



Kangana mocks celebs

Actor Kangana Ranaut criticises b-town celebs as unintelligent, stating she can't be friends with them due to their superficiality

LEISURE | P2



Fresh attack by Russia

Russia carries out its third ballistic missile attack on Kyiv this month but most of the projectiles were shot down on approach

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Poor quality products

Nearly 12% of tested spice samples fail to meet quality and safety standards, according to tests by authorities after global boycott

BUSINESS | P11



Lyon's plans

Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon is already taking suggestion from other spinners in an effort to contain Indian batter Yashasvi Jaiswal

SPORTS | P12



CALL FOR JUSTICE: Braving torrential rains, people protest against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Day after 10 deaths, lightning kills 6 more

As a preventive measure, the state govt has taken an initiative to plant 20 lakh palm trees through the Forest department across Odisha within a year: Pujari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 18: At least six people were killed and four others injured Sunday due to lightning strikes at various places in state, police said.

Two persons died in Kendrapara district as lightning struck them when they were working in their agricultural fields, a senior officer said.

During the day, an 18-year-old man was killed and four others were injured in a lightning strike in Balasore district. Police said the deceased and injured persons, all women, belonged to one family. The incident occurred when they were working in a paddy field.

Locals took them to Soro health centre where a doctor declared one of them dead, the police said.

Deaths due to lightning strikes were also reported from Jajpur,

Sonepur and Bhadrak districts, police said.

The deceased persons in the three districts are yet to be identified, a police officer said.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the number of deaths due to lightning strikes has been increasing in the state. The state reported a higher number of such fatalities each year as compared to the national average.

On average, lightning strikes claim around 300 lives each year in Odisha, he said.

As a preventive measure, the Odisha government has taken an initiative to plant 20 lakh palm trees through the Forest department across Odisha within a year, Pujari said.

Palm trees allow lightning to pass through them and into the ground without causing significant damage.

Notably, 10 people lost their lives Saturday due to lightning strikes in six districts of the state.

Expressing grief over such deaths, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had directed the authorities concerned to provide ₹4 lakh compensation to the family members of each deceased.

On average, lightning strikes claim around 300 lives each year in Odisha

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



When such powerful politicians can't protect her, how can I?

Top court takes cognisance

A THREE-JUDGE BENCH COMPRISING THE CHIEF JUSTICE IS SCHEDULED TO HEAR THE MATTER TUESDAY ■ POLICE CRACKDOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFORMATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/ New Delhi, August 18: The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged rape-murder of a post-graduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and will hear the case August 20, as protests demanding justice for the victim continued across the nation for the tenth day.

According to the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is scheduled to hear a matter titled 'In Re: Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata and related issue'.

The doctor, whose body was found August 9, was allegedly raped-murdered while on duty. A civic volunteer was arrested

KOLKATA HORROR



the following day in connection with the crime. The Calcutta High Court August 13 ordered the transfer of the case probe from Kolkata Police to the CBI which started its probe August 14.

The CBI, tasked by the Calcutta High Court to probe the case, summoned Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College, for the third consecutive

day and is now examining his call records and chats. He has been asked to provide details of his phone calls before and after the incident.

The CBI subjected Ghosh to intense questioning with investigators examining his call records and actions during and after the incident, seeking to determine whether there was any pre-planning or conspiracy involved.

The former principal, who was grilled by the agency's officers for over 13 hours from Saturday till past midnight, reached the CBI office at CGO Complex in Salt Lake at 11am Sunday.

Ghosh was asked to specify his role after getting the news of the death of the doctor, who he had contacted and why he made the parents wait for nearly three hours, a CBI officer said.

The ex-principal was also questioned who had ordered the renovation of the rooms near the seminar hall at the emergency

building of the hospital after the incident.

"We are trying to find out whether there was any conspiracy or pre-planning to the crime. What was the principal doing and whether he is involved with the incident in any manner," the officer said.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Police has intensified crackdown on alleged social media misinformation, which the opposition has criticised as an attempt to silence dissent. On Sunday, they issued summonses to TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, former BJP MP Locket Chatterjee and renowned doctors Kunal Sarkar and Subarna Goswami for allegedly spreading false information and disclosing the victim's identity.

In response to the ongoing unrest, police imposed prohibitory orders near RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, banning gatherings of more than five people until August 24. P3,8

Rahul slams lateral entry

'Privatisation of IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending quota'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Sunday termed the government's move of recruiting public servants through lateral entry as an "anti-national step", alleging that the reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs is being "openly snatched away" by such an action.

The former Congress president also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "attacking the Constitution by recruiting public servants through the Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh instead of the Union Public Service Commission".

Gandhi's attack came after it emerged that 45 specialists would soon join key posts of joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries in different central ministries.

The SEBI is a vivid example of what representatives of a few corporates will do by sitting on decisive government posts, where for the first time a person from the private sector was made the chairperson, Gandhi said in an apparent reference to the conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch.

The INDIA bloc will strongly oppose this "anti-national step" that hurts both the administrative structure and social justice, Gandhi said. "Privatisation of the IAS is Modi's guarantee for ending reservation," he added.

In response, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya taking to X said the truth is that such lateral recruitments used to be done without any process during the Congress-led UPA rule.

TRUMP'S LATEST ON KAMALA

'I'm much better looking than her'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, August 18: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has launched fresh personal attacks against his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, disparaging her physical appearance and insisting that he was much better looking than her.

The former president made the comments at a rally in Pennsylvania Saturday while referencing a recent Time Magazine cover that features Vice President Harris.

"I'm much better looking than her," Trump, 78, declared after criticising Time Magazine's illustration for being too generous with a portrait of Harris, 59. This isn't the first time he's



brought up the topic, which also came up at previous rallies.

"Time Magazine doesn't have a picture of her. They have this unbelievable artist drawing her," he said. "They took a lot of pictures that didn't work out so they hired a sketch artist."

Trump spoke for nearly two hours quickly hitting on Vice President Harris' economic policy rollout before going off script and calling himself better looking, The Hill reported.

The attack line from Trump was one of many against Harris and her Democratic allies at Saturday's rally.

Trump last week said he was entitled to personally attack Harris because he doesn't have a lot of respect for her, as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House November 5.

Trump during Saturday's rally in Pennsylvania also attacked President Joe Biden for dropping out of the presidential race.

Pennsylvania is set to play a deciding role in November's election with its 19 Electoral College votes up for grabs. Trump narrowly flipped the state in 2016, but then narrowly lost it to Biden in 2020.

Year's first supermoon to grace skies tonight

The celestial event, one of four consecutive supermoons this year, will be visible in India during Monday night and into early Tuesday morning

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 18: Stargazers in India are set to witness a celestial treat for the eyes, as a full, blue supermoon will grace the night sky Monday, according to NASA.

NASA said that the moon will appear full from Sunday morning through early Wednesday morning, with its peak occurring Tuesday morning for those eastward from Nepal across Asia, including India and Australia.



THIS FULL MOON IS ALSO A BLUE MOON, AS IT IS THE THIRD FULL MOON IN A SEASON WITH FOUR FULL MOONS. HOWEVER, IT WON'T APPEAR BLUE

THE NEXT SUPERMOONS IN 2024 WILL OCCUR SEPTEMBER 17, OCTOBER 17 AND NOVEMBER 15

The celestial event, one of four consecutive supermoons this year, will be visible in India during the night of August 19 and into the early morning of August 20.

The term 'supermoon', coined by astrologer Richard Nolle in 1979, refers to a new or full moon that occurs when the moon is within 90 per cent of its closest approach to Earth. Full supermoons are notable for

being the biggest and brightest full moons of the year.

This full moon is also a blue moon, as it is the third full moon in a season with four full moons. Although it won't appear blue, the term 'blue moon' dates back to 1528, and has various speculated origins, including an old English phrase meaning "betray moon" or a reference to rare atmospheric conditions that

make the moon appear blue.

The August full moon is traditionally known as the 'Sturgeon moon' by the Algonquin tribes, named after the large fish easily caught during this time of year. Other names for this moon include the red moon, corn moon, barley moon, and herb moon.

For science fiction fans, this Sturgeon moon is a nod to author Theodore Sturgeon, known for his contributions to Star Trek.

The next supermoon in 2024 will occur September 17 and is also known as the harvest moon.

It will also be partially eclipsed by Earth during the night as a portion of it passes into Earth's shadow. The third full moon of the year will occur October 17. Known as hunter's moon, it will also be the closest full moon of the year. The last supermoon of the year will occur November 15.

leisure



DELON PASSES AWAY AT 88

Alain Delon, a French actor known for his roles in director Jean-Pierre Melville's films, such as *Le Samourai*, has died at the age of 88. He also appeared in Melville's heist films *Le Cercle rouge* and *Un Flic*, reports *Variety*.

OLIVIA: I'M OBSESSED WITH LOS ANGELES

Pop star Olivia Rodrigo has admitted to being obsessed with Los Angeles. The 21-year-old pop star has spent the last six months on the road as part of her GUTS World Tour, said, "I'm obsessed with Los Angeles for many reasons. Best weather. Best food. I will live and die by that."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will find work to be very stressful today. However, it will not prevent you from taking shots at your opponents. You are thoughtful, but can be cunning too. People would have gauged it by now. Ganesh advises you to go ahead nevertheless.

TAURUS

This is a day when you will be dying to share your thoughts and feelings with someone near and dear. You will be extremely effective in communicating your ideas and emotions and will thus develop greater closeness and intimacy with your loved one. The time spent with your sweetheart will be full of love and warmth.

GEMINI

Your mind will be seized with tension on some account. You will be nervous and uneasy as a result. A grave illness may strike some member of your family. However, things should ease out during the later part of the day, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You may make a switch to a new job or get a job offer that you don't want to deny, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to go on a shopping spree and spend lavishly. In the evening, you will be spending your time and money on your loved ones.

LEO

You will complete your tasks courageously today. You will have the patience to wait for the fruits of your labour to fall into your lap, so as to say, you will redo those tasks that you are unable to complete to your expectations. Owing to this attitude of yours, you do not need to worry about a thing, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will feel very agitated about some prickly issues today. Ganesh says there is a likelihood of your joining some sort of a course to improve your personality. There is also a possibility of an intimate conversation leading up to some carnal enjoyment.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will be in a nostalgic frame of mind and will love to remember the good memories of the past today. You will be able to sit with like-minded people and will discuss and share your ideas and thoughts. You will share your thoughts on varied topics like philosophy religion etc. Ganesh says it is time you focus on the present and remain joyous instead of trying to think about the past or future.

SCORPIO

Ganesh has lot of surprises in store for you today. It's your time to slowly unravel the mystery, He says. The ball is in your court when it comes to business meetings and professional discussions. Your sense of humour is likely to cast a magic spell on everyone around you, today.

SAGITTARIUS

A day full of highs and lows, predicts Ganesh. Heaps of work is likely to keep you on toes today. You experience a stressful day at work. In the evening, you may spend quality time with your beloved and treasure small joys of life.

CAPRICORN

If you are holding an authoritative position at work, today is your day, feels Ganesh. Sincere efforts and honesty will not make the current projects cross finishing line, but also fetch you appreciation and rewards from one and all. Those in the fields other than government, will win the confidence of superiors and may discuss confidential subjects with them.

AQUARIUS

The day will kick start with you deciding to opt for higher education or a personality development course. If you are a businessman or associated with finance, it will be a favourable day for you, foresees Ganesh. Throughout the day, you will be occupied with one or the other thing but you will not be complaining.

PISCES

You need to control the vortex of emotions swirling through you. Your savage mood swings could have a bearing on vital decisions you need to take today. You need to guard against being emotional, be more calculative in your dealings, and think lesser about chasing after money, says Ganesh.

Disha's desire

Mumbai: Actress Disha Patani, known for her stunning looks and exceptional dance skills, expressed her admiration for Telugu superstar Allu Arjun and her eagerness to share the screen with him.

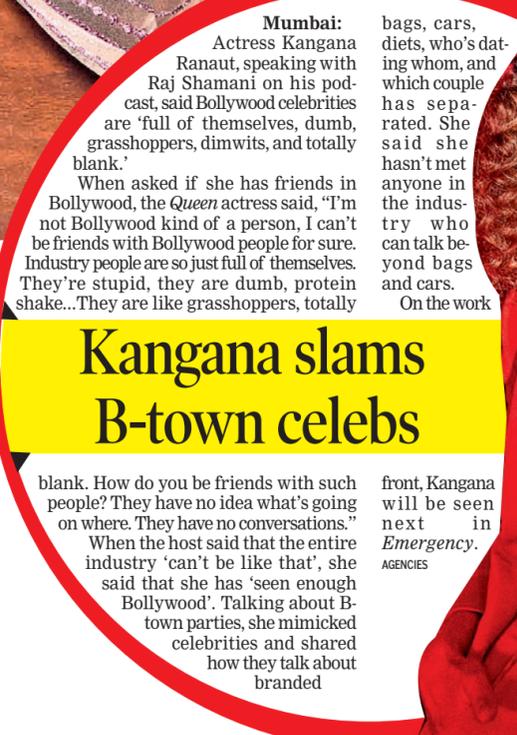
In an interview with *IANS*, she revealed her deep admiration for the *Pushpa* actor, highlighting her desire to work alongside him, even if it was just for a special appearance in a song. The actress shared, "I am a huge fan of Arjun. I admire him so much that I would not mind sharing screen space with him in a song. I am sure the experience of working with him even in a song will be amazing because he is a great dancer, too."

Allu Arjun, who has a massive fan following not just in the South but across India, is celebrated for his dynamic screen presence and unparalleled dance

moves. Although Patani has yet to feature in a project with Allu Arjun, the idea of witnessing Disha's graceful dance moves alongside Allu Arjun's electrifying performance in a song sequence is something that fans eagerly await.

On the professional front, Disha Patani was last seen in the highly anticipated film *Kalki 2898 AD*.

AGENCIES



Kangana slams B-town celebs

blank. How do you be friends with such people? They have no idea what's going on where. They have no conversations."

When the host said that the entire industry 'can't be like that', she said that she has 'seen enough Bollywood'. Talking about B-town parties, she mimicked celebrities and shared how they talk about branded

bags, cars, diets, who's dating whom, and which couple has separated. She said she hasn't met anyone in the industry who can talk beyond bags and cars.

On the work

front, Kangana will be seen next in *Emergency*.

AGENCIES

SRK shares his lifestyle

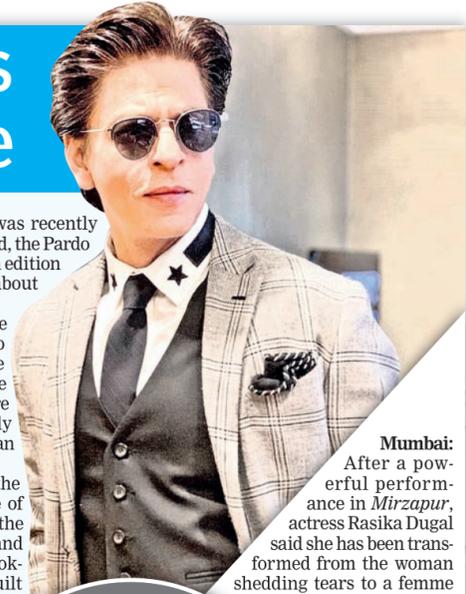
Mumbai: Actor Shah Rukh Khan, who was recently honoured with a lifetime achievement award, the Pardo alla Carriera, or Career Leopard, at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, has spoken about his lifestyle.

The actor said, "I go to sleep at five in the morning. When Mark Wahlberg gets up, I go off to sleep. And then I wake up about nine or 10 if I'm shooting. But then I will come home at 2am, take a bath, and then work out before I go to sleep." As per the report, he eats only one meal. The actor works out for only half an hour every day.

Talking about his hiatus of four years, the *Om Shanti Om* actor added, "At the age of 55, I took a kind of sabbatical. During the pandemic, there was nothing else to do, and I was telling everyone: learn Italian cooking and work out. I was working out. I built a body. After four years, people started missing me because before that, I was too much in everybody's face."

On the work front, Shah Rukh will be seen next in *King* and in the upcoming voice of 'Mufasa' in the Hindi version of Barry Jenkins' *Mufasa: The Lion King*.

AGENCIES



Rasika's transformation into femme fatale

Mumbai: After a powerful performance in *Mirzapur*, actress Rasika Dugal said she has been transformed from the woman shedding tears to a femme fatale.

The actress is tired of crying, with or without glycerine, always in front of the camera. The actress said she is breathing a sigh of relief now that the writers are finally writing diverse scripts for her and not only ones where she is supposed to shed tears on screen. In an interview, she accepts that the actors get typecast, which doesn't allow them to showcase their acting mettle. "There was a time I could read the script backward and know that in the last ten pages, there will be at least two crying scenes definitely for me." When asked if that has now changed? She said, "It has, a little of that femme fatale has happened, and I am happy about it."

"Streaming services initially gave my career a new lease on life, providing a platform for many of my smaller films that hadn't received the release they deserved. Through shows like *Mirzapur*, I reached a wider audience, and it felt like streaming was the ideal space for indie films. However, this has changed, and now smaller films are once again struggling to find viewers. The golden period seems to have faded. While there's still plenty of work, not all OTT content is of high quality. However, it does offer opportunities for new talent, fresh ideas, and innovative storytelling," the *Lootcase* actress concluded.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

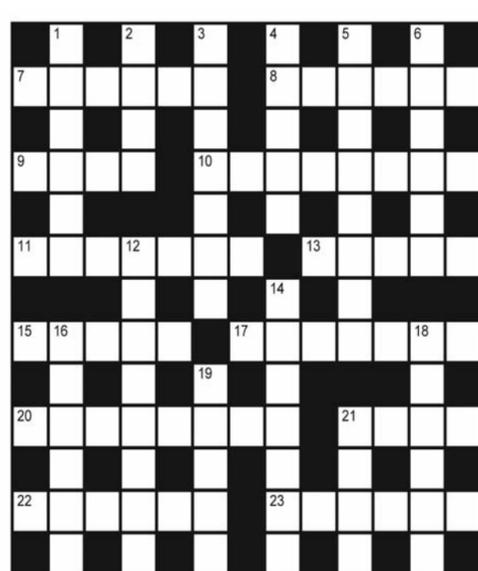


BREVITY



FUN post

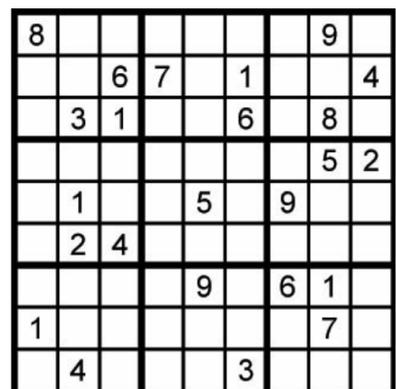
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Urban problem
 - 8 Acquire
 - 9 Queue
 - 10 Consumer protection
 - 11 Symbol of purity
 - 13 Twinkle-toed
 - 15 Come from behind
 - 17 Enthusiastic applause
 - 20 Fritter away
 - 21 Domestic
 - 22 Cinco de Mayo party
 - 23 Clove herb
 - 3 Get-well gift
 - 4 Fret
 - 5 Narrow's pal
 - 6 Side arm
 - 12 Crumple
 - 14 Garden-variety
 - 16 Find not guilty
 - 18 Source
 - 19 Utopian
 - 21 Dark region of the moon
- Down**
- 1 Choice
 - 2 Stalactite site

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

FESTIVAL OF BONDING

A customer inspecting rakhis made up of flowers at a shop on the eve of Rakhi Purnima at Choudhury Bazar in Cuttack, Sunday



A history of unexplained deaths at RG Kar

ALLEGATIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE FAILURE OF PROPER INVESTIGATION INTO A SERIES OF DEATHS HAVE LED TO CALLS FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, which is at present in the eye of a storm following the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor that has sparked nationwide outrage, has a chequered and troubled history of unexplained deaths.

has eerie similarities with a series of tragic deaths that had occurred at the hospital premises which were hushed up promptly under different pretexts.

Those familiar with the operation of the medical college said that the institution has been embroiled in a series of damning scandals in the past over two decades.

On August 25, 2001, Soumitra Biswas, a fourth-year medical student, was found hanging in his hos-

tel room at the medical college. Authorities were quick to call it a suicide. However, after the family of the victim, and other students, raised a hue and cry, the Calcutta High Court stepped in and ordered an investigation by the Crime Investigation Department (CID).

The CID sleuths arrested Auromitra Das, a fellow student, during investigation. However, the case remains unresolved, and Soumitra's death is still shrouded in mystery. The victim's mother had long suspected foul play, alleging that her son was done to death after discovering illicit activities on campus.

Significantly, during investigation allegations of a pornography ring operating within the college hostel, involving the exploitation of sex workers and even bodies had surfaced. These allegations were even supported by corroboration by students who claimed that Soumitra had been targeted after he exposed these sleazy happenings.

In the first week of February 2003, Arijit Dutta, a 24-years-old house staff committed suicide by 'cutting his veins and then jumping off the roof' of the main hostel building of the hospital (TOI, February 6, 2003). He was a resident of Bamunpara, Suri, in the Birbhum district. No initial reason was reported for the suspicious death/suicide as no note or any other indication was found. Arijit's father, Swaraj Dutta, reportedly told the police that he couldn't say why his son wanted to kill himself. The mystery behind the case still remains unsolved.

On May 1, 2020, Poulami Shah, a 25-year-old second year Post Graduate

Trainee at the sick neonatal care unit of the hospital allegedly jumped from the 6th-floor of the medical college building around 11am before starting her shift at the fever clinic of the hospital. Following the incident, police said they had 'learnt' that she had been suffering from depression for past few days before the incident (Indian Express, May 1, 2020). However, no suicide note was found, and the circumstances surrounding her death remained unclear.

Moreover, like in Soumitra's case, Poulami's death has left many unanswered questions, with friends and colleagues pointing to depression, possibly exacerbated by her work in the Covid-19 clinic, as a potential factor.

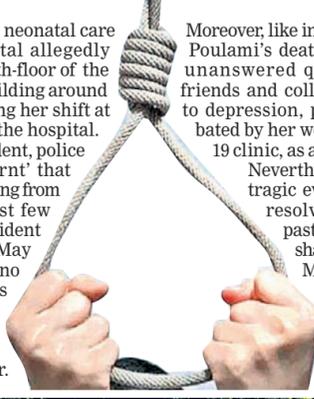
Nevertheless, the recent tragic event and the unresolved cases of the past have cast a long shadow over RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Allegations of institutional negligence and the failure of

proper investigation into a series of deaths have led to calls for greater accountability and transparency.

The present outrage and nationwide protests is a stark reminder that the issues at hand are far from being resolved, and the truth behind these tragic deaths must be uncovered to ensure the safety and well-being of the students and staff at the institution.

With the CBI taking over the probe, focus has also shifted to the medical college's dark past. Only the outcome of the probe will determine whether the happenings at the institutions were isolated personal tragedies, or part of a larger systemic issue.



SIM BOX CASE

Similar devices operated from many places in City, Cuttack



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 18: The arrested accused in the illegal SIM box case, Raju Mandal, has disclosed during interrogation that he was operating similar devices from multiple locations in the City, and another site in neighbouring Cuttack, police said Sunday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said police will investigate into Mandal's claims and dismantle the boxes as and when found.

Meanwhile, a local court here Sunday granted police five-day remand of Mandal. Speaking to reporters, Singh said, "We requested a 14-day remand for Raju Mandal, but the court granted five days."

West Bengal resident Mandal was arrested Saturday with over 1,000 pre-activated SIM cards along with routers and other equipment from a house in

Laxmisagar area.

Authorities alleged that a Bangladeshi national operated the racket from the City, rerouting international calls to Pakistan, China, and West Asia.

"We are reaching out to his (Mandal's) family to learn more about his background and whether he had any accomplices," Singh said, adding, "Our primary focus is determining whether the SIM boxes were used for cybercrime, terrorist activities, or to create fake telephone exchanges."

A special team has been formed to investigate the SIM cards used by Mandal. Police plan to coordinate with West Bengal police and send a team to Mandal's hometown for more information.

"Mandal used to run the show on behalf of a Bangladeshi national identified as Asadur Zaman from a leased property in Bhubaneswar, ensuring the func-

tionality of UPS, internet and other services," police commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate Sanjeeb Panda said Saturday.

"Preliminary interrogation of Mandal revealed that the SIM boxes were used to reroute international calls to Pakistan, China, and the Middle East. Though Mandal was staying in West Bengal, he used to visit the house in Bhubaneswar to address any SIM issue and to perform maintenance and repairs," he said.

Panda said the SIM boxes are used to mask original phone numbers and are often employed for cybercrime, hate speech, terrorist acts, extortion, and other illegal activities, posing challenges for law enforcement agencies.

"Bangladesh national Asadur Zaman entered India in October, 2023 through Agartala and visited Bhubaneswar. He went back to Bangladesh in December. During his stay, he made payments to Mandal and is believed to have established two more SIM boxes, which are expected to be dismantled soon," he added.

Panda said police are contemplating taking help from a national investigating agency and also Interpol as the prime accused in the case is a Bangladeshi national.

HINDENBURG ROW

Cong to gherao ED office Aug 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 18: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sunday announced that it would join the nationwide protest on the Hindenburg Research's latest allegations and will gherao the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office here August 22.

Hindenburg Research had, August 10, accused SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch of having stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal.

The allegations have triggered a political slugfest with the Congress and other INDIA bloc parties demanding her removal and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe, while the BJP accused the Opposition of being a part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India.

After holding a meeting at the Congress Bhavan here, former MLA Mohd. Moqim said party leader Rahul Gandhi has been fighting to protect the country's Constitution and democracy.



Min Jual Oram's wife Jhingia Oram succumbs to dengue



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi paying his last respects to Union Minister Jual Oram's wife Jhingia Oram who passed away Saturday night

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram's wife Jhingia Oram died of dengue during treatment at a private hospital here, family sources said Sunday.

Jhingia Oram (58) is survived by her husband and two daughters. She died at about 10.50 pm Saturday night, they said. The minister himself is also down

with dengue and undergoing treatment at the same hospital. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has expressed grief over the passing away of Jhingia Oram. He visited the hospital late Saturday night.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Speaker Surama Padhy and other BJP leaders also paid their last respects to Jhingia Oram late last

night. Majhi said Jhingia was a pious, soft-spoken person, who involved herself in social and charitable works. "Jhingia Oram played an important role in Jual's long political journey," the CM said.

Jual was married to Jhingia March 8, 1987. Her last rites were performed at her native Kendudihi village under Lahunipada block in Sundargarh district Sunday in the presence of thousands of people.

Dengue on rise in state, Khurda tops with 500 cases

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, August 18: With 500 positive cases, Khurda district has emerged a dengue hotspot in the state where more than 2,000 cases have been recorded so far.

Source in the state Health Department said Sunday that around 700 cases have been found in Sundargarh, Bolangir and Cuttack districts, which are closely trailing Khurda.

The recent spurt in dengue cases has posed a serious concern with the monsoon slated to continue for at least a month in the

state, said experts, adding that the cases may witness marginal increase in the next few days.

Speaking to OrissaPOST, Director, Public Health, Nilakantha Mishra claimed that the situation is 'still under the control' as compared to the previous year. "Last year, we took almost 25,000 samples for test across the state which resulted in the detection of 2,000 positive cases. However, this year, over 60,000 blood samples have been tested across several hospitals and dispensaries in the state so far," he added.



He said with 150 cases so far, dengue cases appear to be going down in Cuttack. "Besides, the state has earmarked 40 sentinel sites at district headquarters hospitals to track and treat dengue cases. In Bhubaneswar,

Patia Health Centre and IRC Village Health Centre are equipped to deal with the infection," Mishra said.

Appealing people to eliminate stagnant waters from their homes and premises to curb the chances of mosquito breeding, he advised them to wear full-sleeve clothes before entering swampy areas.

Capital Hospital Director Dilip Panda said out of the 192 blood samples tested in the past one week, 12 came positive for dengue infection. At present, the hospital has 28 reserved beds for dengue patients. "The majority

of the positive cases are from slum areas in the City, including Mancheswar and Airport areas," he added.

On Sunday morning, the City woke up to the tragic death of Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram's wife Jhingia Oram due to dengue while undergoing treatment at a private hospital here. The minister himself is being treated for dengue infection at the same hospital. The incident has triggered widespread concerns among people over the present surge of the deadly fever in the Capital City.

GST officer, two more in Vig net

Bhubaneswar: Odisha vigilance Sunday arrested three persons including a Commercial Tax and GST officer on the charge of bribery, evasion of taxes, and causing loss to the government, officials said. Binay Bhusan Tripathy, an Assistant Commissioner of Enforcement unit, Jajpur along with two private persons Jyoti Pattnaik and Md Golam Sad has been arrested for evasion of taxes and misappropriation of government money over Rs 5.85 lakh, the Vigilance officials said. According to the Vigilance, Tripathy had intercepted one goods vehicle carrying scrap worth Rs 8.89 lakh at Revena in Jajpur district in May this year. He detained the vehicle at a dhaba on the NH and demanded Rs 2.5 lakh bribe from the owner to release the vehicle. However, when the bribe demand was not met, in contravention to the laws of GST, Tripathy, with an ulterior motive, illegally sold the entire scrap to another scrap dealer, and realized nominal tax and misappropriated Rs 5.85 lakh. The investigation revealed that Tripathy was parking the bribe money collected as cash deposit in various bank accounts of his family members, and later converting them to fixed deposits, the officials said. The anti-corruption wing of Odisha government registered a corruption case and arrested the GST official, Jyoti Pattnaik, who falsely claimed ownership of the goods, and Md Golam, a scrap dealer, who received the goods, they said.

Newly-elected MLAs undergo two-day orientation session

Orientation programme was aimed at maintaining discipline and good traditions in the House



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, August 18: The two-day orientation programme for newly-elected members of Odisha Legislative Assembly concluded here Sunday.

Opposition parties - BJD and Congress - boycotted the programme, citing "breach of protocol". BJP and independent MLAs attended the orientation.

Addressing the valedictory session, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh emphasised the importance of prioritising the country's interests over personal ones. He cautioned that obstructing House proceedings without cause could hinder the state's and country's development.

Hariyansh advised the MLAs to leverage the knowledge gained from the orientation effectively. "The people have sent you to the

Assembly with strong faith to shape their future. We must fulfil this responsibility effectively to earn their trust," he said.

Assembly Speaker Suruma Padhy, presiding over the function, remarked that the orientation programme would provide new direction for the elected MLAs. She stressed the necessity of maintaining discipline and good traditions in the House for a developed and welfare-oriented state.

Speaker Padhy also highlighted that active participation in discussions on various issues would lead the state towards development and foster a healthy democratic tradition.

Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling, were among those who attended the programme.



NEW RESPONSIBILITY: Commodore B Deepak Anel takes over as the 23rd Commanding Officer and Station Commander of INS Chilka from Commodore NP Pradeep during a ceremonial parade held recently at the naval base

KIIT's 6 engineering courses get ABET accreditation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: The prestigious Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), USA has accredited KIIT Deemed to be University's six engineering programs for next six years, officials said Sunday.

The programmes are BTech Computer Science & Engineering (accredited by both ABET's CAC & EAC Commissions), BTech Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering, BTech Electrical Engineering, BTech Electronics & Electrical Engineering and BTech Mechanical Engineering. In addition, the BTech Civil Engineering programme was previously accredited for six years in 2022.

Congratulating the students and faculty of the university, KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said, "It is yet another recognition for the high-quality programmes of KIIT which



effectively prepares students for global career."

The university's dedication to continuous improvement and a student-centered approach were crucial in achieving the prestigious accreditation, he added.

The accreditation places KIIT-DU in an elite group of institutions that includes renowned universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, Stanford, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania, KIIT officials said.

Notably, ABET is the premier global accreditation organisation of engineering and engineering technology programmes. Regarded as the 'Gold Standard' for engineering education, it assures that programmes meet the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce.

With this, KIIT joined WTUN as a member, providing its students with numerous opportunities, including participation in global competitions, the chance to win the Brian Cantor Scholarship Prize 2023-24, hackathons, and exchange programmes, they said.

In yet another development, KIIT has got approval of the Australia-India Critical Minerals Research Hub (AICMRH) under the SPARC Scheme by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The hub's focus areas include critical mineral extraction, processing, criticality assessments, economic geology, sustainable mining practices, and supply chain analyses. KIIT has become a member among 17 Indian institutions and 11 Australian institutions.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said, "KIIT is the only university in India to have accreditations from both IET, UK, and ABET, USA."

KIIT joins WTUN
In another significant development, the World Technology Universities Network (WTUN) announced the signing of the Network's Consortium Collaboration agreement with KIIT, officials said.

Tridhara concludes 7-day Malaysia tour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Tridhara dance institution recently concluded a 7-day 'Swarna Samaroha Malaysia Tour' in honour of Guru Gajendra Kumar Panda's fifty-year journey in Odissi dance.



The tour, supported by 'Health on Top', featured a series of performances across Malaysia, including Kuala Lumpur, Sg Siput, Klang, and Johor Bahru. Panda and his team had received a special invitation from the High Commission of India in Malaysia, recognising his lifelong contribution in the field of Odissi dance and his collaborations with multiple Malaysian artists and directors since 1984.

SAI Int'l hosts Olympian Amit Rohidas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: SAI International recently hosted hockey player Amit Rohidas, one of the members of the Indian hockey team which won bronze medal in the Paris Olympics.

Rohidas interacted with students and shared his efforts towards achieving success. Addressing them, he said, "It is an honour to be at SAI International and engage with such bright and enthusiastic students. I hope that sharing my journey will inspire them to embrace hard work, resilience, and the spirit of sportsmanship, which are crucial not just in sports but in every aspect of life."

He further said, "For success in any field, it's essential to be disciplined, follow a healthy diet,



and maintain regular exercise. These habits are the foundation of achieving your goals and excelling in whatever you choose to pursue."

Chairperson of SAI International Education Group Silpi Sahoo, said, "We are proud to host Amit Rohidas, whose achievements in hockey are a

source of inspiration for us all. We are sure that his insights and experiences will motivate students to strive for excellence in their pursuits."

"His visit offered a unique opportunity for SAI International students to learn from him the lessons of perseverance and dedication," she added.

Manipal Hosp gets new tech for early detection of cancer

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Manipal Hospitals here is now equipped to identify early stage gastrointestinal cancers with remarkable accuracy and perform local staging of gastrointestinal and pancreaticobiliary cancers, official sources said recently.

The hospital has acquired the advanced Olympus EVIS x1 endoscopy system and the EU-ME3 endoscopic ultrasound equipment.

These cutting-edge technologies mark a new era in the early detection, precise staging, and minimally invasive treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies and other related conditions.

The hospital has also introduced Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) for Achalasia cardia, a condition that causes difficulty in swallowing, and Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) for early-stage esophageal, stomach, and colonic cancers.

Pratap Behera, a senior consultant, gastroenterologist, said, "The introduction of the Olympus EVIS x1 system is a game-changer in our approach to gastrointestinal diagnostics and treatment."

These technologies, he said, allow us to detect malignancies at their earliest stages, which is crucial for effective treatment



and improved patient outcomes.

Gyan Ranjan Rout, consultant, gastroenterologist, said the advanced EU-ME3 system has the ability to sample tissue from difficult-to-access lesions and perform procedures like bile duct drainage and pus collection drainage due to pancreatic diseases with such precision is truly remarkable.

These advancements greatly enhance the ability of the hospital to offer comprehensive care to patients.

Hospital Director Saktimaya Mohapatra, while emphasising the importance of these technological advancements, said the Hospital is committed to provide the highest standard of care.

"The acquisition of these advanced endoscopy systems are a testament to our dedication to stay at the forefront of medical innovation, ensuring that our patients receive the best possible care," he said.

CM bats for collective role in protecting environment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Take pro-active actions in safeguarding environment, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said while meeting with environmentalists here Sunday.

The CM appealed to the people to play active roles in ensuring greener future even as he asked them to carry out plantation activities whenever possible.

"People working in differ-

ent sectors and institutions should come forward and take collective approach in planting saplings," he said.

On the occasion, environmentalists discussed with CM a charter of demands on various concerns related to the protection of environment and ecosystem in the state.

The delegation led by Orissa Environmental Society (OES) requested Majhi for initiating steps to declare the Mahendragiri Forest

Workshop on ADP & ABP held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: A one-day review-cum-sensitisation workshop on Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was held recently under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja at the State Convention Centre of Lok Seva Bhawan here.

The workshop, organised by the Planning and Convergence department saw participation of key stakeholders from both state and Central governments, including the ADP and ABP team from NITI Aayog, led by Additional Secretary to the Central government and Mission Director for ADP and ABP Gitanjali Gupta.

Programme Director and State Adviser for NITI Aayog Pravakar Sahoo also graced the occasion.

Ahuja, in his address, provided an overview of the history and objectives of ADP and ABP. He encouraged stakeholders to view challenges faced by the state, such as geographic isolation and infrastructure gaps, as opportunities for innovation and growth.

Development Commissioner-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg underlined the importance of achieving saturation of ADP and ABP indicators.

Monitoring the 'heartbeat' of soil through ecoacoustics

An astonishing 59 per cent of Earth's species live in soil. They play crucial roles in maintaining soil health and the health of our planet.

But this vital resource is under threat. Currently, 75 per cent of the world's soils are damaged. This figure could rise to 90 per cent by 2050 due to deforestation, overgrazing, urbanisation and other destructive practices.

Such degradation poses significant risks, not only to biodiversity but also to the ecosystem services humans rely on, such as food production.

But traditional methods of detecting and measuring soil life are often costly, time-consuming and intrusive.

Enter "ecoacoustics", an innovative and non-destructive approach that could transform soil health monitoring.

The research team has developed a simple way to use sound to monitor life in the soil, which could help improve soil health worldwide. They discovered that healthy soils, rich in different animals, exhibit distinct acoustic profiles or 'soundscapes'. A mixture of lively and intricate sounds, such



as delicate crackles, clicks and pops, can be found underground.

What is ecoacoustics?

Ecoacoustics is the study of sounds produced by communities of animals, plants and their environment. This relatively

new science, enabled by technology, has been widely used to monitor ecosystems on land and water.

So far, scientists have captured acoustic signals from animals such as bats, birds, frogs

and insects. These sounds provide valuable insights into biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics.

Researchers are beginning to explore the sounds of soil, using recorders and specialised microphones attached to probes in the ground.

These devices record the acoustic vibrations produced by soil-dwelling organisms as they move through the underground world.

There are audible crackles, clicks and pops. Healthy soils tend to have a greater diversity of these sounds than damaged

soils, which are generally quieter due to less animal activity.

The recorded sounds are analysed to glean insights into the abundance, diversity and potentially the behaviour of soil animal communities including earthworms, beetles, spiders, ants and other animals.

Early trials and insights All living organisms produce sounds. This may be deliberate, such as birds singing to attract mates and bats echolocating to skillfully hunt their prey. Or it might be incidental, such as earthworms moving through the soil. (CONVERSATION)

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Locals panic as concrete chunks fall off newly-built Joda flyover

The bridge was opened to the public in March this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, August 18: Panic gripped residents and commuters in this mining town in Keonjhar district after concrete chunks started falling off Sunday from the roof of the newly-built flyover, locals said. Alarmed over the development, commuters started travelling on the flyover with utmost caution, but one could clearly see that they were in panic.

Sources stated that iron rods were seen protruding out from the various pillars of the flyover. However, the local administration covered the protruding rods with plywood boards.

Locals informed that the flyover was built with funds sanctioned by the district mineral foundation (DMF). They alleged that despite spending a huge amount, the flyover was not constructed in a proper manner and the materials that were used were sub-standard. The flyover which is of 4.8km in length and has 111 columns was constructed at an expenditure of ₹281 crore.

The tender for the construction of the flyover was awarded to



Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Ltd (OBCC) but the company transferred the work to Gujarat-based firm Chevrex Constructions Private Ltd. The flyover was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through video conferencing, March 11, 2024.

During construction, officials of the Gujarat-based firm had time and again boasted that the flyover will last for over 100 years. However, on the contrary, within a few months of its in-

auguration the results are there for everyone to see.

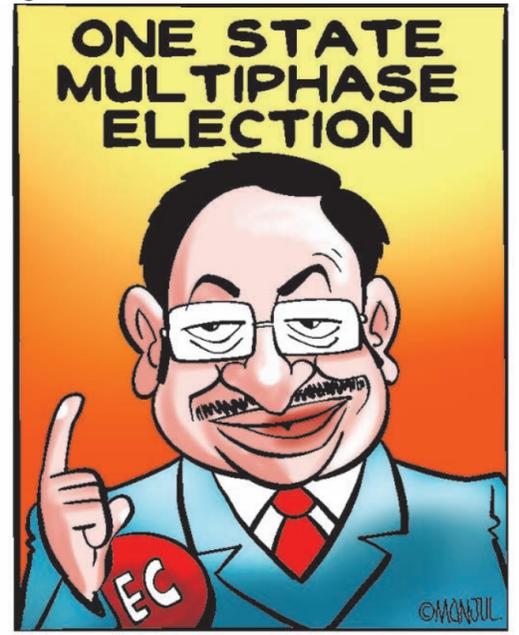
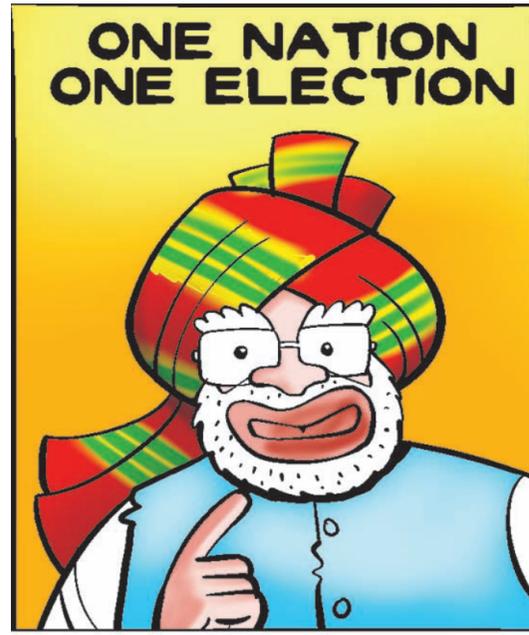
Earlier, OBCC had claimed that the flyover will be able to sustain 200 metric tonne of weight at a time. However, it also found out some errors in construction for which the bridge was closed for a month for repair work.

Now it seems nothing has worked. There are ample evidences of the shoddy way in which construction has been carried out. Concrete chunks are falling off the pillars of the flyover. The pipe for drainage of rain water has also suffered damages. As a result mud slush and water are frequently falling on those passing under the bridge.

Hundreds of heavy mineral and other cargo-laden vehicles daily ply on the flyover. Due to its effect, the bridge vibrates and shakes violently leading to concrete chunks falling off from columns. People are apprehensive that unless proper repair work is undertaken, the day is not far when a major disaster may occur.

The service roads on both sides of the flyover have not been constructed in a systematic manner leading to frequent accidents. Recently, three persons including a man and his two kids were killed in a road mishap on one end of the flyover.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Jumbo electrocuted, calf run over by train

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/Rourkela, August 18: It was a bad day for pachyderms, as a female elephant was electrocuted while a jumbo calf was run over by a train in separate incidents of mishaps in Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts, Sunday.

In the first case, a female elephant, approximately 15 years old, was electrocuted after its trunk accidentally came in contact with a live overhead 11kv transmission wire at Charadpasi Chahatapada under Ghosaramal forest section and Redhakhole division in Sambalpur district, Saturday night. The incident occurred about 100 metres from the Redhakhole-Naktideula road near the Ranchi-Vijayawada national highway.

Sources said that a 50-member elephant herd had sneaked into the area few days back and were moving around after splitting into several groups. The incident occurred when a 15-member herd strayed into farmlands in Chahatapada and started destroying crops.

The forest officials followed



them and tried to drive the animals away. As a result, the herd left Chahatapada jungle and tried to cross the national highway to enter the jungle on the other side. However, while crossing the trunk of the female elephant in front of the herd accidentally touched the live overhead wire and it was electrocuted.

The other elephants follow-

ing it stood guard near the carcass for a long time and refused to budge from the place. On being informed, Redhakhole DFO Arabinda Mohanty, ACF Malatilata Hansda, Naktideula ranger Ashwini Kumar Behera reached the spot and launched an investigation.

Forest officials and Energy department officials reached the spot Sunday and launched an investigation. A post-mortem was conducted on the carcass before burying it at the spot. Locals alleged that the animal died as overhead 11kv wires had been drawn at a short height from the ground.

The DFO said that the overhead wires will be removed

and underground cables will be laid in the area. It should be stated here that two elephants were electrocuted in the Redhakhole forest range in the last two months.

In the second incident, a jumbo calf was run over by a goods train near the Choradhara railway siding under Barsuan forest range in Sundargarh district. Later in a heart-wrenching scene, the herd of elephants including its mother was spotted guarding the carcass lying on the railway tracks.

The herd was not allowing anyone to come near the body. All efforts by the forest officials to reach and recover the body failed as the herd was in no mood to budge from the place.

The mishap occurred when the herd comprising six elephants and a calf was crossing the railway track. The train hit the calf causing its death on the spot.

DFO Bona, Lalit Patra could not be contacted. However, a junior official of the department said the actual reason of the death can only be ascertained when the body is retrieved and proper examination is done.

CRPF jawan found hanging in Kalahandi

Bhawanipatna: The body of a CRPF jawan was found hanging inside a room at the camp belonging to the forces in this town of Kalahandi district Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Arjun Charan Nayak, 58, a resident of Jagatsinghpur. Police said Arjun was serving as a sub-inspector in the 64th Battalion of the CRPF. Police have registered a case of unnatural death at the Town police station here. Officials said that they are waiting for the family members of the deceased to arrive after which the post-mortem will be conducted. Town police station inspector in-charge Jashobanta Hial stated that a probe into the death of the jawan has been initiated.

BALASORE YOUTH DROWNS IN POND

Bahanaga, August 18: A 22-year-old youth drowned while taking bath in a pond at Sankha village under Khantapada police limits in Balasore district Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Chandan Baral, 22, son of Kartik Baral, a resident of the same village.

Locals informed that Chandan had gone to the pond to take bath Sunday morning. However, when he did not return home for a long time a search was launched to locate him. Even though his family members could

not find him, other villagers found his body floating in the pond. Family members rushed him to Khantapada community health centre where the doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

After being informed, officials from the Khantapada police station reached the health centre, seized the body and sent it to the district headquarters hospital in Balasore for post-mortem. A case (No 24/24) has been registered in this regard at Khantapada police station and an investigation into how Chandan drowned is underway

Students risk lives daily to attend school in Kalahandi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, August 18: Travelling to a nearby school at Surli village is a daily ordeal for the students and teachers residing in Haradaguda village under Dedar panchayat of Junagarh block in Kalahandi district, locals stated Sunday. No one likes to go to school wading through a river and sitting in classrooms in soaked uniforms. However, the students and teachers are forced to put their lives at stake because of the unavailability of a bridge over the Sagada river. Prior to crossing the river, both students and teachers have to walk for two



kilometres through dense forests. Residents alleged that the

students and teachers undertake this dangerous journey

due to lack of a school in their village. Moreover, lack of a bridge on the river as well as absence of boats to ferry people to either sides of the river also forces them to undertake this dangerous journey.

The students and teachers return to their respective homes taking the same dangerous route. At times, family members help the kids cross the river to attend school but that is not possible all the time.

This problem has been persisting for a long time but neither the Education department nor the elected public representatives or the district administration have made any ef-

orts to alleviate the sufferings of the students. Locals frequently ask for how long students will have to suffer.

Students Keshav Majhi and Dalamani Majhi said they have no other option, but to attend school taking risks.

Teacher Rajaram Dhangadamajhi said it is a daily trial for them to safely take the kids and help them wade through the river for their school due to the absence of a bridge. Chief district education officer Susant Kumar Chopdar said his department will try to establish a school in Haradaguda village on receiving a written application from the villagers.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-237
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
KEONJHAR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KEONJHAR
Notice Invitation of Tenders
e-Procurement Notice No. - 02/2024-25 on dated 16.08.2024
E-mail Id : eekjrrdivn@gmail.com

1	Nature of the work	Manpower supply
2	No. of Works	1 (Six) no's
3	Value of Works	Rs. 26.65 Lakhs
4	Tender paper cost	Refer to DTCN
5	EMD / Bid Security	Refer to DTCN
6	Period of Completion	Refer to DTCN
7	Class of Contractors	Refer to DTCN
8	Procurement officer	Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar
9	Bid Identification no.	KIDN-02/2024-25
10	Availability of Tender for Online Bidding	From 11 AM Dt. 19.08.2024 to 3.00 PM Dt. 28.08.2024
11	Date and Time for Tender Opening	On 28.08.2024 @ 4.00 PM onwards in O/o the Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar
12	Seeking Clarification Date and time	From 11 AM Dt. 19.08.2024 to 5.00 PM Dt. 23.08.2024
13	Date and Time for Lottery (If required)	On 29.08.2024 @ 03.30 PM onwards in O/o the Executive Engineer, Keonjhar Irrigation Division, Keonjhar

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : www.tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tenders can be seen from the above portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Keonjhar Irrigation Division
Keonjhar
OIPR-32476/11/0003/2425

Beef recovered from roadside in Rayagada



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada/Muniguda, August 18: Police recovered around 25 to 30 packets of beef dumped on the roadside of Telangapadar village under Muniguda block of Rayagada district, Sunday.

Later, police launched an investigation to trace the persons involved in the incident and buried the beef at the spot. The matter came to the fore after locals smelled a stench emanating from under the bridge and found some beef packets lying near it. They informed the local sarpanch who in turn informed the police.

Villagers said that a beef laden container had overturned near Kiding village on the fringes of Kalahandi district two days back. They met the police and urged them to either shift the container from the place or bury the consignment as stench was nauseating and preventing in their free movement in the area. They suspect foul play as the beef packets loaded in the container and those found near the bridge were similar in shape and size and demanded a proper investigation into the matter.

REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
3/1 A Civic Centre, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank
PURi MAIN BRANCH

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST TO,

Borrower/Mortgagor: (1) Mr Bhagirathi Pradhan, S/o: Mr Jalandhar Pradhan, Address: At/PO.: Samagara, Via: Baliguali, Dist: Puri- 752022.
Guarantor: (2) Mr Sadashiv Apat, S/o: Late Ram Chandra Apat, Address: Gudia Sahi, Bahinipati Lane, Harachandi Sahi, Puri- 752001 .
Sir / Madam,

Sub: Notice under Sec.13 (2) read with Sec. 13 (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Notice dated 03.08.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by our PurI Main Branch, through the Authorised officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA on 29.08.2019. You have executed loan documents, while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the bank. The details of the credit facilities and secured assets are as under:

SL	Type of Facility	Outstanding amount as on 31.07.2024	Interest Outstanding	Cost/Charges incurred by the bank till date	Total Dues
1.	Union Mortgage	Rs.4,76,482.13	Rs.2,96,057/-	Rs.37,741.51	Rs.8,10,280.64

Total Dues: Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Two Hundred Eighty and Paise Sixty Four only

Mortgage of immovable property described herein below:
Residential land and building over Khata No.595, Plot No.444, Area: A0.02 decimal, at Mouza: Puri Sahar, Unit No.10, Manikamika Sahi, Puri, belonging to Mr Bhagirathi Pradhan, property bounded by: North- Narayan Pujapanda, South- Biharibandhu Mohanty, East- Road, West- Biswanath Nanda .
Therefore You as the borrower and guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum of Rs.8,10,280.64 (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Two Hundred Eighty and Paise Sixty Four only) together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the aforesaid secured assets from the date of receipt of the notice without bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Note: All our earlier notices issued under SARFAESI Act, 2002 is hereby withdrawn and the present notice will supersede over the earlier notices .
Date:17.08.2024
Place: Bhubaneswar
Yours faithfully
Chief Manager cum Authorized Officer

REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
3/1 A Civic Centre, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
Email ID: crld.robhubaneshwar@unionbankofindia.bank
SHASTRI NAGAR BRANCH

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 FOR ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST TO,

Borrower: (1) Maa Jageswari Fabrication, Prop.: Sri Pramod Kumar Maharana, Address: Plot No.580, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Odisha- 751019 .
Guarantor/Mortgagor: (2) Smt Snehasini Moharana, Address: Khata No. 1331/1099, Plot No.757/6092, Unit No.28, Gautam Nagar, P.S: Lingaraj No.55, Bhubaneswar- 751014 .
Sir / Madam,

Sub: Notice under Sec.13 (2) read with Sec. 13 (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Notice dated 29.07.2024 issued to you u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by our Shastri Nagar Branch, through the Authorised officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA on 29.11.2023. You have executed loan documents, while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the bank. The details of the credit facilities and secured assets are as under:

SL	Type of Facility	Outstanding amount as on 30.06.2024	Interest Outstanding	Total Dues
1.	Union Progress (TL)	Rs.7,23,835/-	Rs.85,615/-	Rs.8,09,450/-

Total Dues: Rupees Eight Lakh Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty only

Mortgage of immovable property described herein below:
Residential land and building at Plot No. 757/6092, Khata No. 1331/1099, Total land area-Ac.0.037 Dec. (1612 sq.ft), Mouza- Bhubaneswar Sahar, Unit No. 28, Goutam Nagar, Hal Ps- Lingaraj (No. 55), Bhubaneswar.
Therefore You as the borrower and guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid sum of Rs 8,09,450/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Only) together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the aforesaid secured assets from the date of receipt of the notice without bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Date:17.08.2024
Place: Bhubaneswar
Yours faithfully
Chief Manager cum Authorized Officer

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

DHAKA LESSONS



India faces the most serious challenge to its influence in its neighbourhood and it is imperative for Indian policymakers to fix things in its immediate periphery before claiming mediation dividends in distant places, aspiring to play a global peacemaker

In an effort to reach out to the Hindu community numbering about 8% of the population, Yunus subsequently visited the famous Dhakeswari temple and urged representatives of the Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance to "exercise patience" as the IG was taking all possible measures to ensure peace and security for the Hindu community. To PM Modi's concern for "Hindus and all other minority communities" in a telephone conversation with Yunus, the latter responded that reports of violence (against the minority communities) were "exaggerated" and invited the Indian media to come and report from the field on the current situation, which was fast returning to normal. A future constellation of external forces arrayed against India's interests, despite its predominant position in the sub-continent, with its steadfast ally now a distinct liability, would need to be viewed primarily in a national security perspective and strong measures taken to check cross-border infiltration while building bridges with the opposition, civil society groups and students who hold a secular disposition favourable to Delhi.

It would be, in this context, interesting to see the role played by Yunus in the fast-evolving political developments. Spotted by the US government in 1965 when he was a Fulbright scholar, Yunus has been since closely associated with US government. It is no secret that in 2000 President Clinton had recommended his name for the Nobel Prize which he received 6 years later. The US government had lavishly patronised Grameen Bank since its inception in 1983 with the view to securing influence in rural areas in Bangladesh where the bank had been active distributing collateral-free loans with a 20% interest, breaking the backs of the poorer segments. With the successive mismanagement of the economy by the Hasina government, Bangladesh's substantial progress in social development indices had all but evaporated. Economic distress, particularly the abject shortage of jobs for an aspirational young and educated population had lit the fire for the recent "people's movement" which Yunus calls, "the second independence."

It is quite likely that Hasina's purported statement made from New Delhi earlier about the US government's intention to set up a base in St Martin's Island, despite the quick denial issued by her son Sajeeb Wazed, could hold water. This had been pointed out by the

ex-PM earlier too in her public and official interactions that if she had agreed to USA setting up a base in the island, she could have stayed on in office. In the battle to secure a geopolitical advantage over China which has already established a submarine base in adjacent Cox Bazar, the USA's predilection to set up a base to monitor Chinese activity in the Indo-Pacific while keeping an eye on the strategic Malacca Strait could have been an overriding factor. This had been buffeted by Hasina, and thus the rationale for a regime change. The opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, on the other hand, have had a cozy relation with the US (while being antipathic to India), and of course Pakistan, sharing the same ideological leanings, and in the new dispensation Washington could get better leverage. Interestingly, while being well disposed towards India, Hasina had also developed warm relations with China.

Bangladesh is India's largest development assistance partner and largest market among all South Asian neighbours. Both governments over last 15 years had signed multiple agreements on border management, infrastructure development, trade, energy, climate, education, culture, people-to-people exchanges, defence, and above all, connectivity. Furthermore, Bangladesh is the lynchpin of India's forays into South East Asia with institutional forums like BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Technical and Economic Cooperation) and BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) developing connectivity links with Myanmar and Thailand bypassing China. All that could be directly affected in the event of a likely adverse political scenario.

India faces the most serious challenge to its influence in its neighbourhood and it is imperative for Indian policymakers to fix things in its immediate periphery before claiming mediation dividends in distant places, aspiring to play a global peacemaker.

The writer is a retired diplomat.



Malay Mishra

BANGLADESH IS INDIA'S LARGEST DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PARTNER AND LARGEST MARKET AMONG ALL SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBOURS

The recent political crisis in Bangladesh, where a students' movement against job reservations in civil services culminated in a nationwide agitation throwing out a four-time continuously elected PM, has been a defining moment for India and a clear setback to its "Neighbourhood First" and "Act East" policy. India seems to have been thrust in the middle of a great-power game with all odds pointed at its sovereign space in the region with an Indo-Pacific strategy in full play. Sheikh Hasina's ouster from Dhaka at the behest of the army could have been cleverly manipulated by local as well external forces radicalising the agitation and exploiting the angst, frustration and determination of the rampaging students to fight against state-led repression and authoritarianism of the Awami League government.

With a complaint filed with the investigation agency of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal against her and 8 others of her party accusing them of committing "genocide and crimes against humanity," the noose around the beleaguered former PM, in exile in India, seems to have tightened with a request for her extradition just a step away. Incidentally, an extradition agreement had been signed between Bangladesh and India under Sheikh Hasina's watch in January 2013, basically to extradite Bangladesh-based anti-India insurgents crossing through the porous 4096 km-long border. In this instance, a FIR was filed based on the complaint of an aggrieved father Bulbul Kabir who lost his son Arif Ahmed to police firing. Scores of instances of arson and violence in police-student clashes would gradually surface as the 17-member Interim Government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus declared that murders committed within the period from July 1, when the protests started taking a violent turn, to Aug 5, when the agitation got into its climax with Hasina fleeing the country, would be tried by the Tribunal.

SPECTRUM AFGHANISTAN

Missing out on education

Three years after the Taliban's return to power, and with the world distracted by other crises, Afghanistan seldom makes global headlines anymore. But make no mistake: conditions in the country continue to deteriorate, with devastating consequences for ordinary Afghans, especially girls and women. Afghanistan emerged from decades of proxy wars as one of the world's poorest countries, a situation that the Taliban regime has only exacerbated: millions of Afghans don't know where their next meal is coming from, and the economy has all but collapsed. Moreover, the Taliban's religious leadership continues to violate human rights through what the UN describes as an "institutionalized system of gender-based oppression."

This systemic discrimination includes severely restricting girls' and women's freedom of movement, expression, and association, prohibiting them from nearly all forms of employment, and curtailing their access to justice. Perhaps most troubling is the Taliban's prohibition of girls' attendance at secondary schools. The damage caused by the ban –

both to an entire generation of girls and to the future of the country – is fast becoming irreversible. In addition to being a flagrant human-rights violation, excluding Afghan girls and women from education is remarkably short-sighted, as their potential could be harnessed to rebuild the country. Tragically, the lack of prospects for their daughters puts even more pressure on crisis-stricken families: the education ban is associated with a 25% increase in the rate of child marriage, which tends to be followed by early pregnancy. These children will be born to mothers who are illiterate, which surely does not serve Afghanistan's long-term interest.

The Taliban's gender apartheid has no basis in Afghan culture, and Afghanistan is the only Muslim country to prohibit girls and women from attending school. In fact, education for all is a fundamental principle in Islam.

No matter what the clerics in Kandahar say, Afghans across the country want their sons and daughters to receive an education. A fiercely independent people, Afghans care deeply about the welfare of their families, their

communities, and their country. Tellingly, the organisations delivering education and remote-learning services in Afghanistan are struggling to keep up with demand. And the powerful testimonies of Afghan girls affected by the ban, shared as part of Education Cannot Wait's #AfghanGirlsVoices campaign, demonstrate their desire to study.

I lived and worked in Afghanistan in the early 1990s and have since been back many times, including in 2000, during the first Taliban government, and in August 2021, mere weeks after they retook power. Over the years, I have been deeply impressed by how, despite their remarkable cultural and ethnic diversity – over 30 different languages are spoken in the country – they all consider themselves to be Afghans. This rare combination of pride, humility, and tolerance is a defining characteristic of the Afghan people, who are far from resembling their frequent portrayal as a fundamentalist monolith.

To help vast majority of Afghans who do not support the Taliban's discriminatory policies, Education Cannot Wait offers thousands of community-

based classes – outside the parameters of the formal education system – in some of the country's most remote and underserved areas. With the help of local populations and strategic partners, our programming has reached more than 200,000 children and adolescents, nearly 60% of whom are girls.

We must scale up these efforts to provide Afghan girls and women with access to education while continuing to call for an end to human-rights violations. UN agencies and civil-society organisations should work together to expand non-formal schooling in Afghanistan. To advance this goal, public- and private-sector donors must urgently increase funding for education providers on the ground, so that they can meet the overwhelming demand for community-based learning.

There is no time to waste. An entire generation of girls is at risk of missing out on an education. And an entire country's future is being jeopardized by edicts with no basis in Islam.

The writer is Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait.

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Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God

SRI AUROBINDO



Welcome Polls

Assembly elections are going to be held in Jammu & Kashmir after ten long years and five years after the erstwhile state lost its special status with the revocation of Article 370. The restive Union Territory will have a three-phase election that begins 8 September and ends 1 October along with a single-phase poll in Haryana, announced the Election Commission of India (ECI). However, the ECI has postponed the elections to the Maharashtra Assembly which were held along with Haryana in 2019 "due to security requirements for Jammu & Kashmir."

A lot has changed in Jammu & Kashmir since the last Assembly elections were held in November-December 2014. Of the 87 seats that went to the polls then, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) secured 28 seats, while the National Conference managed to win 15. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged 25 seats, and the Congress garnered 12 seats. The BJP stitched an alliance with the PDP and its leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was made the Chief Minister. Following Sayeed's death in 2016, his daughter Mehbooba Mufti assumed leadership of the coalition government. However, the unnatural alliance couldn't last the full term as the BJP withdrew support from the coalition in June 2018, leading to the imposition of governor's rule and the dissolution of the state Assembly later that year. On 5 August, 2019, the Centre revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories – Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. The trampling of civil liberties, including a ban on mobile internet services, in the wake of 5 August made international headlines.

Meanwhile, in 2022 a delimitation exercise was completed in the Union Territory, resulting in the addition of six seats to the Jammu division and one seat to the Kashmir division. Following this, the total number of Assembly seats increased to 114, with 24 seats allocated for regions under Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Of the remaining 90 seats, 43 are located in the Jammu division and 47 in Kashmir division.

The Supreme Court while upholding the scrapping of J&K's special status in a ruling on 11 December 2023 had directed the ECI to hold Assembly elections in the Union Territory by September 30, 2024.

The announcement of the poll dates, within the Supreme Court deadline, is a welcome step in the path of restoring democracy in the region where past elections were often marred by bullets and boycotts. However, in a distinct departure from the past, the recent Lok Sabha elections in March and April were held peacefully and also recorded the highest voter turnout in four decades at 58.58 per cent.

All the major political parties, including the PDP and the National Conference, of the region have welcomed the elections as this democratic exercise is expected to shape the region's future. Once the elections are over, the Union government is likely to start the process of restoring Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, as announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier.

Amid these positive developments there lies the perennial problem of cross-border terrorism, especially in the Jammu region which has seen an uptick in terror attacks in the recent months. This indicates a trend reversal. Since Independence, the Kashmir Valley has been a focal point of terrorism in the region, whereas South Kashmir and Jammu regions have experienced relative peace and a lack of violence, particularly over the past two decades. Under these circumstances, the current pose of terror attacks on armed forces and targeted civilian killings poses a challenge to the administration.

Nevertheless, with excitement mounting for the upcoming elections, political parties are preparing for a crucial turning point in the democratic landscape of Jammu & Kashmir that is going to hopefully have its bearing not just on regional peace, but also geopolitical developments.

WISDOM CORNER

- The world will ask you who you are, and if you do not know, the world will tell you** - CARL JUNG
- Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility** - SIGMUND FREUD
- Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom** - VIKTOR E. FRANKL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1919:** Afghanistan gains independence from the United Kingdom. The Central Asian country came under British control in 1859. The country was considered to be a buffer for the British trade in opium and as a frontier to protect their interests in India. Despite trying several times to consolidate their rule over Afghanistan, the Afghan people remained hostile to British control and in 1919, King Amanullah declared Afghanistan to be independent from Britain's protection. The declaration launched a war called the Third Anglo-Afghan War, which ended with the signing of the Rawalpindi Treaty on this day. The treaty granted Afghanistan independence from the British.
- 1934:** Some 90 percent of German voters approved a referendum that made Adolf Hitler "Führer und Reichskanzler" ("leader and chancellor").
- 1936:** Soviet officials began the Great Purge of prominent Old Bolsheviks – real or potential political rivals and critics of Joseph Stalin – as the first show trial opened, resulting in the execution of Lev Kamenev and others.
- 1960:** Sputnik 5 is launched by USSR. The Soviet spacecraft carried two dogs, Strelka and Belka, who became the first living beings to survive in space.
- 1964:** World's first geostationary satellite is launched. Syncom 3, a communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida. A geostationary satellite is a manmade object that follows the Earth's rotation around its axis. Because of this, it looks like it is not moving in the sky for observers on Earth. Like all geostationary satellites, Syncom 3 was placed in orbit about 22,000 miles from Earth, above the Equator and near the International Date Line. The 1964 Tokyo Olympics were broadcast to the United States with the help of this satellite.
- 1991:** Attempted coup against Gorbachev. On this day in 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1985–91) and president of the Soviet Union (1990–91), was briefly ousted in a coup by communist hard-liners.

LOL Two roaches

Two roaches were munching on garbage in an alley when one engages a discussion about a new restaurant. "I was in that new restaurant across the street," said one. "It's so clean!



The kitchen is spotless, and the floors are gleaming white. There is no dirt anywhere—it's so sanitary that the whole place shines." "Please," said the other roach frowning. "Not while I'm eating!"

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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Leadership under scrutiny

Sir, This refers to "Nod for prosecution of K'taka CM in MUDA case," Orissa POST, August 18. Karnataka is gearing up for another tectonic shift in the state's political landscape with Governor Thawarchand Gehlot granting permission to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. While the ruling Congress calls it the BJP's "big play" to destabilise the state government, the ruling party and the Chief Minister are preparing for a long legal battle. CM Siddaramaiah, who is in the eye of a political storm, after the Governor gave sanction to prosecute him in the MUDA site allotment scam, said the Governor's decision was "unconstitutional" and that he would fight it out in the court. However, the CM without a blot in four decades of his political career faces a daunting challenge to prove his innocence. But the governors of the states ruled by the Opposition parties are blatantly partisan and leave no stone unturned to create hurdles to the governments either to destabilise or tarnish their image, even as the Karnataka Governor has kept aside the request from the state Lokayukta seeking the prosecution sanction against the Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy in connection with illegal iron ore mining. In any case, Siddaramaiah's leadership will be under scrutiny with imminent political consequences, even as several Congress leaders have set their eyes on the topmost post in the state.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Too little, too late

Sir, This refers to "Panel soon for medicos safety," Orissa POST, August 18. This step ought to have been taken by the Union or respective state health departments much earlier, which could have saved the precious life of a promising young doctor. Why should a lady doctor continue to face security problem during night shifts. Till the situation improves, the night duty of lady doctors and female healthcare workers need to be stopped. Needless to say, people will be happy to see hospitals functioning without any political interference. If the political interference continues unabated, the quality of healthcare service will suffer a setback.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

LIGHTS ON

Brick kiln workers begin the transition to solar energy

Eight brick kilns in Aligarh district's Kodiaganj, Pilakhana and Akrabad have already made the pioneering shift from coal to solar panels to meet their electricity needs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kodiaganj/Pilakhana (UP), August 18: Smoke swirls from brick kiln chimneys rise up lazily, clouding around sleek solar panels that reflect the monsoon skies above, the ancient and the very new melding easily across the flat lands of western Uttar Pradesh where solar energy is changing lives in ways big and small.

The harsh summer – of endless days of the sun beating down mercilessly – has given way to rain and sullen clouds. But the stored solar energy in the panels continues to do its work, bringing down pollution in the traditional brick kiln industry and providing electricity, and digital connectivity, to villages in the area.

Eight brick kilns in Aligarh district's Kodiaganj, Pilakhana and Akrabad have already made the pioneering shift from coal to solar panels to meet their electricity needs. It's a fraction of

the district's 555 brick kilns – according to a report by the UP Pollution Control Board – but at least a beginning.

Om Prakash Sharma, who owns a brick kiln, said the initial costs were steep at Rs 7 lakh but the long-term benefits have been substantial.

He has installed 16 solar panels of 455 watts that he uses to power the generator of the brick kiln used to generate electricity.

"We save about Rs 50,000 every month through the solar panels," he told PTI. Sharma said he has also extended the supply to the huts of those who work in his kilns.

"It cost me nothing extra and I thought it would help them too."

The solar panels are used to power the generator, which takes care of various operations of the brick kilns, including supplying electricity to workers' huts. Diesel and coal were used for this earlier.

The workers can also charge

their phones, a huge departure from earlier times when they relied on oil lamps and pilfered electricity.

It's not just about the phone. The teen said he can now study at night and complete his Class 10 exams. Besides, the risk of snake and animal attacks has also reduced.

Over a period of time, a degree of environmental consciousness has set in. According to Sudhir Gupta, who owns KKK Bricks, the state government's advice on how to reduce pollution propelled him to install solar panels.

Brick kiln factories in India are a significant source of air pollution, emitting harmful pollutants like particulate matter, black carbon and sulphur dioxide, which contribute to poor air quality and adverse health effects. Traditional kilns are also deeply intertwined with India's economy.

It is estimated that India has more than 100,000 brick kilns producing about 250 billion bricks annually, employing about 15 million workers and consuming about 35 million tonnes of coal annually.

Interestingly, the shift to solar energy in western Uttar Pradesh is not confined to the kilns.

Workers are also investing in smaller panels to meet their daily needs.

There is a small flip side too. The extreme heat remains an insidious adversary for these brick kiln workers and many stopped using the fans as it just circulated more heat in their huts.



A mahout on his elephant and a rhinoceros are seen at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon district, Assam

PTI PHOTO

ULFA(I) BOMB CASE

Assam Special DGP holds review meetings

Multiple SITs formed to crack ULFA(I) bomb cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh (Assam), August 18: Assam Police has formed multiple special investigation teams in 10 districts where "bomb-like substances" were found, following claims by the banned ULFA(I) of planting explosives in 24 locations to trigger serial blasts on Independence Day, a senior official said Sunday.

Special DGP Harmeet Singh is touring the state and holding a series of security meetings with police officials of each district after the major intelligence lapse, giving ammunition to the

Opposition to demand "immediate resignation" of CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, who also holds the Home portfolio.

"Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have been formed to investigate the 10 cases where bomb-like substances were found. We are looking forward to the safety and security of the public. Nobody will be spared if found involved in planting the materials," Singh told reporters here. The SITs will be led by an additional superintendent of police in the districts under the supervision of the SP, with an assistant commissioner of police leading the team in Guwahati, and the operations will be monitored by the joint commissioner



of police or the commissioner himself, he added.

Police had unearthed "bomb-like substances" from at least 10 places, including four in Guwahati, after the banned ULFA (I) Thursday claimed to have planted bombs in 24 locations across Assam on Independence Day. Besides, two "bomb-like" items each were recovered from Sivasagar and Lakhimpur, while one each was found in Nagaon and Nalbari.

Singh said, "Our paramount responsibility is to provide safety and security to the people of Assam. The SITs are tasked with conducting a thorough investigation to determine the nature of substances and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable." He said a review meeting was convened during the day in light of the recoveries and police brainstormed the "most effective strategies" moving forward.

In presence of senior officials, Singh reviewed the security arrangements of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Sadiya districts under the jurisdiction of the North Eastern Range.

SP, BSP oppose lateral entry into bureaucracy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 18: The Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party have slammed the government's move seeking applications for lateral entry into the bureaucracy, terming it as the BJP's "conspiracy" to appoint its ideological allies to high posts through the back door.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav also warned of an agitation on this issue from October 2.

In a post on 'X', Yadav said, "Time has come to launch a nationwide movement against the conspiracy of the BJP to appoint its ideological allies to high government posts in UPSC through the back door."

"This method will close the way for today's officers as well as the youth to reach higher posts in the present and future. Common people will be limited to clerks and peons only. In fact, the whole trick is to snatch reservation and their rights from

PDA (backward, Dalit and minorities)," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister charged.

"Now that BJP has come to know that PDAs across the country have woken up against the BJP's trick to abolish the Constitution, it wants to deny reservation on some other pretext by making direct recruitment to such posts. The BJP government should immediately withdraw it because it is also not in national interest. The BJP wants to get arbitrary work done by keeping officers of its party ideology in the government," he charged.

The SP chief said his party will not tolerate corporates taking on the government system because their capitalist thinking is to earn maximum profit.

"Such thinking depends on the exploitation of others, whereas our 'socialist thinking' is for the nourishment and welfare of the poor, farmers, labourers, employed, common people doing their own small work-business-shop. This is a big conspiracy against the country," he claimed.

BSP chief Mayawati also flayed the decision, saying employees working on lower posts will be deprived of the benefit of promotion.

Women tie rakhis to trees in Shahjahanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur (UP), August 18: In a unique effort to spread awareness about the need for environment preservation, women in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur have been tying rakhis to trees and offering them fertilizers instead of sweets.

Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated Monday. The women participating in this campaign are part of a WhatsApp group called 'VIP'. The group is headed by a committee which plans and coordinates its activities.

Raksha Bandhan symbolises the sacred feeling of a brother and a sister taking care of each other. The idea behind this initiative was to help people connect with the environment so that they are inspired to conserve it, committee president Neetu Gupta told PTI Sunday.

"We decided to get women to tie rakhis to trees. Since last Thursday, the members of our group have been tying rakhis to trees, applying tilak on them and watering them after mixing fertilizer in the soil as sweets," she said. "In view of the deepening climate change crisis, we thought that the best way to protect the environment is to plant trees on a large scale. For this, work was done in mission mode and this year, the target is to plant one lakh trees," she added.

Assam's vegan Eri Silk gets coveted Oeko-Tex certification

The Oeko-Tex certification, a rigorous standard that ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances and produced in environment-friendly conditions, is a significant endorsement for Eri Silk

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 18: The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation, under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has successfully obtained the prestigious Oeko-Tex certification for its Eri Silk, directly from Germany on the nation's 78th Independence Day, according to an official statement issued Friday.

Eri Silk is renowned as the world's only vegan silk, where, unlike other silks, the moth inside the cocoon is not killed. Instead, the moth naturally exits the cocoon, leaving it behind for us to use. This ethical and eco-friendly process sets Eri Silk apart, making it a symbol of compassion and sustainability in the textile industry.

"This remarkable accomplishment not only elevates the region's traditional craftsmanship but also positions Eri Silk as a globally recognized, sustainable textile," the statement said.



The Oeko-Tex certification, a rigorous standard that ensures textiles are tested for harmful substances and produced in environment-friendly conditions, is a significant endorsement for Eri Silk. This achievement further cements silk's status as a Geographical Indication (GI) product of Assam, highlighting its authenticity and regional importance.

This certification marks a pivotal step in bringing Eri Silk closer to penetrating the global export market, expanding its reach, and establishing a strong international presence. The recognition underscores North Eastern

Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation's commitment to promoting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Assam while embracing sustainable practices, the official statement said.

This milestone opens new doors for Eri Silk, positioning it as a leading eco-friendly fabric in the international market, and showcasing the region's potential in contributing to the global textile industry.

Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia congratulated the NEHHDC team Friday. "A moment of celebration for North East India's textile industry! Eri Silk, the pride of Assam has secured the prestigious Oeko-Tex certification. This GI tagged, vegan silk is now set to shine globally and contribute to sustainable fashion. A huge win for Assam's rich heritage, Congratulations to the team at NEHHDC," the Minister posted on X.

34 tea gardens get sanction letters in development scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, August 18: Sanction letters to over 30 tea gardens under the second phase of a tea tourism development scheme of the Assam government were distributed Saturday.

The scheme is aimed at promoting tea tourism in the state, Tourism Minister Jayanta Mallabarua, who handed the letters, said.

"Today, I had the pleasure of distributing sanction letters to 34 selected tea gardens under Phase II of the Assam Tea Tourism Development Scheme," he posted on X.

The initiative is a significant stride towards transforming Assam's tea heritage "into a world-class tourism destination", he said.

"By fostering socio-economic growth in rural communities and preserving our rich history, we are poised to see Assam's tea tourism flourish on the global stage," he said, adding, 22 tea gardens were aided under phase I of the scheme.

The minister, speaking on the occasion, pointed out that Assam has a lot of tourism potential, but it was not explored to the optimum earlier due to hurdles, according to an official statement.

"But now, the state government is working overtime to promote tourism across all sectors by removing all these roadblocks. Peace is a prerequisite for attracting tourists and the government has ensured that peace is not disrupted," he added.



US POP CHARTS Assamese musician's song touches No 1 spot on iTunes

The singer-songwriter and producer also made waves on the world indie charts, where the song climbed to the 13th spot on the music streaming app

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: New Delhi-based multi-instrumentalist Baba's latest English single "Hold Me Tonight" reached the number one spot in the iTunes US pop charts.

The singer-songwriter and producer also made waves on the world indie charts, where the song climbed to the 13th spot

on the music streaming app.

"The song 'Hold Me Tonight' explores the experience of anxiety and how it often distances a person from loved ones, deepening the sense of misery. It's about recognising this pattern and making a change to improve life and relationships," Baba, who hails from Assam, told PTI.

With deeply reflective lyrics that explore "personal demons" and the "pursuit of change", the song, which soared to the top on iTunes August 15, is more than just a catchy tune, he said, adding it is a "raw, emotional experience".

He has directed the music video for the single himself. Produced independently, the



video features artistic projections symbolising hope emerging from rock bottom. Baba, whose real name is

Abhiruk Patowary, developed a passion for music early on and began playing various instruments and experimenting with

different musical styles, eventually forming a signature sound blending multiple genres.

Few years into piano and he expanded his skillset by picking up the drums at the age of 12 and guitars at 14 years.

Asked the reason why he chose the name Baba, he says, "My mother calls me Baba and my inner monologue also calls myself that hence the name seemed fit for this journey."

Baba's mother is noted litterateur Rita Chowdhury, who was former director of National Book Trust, and his father Chandra Mohan Patowary is a minister in the Assam cabinet.

Over the years, Baba has released several albums and singles

under various artist names that have gained immense popularity among fans and critics alike. At the age of 17, he released his first album "Aerial" under the artist name Gaia.

"It wasn't a commercial hit but I did the best I could," he says. Recently, Baba embarked on a unique 30-day song challenge whereby he wrote, recorded, produced, mixed and mastered a new song each day for a month.

His effort was lauded by the UK edition of the Rolling Stone magazine which said the challenge was "more than just a personal test" and was a "groundbreaking format that could inspire other artists and producers to think outside the box".

national

of the day quote

It is not appropriate to forgo national interest for individual and political interests. If the national interest is not kept paramount, then the difference of opinion in politics becomes anti-national

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru. @narendramodi avl. for his kind wishes and support for the grand success of the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaigiar Centenary Commemorative Coin release ceremony

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

These are the same people who shamelessly worked to save those criminals in the rape of a poor girl from a very backward caste in Ayodhya

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Anwar begins 3-day visit to India today

New Delhi: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's three-day visit to India will pave way for charting a multi-sectoral cooperation agenda between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Sunday. Ibrahim, to be accompanied by a high-level delegation, begins the visit Monday. It would be his first visit to India as the Prime Minister.

Speeding Mercedes mows down man

New Delhi: A man died after he was allegedly mowed down by a speeding Mercedes car here in southeast Delhi, police said Sunday. The driver of the car was arrested later, they said. According to the victim's family members, the car allegedly hit his cycle from behind and it was dragged on the road for several metres. The accident happened near Bhogal Flyover in Ashram area.

5 Zika virus cases detected in B'lore

Bangalore: Five cases of Zika virus were detected in Bangalore, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said Sunday. According to him, from August 4 to 15, five cases of Zika virus have been detected in Jigani in Bangalore. "After the first case was detected, tests were conducted in the surrounding areas and five cases of Zika infection were found. Accordingly, containment has been done," he told reporters here. The Minister said Zika too has simple symptoms and its treatment is similar to dengue.

KOLKATA HORROR

IMA chief pens emotional letter



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 18: In an emotional letter titled "SHE: We Failed Her in Life", Indian Medical Association (IMA) chief Dr R V Asokan expressed the anguish and revulsion being felt by the nation over the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at a state-run hospital in Kolkata. The letter, penned by Asokan, was shared on X by the apex doctors' body Sunday.

"We as a nation did not let her down in death. It is difficult to capture the mood of the nation. Anger, Revulsion, Frustration, Helplessness," the letter read.

The letter comes amid protests across the countries by medics, from both public and private health facilities, triggered by the incident at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital earlier this month. "For once India understood her doctors correctly," Asokan said. "SHE was on 36 hours duty. Had dinner at 2 am before retiring to the makeshift beds in the seminar room adjacent to the ward. Only daughter of a lower middle-class parents. The orphaned doctor nameplate at the entry remaining the vestige of the family pride... Inconsolable. Lost the meaning and purpose of life. Innocent and naive with the trust like children," he said. "The streets were empty. Fear

Padma awardee docs write to PM

New Delhi: Expressing anguish over the Kolkata rape-murder incident, over 70 Padma awardee doctors have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding quick enactment of a special law to deal with violence against healthcare personnel and implementation of improved safety protocols in medical facilities. The renowned doctors like Ashok Vaid, Harsh Mahajan, Anoop Misra, A K Grover, Alka Kriplani and Mohsin Wali have sought PM Modi's "immediate and personal intervention" to address the "alarming" situation and suggested that the Centre bring an ordinance immediately to ensure the "harsheset possible punishment" to those who indulge in violence against healthcare workers, whether verbal or physical.

hung in the air. Few conscientious youth protested in a corner...SHE had lit a million candles. Thousands of war drums reverberated. Every Indian family lost their daughter," the IMA chief said. He mentioned in his letter how resident doctors were the first to launch a protest after the incident. Their "vigil and firepower" was seen as the "only hope of the nation", Asokan said. "IMA. Born in the fire of freedom struggle. The fire still burns. Conscience keeper to the profession. Rooted in all districts. Rearguards of the Residents. Anchors," he said.

The IMA Saturday sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "benign" intervention in the realising their demands that includes a central law to check violence against healthcare personnel and declaring hospitals safe zones with mandatory security entitlements. The association had also declared a nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency medical services from 6 am August 17 to 6 am August 18.

Bengal film fraternity stages rally

Kolkata: Bengal's actors, directors, and technicians staged a rally in the city Sunday here. Directors Kaushik Ganguly, Srijit Mukherjee, Shibo Prasad Mukhopadhyay, Raj Chakraborty, Arjun Datta, and several other members of the Bengali film and TV industry, including actors Paoli Dam, Ankush Hazra, Parambrata Chatterjee, Saswata Chatterjee, Srabanti Chatterjee, Anirban Chakraborty, and Subhasree Ganguly, walked a kilometre, chanting "Tollygunge industry r ekta swar, justice for R G Kar" (the Bengali film industry has one voice, we want justice for the victim).

SNIPPETS

High-level meeting to review preparedness for Mpx

New Delhi: There is currently no reported case of Mpx in India, Principal Secretary PK Mishra informed Sunday. Chairing a high-level meeting, Mishra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been continuously monitoring the Mpx situation in the country. "A high-level meeting was held to review the status of preparedness for Mpx in the country and related public health measures," the Health Ministry said in a statement. It may be noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) last week declared Mpx a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) after the infectious disease spread to about 13 countries in Africa, including in countries with no previous exposure. It was briefed during the meeting that as of now, there is no reported case of Mpx in the country.

EAM holds bilateral meetings with Kuwait's state leadership

Kuwait City: In an official visit to Kuwait Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Muhammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. Sharing details of the meeting, Jaishankar said in a post on X, "Honoured to call on His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. Conveyed the greetings of President and Prime Minister. "India and Kuwait share centuries-old bonds of goodwill and friendship. Our contemporary partnership is expanding steadily. Thank him for his guidance and insights on taking our ties to a higher level."

AAP intensifies preparations for 2025 Delhi polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: Energised by the release of senior leader Manish Sisodia from jail after 17 months, the AAP has intensified its preparations for next year's Delhi Assembly elections, organising workers' meetings in each constituency to design the campaign.

Former Delhi deputy chief minister Sisodia has been taking out marches in the national capital since August 16, meeting and greeting people, as part of the AAP's strategy for the polls. The aim is to cover all 70 Assembly segments in the city.

In a statement, the ruling party in Delhi said that besides Sisodia's 'padyatra', the work for strengthening the organisation is also underway.

A trusted lieutenant of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Sisodia walked out of jail August 9 on bail after spending 17 months behind bars in connection with the excise policy case.

His release from Tihar has come as a huge relief for the party grappling with the absence of its national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior leader Satyendar Jain. AAP National General Secretary (Organization) and Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak said the party is running several campaigns in Delhi for next year's election and many more would be launched in the days to come.

Experienced 'bitter humiliation' as J'khand CM: Champai Soren

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, August 18: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren Sunday said he experienced "bitter humiliation" as Chief Minister, which compelled him to seek an alternative path.

"After so much humiliation, I was forced to look for an alternative path," Champai posted on his social media accounts.

He alleged that all his government programmes in the first week of July were abruptly cancelled by the party leadership without his knowledge. "When I enquired about the reasons for cancellation, I was informed that there was a meeting of party legislators July 3 and that I could not attend any government programmes until then," he said.

"Can there be anything more humiliating in a democracy than having a chief minister's programme cancelled by another person?" he questioned. Soren claimed that although the CM had the authority to call a meeting of the legislative party, he was not even informed of the meeting's agenda.

"During the meeting, I was asked to resign. I was taken aback. Since I had no desire for power, I resigned immediately. However, my self-respect was deeply hurt," Soren added. He mentioned that he was emotional and struggling to



Champai's comment came shortly after he reached Delhi amid speculation about a potential switch to the BJP

control his tears.

"But all he (referring to Chief Minister Hemant Soren without naming him) seemed interested in was the chair. I felt as though I had no existence, no presence in the party to which I had dedicated my entire life," he said. Soren noted that he faced many such humiliations, which he preferred not to detail at the moment.

The ex-CM said he had announced in the legislative party meeting, "A new chapter in my life is going to begin from today." "From that day until now, and through the upcoming

Jharkhand Assembly elections, all options are open for me in this journey," he said.

Soren emphasised that this is his personal battle and he does not intend to involve any party members or harm the organisation.

The former CM claimed that during his tenure as Chief Minister, he made numerous decisions in public interest. Soren assumed office as the 12th CM of Jharkhand February 2, shortly after his predecessor Hemant Soren resigned just before being arrested by the ED in a money laundering case. Hemant Soren was released from jail June 28 after being granted bail by the high court. He was elected as the party's legislature party leader July 3. Soren subsequently submitted his resignation letter to the governor, paving the way for Hemant Soren to be sworn in as Chief Minister for the third time.



BRAVING THE ODDS: Commuters move through waterlogged road during rain in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

Coast Guard DG Rakesh Pal dies in Chennai

Chennai: Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal died at a government hospital in Chennai Sunday following a cardiac arrest, officials said. He had taken charge as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard July 19 last year. Pal, who was to attend an ICG event along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital (RGGH) earlier in the day after he complained of uneasiness, they said. Singh, who also attended a Tamil Nadu government event to release a commemorative coin on late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi's birth centenary, rushed to the hospital to pay his respects to Pal. Arrangements are being made to bring his mortal remains to Delhi, the officials said. In his distinguished career spanning over 34 years, the flag officer had held several key appointments on the sea and ashore. Prominent among them were the Commander of Coast Guard Region (North West), Deputy Director General (Policy and Plans) and Additional Director General at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi.

AAP to announce Haryana Assembly poll candidates soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, August 18: The Aam Admi Party's Haryana unit chief Sushil Gupta Sunday said his party would soon declare its candidates for the October 1 Assembly polls with screening and survey for the purpose underway.

He said the AAP will put up a strong fight in all 90 Assembly segments and asserted that the countdown to the end of the BJP government in the state has begun. "We will build a new Haryana sans goonda raj, unemployment and criminal incidents," Gupta said at a press conference here.

"Candidates will be declared soon. We will try to declare the candidates by August 31. The AAP will give tickets to those whom people want," he said at a press conference here.

The AAP leader said screening and survey of candidates is underway.

Asked about the AAP's Chief Ministerial candidate for the upcoming polls in Haryana, Gupta said people will decide that. The party leadership and the political affairs committee will seek feedback from the people at an appropriate time, he said.

Slamming the Dushyant Chautala-led party, the AAP's Haryana unit chief alleged that the JJP was in alliance with the BJP when the state government had rained lathis on farmers. The AAP cannot have any truck with them, he said.

Lifestyle changes key to prevent rising health issues: Experts

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ARE A SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUE CAUSING 41 MILLION DEATHS ANNUALLY, EQUIVALENT TO 74 PER CENT OF ALL DEATHS, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

AGENCIES

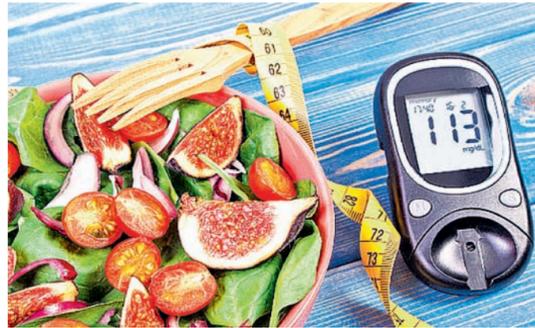
New Delhi, August 18: The ancient wisdom of "prevention is better than cure" has never been more relevant than in the current bustling life, riddled with chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and cancer. Even as these diseases, commonly known as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are posing significant health risks, adopting a healthy lifestyle may be crucial and can dramatically help reduce the risks, said experts Sunday.

"Preventing chronic diseases like cardiovascular, hypertension, diabetes, and obesity requires a balanced diet, regular physical activity, and early detection and prevention. Lifestyle

changes, stress management, and regular health check-ups can reduce costs and improve quality of life," Dr Vinus Taneja, Consultant at the Department of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital told IANS.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Chaudhary, Consultant - Internal Medicine, Fortis Escorts, Okhla Road, New Delhi noted that the NCDs "can be prevented by following a good diet that comprises fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, combined with regular physical activity."

He also stressed the need to "maintain a healthy weight, manage stress, and avoid harmful habits like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption to further enhance your body's defences".



According to a recent 'Health of the Nation' report by Apollo hospitals, about three in four Indians were found either obese or overweight. It showed obe-

sity incidence increased from 9 per cent in 2016 to 20 per cent in 2023.

Hypertension incidence increased from 9 per cent in 2016

to 13 per cent in 2023, while two of three Indians, or 66 per cent are in the pre-hypertensive stage. In addition, the data also showed that one in 10 people have uncontrolled diabetes and one in three are prediabetic. More younger Indians are also facing the challenge of cancer.

The recent ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)'s dietary guidelines for Indians reveal that more than 10 per cent of 5-19-year-olds are pre-diabetic. The WHO projects that 77 million Indians over the age of 18 have type 2 diabetes as of March 2024 and that another 25 million are prediabetic. The numbers are expected to soar in the coming years.

Unhealthy lifestyles with a

high sugar-salt-fat diet coupled with sedentary lifestyles along with exposure to tobacco smoke, alcohol use, environmental factors like rising air pollution, and an ageing population are key factors driving NCDs.

Dr Kalpana Nagpal, Senior Consultant ENT, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital told IANS that vaccines are crucial for preventing diseases.

Experts also stressed regular checkups as many diseases, like diabetes, hypertension, and certain cancers, show no symptoms in their early stages. Regular check-ups can help in identifying these conditions before they progress which will increase the chances of successful treatment.

of the day **quote**

The industrialists are not able to export at the current MEP because Pakistan is exporting the product at an MEP of USD 750 per tonne. This has also affected the international basmati market and caused uncertainty

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SAD PRESIDENT

When the Opposition has no issue to raise, they are taking out 'hisab yatra'. Hooda sahab, we give account to people regularly

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | HARYANA CM

While the Congress government has initiated the loan waiver process, it has fallen short of its commitments. A significant number of farmers across Telangana have been excluded from the scheme, despite meeting all eligibility criteria

KT RAMA RAO | BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

X POST OF THE DAY

A two-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The police arrested the accused within 2 hours of receiving the information

The girl was sleeping with her mother, the accused picked her up and then committed the heinous act. The accused is a resident of Purnia district, Bihar. #JusticeForWomen

@dhruvrahtee

SHORT TAKES

4 of family die in road mishap

Gadag (Karnataka): Four members of a family were killed in a head-on collision between a car and a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus Sunday morning in Nargund Taluk of Gadag district, police said. The deceased have been identified as Rudrapa Angadi (58), his wife Rajeshwari (50), daughter Aishwarya (18) and son Vijay Kumar (14). They were residents of Maruti Nagar in Haveri district.

Delhi: Doctor commits suicide

New Delhi: A doctor working at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here was found dead Sunday at his south Delhi residence, police sources said, adding that a suicide note was recovered from the house. The deceased has been identified as Raj Ghonya, 34. He was found unconscious at his Gautam Nagar apartment after the police forcibly entered the house after they were informed that Ghonya was not responding.

Four prisoners escape from jail

Dibrugarh/ Itanagar: Four prisoners escaped from a jail in Arunachal Pradesh's Namsai district in the early hours of Sunday, police said. They escaped from the jail around 12.30 am, Namsai's Superintendent of Police Sange Thingley told PTI. The prisoners were identified as Mineswar Dihingia (37), Gopal Munda (23), Arjun Kandha (27) and Robin Surin (45). They broke the rod of the ventilator, attacked and injured the sentry on duty and escaped, police said.

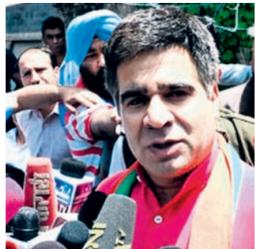


Women tell me that more than the Ladki Bahin scheme, they want good MSP (minimum support price) for soybean and cotton, jobs for the unemployed and a check on inflation. An ASHA worker said a GR (government resolution) is yet to be issued for a salary hike announced for them

SUPRIYA SULE | NCP (SP) LEADER

BJP TO GO SOLO IN J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not form any pre-poll alliance in Jammu and Kashmir, state party president Ravinder Raina said. He, however, said discussions are ongoing with 8 to 10 independents in Kashmir for contesting the elections together



MUDA scam: Cong to stage state-wide protests today

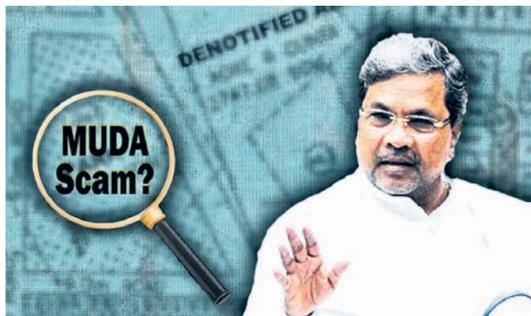
The Congress party and the state Cabinet Saturday backed the chief minister and turned down the Opposition's demand for his resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, August 18: The Congress in Karnataka will stage state-wide protests against the permission given by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his alleged role in the MUDA alternative site 'scam'.

Gehlot Saturday granted sanction for the prosecution of Siddaramaiah in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam' based on the complaints by three activists, T J Abraham, Pradeep Kumar S P and Snehamayi Krishna. The chief minister has refuted the allegation and vowed to fight it out legally.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, Sunday said, "The protest rallies will be held in all district headquarters across the state. All party leaders and workers will participate." Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, he alleged that the Governor is making a case out of nothing. This is a "murder of democracy" and the Congress will protest against it. Shivakumar said he has instructed the party leaders to carry out peaceful protests and



HDK challenges K'taka CM to approach apex court

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy Sunday challenged the state government to approach the Supreme Court against him instead of seeking Governor Thawarchand Gehlot's permission to prosecute him. "What is the need to prosecute me? For how long have you been doing this drama?" Kumaraswamy asked, reacting to Siddaramaiah's accusation. The Chief Minister in a press conference Saturday said that November 23, 2023, the Lokayukta sent a report to the governor seeking permission to prosecute Kumaraswamy, who presently holds the steel and heavy industries portfolio at the Centre, but no permission was granted in a 2007 mining case.

ensure that anti-social elements do not infiltrate the rallies and create trouble.

Asked about the meeting with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, he said, "We briefed him today about the developments in the state." On nationwide protests about the Governor's decision, he said, the AICC would decide on that. The Deputy CM Saturday called upon his party leaders and workers to take out a kilometre long march to the Taluk and district level offices and submit memoranda addressed to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, against the Governor's move.

"You all know that the BJP and the JD(S) are hatching a big conspiracy against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. It's our duty to fight against it," he said in a post on 'X'. Shivakumar said the Congress will fight against the conspiracy that aims to "finish off Siddaramaiah".

"We need to fight against the misuse of the office of the Governor, which granted permission to prosecute the Chief Minister," he said in a statement.

The Congress state president called upon the party leaders and workers to participate in the protest in large numbers.

Five held after girl gangraped in bus

AGENCIES

Dehradun, August 18: The police here Sunday arrested five people in connection with the alleged gangrape of a teenage girl in a Uttarakhand government bus after it arrived at the busstand here from Delhi, officials said.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Singh said those arrested include the driver and the conductor of the government bus. He said the incident occurred August 12 at the busstand here and the police were informed about it Saturday evening.

The police swung into action immediately and identified the roadways bus by scanning CCTV cameras and arrested the five accused including its driver and the conductor, he said.

The accused have been identified as: Dharmendra Kumar (32) and Rajpal (57), both residents of Buggawala in Uttarakhand's Haridwar; Devendra (52), a resident of Bhagwanpur in Haridwar; Rajesh Kumar Sonkar (38), a resident of Patel Nagar here; and Ravi Kumar (34), a resident of Nawabganj in Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

He said that Dhamendra Kumar is the driver of the bus used in the incident and Devendra is the conductor. Ravi Kumar and Rajpal are drivers of other buses while Sonkar is a cashier of the Uttarakhand Roadways posted at the busstand.

The police officer said the bus used in the incident has been impounded and a forensic team is collecting evidence from inside.

Police said the incident came to light after the Dehradun Child Welfare Committee (CWC) was



Minor raped in Jodhpur

Jodhpur: The three-year-old daughter of a ragpicker was allegedly abducted and raped by an unidentified man early Sunday in this Rajasthan district, police said. The girl was allegedly abducted when she was sleeping with her parents outside a temple. She was found wrapped in a stole around 6:30 am by a woman who had come to the spot to set up her stall. The girl had bruises, and bite marks on her lips and back when she was found. Acting on the information, the police reached the spot and took the girl for medical examination, which confirmed that she was raped. A forensic team was also called to examine the spot.

informed about a girl, aged of 16-17, sitting alone on a bench at platform number 12 of the Interstate Bus Terminal (ISBT) here late night August 12.

The Dehradun CWC sent her to Bal Niketan, a government girls' home, for her safety. On the basis of the complaint, a case was registered at the Patel Nagar police station under section 70 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The SSP inspected the area, formed a special police team to investigate the incident, and also met the victim and inquired about what happened.

AI cabin crew assaulted at London hotel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, August 18: A female cabin crew member of Air India was allegedly assaulted by an intruder at a London hotel earlier this week, with the airline saying it is pursuing the matter with the local police.

Sources in the know said a homeless man barged into the room at the hotel where the female cabin crew was staying and assaulted her. As she shouted, others staying nearby came and rescued her and the person was caught, they added.

One of the sources said the cabin crew was allegedly sexually assaulted at the hotel while two other sources claimed it was a physical assault.

The incident happened at a star hotel near the London Heathrow airport. The cabin crew member has returned to India and is undergoing counselling, the sources added. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said it was "deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members".

The airline in the statement said it is providing all possible support to the colleague and their broader team, including professional counselling. "Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law, and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated. We request that the privacy of those involved is respected," it said. After the incident came to light, airline employees took to the airline's internal communication platform to complain about safety issues.

UP: 10 killed as pickup van collides with bus



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bulandshahr (UP), August 18: Ten people were killed and 27 injured when a pickup van collided head-on with a private bus in the Salempur area here Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred on the Budaun-Meerut state highway, around 14 kilometres from the district headquarters. The traffic on the road was briefly affected due to the incident. According to locals, the pickup van was coming from Ghaziabad when it collided with the bus.

"Ten people were killed and 27 were injured in the accident. The injured have been sent to dif-

ferent hospitals," District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh told reporters.

The deceased were identified as Mukut Singh (45), Deen Nath (45), Brijesh (18), Babu Singh (19), Shishupal (27), Girraj Singh (26), Sugarpal (35) and Omkar (30). Two of the deceased are yet to be identified, he said.

Nine of the injured are undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The condition of four of the injured was serious and they were referred to the Meerut medical college.



PURE DEVOTION: Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesha from a workshop ahead of the Ganesha Chaturthi festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Several hospitals in Raj receive hoax bomb threat emails

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, August 18: Several hospitals across Rajasthan including five here received email bomb threats Sunday which turned out to be a hoax, police said.

Bomb disposal squad cordoned off the hospitals to check their premises but nothing suspicious was found. The emails had claimed that bombs had been planted under hospital beds and in bathrooms, police said. Among the city hospitals which received threats mails are Monilek Hospital, C.K Birla Hospital, Manas Hospital, Apex Hospital and Rungta Hospital.

The police had not yet confirmed the exact number of the hospitals, across the state, that have received the hoax emails. But they said that five hospital in Jaipur reported to have received the threat mails.

"Bomb disposal squads were dispatched to the locations. During the searches, nothing suspicious was found," Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Kunwar Rashtadeep said.



Police said that the IP address of the email sender is being traced with the help of cyber experts. The email sent to the hospitals read, "I placed the bomb in the hospital building. The bombs are hidden under hospital beds and inside bathrooms. Every person inside the hospital will be killed or will lose limbs. None of you will escape." Two malls in the National Capital Region received email bomb threats Saturday which later turned out to be hoax. This year May 1 panic gripped multiple schools in Delhi NCR, including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad, after they received emails about bombs being planted on their campuses.

Pondicherry steps up demand for statehood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pondicherry, August 18: A long-pending demand, the plea for statehood to this union territory echoed once again in the state Assembly earlier this week, when the House passed a unanimous resolution expressing its sentiments with the Centre on the matter.

Pondicherry and its outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam located as enclaves either in Tamilnadu, Kerala or Andhra Pradesh had been together as a union territory since their merger with the Indian Union through a referendum in 1954.

It has been the contention of the parties coming to power that the lack of full-fledged powers to the elected government at had been a major handicap. They state that even to introduce a Bill in the territorial Assembly, the consent of the Centre is necessary. The House had adopted



a resolution August 14 on the statehood issue, with all parties backing the motion.

Chief Minister N Rangasamy, who heads the AINRC-BJP coalition government here, has been pressing the plea for statehood as he is of the view that in the

present constitutional status of Pondicherry being a Union Territory, the decisions of the elected government could not be implemented expeditiously as several hurdles have to be overcome. He had recently said that

The territorial Assembly had in the past adopted resolutions on 15 occasions seeking statehood

The election manifestos of all political parties released during the run up to either Assembly or Lok Sabha polls all along had been insisting they would strive hard for ensuring statehood to Pondicherry, a coastal town located about 170 km from Chennai

"the only solution for all the difficulties the territorial government is facing is conferment of statehood on Pondicherry."

Former Pondicherry Chief Minister and senior Congress leader V Narayanasamy told PTI that statehood was 'absolutely' necessary and re-affirmed his party's support for the cause.

He said there was no room for any apprehension that the UT's financial position would be strained in the event of being

granted statehood.

The State government should ensure firm realisation of taxes by Departments of Electricity and Commercial Taxes. These two, besides the Registration Department are the main sources of revenue for the government. The government should exercise utmost caution in realising the dues from big power consumers and those paying commercial tax, he said.

Want of statehood had been standing in the way of government not being able to implement its decisions, members belonging to both the ruling and Opposition blocks point out more often than not.

The territorial Assembly had in the past adopted resolutions on 15 occasions to seek statehood. Recently, the incumbent government had decided to supply free rice through ration shops. This was approved in-principle in June this year by the then Lt Governor C P Radhakrishnan.

international



We have reached a point where the West can no longer dominate global leadership and, furthermore, has become part of the problem. In this context, we must appreciate India's efforts to strengthen the Global South

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

BOMB EVACUATION

Police in Northern Ireland ordered the evacuation of more than 400 homes to remove what is suspected to be a World War II-era bomb



of the day quote

As head of the executive branch, I will do my duty together with the legislators with an open heart. I will listen to all opinions so together we can take the country forward with stability

PAETONGTARN SHINAWATRA | PM, THAILAND

I will ensure that everyone in the Malay/Muslim community benefits from our nation's progress and is able to play a full role in shaping our nation's future

LAWRENCE WONG | PM, SINGAPORE

Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most

YVETTE COOPER | HOME SECRETARY, UK

SHORT TAKES

44 policemen killed in B'desh unrest

Dhaka: At least 44 policemen were killed in the violence that hit Bangladesh during the massive quota reform protests that led to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster, the police said Sunday. Hasina, 76, resigned and fled to India August 5 following the massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs. The reported deaths of the police officers took place between July 20 and August 14, it said.

Libya's central bank official kidnapped

Dubai: Libya's Tripoli-based central bank said Sunday it would shut down all operations and not resume work until a senior bank official kidnapped earlier in the day was released. The central bank is the only internationally recognised depository for Libyan oil revenues, a vital economic income for a country torn for years between two rival governments in Tripoli and Benghazi. The bank said an unknown party was behind the abduction Sunday of Musaab Muslim, head of its information technology department.

2 personnel killed in Pak

Peshawar: At least two Frontier Constabulary security personnel were killed and three others injured Sunday when militants attacked their vehicles in Pakistan's restive northwest, police said. The militants ambushed the security forces convoy in the Maddi area of Dera Ismail Khan district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, they said. Two security personnel were killed and three others injured in the attack, police said. The terrorists fled towards the Afghan border side after the attack, making it difficult for the security forces to apprehend the culprits.

Ferris wheel fire injures 23

Berlin: At least 23 people were injured when two gondolas of a Ferris wheel caught fire at a music festival near Leipzig in eastern Germany, news agency dpa reported Sunday. The fire started in one gondola and then spread to a second one on Saturday night, police said. Four people suffered burn injuries and one suffered injuries from a fall. Others, including first responders and at least four police officers, were to be examined in the hospital for possible smoke inhalation, dpa reported.

NO LET UP BY RUSSIA

Russia launches third ballistic missile attack on Kyiv this month, Ukraine says

REUTERS

Kyiv, August 18: Russia Sunday carried out its third ballistic missile attack on Kyiv this month but preliminary data indicated most of the projectiles were shot down on approach, the military administration of the Ukrainian capital said.

"This is already the third ballistic strike on the capital in August, with exact intervals of six days between each attack," Serhiy Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration, said on the Telegram messaging app.

Popko said the Russians had most likely used North Korean-made ballistic missiles.

Russia always knows where it is hitting with its missiles and bombs, and this is deliberate and targeted Russian terror

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Separately, the commander of Ukraine's air force, Mykola Oleshchuk, said it had destroyed eight Russian attack drones and five out of eight missiles launched overnight across the country, including Kyiv.

Oleshchuk said anti-aircraft combat, anti-aircraft missile troops, mobile firing groups and electronic warfare units had downed 13 air targets in the Kyiv, Sumy and Poltava regions.



Russia denies report about indirect talks with Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russia Sunday denied a report that Ukraine's attack on the Kursk region had derailed indirect talks with Kyiv on halting strikes on energy and power targets, saying there had been no talks with Kyiv about civilian infrastructure facilities. The Washington Post reported Saturday that Ukraine and Russia were set to send delegations to Qatar this month to negotiate a landmark agreement halting strikes on energy and power infrastructure on both warring sides. The Post said the agreement would have amounted to a partial ceasefire but that the talks were derailed due to Ukraine's attack on Russian sovereign territory. "No one broke anything off because there was nothing to break off," Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for Russia's foreign ministry, said of the Post report. "There have been no direct or indirect negotiations between Russia and the Kyiv regime on the safety of civilian critical infrastructure facilities."

He said Russia launched eight missiles Sunday morning, including three ballistic, three cruise and two guided aircraft missiles. Ukraine shot down five of them, he said, and the three missiles it missed had failed to reach their targets.

Kyiv officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage in the capital.

However, Kyiv region governor Ruslan Kravchenko said two private houses were destroyed and 16 others were damaged by falling debris.

"Russia always knows where it is hitting with its missiles and bombs, and this is deliberate and targeted Russian terror," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

He said Russia had launched more than 40 missiles, 750 guided aerial bombs and 200 attack drones this week against Ukrainian villages and cities.

About two hours after the initial attack, Kyiv, its surrounding region and most of central and northeast Ukraine were under fresh raid alerts, with threats of more missiles heading towards the city, Ukraine's air force said.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine two-and-a-half years ago and now holds about 18 percent of its territory in the east and south.

Israel continues to pound Gaza

REUTERS

Cairo, August 18: Israeli strikes killed at least 21 people including six children in Gaza Sunday, Palestinian health authorities said, ahead of a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to try to push forward ceasefire talks.

The children and their mother were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a house in the central town of Deir Al-Balah, health officials said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The military said it destroyed rocket launchers used to hit Israel from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, the scene of intense fighting in recent weeks, and killed 20 Palestinian militants.

Diplomatic efforts to halt the Israel-Hamas conflict and secure a deal to return hostages held in Gaza have intensified in recent days. Talks mediated by the US, Egypt and Qatar are set to continue this week in Cairo, following a two-day meeting in Doha last week. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Tel Aviv Sunday on a Middle East tour aimed at intensifying diplomatic pressure to achieve a ceasefire deal in Gaza this week to end the bloodshed between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.



On his 10th trip to the region since the war began in October, Blinken will meet Monday with senior Israeli leaders including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a senior State Department official said.

After Israel, Blinken will continue onto Egypt. The talks to strike a deal for a truce and return of hostages held in Gaza were now at an "inflection point", a senior Biden administration official told reporters en route to Tel Aviv, adding Blinken was going to stress to all parties the importance of getting this deal over the finish line. "We think this is a critical time," the official said.

The mediating countries, Qatar, the United States and Egypt, have so far failed to reach a deal in months of on-off negotiations, and bloodshed continued unabated in Gaza Sunday.

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Hasina in soup

BANGLADESH DEPOSED PM SHEIKH HASINA SUED IN 2013 'MASS MURDER' CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, August 18: An application was filed with a court in Bangladesh Sunday to register a case against deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 33 others, accusing them of carrying out a mass murder by indiscriminately firing on a rally organised in 2013 by Hefazat-e-Islam here.

Babul Sardar Chakhari, chairman of the Bangladesh People's Party (BPP), applied to the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Zaki-Al-Farabi, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.



The application accused them of the mass murder during the rally at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel May 5, 2013.

The court recorded the plaintiff's statement and said it would pass an order on the issue later.

With this, 76-year-old Hasina, who resigned from the premiership and fled to India August 5 following a mass uprising, now faces 11 cases, including eight for murder, one for abduction, and two for committing crimes against humanity and genocide, in Bangladesh.

Over 230 people were killed in Bangladesh in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government, taking the death toll to more than 600 since the massive protest by students against a controversial quota system in government jobs first started in mid-July.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Wednesday started an investigation against the former premier and nine others on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity that took place from July 15 to August 5 during students' mass movement against her government.

An interim government was formed after the fall of the Hasina-led regime, and 84-year-old Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has been appointed as its Chief Adviser.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus Sunday accused deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of destroying every institution of the country in her efforts to stay in power as he promised to hold a "free, fair and participatory" election as soon as his government completes the "mandate" of carrying out "vital reforms."

"In their efforts to stay in power, Sheikh Hasina's dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country.

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"In their efforts to stay in power, Sheikh Hasina's dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during a meeting, in Kuwait

Jaishankar in Kuwait

Kuwait City: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Sunday called on Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and discussed ways to take the bilateral ties to a higher level. Jaishankar, who arrived here Sunday on a day-long visit, appreciated Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah's perspectives on the deepening of India-Kuwait ties and conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Pleased to call on His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait. Conveyed the greetings of PM @narendramodi. Appreciated his perspectives on the deepening of India Kuwait ties. Valued his views in regard to further economic cooperation," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Car crash kills PIO couple, daughter in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, August 18: In a tragic incident, an Indian-origin couple and their teenage daughter were killed in a road accident while driving her to college in the US state of Texas, leaving behind their 14-year-old son as the lone survivor.

Arvind Mani (45), his wife Pradeepa Arvind (40) and their 17-year-old daughter Andril Arvind, who all were from Leander, were killed in the car crash Wednesday near Lampasas County in Texas, the Austin American Statesman reported.



Their only surviving immediate family member, son Adiryan (14), was not in the vehicle with them.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, a 2004 Cadillac CTS driven by 31-year-old Jacinto Gudino Duran,

of Copperas Cove, was heading southbound on US Route 281 at the same time a 2024 Kia Telluride, operated by Mani, was heading northbound.

Evidence at the scene showed the right rear tyre of the Cadillac had a blowout, crash investigators were quoted as saying by FOX10TV.com.

Witnesses claimed the vehicle passed them at a high speed before the collision.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said the blowout caused the driver of the Cadillac to lose control and cross over to the northbound lane into the

Kia's path. The Kia crashed into the passenger side of Cadillac, causing extensive damage to both vehicles, officials said.

It is one of the worst crashes I have seen in 26 years because of the magnitude of the damage and amount of people lost, said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Bryan Washko.

Twenty-three-year-old Yosilu Gasman Martinez-Lopez, of Copperas Cove, was identified as a passenger in the Cadillac.

There were two passengers in the Kia at the time, named Pradeepa and Andril.

Harris at helm, gives Democrats new hope

Harris' campaign has broken records for fundraising, packed arenas with supporters, and turned the polls in some battleground states in Democrats' favour

REUTERS

Washington, August 18: In the five weeks since US President Joe Biden abandoned his flailing reelection bid, the Democratic Party's fortunes have changed dramatically, and this week the election will be on full display.

Vice President Kamala Harris, now the party's candidate, is heading into the Democratic National Convention riding a historic whirlwind: her campaign has broken records for fundraising, packed arenas with supporters, and turned the polls in some battleground states in Democrats' favour.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

have turned "joy" into a campaign buzz word, a pithy reminder of the despair the party felt just weeks ago. The two publicly accept their party's nomination at the convention in Chicago that starts Monday.

"This has been an historic transformation," said Joseph Foster, a 71-year-old former Democratic Party chairman in the Philadelphia suburbs who remains active in the party. "People are enthused, young people are engaged. I have never seen anything like it."

With less than 80 days to go to Election Day, the party is hoping to ride that wave of enthusiasm to victory.

That would make Harris, the first



Black person and person of Asian descent to serve as vice president, the nation's first female president.

But pollsters and strategists from both major parties warn that the "sugar high" of Harris' initial surge will wear off, leaving simmering divisions among Democrats on issues like the economy and

Israel-Hamas war along with a fierce battle against Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Harris' historic personal story is "lovely and fine, but it's the issues that are going to ultimately decide this election. Those issues include inflation, security, leadership and the world stage,"

Republican pollster Adam Geller predicted.

Harris had her first major economy-focused speech Friday and laid out proposals to cut taxes for most Americans, ban "price gouging" by grocers and boost affordable housing, an early nod to the party's progressive flank.

She will face increased public pressure to provide more details on policy in the upcoming weeks. Aides have signaled that she is unlikely to provide many specifics in some areas like energy to avoid alienating the moderate and progressive wings of her party.

Harris may also have to navigate intra-party squabbles over

US support for Israel's war against Hamas and familiar divisions between progressives and moderates on a host of policy questions such as energy, healthcare and immigration.

About 200 social justice organizations plan to march at the Democratic National Convention Monday to protest the Biden administration's continued support of Israel in a war that has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza.

Harris, who will address the convention Thursday, enters the week of festivities boosted by a string of polls that show she has already redrawn an electoral map that strongly favored Trump in the final weeks of Biden's candidacy.

business

of the day quote

The FMCG sector continued to witness gradual improvement in demand trends in the June quarter, with rural growth ahead of urban

SAUGATA GUPTA | MD & CEO, MARICO

Our annual compensation for fresh engineering graduates ranges from ₹4 lakhs to ₹12 lakhs annually, depending on the category of hiring, skill set, and advanced industry accredited certifications

SURYA GUMMADI | EVP AND PRESIDENT, COGNIZANT AMERICAS

Positive US economic data like cooling inflation and robust retail sales numbers shrugged off recession fears while talks of a rate cut by the US Fed as early as next month fuelled a mega rally across global equities, including India

PRASHANTH TAPSE | SENIOR VP (RESEARCH), MEHTA EQUITIES

SHORT TAKES

BPCL plans ₹1.7L-cr spend to expand biz

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation plans to invest ₹1.7 lakh crore over the next five years to grow its core oil refining and fuel marketing business as well as in 'future big bets' of petrochemicals and green energy, its chairman G Krishnakumar has said. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), currently, owns about 14 per cent of India's oil refining capacity and about a quarter of the fuel retailing network. It plans to grow these businesses while foraying into newer areas.

Macrotech net debt surges 43.5% in Q1

New Delhi: Realty firm Macrotech Developers Ltd's net debt rose 43.5 per cent to ₹4,320 crore during the first quarter of this fiscal year due to higher investment in land acquisition and construction. Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers, which sells its projects under the Lodha brand, is one of the leading developers in the country. According to its latest investors presentation, the company's net debt stood at ₹4,320 crore as of June 30, 2024, against ₹3,010 crore at the end of the March quarter of 2023-24. The net debt stood at ₹4,320 crore, 0.24 times equity, well below the ceiling of 0.5 times equity, the presentation said.

COVID-LIKE SITUATION LOOMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: Indian exporters are keeping their fingers crossed amid the outbreak of Monkeypox in Africa, as the continent is a crucial region for domestic exports.

According to exporters, though the spread of the disease is contained in certain countries, it would be a challenge, if it spreads to more nations.

"As of now, the spread is not rampant, but looking into the infection, the exporters are definitely concerned, hoping it will not spread," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said.

Another exporter said that so far, there is no lockdown-like situation in the continent, and therefore, no payment delays are happening.

"But, we are keeping our fingers crossed," he said.

India's leading footwear exporter and Chennai-based Farida Group Chairman Rafeeq Ahmed said the situation is not alarm-

Nearly 12% of India's tested spices fail standards

The data shows 474 of 4,054 samples tested between May and early July did not meet quality and safety parameters

REUTERS

Hyderabad, August 18: Nearly 12% of tested spice samples failed to meet quality and safety standards, according to data obtained by Reuters of tests by Indian authorities after several countries took steps over contamination risks in two popular brands.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India conducted inspections, sampling and testing of mixed spice blends after Hong Kong suspended sales of some blends of the MDH and Everest brands in April over high levels of a pesticide. Britain then tightened con-

trols on all spice imports from India, while New Zealand, the United States and Australia have said they were looking into issues related to the brands.

MDH and Everest have said their products are safe for consumption. Their spices are among the most popular in India - the world's biggest exporter, producer and consumer of spices. They are sold in Europe, Asia and North America.

The data, obtained by Reuters under India's Right to Information Act, shows 474 of 4,054 samples tested between May and early July did not meet quality and safety parameters. The safety agency told Reuters



in a statement it did not have breakdowns by brands of the spices it tested but was taking necessary action against companies involved.

"Action on non-conforming samples has been taken as stipulated," it said, referring to penalty provisions under Indian law, without elaborating. Reuters open records request

The business during festival will reach ₹12,000 crore as compared to last year's trade of Rs 10,000 crore given the increased demand for rakhis

PRAVEEN KHANDELWAL | NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, CAIT

ZOMATO TO REMOVE AI IMAGES

After several customers complained about artificial intelligence-generated food and dish images on Zomato, CEO Deepinder Goyal Sunday announced plans to remove such pictures from the platform. The AI images of dishes on the food delivery giant were intended to add visual appeal to the food and also enhance the presentation of dishes



7 of top 10 valued firms add ₹1.4L-cr to market valuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: The combined market valuation of seven of the top 10 valued firms jumped ₹1,40,863.66 crore in a holiday-shortened last week with the benchmark Sensex gaining nearly 1 per cent. Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys emerged as the biggest gainers in line with an optimistic trend in Dalal Street.

Last week, the BSE benchmark rose by 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent following a strong rally Friday.

The market capitalisation (Mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) surged by ₹67,477.33 crore to ₹15,97,946.44 crore.

The valuation of Infosys jumped ₹36,746.21 crore to ₹7,72,023.49 crore.

The mcap of Bharti Airtel rallied ₹11,727.55 crore to ₹8,45,123.87 crore and that of ICICI Bank by ₹10,913.96 crore to ₹8,36,115.19 crore.

The valuation of ITC soared ₹8,569.73 crore to ₹6,28,399.10 crore and that of Reliance Industries by ₹5,311.4 crore to ₹20,00,076.41 crore.

Hindustan Unilever added ₹17.48 crore to take its valuation to ₹6,45,926.13 crore.

However, the Mcap of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) slumped ₹47,943.48 crore to ₹6,69,058.26 crore.

The valuation of HDFC Bank tanked ₹13,064 crore to ₹12,43,441.53 crore and that of State Bank of India declined by ₹10,486.42 crore to ₹7,25,080.10 crore.

Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.



India's holding of US securities at new high

INDIA WAS AT THE 12TH PLACE OWNING AMERICAN GOVT SECURITIES WORTH \$241.9BN IN JUNE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: India's holding of US government securities touched a high of \$241.9 billion in June as the country continued to increase its exposure for the third straight month.

Japan was the top holder with securities worth over \$1.1 trillion followed by China at the second spot with a holding valued at \$780.2 billion in June, according to the latest data released by the US Treasury Department.

At the third place was the United Kingdom with an exposure of \$741.5 billion ahead of Luxembourg at the fourth position with a holding to the tune of \$384.2 billion.

Among the countries and jurisdictions, India was at the 12th place owning American government securities worth \$241.9 billion in June, higher than \$237.8 billion value recorded in May.

As per the data, India's holding is the highest in the last one year and it was at \$237.8 billion in May 2024. In April this year, it touched \$233.5 billion declining from \$240.6 billion in March.

In June last year, the exposure was at \$235.4 billion.

Other countries/jurisdictions among the top 10 holders were Canada at the fifth spot with a holding of \$374.8 billion, fol-



lowed by Cayman Islands (\$319.4 billion), Belgium (\$318 billion), Ireland (\$308 billion), France (\$307.2 billion) and Switzerland (\$287.1 billion).

At the 11th position was Taiwan with an exposure of \$265.9 billion.

The global economy is witnessing uncertain times amid high inflation, geopolitical tensions and other challenges. There is an uneven growth pattern and in the June quarter, the real GDP in the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent, higher than 1.4 per cent seen in the first three months of 2024.

In its World Economic Outlook Update issued in July, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the global economy is in a sticky spot and projected a growth of 3.2 per cent for this year.

FPIs turn net sellers

Foreign investors pull out ₹21,201cr from equities in August so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: Foreign investors continued their relentless selling in the Indian equity markets in August, of-flooding shares worth ₹21,201 crore due to the unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US and ongoing geopolitical conflicts.

This came after an inflow of ₹32,365 crore in July and ₹26,565 crore in June, data with the depositories showed.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) infused funds in these two months on the expectation of sustained economic growth, continued reform measures, better-than-expected earnings season and political stability.

Before that, FPIs withdrew ₹25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over ₹8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

According to the data, FPIs withdrew a net amount of ₹21,201 crore in equities so far this month (August 1-17).

So far this year, FPIs invested ₹14,364 crore in equities, data with the depositories showed.

FPI outflows witnessed in August were mainly driven by a combination of global and domestic factors.

Globally, concerns about the unwinding of the Yen carry trade, potential global recession, slowing economic growth, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts led to market volatility and risk aversion

VIPUL BHOWAR | DIRECTOR OF LISTED INVESTMENTS, WATERFIELD ADVISORS

INFLOW OF ₹32,365CR IN JULY AND ₹26,565CR IN JUNE
SO FAR THIS YEAR, FPIs INVESTED ₹14,364CR IN EQUITIES



The outflow was triggered due to the unwinding of the Yen carry trade after the Bank of Japan raised interest rates to 0.25 per cent.

Domestically, after being net buyers in June and July, some FPIs might have chosen to book profits following a strong rally in previous quarters.

Additionally, mixed quarterly earnings and relatively higher valuations have made Indian equities less attractive.

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said the post-budget announcement of an increase in capital gains tax on equity investments has largely fuelled this selling spree.

In addition, FPIs have been cautious due to the high valuations of Indian stocks, coupled with global economic concerns like rising recession fears in the US amid weak jobs data, uncertainty over the timing of inter-

est rate cuts, and the unwinding of yen carry trade, he added.

A significant trend in FPI flows recently, which became pronounced in August, is the sustained selling by them through the exchange while continuing to invest through the 'primary market and others' category. This difference in FPI behaviour is due to the differences in valuations.

"The primary market issues are at comparatively lower valuations, while in the secondary market, the valuations continue to remain high. So, FPIs are buying when securities are available at fair valuations and selling when the valuations get stretched in the secondary market," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

On the other hand, FPIs invested ₹9,112 crore in the debt market in August so far. This has taken the tally to ₹1 lakh crore so far in 2024.

Foxconn plans to set up BESS facility in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sriperumbudur, August 18: Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn is working on plans to set up a battery energy storage system unit in India, its chairman Young Liu said here.

With an eye on the electric vehicle segment, Foxconn has been expanding its battery man-

ufacturing business, with the first plant already set up in Taiwan. Liu told PTI that

YOUNG LIU | CHAIRMAN, FOXCONN

Foxconn's information and communication technology segment has just started in India.

"We are also waiting to put our 3+3 future industry in India. I have been talking to the minister for industries here about how can we collaborate on BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) in Tamil Nadu..." Liu said. As part of the "3+3 strategy",

Foxconn has prioritised the three key industries -- electric vehicles, digital health, and robotics -- each has a significant growth potential with current scale at \$1.4 trillion and over 20 per cent compound annual growth rate.

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) enable energy storage from renewable sources like solar and wind.

EXPORTS SURGE

Toy sector shows robust growth in last ten years

A few years back, the 'Made in China' toys were ruling the Indian market but not anymore



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, August 18: The Indian toy industry has shown tremendous growth and in the last 10 years or so, toy exports have reached \$523.24 million, overtaking imports at \$517.71 million amid several conducive government initiatives.

In the financial year 2011-12, India imported toys worth \$422.79 million while exporting less than half of the reported figure.

The domestic toy industry has expanded its presence to more than 100 countries including the US, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and even China.

The next step for the toy manufacturers is to reach international consumers through the effective use of online mediums,

according to the government.

Senior officials from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) say that the success of the Indian toy industry reflects in the enhanced exports, increasing robustness of the manufacturing ecosystem and reduced import dependence.

As part of its strong commitment to create a better ecosystem for the toy industry, the government has identified the sector as one of the champion sectors, with a long-term vision to create a global market for 'Made in India' toys.

The government initiatives like mandatory quality norms, increase in customs duty and a National Action Plan on Toys (NAPT) have helped in the manufacture of high-quality products, which have garnered appreciation at the global platform.

Indian exports of toys, games and sports articles between 2014-15 to 2022-23 increased by 239 per cent whereas the imports fell by 52 per cent, according to industry estimates.

The current market size of the Indian toy industry is \$1.7 billion, and expected to reach \$4 billion by 2032 with a 10.5 per cent annual growth rate.

The domestic toy exporters say that buyers from countries such as the US, the UK, South Africa and Germany have showed interest in their products.

Mpox in Africa: Exporters holding their breath



Bilateral trade of India with Africa grew by 9.26% in 2022-23 to about \$100bn. Exports stood at \$51bn, while imports were \$47bn

ing, but "we are worried about the spread of the disease".

The Group has a facility in Ethiopia.

Think tank GTRI said the direct impact of the Mpox outbreak on global trade has been relatively limited so far, though the situation warrants close monitoring.

Unlike the Covid-19 pandemic,

which led to strict travel bans, the current Mpox situation has not necessitated such drastic measures, Globe Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Currently, there are no reported cases of Monkeypox in India, even though cautionary measures will be put in place to prevent and control the spread

India must remain vigilant to the evolving situation. India should take precautionary measures to mitigate any potential disruptions in trade and ensure that its public health responses are well-coordinated to prevent the virus from impacting its economy

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

of the disease, the Union Health Ministry said Saturday.

In view of the World Health Organization (WHO) again declaring Monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern August 14, a detailed review of the situation and the preparedness was taken last week by Union Health Minister JP Nadda at the meeting with the senior officials of his ministry.

In 2022, the WHO first declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. It was decided that as a matter of abundant caution, cer-

Football fans join protests

Die-hard supporters of both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan demand in unison justice for victim's family

AGENCIES

Kolkata, August 18: They are always at loggerheads with one another. They never lose an opportunity to abuse the other. Yes that is what they indulge in whenever East Bengal and Mohun Bagan fans and supporters come face to face.

However, Sunday presented a complete different sight altogether. Supporters of the two arch rivals gathered near the Salt Lake Stadium here Sunday evening in an unprecedented show of camaraderie to protest the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The supporters gathered outside the stadium even as the Durand Cup match between the two major Indian football clubs was cancelled amid concerns over the law and order situation. The announcement of cancellation was made Saturday, but in spite of that, the fans gathered close to stadium demanding justice for the deceased and her family members.

In a rare sight, supporters of the two clubs held each other's flags and raised slogans demanding justice for the victim's family. A huge police contingent kept vigil on the situation. Supporters of Mohammedan Sporting Club, another major football club here, also joined the protests a while later.

As the protests spilled onto the busy EM Bypass and blocked the traffic, police chased the agitators in a high-voltage drama and detained some of them. Even though the police were somewhat successful in breaking the gathering initially, the protesters regrouped in small numbers a while later and continued raising slogans.

"We want justice for the sister who was gang-raped and



Thousands of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal supporters jointly demand justice for the victim's family, Sunday. PTI PHOTO

murdered. Together, we Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan fans have assembled here peacefully. Why so many policemen have been deployed? Why the match had to be cancelled? Don't we have the right to demand justice for the victim," asked Bittu Senapati, a Mohun Bagan supporter.

At one point of time, to boost the morale of the protesters, Mohun Bagan skipper Subhasish Basu also joined them. He arrived at the protest site along with his wife and talked to the demonstrators. Actor Ushashi Chakrabarty and lawyer Sourabh Palodhi

also joined the protests. "I've come here as a commoner. Justice is needed to ensure that this incident is never repeated. The culprits should receive proper punishment. We will continue our protests until justice is served," said Bose while his wife was seen showing a placard with 'We want justice. Justice for RG Kar'.

Police said prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS were imposed in the area from 4.00pm till 12.00 midnight to prevent any disruption of peace. For defying the prohibitory orders, some of those who gathered here were de-

tained, they said. As the police tried to whisk away those detained, the supporters of the two clubs tried to block the way of the vans. The supporters of the two clubs forcibly freed a number of those detained by the police.

A senior police officer said there were intelligence inputs that attempts would be made to trigger violence during the high profile match, because of which it was called off.

"We had specific information that some groups and organisations would attempt to create disturbance in the stadium," the officer stated.

Decoding the Manu-Jaspal bond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: She calls him a father figure, and he perceives himself as her protector. Sometimes, he even needs to protect her from herself. Manu Bhaker and Jaspal Rana are chalk and cheese when it comes to their individual personalities but together at the shooting range, they can plot Olympic medals with mere eye contact.

The strict disciplinarian coach and his effervescent protégé were at the headquarters of this agency here to interact with editors and talk about a journey which had its fair share of rough and tumble but eventually yielded India two bronze medals at the recent Paris Olympics.

"I would say he's (Rana) like a father to me and it's a matter of trust that you put in a person," said the 22-year-old Bhaker flashing a radiant smile and a look of content.

"He gives me a lot of courage whenever I feel, whether I can do it or not. He will probably slap me and he'll be like 'you can do it, you trained for it'," she went on even as Rana kept his head down.

It was at this point that Rana joined the conversation, a tad surprised by what Bhaker had just uttered. "You have a controversy right here," he interjected.

Bhaker was quick to clarify though, "I mean it's not like a slap (literally) but like, I'm just using a slang. It's like he'll push my limits. He'll be like 'you've been training for this and obviously you will be able to deliver'."

The two shared a laugh soon after, aware that their stormy parting of ways before the Tokyo Olympics is still one of the most



talked about controversies of Indian shooting.

They got back together little over a year back, determined to erase that painful episode and available evidence suggests that

the mission has been accomplished. "When we started 14 months back, there was only one request from my side to her, that we will not discuss the past. We'll start from here and we'll move forward. So we kept that thing throughout," Rana said, keeping the details of their patch-up close to his chest.

"My work is to protect her. It is not only coaching. At this level, we cannot teach them how to see or how to pull the trigger. We just need to give that protection even from their own self," explained Rana.

Rana slams NRAI's selection policy

New Delhi: Jaspal Rana has slammed the national federation's 'ever-changing' Olympic selection policy. He has said it has hurt some of the most promising talents in the past and will damage more youngsters if there is no consistency going forward. "The federation's (National Rifle Association of India) selection policy changes every six months. I met the sports minister and told him 'get the selection policy from the federation. Let them decide... whatever they decide, right or wrong, we are not discussing that, and then stick to it'. 'If that happens, you will see the difference (in the performance of shooters),' said the decorated marksman.

SHORT TAKES

Maiden national title for Mohan

Chennai: Bangalore's Abhay Mohan clinched his maiden national title by winning the prestigious Formula 1600 National Championship with 10 consecutive wins after the end of the fourth and final round of the MRF-MMSC Indian National Car Racing Championship here Sunday. The 2022 junior national karting champion, who graduated to single seater racing this year, took to the powerful Formula cars like a duck to water, with a phenomenal all-win record till the penultimate race.

Ronaldo scores, but Al-Nassr lose

Abha (Saudi Arabia): Cristiano Ronaldo is still waiting for his first domestic trophy in this country after Al-Nassr lost 1-4 to Al-Hilal in the Saudi Super Cup Saturday. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored the opening goal just before half time. However, the 39-year-old forward then cut a frustrated figure after Al-Hilal netted four times in a 17-minute span in the second half, with striker Aleksandar Mitrovic getting two goals.

Priya magic sets up win for India A eves

Mackay (Australia): Rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra (5/14) bowled brilliantly while Tejal Hasabnis (50) and Raghvi Bist (53) scored half centuries as India A thrashed Australia A by 171 runs in the third and final one-day game here Sunday. The Indian eves finally won their first game on the tour after losing five successive matches. India A scored a modest 243/9, thanks to middle-order batter Tejal and Raghvi's knocks before Priya spun a web around the Aussie batters. The hosts were bowled out for 72.

₹1cr each for eight Punjab hockey players

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann felicitated Sunday eight hockey players of the state who were part of the Indian team that won the bronze in Paris, with a cash prize of ₹1 crore each. In his address, the chief minister said it is a historic occasion as these sons of the soil who have brought laurels for the state and country are being honoured. The CM said he was elated to see the Indian team beat Australia after 52 years.

Lyon seeks tips to hunt Jaiswal

AUSTRALIA DESPERATE TO WIN BACK THE BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sydney, August 18: Ace off-spinner Nathan Lyon has already started his homework on rising batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal with England spinner Tom Hartley's inputs on the south-paw safely stored in his memory bank ahead of the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series between India and Australia starting from November 22. Jaiswal scored an astounding 712 runs in the five Test series against England at home earlier this year.

But the pace and bounce on offer on Australian pitches will pose a different challenge for the Mumbaikar. "I haven't come across him (Jaiswal) yet, but that will be a massive challenge for all us bowlers," Lyon was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"The way he (Jaiswal) played against England, I watched that quite closely and thought that was quite amazing. I had some really good chats with Tom Hartley (England left-arm spinner) about different ways he went about it to different guys which



Nathan Lyon is set to play a crucial role in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar trophy series

I found quite interesting," added the Aussie off-spinner.

Lyon had a stint in English county with Lancashire and had an opportunity to share notes with Hartley, who had 20 wickets in four Tests against India and he is someone who has first-hand knowledge of Jaiswal's exploits.

The 36-year-old Lyon, who has 530 wickets from 129 Tests,

feels that with so much information 'floating around', Aussies have the best chance to accomplish the 'unfinished business' against India.

Since winning the 2014-15 Border-Gavaskar series 2-0, Australia have lost the next four series against India – two to Virat Kohli's side (2016-17, 2018-19), Ajinkya Rahane (2021) and Rohit

Easy wins for top cueists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: The Green Baize Classic All Odisha Open Snooker Championship-2024, started Sunday at the Vintage Club here. The tournament will end August 24, officials associated with the tournament said in a release.

The prestigious 15-Red ball snooker tournament will showcase Odisha's top talent, including renowned international cueist Asutosh Padhy. "We are also proud to highlight one of our young participants, Shubhangi Rao, a promising 17-year-old female cueist who is making remarkable strides in the sport," the release added.

A total of 57 cueists is taking part in the competition. The overall prize money for the tournament is ₹50,000. The winner will get ₹15,000 and a trophy. There will also be prize money for the runner-up and the losing semifinalists, the release stated.

It should be stated here that



Shubhangi Rao

over the years, the Vintage Club has consistently organised snooker and billiards tournaments aimed at bringing these sports to the forefront and supporting cueists from Odisha.

Results: Akram Khan beat Rahul Hali 3-1; Shyam Agarwal beat Usman Khan 3-2; Shubhangi Rao bt Gyana Satpathy 3-0; Jiten Sarangi beat Govind Sharma 3-1; Godwin Kullu beat Rohit Sharma 3-1; Nischay Mishra beat Govinda Rao 3-1; Mishal Swain beat Rakesh Barik 3-1; Satyadeep Das beat Amitabh Naik 3-1; Ashit Choudhury beat Ashis Patra 3-0; Varun Purba beat Durga Prasanna Mohanty 3-0.

Shami may play in Ranji Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 18: Senior speedster Mohammed Shami, who is undergoing rehabilitation after an ankle surgery, is likely to make a comeback to competitive cricket for his domestic side Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, and a potential international appearance later in one of the Test matches against New Zealand.

It is understood that Shami will play either one or both of Bengal's opening away Ranji match against UP beginning October 11 and the next one in Kolkata against Bihar starting October 18.

The New Zealand Test series starts from October 19 in Bangalore followed by Tests in Pune (October 24) and Mumbai (November 1). Shami is expected to play one of those games before embarking on the big tour to Australia.

Cummins takes 8-week break

Melbourne: Australia Test captain Pat Cummins has taken an eight-week break to re-energise himself in his quest to lift the coveted Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India later this year. Cummins has been rested for next month's white-ball tour of the United Kingdom to manage his workload and give him time to work on his body ahead of a busy summer. "Everyone that comes back after a break is a little bit fresher, you never regret it," Cummins stated here Sunday. "I've basically been bowling non-stop since the World Test Championship final, nearly 18 months ago. This gives me a good seven or eight weeks completely off bowling so the body can recover, then you start building up again for the summer," he added.

Sharma (2023).

"It's been 10 years of unfinished business, it's been a long time, and I know we're extremely hungry to turn things around, especially here at home," Lyon said.

Sinner, Swiatek script amazing comebacks

AGENCIES

Cincinnati, August 18: Men's and women's World No.1s Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek both turned around losing situations Saturday to move into the semi-finals of the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open tennis tournament here. Sinner prevented rival Andrey Rublev from repeating a triumph from last Saturday in Montreal as he defeated the sixth seed in a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 fightback. Swiatek did the same in the women's draw as she worked to overcome teen Mirra Andreeva 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Sinner will now square off in the semis against third-ranked 2021 champion Alexander Zverev, who got past rain interruptions in the final set to defeat Ben Shelton 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5.

Top seed Sinner took to the court for only his second match of the week after a first round bye and a walkover Friday. Sinner – whose fitness has been compromised in recent months by a hip niggle, illness and tonsillitis which forced him to miss the Olympics – stormed back to win the second set and break



Iga Swiatek in action against Mirra Andreeva at Cincinnati

Rublev to start the third. He clinched victory in a set where five of the 10 games were breaks of serve.

"There was a lot of mental strength required," Sinner said. "It was tough conditions, very, very windy. In the first set I didn't play my best tennis. In the second I improved and was able to wait for my chances. I was happy to win today (Saturday)," the Italian added.

Poland's Swiatek grabbed a break in the penultimate game of a match lasting more than two-and-a-half hours to finally advance past Andreeva at the US Open tune up, which concludes Monday.

Man City sink Chelsea

AGENCIES

Manchester, August 18: Manchester City began their Premier League title defence in fine fashion as they defeated hosts Chelsea 2-0 at Stamford Bridge Sunday. Erling Haaland and former Chelsea man Mateo Kovacic were on the scoresheet as Enzo Maresca's first game in the Premier League as the Blues' manager ended on a sour note. Manchester City had come into the contest missing Rodri and Kyle Walker and with Phil Foden on the bench, but they were solid from the start.

The early few minutes saw both teams have a fair go at each other. In the eighth minute Bernardo Silva got into the box and took a shot, but it was blocked by Chelsea's Levi Colwill. However, City were not to be denied for long. In the 19th minute Savinho made his way from the left and sent a pass, which was steered to Haaland by Silva. The Norwegian made no mistake as



he scooped the ball over Robert Sanchez to put his team in front.

Chelsea thought they had restored parity in the 44th minute as Cole Palmer's shot was parried by Ederson into the path of Jackson. But the striker was deemed offside and the score remained 1-0.

City introduced Foden in place of Savinho. However, it was Palmer who continued to ask questions of the City defence as his pass almost found Jackson in the box early on.

GOOD SHOW BY ODISHA PLAYERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, August 18: Odisha have fielded an 11-member team to participate in the 61st National Chess Championships which is currently on at Gurgaon. The tournament will end August 27, the All Odisha Chess Association (AOCA) said in a release Sunday.

The players representing Odisha are Utkal Ranjan Sahoo, Ansuman Samal, Harsit Ranjan Sahoo, Koustav Dash, Tapan Badamundi, Suryapranjal, Anshuman Bhatta, Amrutansu Bhatta, Lavyajyoti Routray, Jyotshnav Talukdar and Ajit Behera.

In matches played Sunday, Utkal, Harshit, Tapan and Jyotshnav registered facile wins. However, both Lavyajyoti and Koustav drew their respective matches. However, their efforts must be praised as they played against higher-rated opponents.