57 and shot dead the naib imam past Monday midnight. And two more men succumbed to their injuries after the previous day's Nuh attack.

Over 50 people, including 10 policemen, were injured in Mod in Nuh, a police officer said. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar called the attack a part of a larger conspiracy, while the Vishva Hindu Parishad demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency.

Authorities clamped a curfew Tuesday morning in Nuh district. Security forces held flag marches in adjoining districts as well and several peace committee meetings were organised.

On Tuesday afternoon, a mob shouting 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans set fire to a roadside eatery in Gurugram's Badshahpur. A couple of shops in the market nearby were also vandalised, police said.

The fire brigade doused the flames. When police reached the spot, the rioters - said to be around 70 - fled on their motorcycles and other vehicles, officials said.

Traders downed shutters along the 20-km Badshahpur-Sohna road, protesting over the Nuh violence.

In Delhi, VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain claimed the attack was carried out against Hindu devotees "in a pre-planned manner" and was "incited" by some Congress leaders from Haryana.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm not commenting on violence or murder, but naming our leaders in the speech was totally wrong

₹150cr boost to state's criminal justice system

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 1: In a bid to strengthen criminal justice system in Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday sanctioned ₹150.05 crore for modernisation of State Forensic Science Services Organisation.

This scheme will be known as 'Modernisation of Forensic Science Services Organisation, Odisha' and will be implemented in a period of 5 years starting 2023-24 to 2027-28, a statement issued by the CMO said.

The scheme has some specific objectives that includes expeditious disposal of cases, strengthening of forensic laboratories at state, regional and district levels, improvement of scientific investigation, use of modern technology and strengthening of prosecution to enhance conviction rate.

The total amount has various components for expenditure including ₹20 crore for new Regional Forensic Laboratory Building at Balasore and Sambalpur, ₹125.25 crore for equipment and ₹3.50 crore for mobile forensic vans and some other expenditure, it said.

'Modernisation of Forensic Science Services Organisation, Odisha' will be implemented in a period of 5 years

WITH YOU

HIGHEST AUG RAIN IN CITY SINCE 1997

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Odisha received heavy rainfall due to the prevailing weather conditions, with the state capital Bhubaneswar witnessing a record rainfall of 259.2mm in the last 24 hours till 8.30am, Tuesday—highest in August since 1997, the regional centre of the IMD said.

"This was the highest rainfall Bhubaneswar has received in the month of August to date. It broke the previous record of 254.2 mm of rainfall received August 20, 1997," said US Dash, a scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Odisha received heavy rain as a well-marked low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal first intensified into a depression and later into a deep depression Tuesday, the IMD said.

The weather office said that rough sea conditions will prevail and warned fishermen against venturing into the sea till Wednesday afternoon.

The weather office said that under its impact, squally conditions are likely to prevail, with wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph, gusting up to 65 kmph along and off Bangladesh-West Bengal coasts. The wind speed is likely to increase to 55-65 kmph, gusting to 75 kmph over the next 12 hours.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	66459.31 ↑ 68.36
NIFTY	19733.55 ↓ 20.25
DOLLAR	82.29 ↑ ₹0.21
EURO	90.32 ↓ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹59,000 ↓ ₹568
SILVER	₹ 73,787 ↓ ₹1640

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.2°C	28.8°C
TEMP MIN	23.5°C	24.5°C
Humidity	100%	94%
Rainfall	259.2mm	83.2mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain

BJD supports NDA on Delhi services ordinance, opposes no-confidence motion against Modi govt

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, August 1: Shedding its equidistance stance, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday extended its support to the Bill replacing the Delhi services ordinance in a boost to the treasury benches, especially in Rajya Sabha, and also backed the BJP-led NDA government against the no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties.

BJD is the second party after the YSR Congress among those not formally aligned with either the BJP or the Opposition to announce support to the Centre on the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, dealing a blow to the Opposition's efforts to stitch together a majority in the Rajya Sabha where the treasury benches lack a majority on their own.

On Tuesday, when the government was facing ferocious attacks from Opposition parties challenging the 'legislative competence' of the Parliament to bring the Bill, the BJP-led government found an unusual but firm support from BJD MP Pinaki Misra. "The government has



Debate on no-trust motion from Aug 8

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha will debate the no-confidence motion from August 8 to 10 and PM Narendra Modi is likely to reply to the Opposition-sponsored move on the last day with the numbers clearly in favour of the ruling NDA. The decision on the debate was taken at the Lok Sabha's business advisory committee meeting.

brought a law pursuant to the Supreme Court judgment. So, how can you challenge the legislative competence of the government? Legislative competence is there," Misra told the Lok Sabha. BJD leader in Rajya Sabha, Sasmit Patra, too, said his party will support the Bill and, added, "We'll also vote against the no-confidence motion." BJD has issued a three-line whip to this effect to its MPs in both the Houses. BJD has nine MPs in Rajya Sabha. The YSR Congress also has nine MPs in the Upper House and the

BJD SUPPORT TO NDA

- Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019
- Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019
- Right to Information (Amendment) Bill 2019
- Triple-Talaq Bill
- Abrogation of Article 370
- Govt of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023

total support of their 18 MPs makes the passage of the Bill all but certain in the House.

The NDA has over 100 MPs in the Rajya Sabha and the support of nominated members and Independents, who have been voting for the government, as well as these two non-aligned parties will give it a majority in the 238-member Upper House.

Around 109 MPs comprising those from the 26-member opposition bloc INDIA besides the BRS and some Independents are expected to vote against the Bill.

Total anarchy in Manipur: SC

TOP COURT RAPS STATE POLICE, SUMMONS DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Observing there is complete breakdown of law and order and constitutional machinery in Manipur, the Supreme Court Tuesday rapped the state police for 'tardy' and 'lethargic' probe of incidents of violence, especially those targeting women, and summoned the DGP to answer its queries August 7.

Excoriating the law enforcement machinery over unbridled ethnic violence, it said the state police have completely lost control over the law and order situation, and sought details from the state government in a "tabulated format" segregating cases involving murder, rape, arson and loot, destruction of house and property, places of worship, and outraging of modesty of women.

The Centre, represented by Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, urged the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that instead of the two FIRs related to a video showing women being paraded naked by a mob, all 11 out of 6,523 FIRs linked to violence against women and children may be transferred to the CBI and tried out of Manipur.

Hearing a clutch of petitions on the mayhem in the north-eastern state, a bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said it was considering setting up a committee comprising former high court judges to monitor the probe and the subsequent trial in all FIRs as it will be difficult for the CBI to handle them alone.

'World's oldest man' dies at 127

JOSE PAULINO GOMES REPORTEDLY LIVED THROUGH BOTH WORLD WARS & 3 GLOBAL PANDEMICS

AGENCIES

Minas Gerais (Brazil), August 1: A man widely believed to be world's oldest has died at the ripe age of 127, Mirror reported quoting local media in his home country of Brazil.

Jose Paulino Gomes passed away Friday — one week shy of turning 128 — at his home in Pedra Bonita, a Brazilian municipality in the state of Minas Gerais.

According to reports, the centenarian was still riding horses up until four years ago, it said.

According to his 1917 marriage certificate from Pedra Bonita's registry office, Jose was born August 4 1895. If his claim about his age is correct, that would mean Gomes was born before the death of Queen Victoria, living through both World Wars and three

global pandemics.

Willyan Jose Rodrigues de Souza, who is a legal adviser to Cartorio Silva, said, "According to the record, he got married at 22 years old. It is presumed that he was indeed born before 1900. Men rarely got married at 17."

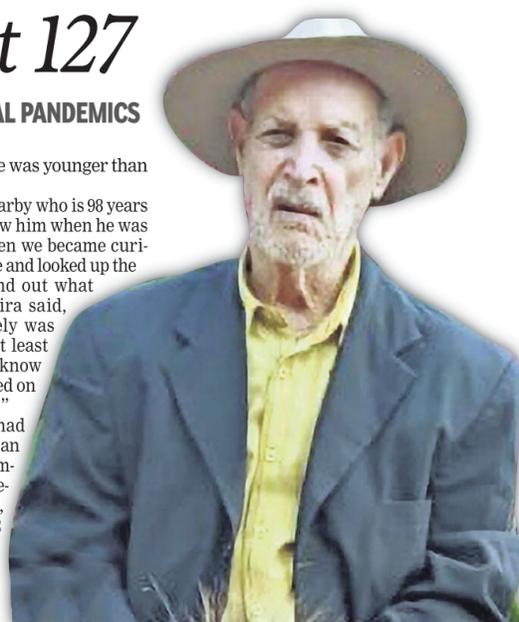
The current record holder, according to the Guinness World Records, is Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, who is 115. Records over Gomes's age, however, clash with previous records which state French woman Jeanne Calment to have been the oldest person to have lived, dying aged 122 in 1997. It's unclear whether his age will be looked into and verified by Guinness World Records.

Jose's granddaughter Eliane Ferreira said, "Here in the countryside, people are usually registered when they are older. There are several cases with incorrect documentation. But his docu-

mentation showed he was younger than he actually was."

"There is a lady nearby who is 98 years old. She says she knew him when he was just a boy. That's when we became curious to confirm his age and looked up the registry office to find out what was correct," Ferreira said, adding, "He definitely was over 100 years old, at least 110. Now we need to know how it will be recorded on the death certificate."

Widower Gomes had previously worked as an animal tamer, his family said. He leaves behind seven children, 25 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.



leisure



McCONAUGHEY UNDECIDED ON ENTRY INTO POLITICS

Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey is still undecided whether he wants to swap Hollywood for a career in politics. McConaughey, 53, has been getting more involved with politics in recent years following firing incidents in American schools.

ACTOR ANGUS CLOUD PASSES AWAY AT 25

American actor Angus Cloud, a fan favourite from *Euphoria* series, has passed away at the age of 25. "It is with the heaviest heart that we had to say goodbye to an artiste, a friend, a brother and a son," said his family.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
One more hectic day! Today you will be busy trying to figure out solutions to your problems, both at home and office. Your superiors give you some leeway and it will be quite a consolation, says Ganesh. Experienced people will give you highly esteemed advice.

TAURUS
This is a great day for showcasing your administrative and organizing abilities, says Ganesh. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superiors, partners and competitors and gaining their admiration and support.

GEMINI
You need to guard against hurting anyone's feelings because of your ill-temper or harsh language. You need to help others in their troubles. You ought to reflect on the toll that the troubles that have visited you have taken on you, and accordingly empathise with others, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Intimate friends will be impressed with your attitude. You will try to make them happy and spend a happy evening with them. Affection and cordial ties will linger for long and prove fruitful.

LEO
Your mind will be filled with conflicting emotions, says Ganesh. You will feel extreme happiness one moment, and then will be depressed the next. You need to guard against mood swings and find a balance to achieve success in your work today. Financial gains are indicated.

VIRGO
The remarkable manner in which you function at work will earn for you a lot of accolades and supporters. Your seniors will appreciate your dedication to work. There will be fun and entertainment in the evening. Ganesh says you can look forward to relaxing with some soft music.

LIBRA
Ganesh says governmental work will be beneficial today. Those of you who are officials in the government will be having a positive and good day ahead. Your family members will show their support for you and this is something that you will need from them. Children will progress in life. This is a good time to take important decisions.

SCORPIO
The stars are aligned in a way that they produce a constructively favourable day for you today, predicts Ganesh. You know the importance of a team and treat everyone - seniors & juniors as equals. This will make the work environment harmonious.

SAGITTARIUS
Your imagination knows no boundaries. Your kind heart is ready to forget and forgive the evil. As Ganesh puts it, this attitude will take you a long way! Charity and donation, too are on your mind today. You enjoy a benevolent time today.

CAPRICORN
Aren't you tired of doing the same thing again and again? Ganesh advises you to come out of your shell and breathe in some fresh air. Moving to a bigger and better house is on the cards for you, foretells Ganesh. It will take a major chunk out of your savings, but you are not complaining. You are not a spendthrift.

AQUARIUS
You are loaded with work, but you will be able to complete the pending assignments. It is, however, necessary that you keep on marching ahead otherwise your growth may become stagnant, advises Ganesh. Keep yourself guarded and watch the moves your opponents make to be prepared for any challenge.

PISCES
You will have no idea how time flies by today, while you struggle to complete an unceasing flow of tasks. You might end up missing out on the smaller details owing to your work load. Hence you need to concentrate on your daily routine.

Paresh Rawal walks down memory lane

Mumbai: Actor Paresh Rawal walks down the memory lane as his film, *Hungama*, completes 20 years since its release. "It's been two decades since the film released, and it makes me extremely happy and proud that the film is fondly remembered till date," Rawal says, adding, "It was a very different family entertainer which has today

turned out to be a cult movie. We had a lot of fun while working on the film, which was very well directed and written by Priyadarshan ji with good co-actors. But we never imagined that it would turn out to be a classic". Looking back at the experience of

shooting, the 68-year-old adds, "We were not shooting the project thinking it will turn out to be a hit, or will become timeless. We go to the set to give our 100 per cent with full honesty, and move on. It is the audience which makes the film hit, and in this cases a classic. It is their love which keeps the story and film alive in their hearts and minds for 20 years."

AGENCIES



Fatima: Struggle never ends in life

Mumbai: Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who made her debut alongside Aamir Khan and Sanya Malhotra in *Dangal*, in a recent interview, talks about coming from a low middle-class family and still living in a rented house.

In a recent interview, the *Ludo* actress said, "I come from a very low middle-class family. I come from a place where we used to live in a 1RK on the ground floor which was a parking basement turned into a house. So, it's been a process. I am proud of myself. It is not like I have purchased a house. I live in a rented house. At least I have crossed the milestones which I wanted to while I was struggling, and I am still struggling. This process never stops, and the struggle never ends."

She added, "You are constantly looking for good work and you are constantly fighting your own instinct - 'Should I work for money or wait.' So you also change according to your needs and wants."

Fatima further shared, "If I want to pay my bills and loans, I have to do the things I don't want to do. One has to work for survival. When you have luxury, enough financial safety, only then you can choose to do things that make you happy as an actor. But sometimes you don't have that choice."

AGENCIES



Pooja shares her lowest point in life

Mumbai: Actress-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt has said that her divorce was the lowest phase of her life, adding that she does not blame her former husband for their separation at all. She also recalled hitting the rock bottom before deciding to not give up on herself.

Speaking with Jiya recently on *Bigg Boss OTT 2*, Pooja said, "Frankly if you ask me Jiya, the lowest point of my life was when I divorced my husband of 11 years and it was totally my decision. I couldn't lie to myself as I didn't feel like continuing it."

The *Sadak* actress added, "I said that I wanted to live my life with comfort or keep my 10 to 11-year-old relationship, and my husband was not a bad person. Everything that was there between us was there. But then I thought that I had lost myself and it was not for somebody else or the betterment of life."

Pooja further said that it was her decision to get divorced, but breaking an 11-year-old relationship felt like death.

This was not the first time Pooja talked about her past marriage on Salman Khan's show. In June, she talked about her husband and called him a good human being. She added that she did not want kids at that time.

NATYADHARA - DAY 1



Artistes of Balasore-based theatre troupe Sova performed Odia play *Bisakumbha* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Written by Pradip Bhowmik and directed by Arnab Kumar Kar, the drama was about how a couple, in an interfaith marriage, battles the prevailing beliefs in the society. The three-day event is a collaboration of Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS), Culture Department and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi. ONS president Haren Sahoo, secretary Subhakanta Padhi and dramatist Nabin Parida were among the luminaries who attended the event.

When Taapsee was called unlucky charm

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu revealed how she was considered an unlucky charm at a point in her career because her films weren't doing well at the box office.

In an old interview, the *Judwaa 2* actress said, "Everyone started calling me an unlucky girl and an unlucky charm because a couple of my films in Telugu did not work. Honestly, I would not say that I thought a lot about these films before signing them, because I had no clue at the time."

Justifying her act, she continued, "I was signing films based on the credible names, which clearly did not work in my favour. What was a setback, according to me, was that I was blamed for a film not working, where all I had to do was three songs or five scenes. But I often used to think, why me? It was not so much that it bogged me down, but it made me take the control in my hands in terms of choosing what I wanted to do."

On the work front, Taapsee will be seen next in *Dunki*, *Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan*, *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba* and *Jana Gana Mana*.

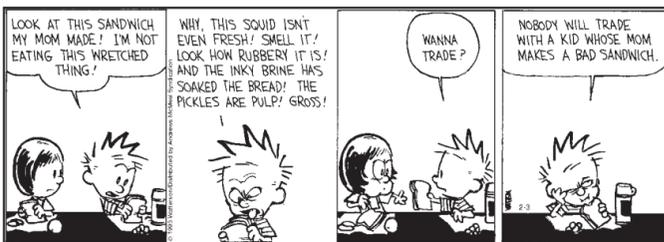
AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



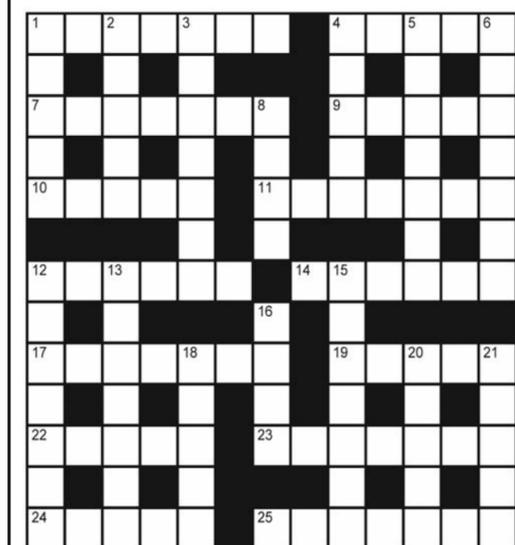
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



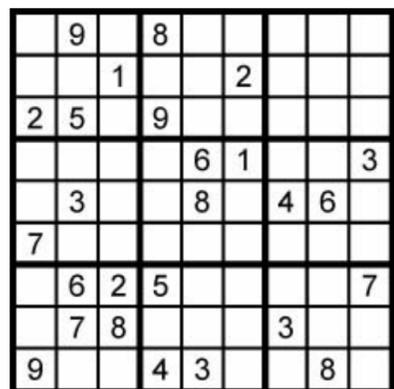
CROSSWORD



- Copyright © 2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
1 Keeps
4 Implied
7 Jam ingredients
9 Low-cut shoes
10 Yak's home
11 Springbok
12 Osculation
14 High points
17 Cocktail type
19 Theatre production
- Down**
22 Overtun
23 Strong and proud
24 Back street
25 Norsemen of old
5 Complicated
6 Wild boars
8 Heroic tale
12 Italian cordial
13 Wildcatter's workplace (3,4)
15 Racehorse area
16 Elliptical
18 Rum drink
20 Unearthly
21 Swears

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

downtown

State GST collection up by 16.26% in July

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Odisha has recorded a growth of 16.26 per cent in gross GST collection during July 2023 as compared to July 2022.

According to official sources, the state has collected gross GST revenue of ₹4,245.40 crore in July 2023 while it had collected ₹3,651.61 crore during the same month last year.

The progressive collection to be retained by the state (OGST+ IGST settlements combined) till July, 2023 stood at ₹7,225.25 crore against a collection of ₹6,058.27 crore till July last year, recording a growth of 19.26 per cent.

During July 2023, the state collected OGST and IGST (Integrated GST) Settlement to the tune of ₹1,716.49 crore. Similarly, the state GST or OGST collection during July '23 is standing at ₹1,300.33 crore against collection of ₹1,112.66 crore during July last year, with a growth of



16.87 per cent.

The progressive collection of OGST till July 2023 has been ₹5,511.69 crore, against that of ₹5,238.61 crore upto July last year, recording a growth of 5.21 per cent, officials said.

The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT and GST, Odisha, including GST/VAT/Entry Tax /Profession Tax has stood at ₹10,776.87 crore up to last

■ The progressive collection to be retained by the state (OGST+ IGST settlements combined) till July, 2023 stands at ₹7,225.25 crore against a collection of ₹6,058.27 crore till July last year, recording a growth of 19.26 per cent

■ Similarly, the state GST or OGST collection during July '23 is standing at ₹1,300.33 crore against collection of ₹1,112.66 crore during July last year, with a growth of 16.87 per cent

month as against collection of ₹9,563.01 crore up to July 2022 with a growth of 12.69 per cent.

During July 2023, 20.12 lakh of waybills have been generated vis-à-vis 15.68 lakh of waybills generated during July 2022 recording a growth of 28.31 per cent reflecting the buoyancy in the economic sector, officials said.

TRIPLE-TRAIN CRASH

29 bodies yet to be identified

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Two months have passed since the tragic triple train accident at Odisha's Balasore district, but 29 bodies recovered from the accident site are yet to be identified.

"All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar had received a total of 162 bodies in two phases, of which 133 have been handed over to their relatives and family members," said Dillip Kumar Parida, superintendent, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

Out of the total 81 unidentified bodies received by the national institute, 52 have been dispatched to their families, he said. "Due to multiple claimants and few other issues, 103 DNA samples of bodies and claimants were sent to New Delhi for matching. After DNA sample matching, the bodies have been handed over to the concerned family members with the help of railways," Parida said.

He said the 29 unidentified bodies are preserved in containers at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. The last phase DNA sampling reports are likely to be received in a week. The central government and the state government will decide what to do with the bodies, which will remain unclaimed after the last phase DNA report, he added.

At least 294 people were killed and over 700 injured during a triple-train crash near the Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Balasore district June 2 evening.

Last time champions vouch to repeat history

IGIT Sarang, Mothers' Public School teams ready to go for the kill



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 1: This fifth edition of Orissa POST Mettle Meet, the mega quiz competition of Eastern India at hotel Swosti Premium this Saturday & Sunday, will see 73 premier educational institutions of the state locking horns for the coveted honours.

Last time winners in Junior and Senior categories, Mothers Public School and Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology (IGIT) Sarang, respectively are gearing up to continue their winning streak this year too. Both teams are 'fully prepared' for the D-Day.

Rahul Patnaik, Sidharth Sahu, Jajati Keshari Sahoo and Swastik Om Kumar are representing IGIT Sarang in this year's edition, while Kabir Tripathy, Punyaslok Mishra, Shreya Shreerupa Sahoo and Sreyansh Panda are Mother's Public School's chosen ones in the Junior category.

During a candid discussion with Orissa POST, the participants spilled the beans about their strategy and preparation before going for the kill.

Jajati, pursuing his fourth year Civil engineering at IGIT Sarang, said all the team members are fully excited for the competition and are ready to win it

again. "We are watching previous year's videos and are also carrying out mock sessions for the quiz ahead," he said.

Siddharth, who is in his 4th year B.Tech, said the main rivals will be NIT Rourkela and AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Swastik said it is an honour to take part in the quiz. "We are eagerly waiting for the Day," he said.

IGIT team captain Rahul Patnaik said the team has a good chance to win it for the second time in a row. "We have prepared well and our seniors (last time winners) have mentored us. Orissa POST Mettle Meet is a grand competition for the state's top educational institution and winning the trophy second time is going to be a big task for us," he stated.

Junior category participant from last time winner, Mothers' Public School, Shreyansh, from Class X, said the team members' past experience of participating in quiz competitions will come handy in managing pressure this time.

Team Captain Punyashlok, also in Class X, said participating in competition like Orissa POST 'Mettle Meet' is in itself a great experience. "It's a great way to gather knowledge and we are excited that it is back. DAV and Loyola are going to be our tough rivals," he said.

Shreya, who is in Class XII, said the team members are reading books and newspaper regularly and also watching previous year's videos to acclimatize themselves for pressure situations. Mettle Meet was launched by Odisha's only home grown English daily Orissa POST in 2016 with a view to revive the art of quizzing in the state. It is hosting its fifth edition this year after a gap of three years owing to the disruptions caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

CB officer for hotel cybercrime complaints

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Amidst the rising incidents of cyber fraud hitting the hotel industry, the Crime Branch (CB) of state police and Odisha Hotel & Restaurants Association of Odisha (HRAO) have decided to appoint separate nodal officers to establish better cooperation between police and hotels for information sharing and prompt action against cyber criminals.

The decision was taken during a meeting between senior CB officials and office bearers HRAO at the Cyber Complex here Tuesday.

The HRAO will appoint 2-3 professionals having technical expertise while a dedicated CB official will work as nodal officer for better coordination and detection of cyber-crime cases, it was decided.

This apart, hotel authorities will also be trained by the police to tackle cyber-crime activities in hotel industry.

"During the meeting it was decided to appoint nodal officers from both sides for prompt flow of information and swift action on the part of police. CID-CB will organise training session for hotel staff to update them about handling such cases and help-



The HRAO will appoint 2-3 professionals having technical expertise while a dedicated CB official will work as nodal officer for better coordination and detection of cybercrime cases

ing the tourists," informed CB sources.

The CB officials also urged the HRAO to inform police whenever they come across any cyber fraud incident concerning hotel room booking at the earliest for necessary legal action. The HRAO members were asked to sensitise tourists regarding the fraud during online booking.

The CB sought cooperation of hotel owners for better handling of such cases as many tourists who were cheated during online booking through fake websites rarely lodge any complaint with the police. Only two such cases relating to cyber fraud in hotel booking concerning two leading hotels of Odisha have been registered at the Cyber police station.

"It was ascertained that those two were not isolated incidents. There have been some more reported/ non-reported occurrences over a period of time," CB sources added.

The meeting chaired by CB-CID Additional DG Arun Bothra was attended by Shefeen Ahmed K IGP CB, and others. JK Mohanty and Jonathan Raul, chairman and vice-chairman of HRAO, along with others participated in the meeting.

Notably, the HRAO had recently sought intervention of the state government over the harassment caused to hoteliers and tourists during investigation of cyber offences. The HRAO alleged that cyber criminals are creating false websites in the name of various hotels and collecting money by confirming rooms without the knowledge of the real hotel management.

WOMEN POWER

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik interacted with Mission Shakti women self-help group members at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



JOB ASPIRANTS PROTEST OVER PAPER LEAK

Bhubaneswar: Scores of job aspirants for the posts notified by Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) Tuesday staged a demonstration here alleging large-scale corruption in conduct of examinations by the commission. The agitating candidates demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the 'question paper leak' incident and transparency in conduct of the examinations by the

OSSC. Resentment among the aspirants brewed as the OSSC July 23 cancelled the JE (Civil) Main written examination that was held July 16 and rescheduled it for September 3 following the confirmation by Balasore SP about the question paper leak. After that, scores of aspirants for the posts of ULB accountants staged a demonstration in front of their examination centre at Bhadrak Autonomous College July 30 alleging

'question paper leak'. The aspirants claimed that the question papers were leaked as they had noticed that the seal of the papers had been broken before the commencement of the examination. This also added to their resentment, the source added. One of the protesting aspirants alleged that government jobs are being sold out. He stated that there should be transparency in conduct of examinations by OSSC.

Prelims 5 August 10 AM Onwards **Grand Finale 6 August 2 PM Onwards**

JUNIOR CATEGORY	SENIOR CATEGORY
Apeejay School (Bhubaneswar)	AIIMS (Bhubaneswar)
Aryavart Ancient Academy (Puri)	ASBM University (Bhubaneswar)
Bhubaneswar Model Public School	Balanga College (Puri)
Blessed Sacrament High School (Puri)	BIITM (Bhubaneswar)
Buxi Jagabandhu EM School (Bhubaneswar)	BJB Autonomous College (Bhubaneswar)
DAV Public School (Burla)	Centurion University (Bhubaneswar)
DAV Public School (CDA)	Christ College (Cuttack)
DAV Public School (Rourkela)	College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry (Bhubaneswar)
DAV Public School Unit-VIII (Bhubaneswar)	DAV School of Business Management (Bhubaneswar)
DAV SCB Medical Public School (Cuttack)	Hi Tech Dental College & Hospital (Bhubaneswar)
DAV Public School (Kalinganagar)	IGIT (Sarang)
DAV Public School (Pokhariput)	IHM (Bhubaneswar)
Deepika EM School (Rourkela)	IISER (Berhampur)
Delhi Public School (Dhenkanal)	IIT (Bhubaneswar)
Delhi Public School (Kalinga)	IMS & SUM Hospital (Bhubaneswar)
Delhi Public School (Rourkela)	KIIT University (Bhubaneswar)
Doon International School (Bhubaneswar)	MITS School of Biotechnology (Bhubaneswar)
GD Goenka Public School (Bhubaneswar)	National Law University (Cuttack)
Kendriya Vidyalaya No 3 (Bhubaneswar)	NISER (Khurda)
Kendriya Vidyalaya No 4 (Bhubaneswar)	NIST (Berhampur)
Kendriya Vidyalaya No 5 (Bhubaneswar)	NIT (Rourkela)
KIIT International School (Bhubaneswar)	OUTR (Bhubaneswar)
Loyola School (Bhubaneswar)	Rajdhani Engineering College (Bhubaneswar)
Montfort School (Dhenkanal)	Rama Devi Women's University (Bhubaneswar)
Mothers Public School (Bhubaneswar)	Ravenshaw University (Cuttack)
ODM Public School (Bhubaneswar)	Regional College of Management (Bhubaneswar)
ODM Global School (Bhubaneswar)	Salipur Autonomous College (Cuttack)
Prabhujee EM School (Bhubaneswar)	SCB Medical College & Hospital (Cuttack)
Rama Devi Jr College (Bhubaneswar)	Silicon Institute of Technology (Bhubaneswar)
Ravenshaw Jr College (Cuttack)	Stewart Science College (Cuttack)
Rotary Public School (Angul)	VIMSAR (Burla)
Ruchika High School (Bhubaneswar)	XIMB (Bhubaneswar)
SAI International School (Bhubaneswar)	
Sainik School (Bhubaneswar)	
Stewart School (Bhubaneswar)	
Stewart School (Cuttack)	
Sunshine Mission School (Bhadrak)	
St Xavier's School (Dhenkanal)	
St Paul's School (Rourkela)	
Times Scholars Gurukul (Bhubaneswar)	
Vikash Residential School (Bhubaneswar)	

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NEW BEGINNING: Freshers attend an induction programme at Ravenshaw Junior College in Cuttack, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Man held for duping job aspirants of ₹1cr

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Odisha Police has arrested a man for duping over 100 youths of over ₹1 crore by assuring them jobs at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Niteigaura Barik, 30, was arrested in connection with a case registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by Duleswar Sahu, 23, of Bargarh district.

Barik, who hails from Bolangir district, had collected the whopping amount of money from youths belonging to Bargarh, Subarnapur, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts and handed them fake appointment letters of BSNL without conducting any examination, said Tapan Mohanty, additional superintendent of police (ASP), Bargarh.

The accused had opened two fake Facebook accounts (one in the name of S Pradhan posing as an AGM and another one in the name of Gyanendra Barik posing him as DGM) and was chatting with different persons and inducing them to join in BSNL without any test, he said.

When the victims came to know that the appointment letters were fake, they demanded



MODUS OPERANDI

The accused had opened two fake Facebook accounts - one in the name of S Pradhan posing as an AGM and another one in the name of Gyanendra Barik posing him as DGM - and was chatting with different persons and inducing them to join in BSNL without any test

When the victims came to know that the appointment letters were fake, they demanded the accused to return their money

the accused to return their money. But, instead of returning their money, Barik handed over blank signed cheques to them.

The cheques bounced due to lack of funds, the ASP said.

Mohanty said the accused had been involved in the fraud for the last around seven years and was on the run since 2017. After getting the complaint,

three special teams were formed and due to swift and effective action of Bargarh police, Barik was apprehended with some fictitious documents pertaining to this case.

The police recovered cash worth ₹13,550, two fake IDs, cheque books, fake appointment letters, a diary containing names of the victims from his possession.

CityAIIMS hosts 1st-ever IR conference

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY (IR) PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR TREATMENT OF COMPLEX DISEASES

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Interventional Radiology (IR) plays a significant role in transforming patient care for serious diseases, internationally renowned Interventional Radiologist Mathew Chierian, said

He was addressing students at the first-ever hands-on conference on IR, titled 'AIRADCON', in Odisha organised by the department of Radio diagnosis in AIIMS Bhubaneswar, recently. Chierian said the conference aims to promote the adoption of best IR practices in the state to enhance the quality of life for the patients.

The two days conference, held on July 29 and 30, aimed at advancing patient care through the implementation of best IR practices. The conference focused on cutting-edge treatment



modalities for liver cancer treatment, liver cirrhosis treatment as well as varicose vein, aortic aneurysm and peripheral arterial disease treatment.

With collaborative support from ISVIR (Indian society of vascular and interventional radiology) and ORIA (Odisha radiology and imaging association), the conference saw the congregation of renowned experts, healthcare professionals and researchers in the field to exchange knowledge and experience.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas welcoming the delegates appreciated the efforts of the

organisers for the innovative conference.

S.N Mohanty, DMET Odisha in his address assured to take IR to state govt medical colleges. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Dean P R Mohapatra and other dignitaries also attended the programme.

Earlier, to avail the various procedures of IR, people used to either pay high price in private hospitals or go outside the state. In recent years, the Radiology department of AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been able to cater such cutting-edge diagnostics and interventional procedures for critical diseases with the help of budding faculty members.

Paperless, fast track courts inaugurated

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, August 1: As many as 57 paperless courts and 4 newly established fast track special courts (FTSCs) were inaugurated Tuesday at Cuttack, Puri, Jajpur and Bhubaneswar to deal with cases under POCSO Act and rape cases. The courts were inaugurated in virtual mode by Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar.

"57 paperless courts in the third phase is yet another milestone crossed by the Odisha judiciary and this is a work in progress," the Chief Justice said.

He said, as preparatory to the paperless courts, digitization of pending as well as disposed of records in the districts has been taken up in the District Court Digitization Hubs and training has been imparted to judicial officers and other stakeholders across the state by the master-trainer judicial officers and the technical team headed by the Central Project Coordinator.

He complemented the master-trainer judicial officers in effective implementation of e-initiatives in district judiciary. Calling paperless court a citizen-centric measure, the Chief Justice emphasised on the impact of paperless court on the reconfiguration of space and the whole architecture and atmosphere of the courts.

He informed that while Ganjam was the first district where all the courts in its headquarters had become paperless, Khurda now became the second district to achieve the rare feat with all the courts at Bhubaneswar going paperless. He added, the High Court would be completely paperless in both administrative and judicial side very soon and it would be replicated in the districts.

Speaking on the establishment of 4 new Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) the Chief Justice said it is a move to ensure timely justice to the rape victims and urged the retired judicial officers to work towards fulfilling the expectations of the litigants waiting in courts for justice.

Meritorious students feted by DPS Kalinga

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: DPS Kalinga held a programme on its premises Tuesday to felicitate the meritorious students of Class X and XII. Over 200 students were awarded trophies, medals and certificates for their commendable performance in the Board Examination 2023.

The chief guest K Srinivasa, Regional Officer, CBSE Bhubaneswar Region felicitated the students for their outstanding achievement in the Board Examinations. While addressing them, he stressed on the importance of humility, hard work, sacrifice and perseverance to achieve great success in life.

He acknowledged the contribution of parents and teachers and appreciated DPS Kalinga for adopting a holistic approach towards development of students.

Principal Anuradha Rakshit and Executive Trustee of the school Sunaina Patro congratulated the meritorious students and their parents for the former's academic success.



Principal Anuradha Rakshit and Executive Trustee of the school Sunaina Patro congratulated the meritorious students and their parents for the former's academic success.

With Saora in 8th Schedule, tribal illiteracy to go down

THE EFFORTS TO LAUNCH TEXTBOOKS IN SAORA IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS WILL HELP TRIBAL CHILDREN LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE FORMALLY WHICH WILL REDUCE THE DROPOUT RATES LEADING EVENTUALLY TO REDUCTION OF TRIBAL ILLITERACY, SAY EXPERTS

Odisha is known for its diverse tribal population and is home to 62 tribes, including 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups. Approximately 23 per cent of its population speaks 21 tribal languages encompassing 74 dialects.

In June, the Odisha Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recommended the proposal for the inclusion of the Saora, a tribal language, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

"It will create an eco-system to facilitate research and studies anchored around preservation, promotion and propagation of the tribal language. Besides, activities such as publication, content creation and recognition will get momentum," Scheduled Caste

and Tribes Development Minister Jagannath Saraka told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

New languages were added to the Eighth Schedule in 2004 also. Santhali, Maithili, Bodo, and Dogri were added to the list then.

In the hilly tracts of southern Odisha, the language holds prominence, with at least five lakh tribals speaking it, making it one of the most significant languages in the region, even as the younger population seems to be moving away from their traditional language.

Laxman Sabar (29) of Dharapur village says the younger generation is unfamiliar with writing the tribal script. "Only about 30 per cent can write the language fluently while all tribal people speak this language

change is if the language is propagated with the government and community help," says Anusuya Gomango of Gumunda Pakka village. There are efforts to launch textbooks in the Saora language in government schools. Sabar of Soura Rella village says the new efforts will help tribal children learn their language in school.

Brundaban Sabar of Perupango village says dropout rates will decrease, which will help in reduction of tribal illiteracy. "Thus education will be easy for tribal children if every subject textbook will be published in their script. It will help in preservation and promotion of tribal culture," he adds.

However, the fight for prominence is not new for the Saora



language," says Prasad Sabar of Sandhikhola. According to Falguni Sabar, a researcher from Gunpur, the lack of popularity also means that many tribal children drop out of school. "The only way this will

change is if the language is propagated with the government and community help," says Anusuya Gomango of Gumunda Pakka village.

There are efforts to launch textbooks in the Saora language in government schools. Sabar of Soura Rella village says the new efforts will help tribal children learn their language in school.

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However, the fight for prominence is not new for the Saora

language. A peek into history The Saora language belongs to the Austroasiatic language family and is primarily spoken by the Saora tribal community.

"Saora is one of the oldest tribes in India and is also known by different names Savaras, Sabaras, Saura and Soura. Saoras belong to a primitive tribal group and stay in parts of Rayagada, Gajapati and other parts of Odisha, numbering somewhere around 10 lakh," says researcher Akhyaya Sabar.

Mangei Gomango of Marichaguda near Gunpur discovered the Sorang Sompeng script. The script has been passed down through generations within the community, its origins deeply rooted in cultural history.

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Kandhamal turmeric farmers left high & dry



antioxidant properties which are effective treatment for a variety of skin conditions and stomach related ailments.

The curcumin present in the turmeric has the capacity to prevent dreaded diseases like cancer. The turmeric is manufactured, processed and marketed by Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM).

The outfit has opened a small sales centre in Daringbadi and is selling the product. Tourists from in and outside of the state have a huge crush for Kandhamal turmeric. They never forget to buy it when they visit Daringbadi.

A handful of women self-help groups are processing the harvested turmeric and selling it in various fairs and tourist sites and earning handsome money. However, the farmers engaged in turmeric cultivation are always at the receiving end. They often resort to distress sale and sell it to middlemen and traders at throwaway prices due to lack of processing facilities and incentives for them by the state government.

Although the farmers have been demanding establishment of turmeric processing units, execution of MSP for turmeric and loan facilities for cultivation, their pleas are yet to be heeded.

The farmers have harvested the crop in December and incurred a loss of Rs 40-50 per kg of turmeric while the traders who had hoarded it are now making hay.

Farmers claimed that they can be benefited if the state government implements the MSP for turmeric.

Sources said turmeric cultivated in Kandhamal district has been grown in this region for centuries by the tribals. The cultivation methodology adopted by the tribals is organic and environmentally resilient having high productivity. The turmeric grown here has very high curcumin content which is rich in anti-oxidant.

The turmeric is grown here in organic method. It has anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, August 1: Non-execution of minimum support price (MSP) and lack of incentives have pushed the turmeric farmers in Kandhamal district to the brink as traders and middlemen make hay at their cost, a report said.

The issue has gained momentum after the price of world-famous Kandhamal turmeric witnessed a rise after a gap of 13 years.

Dry turmeric is reported to be sold at Rs 100 per kg in retail market of the district. Traders apprehend that the price of turmeric might rise further in coming days and have started hoarding the golden yellow spice. However, farmers continue to incur losses.

Deity's shifting pains Dunguripali villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, August 1: An atmosphere filled with emotion and agony gripped the entire Gadashankar Dunguripali village in Bolangir district recently when the idol of Lord Jagannath was shifted from the 400-year-old temple to a makeshift camp as administration began an eviction drive for Lower Suktel mega irrigation project, as per a report.

Earlier, everything was fine for the residents of Gadashankar Dunguripali village which was full of activities. There were lines of houses, a school and farmlands. And the village had a Jagannath temple as well. In case of any problems, the villagers would rush to the temple to share their sorrows with the deity.



Chief priest Rama Prasad Chand used to perform rituals for Lord Jagannath and the village deities Barghaten and Kandhenbudhi in the presence of the villagers.

However, the villagers were forced to shift to elsewhere after the first floodwater of the year was conserved in the dam whose construction has reached the last leg. Barghaten-

Kandhenbudhi shrine has been inundated due to ingress of the dam's backwaters.

The villagers hugged each other and were in tears while relocating their presiding deity Lord Jagannath and the two village deities.

The administration intensified eviction drive at Gadashankar Dunguripali and Banchhorpal after the dam work

neared completion.

The villagers have been displaced as the area would be submerged once the dam construction gets completed. The grief-stricken villagers took the idol of Lord Jagannath in a procession to the temporary camp. With tears were rolling down from her eyes, a displaced villager Sunita Pradhan said that their village was like heaven and they were living happily there.

Sub-collector Kumar Nagbhusan assisted by sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Tophan Bag monitored the eviction under the direct supervision of Collector Chanchal Rana.

The villagers have requested the administration to construct a temple for Lord Jagannath and make arrangements for all the rituals.

Bhitarkanika reopens for tourists



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, August 1: After remaining out of bounds for tourists for three months, Bhitarkanika National Park reopened Tuesday.

The park was closed for the annual census of estuarine crocodiles from May 1 to July 31.

The park will allow day visitors and night stay in cottages and guest houses, said divisional forest officer of Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav.

Tourists and visitors intending to visit Bhitarkanika should log on to www.ecotourindia.com

this period. Boat journeys along the mangrove-covered waterbodies are a major attraction for tourists and on any given day, 350 to 400 visitors make trips by boats.

Bhitarkanika is home to 70 per cent of India's estuarine crocodile or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started in 1975.

According to Bhitarkanika National Park authorities, mammals found in the place are leopard, wild boar, jungle cat, fishing

cat, hyena, sambar, striped palm squirrel, gangetic dolphin while reptiles found comprise turtles including Olive Ridley sea turtle, crocodile, lizard, water monitors, python, and king cobra. Around 166 species of birds have been spotted in the park.

Bhitarkanika is one of the richest storehouses of mangrove genes. Researchers have come across 11 of the 70 mangrove species, which were facing threat of extinction in the world, in the national park.

Culvert collapse: Three engineers suspended

Rayagada: The state government Tuesday suspended three engineers of Rayagada Rural Development department after five persons were killed when an under-construction culvert collapsed at Uparsaja village under Kalyansinghpur block of the district Monday. The suspended engineers are: Executive engineer Pradip Kumar Mohanty, assistant executive engineer Venkat Raman Muduli and junior engineer Rajesh Kumar Mandal of Rayagada RD department. Five persons including four minors were killed after the under-construction culvert over a nullah collapsed on them while they were bathing. Among them, two persons were a man and his minor son and another two were siblings. The deceased were identified as Lachendra Miniaka, 50, his son Prince Miniaka, 4, two siblings Charan Miniaka, 8, and Suman Miniaka, 5, and another child Manok Kulesika, 5, of the area. Sources said Charan and Suman had recently lost their father. Heartbroken, their mother tried to commit suicide by consuming poison. She was rescued and admitted to the Kalyansinghpur Community Health Centre.

New production record by NPM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, August 1: By rolling 346 slabs weighing 5,000 tonne and 4,500 tonne of plates, a new single day record was set by the state-of-the-art new plate mill (NPM) of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) July 30.

The previous record of rolling of 4,786 tonne of slabs and producing 4,297 tonne of plates was achieved February 10, 2019. The new single-day record includes best shift rolling of 1,792 tonne in 'B' shift July 30.

Atanu Bhowmick, Director in Charge, RSP conveyed his congratulations to the NPM team and all associated departments for their superlative performance through a message. He also urged them to continue raising the benchmark with consistent performances in the days to come.

SR Suryawanshi, ED (Works) visited NPM July 31 and presented bouquets and sweets to the collective for the record-breaking performance. Highly appreciating the efforts of NPM as well as all associated units, he urged them to continue to excel and achieve the ABP targets with extra focus on seamless despatch of the saleable steel. Kartikya Behera, CGM (NPM & SPP) thanked the management and all associated departments for their unflinching support.

The 4.3-metre wide ultra-modern NPM of RSP produces a wide range of plates.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 18-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24

NAME OF WORK : OUTSOURCING OF DATA ENTRY OPERATORS FOR OHE DEPOTS, PSI DEPOTS, RRD/KHURDA ROAD, RRD/VEHICLE/KHURDA ROAD IN THE OFFICES OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD / LICHOA PURAM, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD/TALCHER, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD / CUTTACK, DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD / JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD AND DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD / KENDUJHARGARH AND IN THE OFFICE OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / TRD/KHURDA ROAD FOR THREE YEARS.

Advertised Value (₹) : 3,59,09,353.35, EMD (₹) : 3,29,600.00, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 11,800/-, Period of Completion : 1095 Days.

Bidding Start Date : 02.08.2023, Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 1300 Hrs. of 16.08.2023.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-405/O/23-24, Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

1) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-26, Dt. 26.07.2023

NAME OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEM OF SIEMENS MAKE AT 03 (THREE) STATIONS i.e. LAPANGA (LPG), THERUVALI (THV) & RENGALI (RGL) STATION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR 03 (THREE) YEARS.

Tender Value in (₹) : 80,70,972.00, EMD (₹) : 1,61,400/-, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 5,900/-.

2) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-27, Dt. 26.07.2023

NAME OF WORK : TELECOM ZONAL WORK IN THE CONTROL SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TELECOM / L / SAMBALPUR, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TELECOM / BALANGIR, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER / TELECOM / RAIRAKHOL OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.

Tender Value in (₹) : 80,04,630.00, EMD (₹) : 1,60,100/-.

Date and time of closing of Tender: At 1100 Hrs. of 17.08.2023 (for both the tenders).

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) / Sambalpur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Pramila Nanda, W/o. Late Sanjaya Kumar Nanda, A/P.O.: Kandhal, P.S.: Talcher Sadar, Dist.: Angul has sworn an affidavit on Dt.21.07.2023 and has reported to LIC, Town P.S., Angul on Dt.21.07.2023 regarding loss of original link Regd. Sale Deed No. 1779, Vol-106, Dt.01.08.2003 of Registering Officer, Angul.

Pramila Nanda, W/o. Late Sanjaya Kumar Nanda has applied to the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Angul to avail loan on the above property by mortgaging the said property documents. All concerned therefore, having any claim over the property purchased under the said document Regd. Sale Deed No. 1779, Vol-106, Dt.01.08.2003 of Registering Officer, Angul is required to file his claim with the undersigned within 15(Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said document/s is/are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgagor and the company as the mortgagee shall be void and in effect after the lapse of 15(Fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Angul Dt.01.08.2023 (A.K. Muduli), Advocate LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Sai Vihar, Bhandubar, Canal Road, Angul, Mobile No.: 9437121786

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I, Mamata Sahoo, aged about 38 years, W/o Siva Sankar Sahoo of Kusupur, P.S.- Mahanga, Cuttack do hereby like to inform you that I have purchased some landed property with support below interim sale deed and the original interim sale deed was kept in one file. (1) Deed No.- 10501503073 Dt.19.10.2015, (2) 10501502923 Dt. 03.10.2015, (3) 10501502922 Dt.03.10.2015, (4) 10501502951 Dt.03.10.2015, (5) 105011010688 Dt.04.11.2011, (6) 10501207324 Dt.05.12.2012, (7) 10501106377 Dt.30.09.2011, (8) 10501306305 Dt.23.10.2013, (9) 10501502920 Dt.03.10.2015, (10) 10502203688 Dt.27.07.2022 that the original sale deed and other documents which I have kept in a bag was lost somewhere while I was travelling by bike from Balichandrapur to Chandikhole on dated 25.07.2023. I have tried my label best to trace it out but it was beyond of recovery. If anybody found please inform in the above address & Mobile No.: 9437268205, 8018647205.

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK POSSESSION NOTICE

(Sponsored by State Bank of India) Regional Business Office: Region-V, Bhawanipatna-766001, Dist.: Kalahandi, Email: ro.bhawanipatna@ukgb.in

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Utkal Grameen Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act. calling upon the Borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the said properties will be subject to the charge of the Utkal Grameen Bank for the amount stated below with interest, cost and incidental expenses thereon.

BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Liabilities due on the specified date as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Possession Notice
RAIGHAR BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Bijay Dhal, S/o.: Sri Thakur Das Dhal, At/P.O.: Raighar, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN-764074 / Guarantors: 1) Sri Bhajan Mandal, S/o.: Sri Atul Mandal, At/PO.: Raighar, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN-764074, 2) Sri Sushil Kumar Burman, S/o.: Late Dhalarum Burman, At: Kumuli DNK, PO.: Kumuli, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN-764074	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Dhodrapara, Tahasil: Raighar, Khata No.: 42/233, Plot No.: 167/289, Area: Ac.0.50 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Bijay Dhal	₹ 7,63,524/- as on 27.07.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	16.01.2019 / 27.07.2023
RAIGHAR BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Sasadhar Mandal, S/o.: Sri Sirish Ch. Mandal / Guarantors: 1) Sri Suresh Pandey, 2) Sri Adhir Saha, all are At: Sonepur DNK, PO.: Sonepur, Dist.: Nabarangpur, PIN-764074	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Raighar, Khata No.: 90/1034, Plot No.: 472/905/1252, Area: Ac.0.01 Dec, Plot No.: 472/905/1253, Area: Ac.0.02 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Sasadhar Mandal	₹ 8,92,341/- as on 26.07.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	21.12.2015 / 27.07.2023
BADAKUTRU BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Manoj Kumar Swain, S/o.: Late Prahallada Swain / Guarantor: Smt. Sashikanta Swain alias Sashidei Swain, W/o.: Late Prahallada Swain, both are At/P.O.: Badakutru, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766018	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Badakutru, Tahasil: Jaipatna, Khata No.: 46, Plot No.: 274, Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Manoj Kumar Swain	₹ 5,80,308/- as on 01.08.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	13.01.2023 / 01.08.2023
BADAKUTRU BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Srihari Chhatra, S/o.: Sadhu Chhatra, At/P.O.: Badkutru, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766018 / Guarantors: 1) Sri Chaitanya Chhatra, S/o.: Sri Krishna Chhatra, 2) Sri Tularam Bandichhod, S/o.: Rabi Bandichhod, both are At: Sankutru, P.O.: Badkutru, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766018,	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Badakutru, Khata No.: 1/33, Plot No.: 27, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec, KISSAM: Atta Mamuli (used for residential purpose), in the name of Sri Srihari Chhatra, vide Lease Deed, Dt: 12.07.2005	₹ 7,08,299/- as on 01.08.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	13.01.2023 / 01.08.2023
NANDOL BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Kartik Sahu, S/o.: Sri Garuda Sahu / Guarantor: Sri Garuda Sahu, S/o.: Mukunda Sahu, both are At: Badaldei, P.O.: Nandol, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766003	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Badaldei, Tahasil: Junagarh, Khata No.: 29, Plot No.: 464/1457, Area: Ac.0.32 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Kartik Sahu	₹ 2,53,728/- as on 01.08.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	13.01.2023 / 01.08.2023
CHICHEIGUDA BRANCH / Borrower: Sri Giridhari Behera, S/o.: Sri Mangnia Harijan / Guarantor: Sri Mangnia Harijan, S/o.: Late Niranjan Harijan, both area At: Masigaon, P.O.: Talmaia, Dist.: Kalahandi, PIN - 766014	All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Mouza: Masigaon, Tahasil: Junagarh, Khata No.: 189, Plot No.: 58, Area: Ac.0.10 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Mangnia Harijan, S/o.: Late Niranjan Harijan	₹ 4,59,249/- as on 01.08.2023 + interest & expenses thereon	01.12.2022 / 01.08.2023

Place: Bhawanipatna Date: 01.08.2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer Utkal Grameen Bank

NTPC is looking for Solar-Thermal Technology Professional

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated energy company with installed capacity of 73,024 MW. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032.

NTPC is looking for experienced professional in the area of Solar-Thermal Technology on Fixed Term Basis as per details given below:

Qualification: B.E./B. Tech in Mechanical/ Electrical discipline with at least 60% marks from recognized University/Institute.

Experience Requirement: Minimum 5 years of post-qualification experience in Solar-Thermal based application/utilities/power plants in area of resource assessment, site selection, feasibility studies, process design, engineering, erection & commissioning. Candidates with M. Tech in Energy studies/ Renewables/Thermal/ Design will be preferred.

How to Apply: Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website careers.ntpc.co.in or visit careers section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, age limit, remunerations, tenure of engagement, other terms & conditions and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. The online application portal will remain open from 02.08.2023 to 16.08.2023. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Leading the Power Sector

Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003.
Website: www.ntpc.co.in, CIN: L40101DL1975G0007966
Mail: hr@ntpc.co.in, recruitment@ntpc.co.in

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION No. 1, CUTTACK

E-Mail ID: epwddcuttack@gmail.com, Tel./Fax No.: (0671) 2304128

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ('e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. - S.E. CTC(R&B)-15 of 2023-24

TENDER CALL NOTICE

1. The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No. 1, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in **Single Cover System** in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Road works as mentioned below.

2. No. of Work : 1 No
3. Nature of Work : Road Work
4. Class of Contractor : 'B' Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.6000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid documents : From 03.08.2023 to 5 P.M. of 17.08.2023
7. Date of Opening of Bid : 11 A.M. of 18.08.2023
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./-(E. P.K. Majhi)
Superintending Engineer
Cuttack (R&B) Division No.-1

OIPR-34091/11/0013/2324

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, MALKANGIRI

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. ITDAMKG-05/2023-24

The Project Administrator, ITDA, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids through Online Mode in Double Cover System for the type of works given in the table, from the eligible contractors of Class (B & A Class) or of equivalent range registered with the State Governments and Central Government/MES/Railways for execution of Building Work. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. The successful bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing of the agreement. The bid should be submitted only online on the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Name/Type of Works	Const. of 100 seated Composite Urban Modern Hostel & 120 seated Girls Hostel at Malkangiri Headquarter and Khairput Block
No. of Works	04 Nos. (Four)
Amount put to Tender	As laid down the DTCN
Tender paper cost	As laid down the DTCN
E.M.D. Amount Required	As laid down the DTCN
Period of Completion	As laid down the DTCN for each work
Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 3.00 P.M. of 01.08.2023 to 19.08.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.
Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	From 3.00 P.M. of 01.08.2023 to 19.08.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.
Last date/time for submission of paper cost & other documents	From 10.00 A.M. of 21.08.2023 to 23.08.2023 upto 5.30 P.M. (During office hours in working days) in the tender box kept at ITDA through Registered Post
Date of Opening of Tender	24.08.2023 (At 11.00 A.M.)

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Project Administrator
ITDA, Malkangiri

FOCUS GLOBAL WARMING

ASIA'S NET-ZERO TRANSITION



While the scientific and policy consensus is that cutting greenhouse-gas emissions is the only way to avert climate catastrophe, the impact of emission cuts on Asia's economies remains uncertain

Asian countries' ability to thrive in the world economy over the next few decades hinges on their capacity to sustain their competitive advantages through continuous innovation. But to meet their commitments under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the region's economies must overhaul their production, consumption, and resource-allocation strategies, potentially postponing the long-anticipated "Asian century."

With the latest Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change report showing that global warming is on track to rise 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels within the next decade, the urgent need to accelerate efforts to mitigate climate change has moved to the forefront of the international policy debate.

In March, shortly after the United Nations warned that the "climate time bomb is ticking," a gathering of central bank governors from member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) underscored the importance of aligning national policies to support the green transition. Two weeks later, the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund focused on the need to reform global institutions to address the climate threat. And at the end of April, more than 100 central bankers and regulators convened in Singapore to explore ways to reach the annual target of \$9.2 trillion in green investments required to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Amid conflicting domestic and global priorities, varying levels of climate-risk awareness, and a dearth of comprehensive climate data, the policy debate has been shaped by countries that are better equipped to manage the effects of climate change. Consequently, while the scientific and policy consensus is that cutting greenhouse-gas emissions is the only way to avert climate catastrophe, the impact of emission cuts on Asia's economies remains uncertain.

There are two main approaches to cutting emissions:

reducing economic activity to lower energy demand and implementing industry-specific measures to mitigate emissions. It is easy to see why the first option, which means accepting slower economic growth, is a non-starter for many emerging and developing economies. But with fossil fuels accounting for more than 80% of energy use in China, Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN countries – collectively known as ASEAN+3 – the second path would have profound economic implications as well.

The most likely shock would be an increase in the cost of living. To discourage the use of fossil fuels, governments must make them more expensive, starting with the elimination of the energy subsidies that played a crucial role in supporting consumer spending across the region during the energy price shocks of early 2022.

But even if ASEAN+3 policymakers resist domestic calls to impose a carbon tax, they may be compelled to act, owing to rapidly shifting climate policies elsewhere, such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which imposes tariffs on carbon-intensive imports. Either way, Asian exporters will face higher production costs and could be at risk of losing their long-established positions in global trade and supply chains.

Moreover, reducing greenhouse-gas emissions would require the retirement of many of the region's coal-fired power

plants well before they reach even half of their projected lifespan. On average, coal power plants have an operating life of roughly 55 years. While early retirement may not present significant challenges in Europe and the United States, where the average age of a coal-fired plant is about 34 and 41 years, respectively, the average coal plant in ASEAN+3 countries is just 11 years old.

In addition to its significant costs, retiring coal-fired power plants could disrupt livelihoods and communities across the region. To mitigate the adverse socio-economic effects of this shift, Asian policymakers must ensure a just transition that considers the impact on affected communities. But, given the potential impact of the net-zero transition on ASEAN+3 countries' finances, energy prices, and exports, the region will most likely face a period of challenging economic conditions before experiencing any improvements. Still, the net-zero transition is an unavoidable necessity. By taking proactive measures and facilitating the allocation of public and private funding to where it is needed most, ASEAN+3 policymakers could allay the potential impact and sustain the region's economic prosperity without undermining global climate-mitigation efforts.

To be sure, in recent years ASEAN+3 governments have made significant progress in promoting sustainable and green finance. But the lack of adequate

transparency, incentives, and data impedes policymakers' ability to establish a "greenium" that investors would be willing to pay for the perceived advantages of investing in environmentally friendly instruments.

The lack of a unified global approach to transition financing, which aims to help "brown" (carbon-intensive) sectors become greener, poses another challenge for policymakers. For example, an emissions-reduction project that meets the criteria for a bank loan in ASEAN+3 countries might not qualify for a similar loan in Europe. In the absence of global transition taxonomy, many foreign investors are understandably reluctant to bear the risk of policy uncertainty and reputational harm associated with funding the region's "brown" sectors, despite their economic significance.

With the window for decisive climate action rapidly closing, some may question whether the "Asian century" is already passé. But while the shift away from fossil fuels may impede ASEAN+3 countries' progress toward achieving long-term economic prosperity, the net-zero transition is also a unique opportunity for Asian economies to boost growth and job creation. Countries such as China, with its flourishing electric-vehicle industry, and Vietnam, with its expanding solar capacity, are already capitalizing on growing demand for green energy.

Mobilizing capital is crucial to achieving net-zero emissions. As William Shakespeare reminds us, "If money go before, all ways do lie open." To create a greener and more resilient region, we must reimagine climate finance in a way that aligns with the unique characteristics of ASEAN+3 economies and unlocks their tremendous potential.

Masyita Crystallin is a senior adviser to the Indonesian finance minister and Marthe M Hinojales is an economist at the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office.
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Masyita Crystallin and Marthe M Hinojales

REDUCING GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS WOULD REQUIRE THE RETIREMENT OF MANY OF THE REGION'S COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS WELL BEFORE THEY REACH EVEN HALF OF THEIR PROJECTED LIFESPAN

UAPA & Koregaon

In absolute silence sleeps an absolute power

SRI AUROBINDO



Many disturbing questions arise out of the Supreme Court order granting bail to activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in the Bhima Koregaon violence case in which several activists and lawyers were arrested in 2018 on the charge of being part of a Maoist conspiracy. There has been suspicion that the whole case was engineered to throttle free speech and spread terror among people by brandishing the stringent anti-terrorism law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA.) A new term – urban Naxalite – was coined by right-wing forces to demonise such activists and advocates of free speech. The government machinery was deployed, armed with the draconian UAPA, to incarcerate government critics so that they languished in prison for years on end and thereby break the backbone of protests.

But, the SC order granting bail to the two accused tends to emphasize the fact that denial of bail should not be the norm. This is because mere preliminary assessment may expose the weaknesses of a case filed under UAPA. The law is open to be abused since it is extremely difficult – well nigh impossible – to get bail once its serious provisions are slapped on an accused. Under Section 43D(5) of the Act, no court can grant bail if there are reasonable grounds to believe the accusation is true. What is more, an apex court judgment in 2019 has ruled there cannot be a detailed analysis of the evidence at the bail stage and bail must be decided only on the "broad probabilities" of the case.

The legal position being that, it is, indeed, remarkable that the Supreme Court has now granted bail to Gonsalves and Ferreira on merits. The Court's analysis is revealing. While there was no credible evidence that the accused were part of a conspiracy, the Court has found that even the letters, in which their names figured, contained only third-party responses and none was recovered from them. What strengthens the cause of liberal thinking is the ruling that "mere participation in seminars by itself cannot constitute an offence under the bail-restricting Sections of the UAPA, with which they have been charged."

The significance of the bail accorded by the court is that this is the first time in the Bhima Koregaon violence case that a court has recorded a finding that the accusations may not be true. This may have far-reaching consequences. By slapping UAPA on an accused the investigation agencies and the government more often than not tend to send the message across that they have strong evidence to buttress their case, while in reality the material they have on hand turns out to be too weak to prove one guilty. The bail granted to some other accused in the Bhima Koregaon case seems to point to the inescapable conclusion that the UAPA often becomes a tool to torture free thinkers and government critics into silence. For example, among those arrested in this case, lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj was released on "default bail", since the charge sheet could not be filed within the stipulated time. This only strengthens suspicion that there was no case against her at all. Telugu poet Varavara Rao got the benefit of bail on medical grounds. Writer and scholar Anand Antumbde was released by the Bombay High Court which came to the conclusion that there was no solid evidence that he had received funds from a co-accused, as claimed by the police. The most tragic case was that of Jesuit Father Stan Swamy who was suffering from Parkinson's disease and died while in custody at the age of 84. The disease incapacitated him, yet the jail authorities did not allow him even to drink with a straw or sipper until there was a nation-wide outcry against the inhumanity.

The NIA had relied on letters and witness statements to claim that Gonsalves and Ferreira were part of a conspiracy and recruitment of persons to commit terrorist acts. But, the Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia found the evidence too weak. This only shows exaggerated and malafide claims by the prosecution in this case cannot bear judicial scrutiny. On top of it, there are reasons to suspect that some of the purported evidence may have been remotely planted on computers used by the accused. The revelation of the government's buying of the Israeli spyware, Pegasus, shows such manipulation of evidence is in the realm of possibility.

The latest bail calls for a review of the mindless application of UAPA in general and a re-assessment of the Bhima Koregaon case in particular.

WISDOM CORNER

- Dreams are not what we see when we sleep, dreams are what keep us awake - MUNSHI PREMCHAND
- A forest bird never wants a cage - HENRIK IBSEN
- I realized what a ridiculous lie my whole life has been - ARTHUR MILLER

WORDSWORTH

Backronym

A backronym (sometimes bacronym) is a reverse acronym. To create one, you take a word that isn't an acronym and create a fictitious expansion for it. Some backonyms are designed as mnemonics. A classic example is the Apgar score to test the health of newborns. It was named after the American physician Virginia Apgar but to help student doctors and nurses remember the system, it has been changed to the acronym "Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration". Similarly, the US Amber Alert programme is said to mean "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response", though it was actually named after a missing child, Amber Hagerman. Backonyms are frequently humorous – Microsoft's Bing, some quip, is actually an acronym for "Because It's Not Google!"; world-weary sailors say navy really means "Never Again Volunteer Yourself", some car owners hold that Ford stands for "Fix Or Repair Daily". Many of this type are actually reinterpreted acronyms, included by courtesy in the backronym collection because nobody has yet come up with a different -nym for them. For example, the name of the one-time Belgian national airline Sabena (which derives from "Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne", bless the guy who shortened it) was said to be an acronym for "Such A Bad Experience, Never Again."

Zogroscope

The zogroscope, consisting of a lens and mirror on a wooden stand, was a device of the eighteenth century for viewing what were called perspective prints – pseudo-stereoscopic images – sometimes also known as vues d'optique. It was named the Zogroscope for reasons that are now lost to us, though it was also more variously and prosaically called a diagonal mirror, an optical pillar machine or an optical diagonal machine. The picture to be viewed was placed on a table and observed through a slanting mirror by means of a lens large enough to allow both eyes to see the picture at once. Its curved edges distorted the image to give a surprisingly good sensation of depth. The surviving examples are highly collectible pieces of elegant mahogany furniture, designed for the drawing rooms of well-to-do families who desired the latest in technology for their after-dinner entertainment. They wanted, to quote a catalogue of 1784, to look at "remarkable Views of Shipping, eminent Cities, Towns, Royal Palaces, Noblemen and Gentleman's Seats and Gardens in Great Britain, France and Holland, Views of Venice, Florence, Ancient and Modern Rome, and the most striking public Buildings in and about London". These pictures were available at a price of a shilling plain or two shillings coloured, a substantial sum for the period.

IN JEST THIS

Women's World Cup provides lots of thrills



Melvin Durai

I WAS HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT THE RECENT "GOAL IN SAREE" TOURNAMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH. MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'LL SEE A TEAM OF SAREE-CLAD WOMEN AT THE WORLD CUP

I'm enjoying the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, partly because there have been lots of goals scored, allowing countries from every continent to enjoy victories.

Actually, that's not quite true: the continent of Antarctica did not send a team, giving the flimsy excuse that it's too cold to play football.

The World Cup has given us a number of "firsts." It's the first time that two countries, Australia and New Zealand, have co-hosted a Women's World Cup. It's also the first Women's World Cup in the southern hemisphere, and the first Women's World Cup with 32 teams.

FIFA, the governing body of football, is determined to keep expanding the World Cup. The Women's World Cup began with 12 teams in 1991, expanded to 16 in 1999, and 24 in 2015. The men's World Cup has also gradually expanded and will allow 48 teams to compete in 2026, which means that even Antarctica has a chance.

Several countries have enjoyed their first victories ever at the World Cup. Portugal, New

Zealand, Morocco, the Philippines and Zambia gave their fans a chance to celebrate and raise a banner that said, "We finally beat someone!"

New Zealand recorded its first-ever World Cup win, then made history again by becoming the first host nation to be eliminated at the group stage. In a matter of 10 days, Kiwi fans went from "We finally beat someone!" to "Oh hell, Australia is still in it."

My favorite result was Zambia's 3-1 victory over Costa Rica in their final match in the group stage. Both teams had been eliminated before the match, but it was nevertheless a historic match for Zambia. Making their first appearance at the World Cup, the Copper Queens, as they're known, recorded their first-ever goal and first-ever victory on football's biggest stage.

I spent most of my childhood in Zambia (my parents left India to teach there) and had waited several decades for Zambia to qualify for the World Cup. Does it matter to me that it took a women's team to finally put Zambia in the World Cup? Nope.

Sometimes women need to show men how it's done.

Does it matter to me that Zambia lost 5-0 to both Japan and Spain in its first two matches? Nope. The Copper Queens were just warming up. Sometimes it takes a few matches to find your rhythm.

One of the most significant "firsts" at the World Cup was recorded during the Morocco-South Korea match. Morocco, the first Arab country to qualify for the Women's World Cup, won the match 1-0, their first victory at the Women's World Cup. Nouhaila Benzina, a defender for the Atlas Lionesses, made history as the first woman to wear a hijab at a senior-level global tournament.

It was only in 2014 that FIFA overturned its ban on religious health coverings during official matches. Various athletes and activists had protested the ban, which was based on "health and safety" reasons.

"I have no doubt that more and more women and Muslim girls will look at Benzina and just really be inspired – not just

the players, but I think decision-makers, coaches, other sports as well," Assmaah Helal, a co-founder of the Muslim Women in Sports Network, told the Associated Press.

Many Muslim women are unwilling to compete in sports without a hijab. But if they're competing in France, for example, they can't wear a hijab, because France wants to maintain its status as a secular country.

As far as I'm concerned, religious or traditional clothing should be permitted at all sporting events, as long as athletes are wearing the clothing on their own free will and are not gaining any sort of competitive advantage.

I was happy to hear about the recent "Goal in Saree" tournament in Madhya Pradesh. Maybe someday we'll see a team of saree-clad women at the World Cup.

It could certainly happen in our lifetimes, especially since FIFA may eventually expand the World Cup to 200 teams.

I'm already predicting the score: Saree team 5, Antarctica 0.

Blow to democracy

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, While it is alleged that constitutional agencies like the CBI, IT and ED stand compromised now and are misused by the ruling dispensation to conduct raids against the ruling political heads and other leaders of the non BJP ruled states, the suspension of Dr.K S James, Director and senior Professor at the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS) which conducts crucial data collection for the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other studies has come as a great blow to the democratic functioning of such organisations. The opposition leaders and scientists have highlighted that the Central government was unable to digest the data based evidence on development recorded with all sincerity by the IIPS and NHFS 5 which speaks in loud the failure of the government in related genres. Jairam Ramesh of the Congress party has also asserted that despite the internal committees of the Ministry had cleared Professor James, one of the most eminent demographers of India of any wrong doing, action has been initiated against him for "political considerations". If it is true, does it mean that the ruling dispensation only wants those who can record and release fudged numbers in development in tune with their expectations and not eminent professionals like Dr. James who never compromise with their findings and release only real numbers?
Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

Bloodbath in train

Sir, In the past, we witnessed train robberies taking place on long distance trains across the country. To have a control over such attacks both CRPF and other security forces were deployed for the safety of train passengers. Now that security forces are turning into a terror and the turnout attack on colleagues and seniors is now part and parcel of the present day system. This is alarming. This is an alarming position for train passengers. This bloodbath in the train is causing concern and unless some check and correction measures are taken such attacks will go unabated. These forces are supposed to safeguard the interest of their seniors and passengers but they turn into foes in a rush of blood. The firing incident took place in the wee hours in between Vapi and towards Borivali in Mumbai. Such actions reveal the vexed security person's unstable mind and his reactions on returning from leave. It is indeed a sorry state.
CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



Rain effect: Delhi's air in July best in 5 years

THE AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IN JULY WAS 34.7 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE LOWEST SINCE 2016 WHEN IT WAS 34.5 DEGREES CELSIUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 1: Bountiful rains in July gave Delhi its best air quality for the month in five years, while the average maximum temperature also dropped to its lowest level since 2016, according to official data.
The data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also shows that Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) this year so far is the lowest for the corresponding period since 2019, ex-

cept for 2020 - the year of the Covid-19 lockdown.
The city recorded 384.6 mm of rainfall in July, which is the second-highest in the month in the last 15 years, compared to the normal of 195.8 mm.
It gauged above-normal rainfall in the last four months -- 53.2 mm against a normal of 17.4 mm in March, 20.1 mm against an average of 16.3 mm in April, 111 mm against a normal of 30.7 mm in May and 101.7 mm against a normal of 74.1 mm in June.
The city experienced its highest rainfall (153 mm) in a single



day in July since 1962 July 8-9 due to an interaction of a western disturbance, "monsoonal" winds and cyclonic circulation over northwest India. It received an additional 107 mm of rain in the subsequent 24 hours.
According to CPCB data, the average AQI of Delhi for the January-July period in 2023 was

182.6, showing a significant improvement compared to 209 in 2022, 204.7 in 2021, 159 in 2020, and 215.3 in 2019. The average AQI in July was the lowest in five years. The AQI for July 2023 was 83.7, while it was 87.3 in 2022, 110.1 in 2021, 83.8 in 2020, and 134.1 in 2019.
On Saturday, Delhi recorded an average AQI of 59, the lowest so far this year.
According to the CPCB data, the daily average PM2.5 concentration in Delhi in July stood at 35 µg/m3, compared to 36 in 2022, 40 in 2021, 34 in 2020, and 47 in 2019.
Similarly, the daily average PM10 concentration for July 2023 was 77 µg/m3, in contrast to 82 in 2022, 107 in 2021, 77 in 2020, and 143 in 2019.

Military veterans claim statutory body for Yamuna cleaning



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: A group of military veterans Tuesday demanded the establishment of a separate statutory body for cleaning the Yamuna river, which they claim is a "slow poison" for the people in the Delhi-NCR region.
The group, known as "Atulya Ganga," presented the results of a survey evaluating the river's health here, pointing out that the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) primarily focuses on the Ganga and lacks sufficient efforts to clean other tributaries, including the Yamuna. Colonel (retd) Mike Keshwar said the Yamuna requires its own agency due to the significant cleaning task, as the Ganga's cleanup itself is massive. The NMCG, established under an Act, aims to comprehensively clean the Ganga and its tributaries. The Atulya Ganga team collected samples from 29 critical locations along the Yamunanagar-Prayagraj stretch, testing them on 16 parameters related to water quality, including pH, turbidity, hardness, chloride, chlorine, iron, fluorides, bacteria, dissolved oxygen and total dissolved solids.
Shockingly, only one sample was deemed "good," while 12 were of fair quality and 17 were poor. One of the key parameters of the river's health is the dissolved oxygen level, which is required to be four parts per million (PPM) or better.
The samples showed that the dissolved oxygen level was less than one part per million (PPM), signifying severe pollution, the veterans said. The group also aims to create a 'Yamuna Health Dashboard' using satellite data, remote sensing, Internet of Things and artificial intelligence. This will make a 24x7 "Water Quality Index of Rivers"

- According to the Delhi government's Outcome Budget, 29 per cent of the sewage generated in Delhi in 2021-22 fell into the Yamuna untreated
- It was 28 per cent in 2019-20 and 26 per cent in 2020-21
- The city government is upgrading and rehabilitating the existing STPs to be able to meet the prescribed norms and reduce the pollution load in the Yamuna

available in the public domain which will be an effective tool to report the pollution levels, pinpoint the sources of contamination and drive accountability, said Lt Gen (retd) Alok Kler, CEO, Atulya Ganga.
Experts say untapped wastewater from unauthorised colonies and jhuggi-jhopri clusters, and poor quality of treated wastewater discharged from STPs and common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) is the main reason behind high levels of pollution in the river in the Delhi-NCR region.
The river can be considered fit for bathing if biological oxygen demand is less than 3 milligram per litre and dissolved oxygen is greater than 5 milligram per litre. Delhi generates around 770 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage. The 35 STPs located at 20 locations across Delhi can treat up to 630 MGD of sewage and have been utilising around 85 per cent of their capacity. The rest of the untreated sewage falls into the river directly.
Multiple reports submitted by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry have highlighted that the river cannot be fit for bathing in the absence of a minimum environment flow -- the minimum quantity of water flow that a river must have in order to preserve its ecosystems and meet the bathing standards.

Politics to heat up in MP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 1: The political environment in Madhya Pradesh is set to heat up in coming days as the state is gearing up for the Assembly elections to be held later this year and the main contenders - BJP and Congress - are in no mood to leave any stone unturned in their efforts to win the polls.
While the BJP's Central leadership has appointed three union ministers as state election in-charges, party's key strategist and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has intensified his visits to the poll-bound state.
Shah has visited state capital Bhopal thrice in the last 20 days and held several rounds of high-level meetings at party headquarters.
He will be addressing a gathering of BJP workers in Indore on Sunday.
State Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is the minister in-charge of Indore, along with national General Secretary and local leader Kailash Vijayvargiya is setting the stage for Shah to charge up the party cadres in Malwa-Nimar region of the state.
Shah was also supposed to visit Bhopal on Sunday, however the programme was later postponed, party sources told

IANS.
On the other hand, the Congress is also organising several programmes in Indore. On Sunday, former Chief Minister and party's state unit chief Kamal Nath will address a Adivasi Yuva Pachayat'.
Former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union president and Congress in-charge of NSUI Kanhaiya Kumar will also be sharing stage with Kamal Nath. Reacting to Congress' Indore event, fire-brand BJP leader Narottam Mishra has said: "Kamal Nath will be sharing stage with those who supported 'tukde tukde' gang in JNU and shouted slogans to divide the country."
Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Abbas Hafeez has said that he has written a letter to BJP President J.P. Nadda, and urged him to curtail the frequency of Shah's visit to Bhopal as the Union Home Minister's visit "leave the city shut for hours and triggers traffic snarls".
"Several parts of Bhopal city gets shut due to heavy security for the Home Minister, which the security agencies obviously have to do, but the public has to suffer due to this... Other Union Ministers also visit Bhopal regularly but disruption is not that much," he claimed.

MCD to float tender for procurement of drones

Drones and Artificial Intelligence-based platforms will be used this year as part of a comprehensive plan to combat dengue, with focused fumigation at monument sites, hotels and markets in Delhi, which will host the G20 Summit in September



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 1: The MCD will soon float a tender for the procurement of drones that will be deployed for monitoring and concurrent anti-larval spraying on major drains and far-flung areas to prevent the breeding of mosquito larvae, officials said.
The move comes amid a rise in dengue cases in Delhi.
According to the latest report issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the tally was at 243 till July 28.
"As per our plan, we will be procuring drones for monitoring and concurrent anti-larval spray activity. The tender for the procurement of drones will be floated soon and, within a month-and-a-half, the project should be on the ground," a senior MCD official told PTI. The drones will be used to spray larvicide on major drains, as also for checking any mosquito larvae breeding on rooftops, etc, he said.
A senior MCD official said "our plan is to make the city

56 cases reported last week
A total of 56 dengue cases were reported in the national capital in the past one week, as per a report issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Monday. According to the report, with addition of the latest cases, the number of dengue cases reported so far in this month, till July 28, rose to 121. The total number of dengue cases reported so far this year stood at 243.

Dengue control workers go on strike

cleaner, safer and more vibrant" so that the visiting delegates of the bloc go back with a wonderful experience.
India assumed the year-long presidency of the G20 December 1. The summit will take place at the newly-built Bharat Mandapam convention complex in Pragati Maidan here.
In a statement in February, the MCD said it has "envisioned a comprehensive and proactive plan to prevent dengue this year with special focus on G20 meeting venues, monuments, hotels, shopping mall, famous markets and other places of gathering of the delegates". As part of this comprehensive plan, unmanned aerial vehicle- or drone-based vector surveillance and concurrent anti-larval spraying will be done on major drains to prevent the breeding of mosquito larvae, it had said.
Larvivorous fish will be released in water bodies to prevent mosquito larva breeding through the biological control method. Fogging will be carried out according to National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme guidelines, whenever required and keeping National Green Tribunal orders in mind, in an ecofriendly manner, the MCD had said.

RISE IN EYE INFECTION CASES

Docs ask people to take all precautions

DOCTORS AT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS SAID THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING CASES LARGELY FROM THE YOUNGER POPULATION IN THE CITY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 1: Amid a rise in cases of conjunctivitis and other eye infections in Delhi, doctors have advised people to take all precautions, especially in crowded places.
Cases of conjunctivitis and other eye infection are on the rise in Delhi, with many doctors cautioning that it is "highly contagious" and proper hygiene behaviour needs to be maintained to check its spread.
Some parents said, teachers have also advised them that their wards should not be sent to school if "if anyone in the house is having any kind of eye infec-

tion". Nikhil Seth, senior consultant, ophthalmology, Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad, said, conjunctivitis basically is a common flu and is the most common reason of eye flu in rainy seasons which is because of adeno virus family and they are very contagious.
It spreads through physical contact, wherein an uninfected individual may contract the virus by coming into contact with the secretions from an infected person's eye and subsequently touching their own eyes, he added. "Presently, we can see a 20-25 per cent rise in patients coming to OPD these days," the

doctor said.
Dr Aarti Nangia, senior consultant, ophthalmology at Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, also said there has been an "increase" in cases of eye infections and conjunctivitis in Delhi lately.
Delhi government-run hospitals are "on alert" to deal with cases of conjunctivitis, fungal infections and vector-borne diseases, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj had said July 25.
Cases of conjunctivitis and skin allergy are mostly being reported from relief camps housing people affected by the flooding in parts of Delhi, Bharadwaj had earlier said.

BJP, Cong stick to 'survey formula'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, August 1: In view of rising number of candidates for assembly elections to be held in Madhya Pradesh, both the major political parties -- Congress and BJP -- have decided to adopt the 'survey formula', which has become a cause of concern for ticket-seekers.
In the 2018 elections in Madhya Pradesh, out of 230 assembly seats, the Congress had won 114, while the BJP bagged 109. Congress did not get full majority but with the support of SP, BSP and Independent MLAs, it formed the government.

NEW WORRY FOR MP POLL TICKET-SEEKERS

The Congress government led by Kamal Nath lasted only for about 15 months and collapsed after 22 MLAs under the leadership of Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP. Keeping in mind the results of the 2018 assembly elections and the subsequent urban body elections, both the political parties are treading cautiously in view of the forthcoming assembly elections. At the same time, the ticket-seekers are visiting the party headquarters and politicians, in Bhopal and Delhi.

MP to add 'Baiga' among the most backward tribes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, August 1: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced to include the particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) Baiga among the most backward tribes in the state.
Baiga also have sub-castes like - Bihwar, Narotia, Bharotiya, Nahar, Rai maina and Kath maina. The largest number of Baiga tribes are found in Mandla, Balaghat, Singrauli and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh.



The largest number of Baiga tribes are found in Mandla, Balaghat, Singrauli and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh

According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, at least seven tribes communities (Abujh Maria, Baiga, Bharia, Birhor, Hill Korba, Kamar and Saharia) in Madhya Pradesh have been categorised under the PVTG.
"Particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) Baiga of Singrauli district would be included among the most backward tribes," CM Chouhan said. He also announced to upgrade the existing 'Charan Paduka Yojana' scheme, which was introduced ahead of the assembly polls in 2018 under which, the government provides slippers, saris

and water bottles to 15 lakh tendu leaf pluckers of the state. Now, the government has decided to provide umbrellas to them and for this purpose, an amount of Rs 200 each would be given to each beneficiary.
"I used to feel bad when my sisters used to go barefoot in the forests to pluck tendu leaves and thorn pricked their feet. If the Chief Minister is their brother, why should his sisters walk barefoot? Keeping this in mind, we have upgraded the Mukhyamantri Charan Paduka Yojana. Now, we have decided that umbrellas will also be given to the tendu leaf collectors. For this, an amount of Rs 200 each is being sent to their accounts," Chouhan said.
The Chief Minister made some tendu patta collectors wear slippers with his own hands.
He said, "The double-engine governments are constantly working for the service and welfare of the poor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is providing free food grains, housing, health and all necessary services to the poor. Poor people, who are landless, are being given pattas under the Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-Adhikar Yojana in the state."



Boatmen row their shikaras during Salute Tiranga Shikara Race at Dal Lake in Srinagar



Locals gather near Kuki-Zo community's houses which were burnt down by miscreants in the violence-hit Manipur, in Imphal. The fire also engulfed more than a dozen houses of migrants from Bihar, Haryana and Naga people



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reacts as he plays a pub game during a visit to the Great British Beer Festival in west London



A fisherman looks for a catch near the Perumathura beach in Thiruvananthapuram



Preparations underway for the annual flower show for Independence Day at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bangalore



Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in a meeting with a Parliamentary delegation from Malawi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar are also seen

national

of the day quote

Violence in the name of religion cannot be tolerated in 21st-century India and the coming generations will have to bear the consequences if people do not unite against such divisive elements

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

India's G20 presidency has brought to the fore a tectonic shift in how women are to be perceived as ones who stand shoulder to shoulder with men as contributors to their countries and societies

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

The north-east region has suffered from geographical isolation, political instability and imbalanced development for 70 years due to the previous Congress governments' intentional ploys to divide and rule

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

RPF jawan in custody till Aug 7

Mumbai: A court here Tuesday remanded Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable Chetan Singh in the custody of Government Railway Police till August 7 for allegedly shooting dead his senior colleague and three passengers on a moving train. Seeking his custody, the police told the court that the mental health condition of the accused constable was yet to be conducted and that he was not cooperating with them. A senior police official had earlier said that the 33-year-old accused was very short-tempered. Singh was produced before a magistrate court here amid tight security around 1.30 pm. As they took Singh to the local court in Borivali from the police station, GRP officials used t-shirts and shirts to cover the window panes of their vehicle to shield him from the media glare.

ED raids Hero MotoCorp chairman

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday conducted searches against Hero MotoCorp executive chairperson Pawan Kant Munjal and others as part of a money laundering investigation, official sources said. The searches were carried out at the residential and business premises of the 69-year-old billionaire businessman, the promoter of India's largest two-wheeler automobiles manufacturer, in Delhi and neighbouring Gurugram apart from that of some linked entities, they said. The raids were launched after the ED registered a case against them under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

Lung cancer continues to top cancer mortality charts in India

STATISTICS SHOW THAT MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF LUNG CANCERS IN MEN AND MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF LUNG CANCERS IN WOMEN DEVELOP IN SMOKERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 1: Lung cancer is the most common cancer in men and the second most common overall in India. It is the most common cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide claiming more lives yearly than breast, colon, and prostate cancers combined.

Every year August 1 is observed as World Lung Cancer Day to raise awareness about lung cancer issues. Statistics show that more than 90 per cent of lung cancers in men and more than 80 per cent of lung cancers in women develop in smokers. Causes/risk factors of lung cancer are smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, radon gas,

asbestos, other carcinogens, air pollution, arsenic in drinking water, previous radiation to lungs and personal or family history of lung cancer.

According to Dr. Subhakar Nadella, Consultant Clinical & Interventional Pulmonologist KIMS Hospital, Kondapur, most of the time no symptoms are seen in the early stages of lung cancer leading to diagnosis at late stages of the disease, making their treatment more problematic.

"Subsequently, this delay in diagnosis significantly reduces the overall lung cancer survival rate. If lung cancer is caught before it spreads, the likelihood of surviving five years or more improves to 55 per cent, and five-year survival rate for those di-



The international community is looking towards India for solutions to complex global challenges such as climate change, cyber security, and combating extremism and terrorism

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

GOVT IDENTIFIES POTENTIAL SITES

The environment ministry and the National Tiger Conservation Authority have told the Supreme Court that apart from the Kuno National Park, they have identified potential sites for cheetah introduction in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan



'Biggest' darknet LSD cartel busted, 3 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The Narcotics Control Bureau Tuesday claimed to have busted the "biggest" darknet-based LSD cartel operating in India with the seizure of more than 13,000 blots and Rs 26 lakh in cash and the arrest of three persons.

The cartel named 'Zambada' has a "high volume of business and supply chain" of this hallucinogenic category of drug and is also operating in the UK, the US, South Africa, Canada, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkiye, NCB Deputy Director General (operations and enforcement) Gyaneshwar Singh said.

The cartel was being operated by young educated men in the age bracket of 21-25 years, he said. It is the second LSD trafficking cartel busted by the agency in the last about three months, officials said.

The federal anti-narcotics agency had seized a cache of 15,000 LSD blots, the highest-ever catch in one operation, and arrested half-a-dozen people in



IN A STATEMENT, THE NCB SAID THE DRUG CARTELS ON THE DARKNET ARE RATED ON A SCALE OF 1-5 STARS BASED ON THE POTENCY OF THE DRUG SOLD THROUGH THEIR PLATFORM AND THEIR 'CUSTOMER SERVICE'

LSD or lysergic acid diethylamide is a synthetic chemical based-drug and is categorised as a hallucinogen. It is abused largely by youngsters and its consumption can lead to serious health issues

June. LSD or lysergic acid diethylamide is a synthetic chemical based-drug and is categorised as a hallucinogen. It is abused largely by youngsters and its consumption can lead to serious health issues. It is odourless, colourless and tasteless and it is painted on small squares of paper (blots) that can be licked or swallowed.

In continued operations, it was learnt that the largest cartel operating in LSD on the darknet - Zambada - operates from Delhi-NCR, Singh said. Two of

the ground operators of this cartel were identified through technical and human surveillance and this led to the location of the "mastermind" of this cartel who was operating from Ballabgarh (Faridabad) in Haryana, he said.

The NCB Delhi zonal office conducted multiple raids at the premises of these three persons leading to the seizure of 13,863 LSD blots, 428 grams MDMA (ecstasy), and the freezing of Rs 26.73 lakh "drug money", agency officials said.

SHIV SENA SYMBOL ROW

Top court refuses urgent hearing on Uddhav's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The Supreme Court Tuesday refused an urgent hearing on the Uddhav Thackeray faction's plea challenging the Election Commission's decision to recognise the Eknath Shinde-led bloc as the real Shiv Sena and allowing it to the 'bow and arrow'



poll symbol.

Advocate Amit Anand Tiwari mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, seeking an urgent hearing. "Wait for the Constitution bench on Jammu and Kashmir to get over and we will give a date," the bench, also comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, said.

The petition contended that the poll panel erred in holding that disqualification under the Tenth Schedule and proceedings under the Symbols Order operate in different spheres and that disqualification of MLAs is not based on cessation of membership of a political party.

It also submitted that the poll panel erred in holding that there was a split in the Shiv Sena. In the absence of any pleadings and evidence that there was a split in a political party, the findings of the Election Commission are completely erroneous on this ground, the plea stated.



Vendors load tomatoes for distribution in Chikkamagaluru

PTI PHOTO

Govt tables Delhi services bill in LS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The Union government Tuesday tabled a contentious bill in Lok Sabha to replace the Delhi services ordinance amid vociferous protests by opposition members, who termed it a "murder of democracy", evoking a sharp retort of "politically motivated" jibe from Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which gives the Delhi Lieutenant Governor a final say on the transfer and posting of officials of the city government, will strengthen the Central government's control over the national capital.

Tabled by Minister of State

for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, the Bill seeks to reverse the effect of the Supreme Court verdict in May that gave the Delhi government control over administrative services. Rai said he was "tabling the Bill on behalf of Shah."

Opposition members including Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the bill was an "outrageous infringement" of the powers of the Delhi government while Trinamool member Saugata Ray asserted that the Bill was brought to overturn the Supreme Court order that granted Delhi government the authority to transfer and appoint Group-A officers in the national capital.

The Centre had on May 19 promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of



Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi. Noting that the real power of administration must rest with the elected arm of the government, the Supreme Court had on May 11 ruled that the Delhi Government has control over

'services' in the National Capital Territory, excluding the matters relating to public order, police and land.

RSP member N K Premachandran and Congress member Shashi Tharoor questioned the legislative competence of the government to table the Bill to replace the ordinance.

Patna HC upholds caste survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, August 1: In a shot in the arm for the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, the Patna High Court on Tuesday upheld the caste survey ordered by it as "perfectly valid" and "initiated with due competence".

A division bench comprising Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Partha Sarathy passed the order rejecting a bunch of petitions challenging the survey, which was ordered last year and began earlier this year.

The bench, which had reserved its judgement on July 7, said in its 101-page-long verdict, "We find the action of the state to be perfectly valid, initiated with due competence, with the legitimate aim of providing development with justice."

The judgement began with the note: "The action of the state in carrying out a caste survey... And the vigorous challenge raised to it on multiple grounds... Reveal that despite attempts to efface it from the social fabric, caste remains a reality, and refuses to be swept aside, wished away or brushed aside nor does it wither away or disperse into thin air."

The judgement, which came less than three months after the court had stayed the survey, shocked the petitioners who vowed to challenge the order before the Supreme Court. "After studying the judgement, we will move the Supreme Court," senior advocate Dinu Kumar, counsel for one of the many petitioners, told reporters soon after the bench pronounced its verdict in an open court. The ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) in the state, which had so far been content with a country-wide caste census being adopted as a key agenda by the opposition grouping INDIA, was predictably elated.

In patients with ages between 50-80 years, smoking pack years of more than 20, ex-smokers up to the past 15 years, and with environmental or occupational exposure to harmful gases, air pollution should have awareness about lung cancer and should be screened periodically.

Recent advances in lung cancer evaluation and management like Biomarkers, Liquid biopsy, Immunotherapy, Robotics, Stereotactic Radiation, etc have improved treatment outcomes and quality of life. Dr. Bharath Janapati, Consultant Pulmonologist, Century Hospitals said, "By the time patients in India present to a doctor, lung cancer is usually in an advanced stage when nothing

much can be done."

Some early signs of lung cancer are cough with or without sputum, breathlessness, weakness, lack of strength, and poor appetite for more than two weeks. Chest pain and blood on coughing can also be present. Advanced signs include excess fatigue, unintentional weight loss, headache, bone pain and muscle weakness.

Although several advances have been made in diagnosis and treatment, the overall outcome for lung cancer patients in India is still poor, largely due to late presentation. Hence, a detailed understanding of the risk factors, cause of the condition and preventive measures can impact patients and communities.



agnosed before cancer has spread rises from 18 out of every 100 people to 55 out of every 100 (3 times increase in survival rate) implying that early screening helps in better survival. As TB is endemic in India, the challenge lies in differentiating TB and lung cancer in the early

stages," he said.

There are some classic symptoms of lung cancer that are generally not a cause for worry but should be evaluated in old age. Persistent cough, shortness of breath, hoarseness, chronic bronchitis, chest pain, unexplained weight loss, bone pain.

international

of the day quote

The May 9 was a well-planned false flag operation with the full backing of a controlled media and state institutions only with one purpose, to crush PTI

IMRAN KHAN | OUSTED PAK PM

I need to be with myself and find inner strength so I can be strong for everyone else

JILL BIDEN | FIRST LADY OF THE US

Occupiers came to our land, killed, tortured, kidnapped Ukrainian children, separated them from their families and tried to teach them hatred

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Typhoon lashes Japanese islands

Tokyo: A powerful typhoon approached Japan's southwestern island of Okinawa Tuesday, lashing the region with strong winds and high waves and forcing transportation to halt and stores to close. Slow-moving Typhoon Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, was heading northwest at speeds of 15 kph (9 mph) Tuesday night, packing surface winds of up to 180 kph (111 mph). It was at sea southeast of Okinawa's main island, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The city office in the Okinawan prefectural capital of Naha was closed due to violent winds, while supermarket chains were either shut or operating under shorter hours.

Bangladesh reports 251 dengue deaths

Dhaka: The death toll in the ongoing dengue outbreak in Bangladesh has increased to 251, of which 204 were reported in July alone, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). In its latest update, the DGHS also said that a total of 51,832 cases have been reported so far this year, reports Xinhua news agency. The DGHS data showed 43,854 cases were recorded in July after 5,956 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease in June. In the last 24 hours, a total of 2,694 fresh dengue cases, including 1,168 in Dhaka, were reported.

17 dead due to heat wave in SK

Seoul: At least 17 people died from an ongoing heat wave in South Korea over the weekend, mostly elderly farmers working outside in the extreme heat, authorities said. Since the season's first heat wave alerts went into effect in mid-June, the country has been gripped with sweltering heat, with recent highs at around 35 degrees Celsius in many parts of the country, reports Yonhap News Agency. According to the latest data from the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, North Gyeongsang province was the hardest-hit, with seven elderly farmers killed.

Pak sees 18 suicide attacks so far this yr

Islamabad: Pakistan, which is grappling with a surge in suicide attacks, reported 18 such incidents in the first seven months of 2023 that killed more than 200 people and left over 450 others injured, a report said. The report was published, a day after an Islamic State suicide bomber triggered a powerful blast that killed at least 54 people at a political convention of a hardline Islamist party.



China will work with Pakistan to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and further build the CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation

XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

VEGAN INFLUENCER DIES OF STARVATION

A 39-year-old vegan influencer named Zhanna Samsonova has died reportedly of starvation after years of subsisting entirely on a raw vegan diet. According to New York Post, the Russian national on her social media accounts often promoted raw foods



Russia accuses Ukraine of another drone attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tallinn (Estonia), August 1: Russian authorities early Tuesday accused Kyiv of yet another attack on Moscow and its surroundings with drones, one of which hit a building in the capital that was damaged by a drone just days ago in a similar attack early on Sunday.

said in the early hours of Tuesday that it shot down two Ukrainian drones outside Moscow and jammed another, sending it crashing into a skyscraper in the Moscow City business district and damaging the building's facade. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said the drone crashed into the same building that was damaged in a similar attack early Sunday. IQ-Quarter, located 7.2 kms (4.5 miles) from the Kremlin, houses a number of government agencies, including the headquarters of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Sobyenin said the Tuesday attack didn't result in any casualties.

Strikes on high-rise tower cause ministry to work remotely
Kremlin acknowledges threat, says measures are being taken
Ukrainian official says "more war" is coming to Moscow
Tech company issues safety warning to staff

Russian officials have claimed that the intensified attacks on the capital region reflect failures in Ukraine's counteroffensive, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said over the weekend that "the war is gradually coming back to Russian territory," but stopped short of taking responsibility of the attacks.

The repeated drone strikes underscore Moscow's vulnerability as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month. The Russian Defence Ministry

It wasn't clear why the same building was hit twice in a row.



The Moon rises in the sky behind the 5th century B.C. Parthenon temple at the ancient Acropolis hill in Athens, Greece

AP/PTI PHOTO

Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel on Booker Prize longlist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, August 1: London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' is among 13 books to make the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist revealed Tuesday.

Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and



her bonds with her family. "Skillfully deploying the sport of squash as both context and metaphor, 'Western Lane' is a deeply evocative debut about a family grappling with grief, conveyed through crystalline language which reverberates like the sound 'of a ball hit clean and hard... with a close echo,'" said the Booker Prize judging panel, chaired by twice Booker-short-listed Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan.

The 2023 Booker Prize winner will be announced on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.

The winner receives GBP 50,000 and a trophy named "Iris" in honour of the 1978 Booker Prize-winning Irish-British author Iris Murdoch.

READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH INDIA: PAK PM

Prime Minister Sharif's comments came amid continued strain in ties between India and Pakistan on a number of issues including Islamabad's continued support to cross-border terrorism and the Kashmir issue

AGENCIES

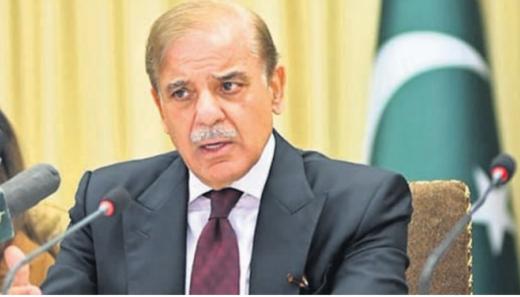
Islamabad, August 1: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday offered to hold talks with India to address all serious and outstanding issues as he said that "war is not an option" for both countries as they fight poverty and unemployment.

Sharif made the remarks while addressing the inaugural session of the Pakistan Minerals Summit here. The meeting, organised under the slogan of 'Dust to Development', aimed at bringing foreign investment to the cash-strapped country.

"We are prepared to talk with everyone, even with our neighbour, provided that the neighbour is serious to talk serious matters on the table because war is no more an option," the prime minister said, in an apparent reference to India.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. India has also asserted that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and will" always be part of the country.

The Prime Minister talked about the history of wars between Pakistan and India. The wars in his opinion resulted in an increase in poverty, unemployment, and lack of resources to finance education, health, and well-being of the



- BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI HAVE BEEN TENSE SINCE AUGUST 2019 WHEN INDIA CHANGED THE SPECIAL STATUS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
- PRIME MINISTER SHARIF'S REMARKS CAME AS HIS COALITION GOVERNMENT IS GETTING READY TO FACE AN ELECTION AT THE COMPLETION OF THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OF PARLIAMENT AUGUST 12
- IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE LOWER HOUSE, WILL BE DISSOLVED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE TERM TO PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS

people. Sharif emphasised that Pakistan was well aware of the dark side of a nuclear conflict but India should also realise it.

He also said that relations would not become normal until the "abnormalities" were removed by addressing the unre-

solved issues. Bilateral relations between Islamabad and New Delhi have been tense since August 2019 when India changed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. On India's ties with Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that it is not possible for India to have normal relations with the neighbouring country until the policy of cross-border terrorism is abrogated. "We can't allow terrorism to be normalised; we can not allow that to become the basis for getting us into discussions with Pakistan. To me it is a fairly common sense proposition," he said in June. Earlier, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik, inviting foreign investors to invest in the minerals and mining sector, revealed that Pakistan has estimated mineral reserves of \$6 trillion, which include gold, copper, coal, and other precious metals.

Niger crisis deepens

REUTERS

Paris, August 1: France prepared to evacuate hundreds of French and European citizens from Niger Tuesday, a day after neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso said any outside intervention to restore the ousted government would be seen as a declaration of war.

A military junta overthrew Niger's democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and his government last Wednesday in the seventh military takeover in less than three years in West and Central Africa.

West African regional bloc ECOWAS last Sunday threatened to use force to reinstate Bazoum if the soldiers didn't do it within a week, while neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso - also ruled by military juntas - said they would come to Niger's defence.

With the risk of conflict escalating, Spain said it was preparing to evacuate more than 70 citizens by air and Italy said it would organise a repatriation flight. Germany urged its citizens to join the French flights.

The coup has sent shockwaves across the Sahel region, which is fighting an Islamist militant

insurgency and where Niger had been considered the West's most stable ally until now.

The recent coups in the region have come amid a wave of anti-French sentiment, with locals saying they want the former colonial ruler to stop intervening in their affairs and calling for partnerships with Russia instead.

Niger's new military leaders have proceeded to arrest senior politicians and warned against any foreign attempts to extract Bazoum, who is still shut in his palace.

"Considering the ongoing coup in Niger and the fact that the situation continues to be worrying, we decided to make sure that the French citizens who want to leave Niger can do so," French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna told France's LCI TV.

France, the United States, Germany, and Italy have troops in Niger on counter-insurgency and training missions. There has been no announcement of troops being evacuated so far.

Colonna said France had talked with "those who are in control" in Niger to make sure the evacuation could proceed safely, which was in no way a recognition of the junta.



Floods around Chinese capital kill at least 20

AGENCIES

Beijing, August 1: Torrential rain in areas around China's capital, Beijing, killed at least 20 people and left 27 missing, the government reported Tuesday, as flooding destroyed roads, uprooted trees and knocked out power.

Thousands of people were evacuated to shelters in schools and other public buildings in suburban Beijing and in the nearby cities of Tianjin and Zhuozhou.

The severity of the flooding took the Chinese capital by surprise. Beijing usually has dry summers but had a stretch of record-breaking heat this year.

Other areas, especially China's south, have suffered unusually severe summer flooding that caused scores of deaths. Other parts of the country are struggling with drought.

China's deadliest and most destructive floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River



Residents look over an area inundated by flood waters in Miaofengshan on the outskirts of Beijing

In 2021, more than 300 people died in flooding in the central province of Henan

Record rainfall inundated the provincial capital of Zhengzhou July 20 that year, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line

Muddy water surging down streets washed away cars in the Mentougou district on Beijing's western edge.

"The cars parked on the street floated and got washed away," said a resident, Liu Shuanbao. "A couple of cars parked behind my apartment building disappeared in just one minute."

Mentougou resident, Wu Changpo. "There were a lot of landslides and flooded villages. I cried repeatedly seeing these reports."

Eleven deaths were reported in Beijing and authorities were looking for 27 missing people, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Nine deaths were reported in Hebei province, which surrounds the capital.

Power to some 60,000 homes in the capital's Fangshan district was knocked out, Phoenix TV reported on its website.

In Zhuozhou, southwest of Beijing, some 125,000 people from high-risk areas were moved to shelters, Xinhua said.

President Xi Jinping issued an order for local governments to go "all out" to rescue those trapped and minimize loss of life and property damage.

The government of Tianjin, a port east of Beijing, said 35,000 people were evacuated from near

the swollen Yongding River. As much as 500 millimetres of rain has fallen in some places since Saturday, according to the Hebei province weather agency. Some areas reported as much as 90 millimetres of rainfall per hour.

Some 13 rivers exceeded warning levels in the Haihe Basin, which includes Beijing, Tianjin and Shijiazhuang, Xinhua said, citing the Ministry of Water Resources.

42,000 people were evacuated from areas of Shanxi province to Hebei's west, it reported, citing emergency officials.

In early July, at least 15 people were killed by floods in the southwestern region of Chongqing, and about 5,590 people in the far northwestern province of Liaoning had to be evacuated. In the central province of Hubei, rainstorms trapped residents in their vehicles and homes.

Suu Kyi's jail term reduced

Yangon: Myanmar's military-led government reduced the prison sentences of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a clemency connected to a religious holiday in the Buddhist-majority country, state media said Tuesday. Former President Win Myint also had his sentence reduced as part of the clemency granted to more than 7,000 prisoners. But Suu Kyi, 78, still must serve a total of 27 years out of the 33 she originally was imprisoned for. The head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, granted the clemency order to reduce the sentences Suu Kyi received in five cases in which she was convicted for violating coronavirus restrictions, illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and sedition, according to a report on state MRTV. There were reports last week that Suu Kyi might be transferred to house arrest as part of the clemency, but the government did not confirm them.



The world's fastest 5G rollout continues. Over 3 lakh 5G sites installed in 714 districts
ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION TELECOM MINISTER

AKASA AIR GOES OVERSEAS

Akasa Air Tuesday said it has added the 20th aircraft to its fleet that also makes the airline eligible to start international operations. The carrier, which will complete one year of operations August 7, has also become the first airline in Asia to have the Boeing 737-8-200 variant



of the day quote

The government has mobilised a gross amount of ₹5.77 lakh crore by issuing dated securities in the current financial year up to July 31, 2023

The EU just wants to raise the cost of imports to help local producers through a complex compliance mechanism

Sufficient enforcement provisions exist to take action against offshore platforms, which do not pay prescribed GST

SHORT TAKES

Gold demand dips

New Delhi: Gold demand in India, the world's second-largest consumer, declined by seven per cent to 158.1 tonne during the April-June quarter of this year in reaction to record high prices in the domestic market, according to the World Gold Council (WGC). However, gold imports saw a 16 per cent jump to 209 tonne during Q2 of 2023, from the year-ago period on account of stocking, WGC said.

CIL output surges

New Delhi: Coal India has posted a 13.4 per cent year-on-year rise in coal production at 53.6 million tonne (MT) in July 2023. At 53.6 MT, the production was up by 6 MT from the 47.3 MT output of July last year, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement Tuesday. CIL's production soared to 229.1 MT till April-July 2023, 10.7 per cent higher compared to 207 MT of April-July 2022. The coal PSU has set a target to produce 780 MT coal in FY24. In FY23, CIL produced 703 MT of coal.

Petrol demand up

New Delhi: India's petrol consumption rose in July, but diesel demand fell owing to monsoon rains and floods in some parts of the country, preliminary industry data showed Tuesday. Consumption of diesel, the most consumed fuel in the country accounting for about two-fifths of the demand, fell 4.3 per cent to 6.15 million tonne in July compared to the year-ago period. Consumption had fallen by a steep 15 per cent in first half of July but picked up in the second fortnight.

ATF price hiked

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price Tuesday was hiked by a steep 8.5 per cent - the second increase in a month, while commercial cooking gas rate was cut by ₹100 per cylinder in line with divergent trends in international benchmarks. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by 7,728.38 per kilolitre, or 8.5 per cent, in the national capital to ₹98,508.26 per kl, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Power use grows

New Delhi: The country's power consumption grew by 8.4 per cent to 139 billion units in July this year compared to the same month last year. In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 128.25 billion units (BU), higher than 123.72 BU in July 2021, according to the government data. The peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, rose to 208.82 GW in July 2023. The peak power supply stood at 190.35 GW in July 2022 and 200.53 GW in July 2021.

ROBUST RISE

GST collections up by 11% in July YoY

This is the fifth time since the rollout of GST regime that monthly collections have crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark - making it the new normal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

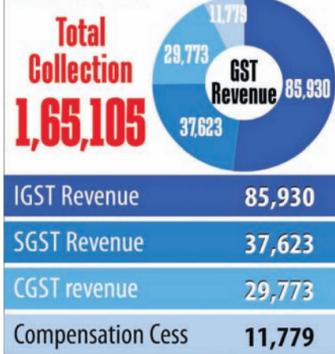
New Delhi, August 1: GST collection rose 11 per cent to over ₹1.65 lakh crore in July as a result of anti-evasion measures and higher consumer spending. This is the fifth time since the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime that monthly collections have crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark - making it the new normal.

"Gross GST revenue collected in July is ₹1,65,105 crore of which CGST is ₹29,773 crore, SGST is ₹37,623 crore, IGST is ₹85,930 crore (including ₹41,239 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹11,779 crore (including ₹840 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said.

Revenues for the month were 11 per cent higher than GST revenues in July 2022, when it was about ₹1.49 lakh crore. July 2023 is the second consecutive month when revenues from taxes paid on goods sold and services rendered showed an increase month-on-month. It was ₹1.61 lakh crore and ₹1.57 lakh crore in June and May, respectively. The record high collection of ₹1.87 lakh crore was witnessed in April.

During July, revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 15 per cent higher than revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

GST Revenue Collection for JULY 2023 (in ₹ Crores)



■ GST COLLECTION STANDS AT OVER ₹1.65L-CR
■ MOP-UP WAS ₹1.61L-CR IN JUNE, ₹1.57L-CR IN MAY
■ HIGHEST COLLECTION OF ₹1.87L-CR WITNESSED IN APRIL

With the upcoming festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months

ABHISHEK JAIN | NATIONAL HEAD (INDIRECT TAX), KPMG INDIA

N A Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said increased consumer spending for homes, cars, vacations, and other consumer items is also ensuring higher monthly GST collections.

"The strong GSTN network has ensured detection of tax evaders at early stages. Hence, on regular basis the department has been cracking down on tax evaders and fake invoicing issues. Further the periodic clarifications on industry issues by the GST Council are also ensuring clarity in law, proper compliances, and higher collections by the authorities," Mehta said.

Deloitte India Partner MS

Mani said the progressive reduction in the e-invoicing turnover limits accompanied by the large increase in number of state wise GST audits has led to all businesses becoming more GST compliant leading to increasingly stable GST collections month after month.

"The past trend of six key states generating almost 60 per cent of the nationwide GST collections continues in the current month as well. The steady collections exceeding ₹1.6 lakh crore over the past few months reflects an increasing awareness across businesses that GST compliance is essential and any non-compliance will get picked up immediately," Mani said.

88% of ₹2,000 notes returned to banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, August 1: As much as 88 per cent of the ₹2,000 currency notes have either been deposited or exchanged at banks, and only ₹42,000 crore worth of such notes are with public as of July 31, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Tuesday.

The last date to exchange/deposit ₹2,000 denomination notes is September 30. In value terms, ₹2,000 notes in circulation has come down to ₹42,000 crore as July from ₹3.56 lakh crore on the day of announcement of withdrawal May 19.

In a statement, the RBI said out of the total banknotes in ₹ 2,000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and

the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The central bank, in a surprise move, May 19 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

The total value of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to ₹3.62 lakh crore March 31, 2023 had declined to ₹3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business May 19, 2023. According to the data received from the banks, the total value of ₹2,000 banknotes received back from circulation is ₹3.14 lakh crore up to July 31, 2023.

It may be noted that RBI has not yet clarified what would be the status of ₹2,000 notes in private hands after September 30.

Valuation of the exchanged currency stands at ₹3.14 lakh crore

Govt debt stands at ₹155.6L-cr

DEBT OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 28% OF GDP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The central government's debt stood at ₹155.6 lakh crore or 57.1 per cent of the GDP at the end of March 2023, Parliament was informed Tuesday.

"The Central Government's debt was ₹155.6 lakh crore as on March 31, 2023. It has reduced from 61.5 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 to 57.1 per cent of GDP in FY 2022-23," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The debt of state governments at the end of 2022-23 is estimated to be about 28 per cent of GDP. Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in the Indian economy has increased from ₹45.41 lakh crore



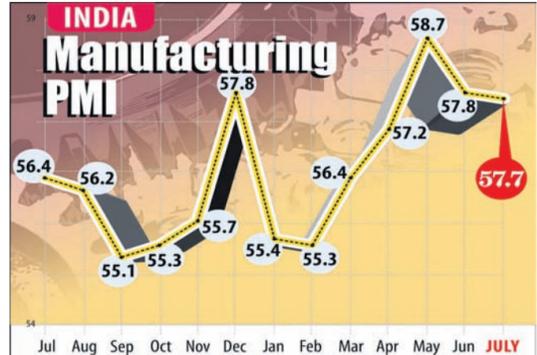
(constant 2011-12 prices) in 2018-19 to ₹54.35 lakh crore in 2022-23 (Provisional Estimates).

"The government is implementing the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' (2020-21 & 2021-22) and 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' (2022-23 & 2023-24)," he said.

The government approved and released special assistance (loan) in the form of a 50-year interest-free loan for capital expenditure on capital projects in sectors like health, education, irrigation, and power etc for capital expenditure for different States, he said.

During 2023-24, ₹84,883.90 crore

Factory activity eases for 2nd straight month



Despite the fall, the Indian manufacturing sector maintained strong growth momentum at the start of the third quarter amid ongoing buoyant demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Manufacturing sector activities in India moderated for the second straight month in July as rates of expansion in output and new orders eased slightly, a monthly survey said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 57.7 in July from 57.8 in June.

The July PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 25th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 indicates contraction.

"The Indian manufacturing sector showed little sign of losing growth momentum in July as production lines continued to motor on the back of strong new order growth," said Andrew

Harker, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Rates of expansion in output and new orders were only marginally softer than in June, with firms expanding their employment and purchasing activity accordingly, the survey said.

According to the survey, reports of demand improvements were widespread and resulted in another marked expansion of new orders in the sector. Growth in new export business picked up to the fastest since last November.

Respondents noted increase in new orders from customers in the US and neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and Nepal, it said.

Firms responded to greater workloads by taking on extra staff. The solid pace of job creation was broadly in line with those seen in May and June.

On the inflation front, cost inflationary pressures remained relatively muted.

These higher prices for raw materials, plus rising labour costs, led firms to increase their selling prices, the survey said, adding that the rate of inflation was solid, but eased to a three-month low.

Top 50 wilful defaulters owe ₹87,295 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: The finance ministry Tuesday said top 50 wilful defaulters including Gitanjali Gems Limited, Era Infra Engineering Limited, REI Agro Limited, and ABG Shipyard Limited owe ₹87,295 crore to banks and financial institutions.

Of this, top 10 wilful defaulters owe ₹40,825 crore to schedule commercial banks (SCBs), Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

SCBs have written off an aggregate amount of ₹10,57,326 crore during the last five financial years (RBI provisional data for FY 2022-23), he said.

"The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has apprised that the amount owed by top 50 wilful defaulters in SCBs was ₹87,295 crore as on March 31, 2023," he said.

Fugitive Mehul Choksi's Gitanjali Gems is the biggest wilful defaulter owing ₹7,738 crore to banks. It is followed by Era Infra Engineering Limited owing ₹5,750 crore, REI Agro Limited ₹5,148 crore, ABG Shipyard Limited ₹4,774 crore, and Concast Steel and Power Limited ₹3,911 crore.

Other wilful defaults are Rotomac Global Private Limited ₹2,894 crore, Winsome Diamonds and Jewellery Limited ₹2,846 crore, Frost International Limited ₹2,518 crore, Shri Lakshmi Cotsyn Limited ₹2,180 crore and Zoom Developers Private Limited ₹2,066 crore.

Karad said the provision enabling banks to enter into compromise settlement in respect of borrowers categorised as fraud or wilful defaulter is not a new regulatory instruction and has been the settled regulatory stance for more than fifteen years.

Further, he said, compromise settlement with borrowers classified as wilful defaulters or fraud is also covered in RBI's Master Circular on Wilful Defaulters dated July 1, 2015 and Master Directions on Frauds dated July 1, 2016.

MSI, Hyundai see single-digit sales growth

With the semiconductor supply issues more or less behind, the automobile manufacturers are all geared up for the upcoming festive season in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Maruti Suzuki India and Hyundai reported single-digit sales growth in July with the sports utility segment continuing to drive overall demand in the market.

Mahindra & Mahindra witnessed a 29 per cent increase in passenger vehicle dispatches while Tata Motors saw a marginal increase in the wholesales last month.

Maruti Suzuki Tuesday said its total domestic passenger ve-



hicle sales stood at 1,52,126 units last month as compared to 1,42,850 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 6 per cent.

Utility vehicles, consisting of Brezza, Ertiga, Fronx, Grand Vitara, Jimny and XL6, clocked sales of 62,049 units last month, a two-fold jump as against 23,272 units dispatched in the year-ago period.

The company led the SUV space last month with sales volume of 46,620 units. The segment accounted for 49.1 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle sales.

However, Maruti Suzuki saw sales of mini segment cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, dip to 9,590 units last month as against 20,333 units in July 2022.

Rival Hyundai reported a marginal increase in domestic sales at 50,701 units last month from 50,500 units in the year-ago period.

"Our domestic July sales volume of 50,000 plus units is backed by a strong SUV portfolio. This has been bolstered by the addition of Exter to an already strong SUV line-up," Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg said.

Tata Motors reported a marginal increase in its passenger vehicle dispatches last month at 47,628 units.

Mahindra and Mahindra saw a 29 per cent jump in passenger vehicle sales in July.

The Mumbai-based automaker's wholesales rose to 36,205 units in July from 28,053 units in the year-ago period.

"We are excited to clock the highest-ever SUV domestic sales of 36,205 units in a month. The XUV700 tribe grew to 1 lakh

strong, in a record time of 20 months. Also in July, the Scorpio brand achieved the highest sales in a month since its launch," Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Automotive Division President Veejay Nakra said.

The company continues to see robust demand for its key brands, he added.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported its best-ever monthly sales in July at 21,911 units. Last month, the company's domestic wholesales stood at 20,759 units, while exports accounted for 1,152 units.

TKM previously posted its best monthly wholesales in May 2023 by selling 20,410 units.

MG Motor said its retail sales grew by 25 per cent to 5,012 units in July. The company had sold 4,013 units in July 2022. The automaker said EV sales accounted for 34 per cent of the total sales last month.

Batters power India to 351/5 Jadeja responds to Kapil's dig

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tarouba, August 1: Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja responded to former captain Kapil Dev's dig on the team becoming 'arrogant', saying "people make such comments when India lose matches".

Recently, Kapil said that arrogance has crept in the current Indian team and the players feel they know everything. Talking to reporters on the eve of the series-deciding third ODI against the West Indies here, Jadeja said the players were only focused on winning for India and have no personal agenda.

"Everyone has their own opinion. Ex-players have full right to

the ODI series against the West Indies.

India rested regular skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli in the second ODI of the three-match series, which the visitors lost by six wickets. India had won the first match by five wickets.

"This is the series before the Asia Cup and World Cup, where we can experiment, we can try out new combinations. It will give us an idea about the team's balance, strengths

and weaknesses," Jadeja told reporters on eve of the series decider.

India's 50-over assignments after the the tour of the Caribbeans include the Asia Cup which starts later this month followed by a three-match series against Australia and the all important ODI World Cup in October.

"Captain and team management know what combination they are going to play. There is no confusion at all. We have already decided what is going to be the combination in the Asia Cup, they have already decided that



share their opinion, but I don't think there is any arrogance in this team," Jadeja said.

"Everyone is enjoying their cricket and everyone is hard-working. No one has taken anything for granted. They are giving their 100 per cent. Such comments generally come when Indian team loses a match.

"This is a good bunch of boys, this is a good group. We are representing India and that is our main aim, there is no personal agenda," he added.

"Playing XI for Asia Cup already decided"

Jadeja said the playing XI for the Asia Cup beginning on August 30 has already been decided despite the experimentation in

before. But it's more about trying out a particular player or batter at a batting position."

India are expected to continue giving valuable game time to youngsters in the series-deciding third match on Tuesday. Talking about the loss in the second ODI, Jadeja said, "We were not disappointed with the loss. We didn't lose the match because of experiments, sometimes conditions also matter.

"We are trying different combinations. We can try different batters at different position. This is the series where we can afford to chop and change. Young players also need that international experience, they also need a game time," he said.



(From L): Hardik Pandya goes for a pull; Shubman Gill raises his bat after reaching fifty as Ishan Kishan looks on

in the first powerplay to set the tone.

For Kishan, the performance in this series will keep him in good stead ahead of Asia Cup but the bigger question remains

about his batting position in case KL Rahul isn't fit for the tourney. The chances of Rohit Sharma sacrificing his place at the top of the order to accommodate Kishan are slim.

And then if Kishan is asked to bat in the middle order - No.4 or 5, would it be fair to ask him to perform at that slot straight-away?

Samson (77, 64b, 8x4, 3x6) added 143 for the opening wicket with Gill to set the platform and should have converted his third consecutive half century into a hundred. The duo hit 11 boundaries



Sanju Samson hoicks for a maximum during his innings, Tuesday

BRIEF SCORES

INDIA 351/5

(Shubman Gill 85, Ishan Kishan 77, Hardik Pandya 70 n o, Sanju Samson 51, Suryakumar Yadav 35; Romario Shepherd 2/73, Gudakesh Motie 1/38) vs WEST INDIES. Match to continue.

Skipper Hardik did take India past 300-run mark with their T20 styled stroke-play during death overs. Suryakumar Yadav (35, 30b, 2x4, 2x6) did hit his customary pick-up shot - a six behind square with little width to manoeuvre and also slashed six off Jayden Seals but once again wasted a golden opportunity to make a mark.

Hardik announced his arrival with a picturesque off-drive and a straight six off Cariah was equally eye-pleasing. Hardik and Suryakumar added 65 runs in 8.1 overs for the fifth wicket.

JAI PRAKASH IN FRAY FOR WFI PRESIDENT'S POST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Delhi state body chief Jai Prakash has filed nomination papers for three posts, including that of president, in the August 12 Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections, according to the official list issued by the returning officer Tuesday.

Besides Prakash, the other three in the fray for the top post are UP wrestling body vice-president Sanjay Singh, Jammu and Kashmir senior Superintendent of Police Dushyant Sharma and 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medalist Anita Sheoran. Out of the four, Prakash and Singh are from the Brij Bhushan camp.

Sheoran, one of the witnesses in the sexual harassment case against Brij Bhushan, is representing Odisha, though the 38-year-old hails from Haryana and is employed with the state police.

Returning officer and former J&K High Court Judge Mahesh Mittal Kumar Tuesday announced the official list of candidates for 15 posts. Prakash has also filed his nomination papers for two other posts as well - vice-president and secretary general.

The Brij Bhushan camp had kept Prakash's name a closely-guarded secret Monday, the last date of filing nominations, portraying only Singh, who is also the WFI joint secretary, as their only candidate for the top post.

It remains to be seen who, if any, decides to pull out on the last date for withdrawal of nominations, which is August 7.

Dushyant had attended the crucial meeting hosted by Brij

Bhushan at a five-star hotel here July 30, where the BJP leader had announced that he had the support of 22 of the 25 state bodies for the WFI elections. Dushyant has also filed nominations for the post of treasurer.

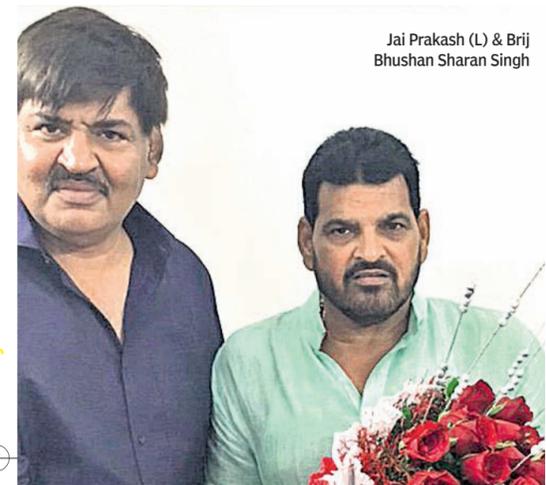
Elections will be held for the posts of president (1), senior vice-president (1), vice-president (4), secretary general (1), treasurer (1), joint secretary (2) and executive members (5).

There are four candidates for the post of president, three for senior vice-president, six for vice-president, three for the lone post of secretary general, two for treasurer, four for joint secretary and 10 for executive members' post.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers as well as announcement of the list of validly nominated candidates will be done Wednesday.

LIST OF CANDIDATES

President: Sanjay Kumar Singh, Jai Prakash, Dushyant Sharma, Anita Sheoran; Senior vice-president: Asit Kumar Saha, ID Nanavati, Devender; Vice-President: Hamza-Bin-Omer, Kartar Singh, N Phoni, Asit Kumar Saha, Jai Prakash, Mohan Yadav; Secretary general: Darshan Lal, Jai Prakash, Prem Chand Lochab; Treasurer: Satya Pal Singh Deswal, Dushyant Sharma; Joint secretary: RK Purushotham, Rohtash Singh, Bellippady Gunaranjan Shetty, Kuldeep Singh; Executive members: M Loganathan, Neivikuolie Khatsii, Rakesh Singh, Ummad Singh, Prashant Rai, Rajnish Kumar, J Srinivasa, Ratul Sarma, Ajay Vaid, Kuldeep Singh.



Jai Prakash (L) & Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Treesa-Gayatri pair sails through



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, August 1: Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the second round of the Australia Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight game win over Canada's Catherine Choi and Josephine Wu Tuesday.

Treesa and Gayatri, who climbed two spots to World No.17

in the latest BWF ranking on Tuesday, registered a 21-16, 21-17 win over World No.29 Canadian pair in the round of 32.

The Indian pair has not crossed the second round in any tournament apart from the semifinal finish at the All England Championships and the duo will face a tough task against World No.4 Japanese combination of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.

Ashwini Ponnappa, who is

playing the tournament after four years, didn't have a good outing as she along with her women's doubles partner Tanisha Crasto lost 11-21, 21-14, 17-21 to the Indonesian combination of Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and Amalia Cahaya Pratiwi in the opening round.

Another women's doubles combination of N Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil also bowed out after losing 14-21, 17-21 to the Taiwanese pair of Hsu Yin

Pak reach India via Attari-Wagah border for ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, August 1: The Pakistan hockey team arrived in India Tuesday via the Attari-Wagah border to participate in the Asian Champions Trophy starting here from Thursday.

The highly-anticipated match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan will take place August 9. The Pakistan team is flying to Chennai later tonight after entering Amritsar by road.

Meanwhile, the Harmanpreet Singh-led Indian team too landed in the city Tuesday morning. The Indian team is scheduled to train at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium at Egmore, on Wednesday before its opening match against China Thursday. Pakistan, too, will train on the same day.

The Asian Hockey Champions Trophy was first started as a women's teams competition in 2010. After the success of the women's Asian Champions Trophy, the men's competition was held in 2011 with six top teams in the continent. Till 2013, the ACT was an annual affair. However, from 2016 onwards, the tournament was staged every two years.

AIFF names squad for Asian Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1: Talisman Sunil Chhetri, senior defender Sandesh Jhingnan and first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu were Tuesday named in a 22-member Indian men's football squad for the upcoming Asian Games.

In Hangzhou, China, the host city for the Games, the Indian squad will be under the charge of national senior team head coach, Igor Stimac.

This news agency had earlier reported that the All India Football Federation (AIFF) was bullish about sending its first team to the Asian Games led by Chhetri and coached by 1998 Croatian World Cup semifinalist Stimac.

It is learnt that this Indian squad has got approval from the Asian Games organisers and the Olympic Council of Asia.

The participation of the Indian men's and women's football sides in the Hangzhou Games was earlier in doubt as per the sports ministry's criteria of sending teams which are ranked in top 8 in the continent.

The ministry later cleared both



THE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Gurmeet Singh, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem; Defenders: Sandesh Jhingnan, Anwar Ali, Narender Gahlot, Lalchungnunga, Akash Mishra, Roshan Singh, Ashish Rai; Midfielders: Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Apuia Ralte, Amarjit Singh Kiyam, Rahul KP, Naorem Mahesh Singh; Forwards: Siva Sakthi Narayanan, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri, Aniket Jadhav, Vikram Partap Singh, Rohit Danu.

the teams by relaxing the criteria after an appeal from the AIFF.

The Indian men's team are placed alongside hosts China PR, Bangladesh, and Myanmar in Group A. There are 23 teams,

ODISHA FC TO BEGIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIAN ARMY AUGUST 7

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 1: Odisha FC will kick off their Durand Cup football tournament campaign against Indian Army FT August 7 in Kokrajhar, Assam.

The Super Cup champions are placed in Group F alongside Assam's Bodoland Team, who are making a debut in the tournament this year, and I-League side Rajasthan United FC. OFC will face Rajasthan United FC August 11, before playing the Assamese side August 19.

The Bhubaneswar-based club, Monday, announced their participation in the Durand Cup 2023, with the intention of providing a platform and exposure to a majority of its native Odia talent.

This year marks the 132nd season of the tournament and second season for Odisha FC. The club had qualified for the quarterfinals the previous year. OFC will play their group-stage games in Kokrajhar.

All the participating teams have been organised into six groups, with each group consisting of four teams. Six group

winners and the two best second-placed sides will enter the knockout stage. A total of 43 games will be played.

The squad
GOALKEEPERS: Niraj Kumar and Siddhanta Padhan; **DEFENDERS:** Tankadhar Bag, Hendry Antony, Pintu Samal, Wangden Lama, Dheeraj Datta, Harishankar Nayak, Laxmidhar Badanayak and Rakesh Oram; **MIDFIELDERS:** Pungte Lapung, Adwin Tirke, Samir Karketta, Bikash Sahoo and Chandra Murmu; **FORWARDS:** Aphaoba Singh, Kartik Hantal, Anand Oram, Rahul Mukhi, Raisen Tudu, Chandra Muduli and Rajesh Nayak.

Sunshine Club script win

Sunshine Club rode on goals by Ajay Majhi (second minute), Abhinash Samal (11th) and Mohati Samal (61st) to thrash Town Club 3-0 in their FAO League match at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Tuesday.

The match between the OGP Club and YAFC, Choudwar was abandoned due to heavy rain and unplayable conditions.