



ANVESHYA SHARES LESSONS SHE LEARNT FROM PANKAJ, AKSHAY: 'IT IS CRUCIAL TO BE KIND HUMBLE' : PAGE -10

SPARKLERS



Focus on efforts, not results. Always remember that the grace of God is always with you.

H. H. Swami Advadhanand Giri

Man beats 5-year-old boy to death in Mathura

Mathura (UP), Aug 20 (IANS): In a shocking incident, a 5-year-old boy was beaten to death by an elderly man here in Uttar Pradesh.

A video of the incident, that has gone viral on social media, shows the man repeatedly throwing the child to the ground.

Police have identified the attacker, dressed as a seer, as 52-year-old Om Prakash. The motive behind the attack is not known yet.

Kharge constitutes new CWC: Tharoor, Pilot, Priyanka included

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) : Ending months of suspense, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday announced the constitution of Congress Working Committee (CWC) -- the party's highest-decision making body -- which includes senior leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Sachin Pilot, Priyanka Gandhi and several others.

The inclusion of Pilot came just months ahead of the crucial assembly polls in Rajasthan. While the panel includes 39 general members, it has 32 permanent invitees, including some in-charges of state and 13 special invitees. The list also includes presidents of the Youth Congress, the National Students' Union of India, the Mahila Congress and the Seva Dal as ex-officio members.

Even under the formula of 50 per cent under 50 years, leaders like Pilot, K Patel and Gaurav Gogoi have found the place under this formula.

Supriya Shrinete, Alka Lamba, Deepender Hooda, Priniti Shinde, Yashomati Thakur, Jothmani and others have been included too under



the same formula. In a statement, the party said, "Congress President has constituted the CWC."

Besides Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, veteran party leaders A.K. Antony, Ambika Soni, Meira Kumar, Digvijay Singh, P. Chidambaram, Tariq Anwar, Mukul Wasnik, Anand Sharma, Kumari Selja, Randeep Singh



Surjewala, Ajay Maken have been named.

The new CWC also includes the names of Pilot, Tharoor, former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Priyanka Gandhi.

The 39-member CWC list also includes the names of party leaders Lal Thanhawla, Ashokrao Chavan, Gaikhangam, N Raghuvveera Reddy, Tamradhwaj Sahu, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Salman Kurshid, Jairam Singh, Ramesh, Jitendra Singh,



Deepak Babaria, Jagdish Thakor, GA Mir, Avinash Pande, Deepa Das Munshi, Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain, Kamalleshwar Patel and KC Venugopal.

Besides, the party has named Veerappa Moily, Harish Rawat, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Mohan Prakash, Ramesh Chennithala, B.K. Hariprasad, Prathiba Singh, Manish Tewari, Tariq Hameed Karra, Deepender Singh Hooda, Girish Raya Chodankar, T. Subbarami



Reddy, K. Raju, Chandrakant Handore, Meenakshi Natarajan, Phulo Devi Netam, Damodar Raja Narasimha and Sudeep Roy Burman as permanent invitees.

The party has included Pallam Raju, Khera, Ganesh Godkhal, Kodikkunil Suresh, Yashomati Thakur, Shrinete, Shinde, Lamba and Vamshi Chand Reddy as special invitees. A State incharges Chellakumar, Bhakta Charan Das, Ajoy Kumar, Harish Choudhary, Rajeev Shukla,

Manickam Tagore, Sukhvinder Randhawa, Manickrao Thakre, Rajani Patel, Kanhaiya Kumar, Gurdeep Sappal, Sachin Rao, Devender Yadav and Manish Chattrath have also found place.

The new CWC was announced almost 10 months after Kharge became the Congress president in October last year. Notably, Tharoor, who has been inducted in the CWC, had contested the party's presidential elections against Kharge.

Pilot has been included in the 39-member panel, which is being seen as a move to placate the popular leader ahead of Rajasthan polls.

Pilot had led the mutiny against the Ashok Gehlot government in 2020, after which he was removed as Deputy Chief Minister and Rajasthan Congress chief.

While, other new entrants to the panel are include Deepa Das Munshi and Syed Naseer Hussain.

Das Munshi is a former MP from West Bengal and the wife of veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister, the late Priya Ranjan Das Munshi

'Constitution allows tough action against those posing threat to national integrity'

Jammu, Aug 20 (IANS): J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha said on Sunday that the country's Constitution allows the administration to go tough against those posing a threat to national security and integrity.

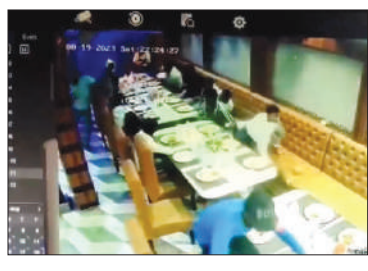
Talking to the media on the sidelines of starting of the green Jammu and Kashmir Driver 2023-2024 campaign from IIM in Jammu, the L-G said it does not matter who says what as the Constitution allows tough action against those

who pose threat to national integrity and those who have supported terrorism, its ecosystem and enjoyed government jobs through illegal means. "There is a provision in Indian Constitution kept by its architects like B.R. Ambedkar and others that says, 'go tough, rather hard against those who pose threat to state/nation's integrity and sovereignty'. J&K administration has decided to go hard against those who have supported

terrorism, its ecosystem and enjoyed government jobs through illegal means. So it does not matter who says what," Sinha said. His statement assumes significance as it comes a day after J&K Bank sacked its officer, Sajad Bazaz after receiving credible reports against him from the agencies. "Anyone who has supported terror and its eco-system will have to face the music. Security agencies adopted 360-degree approach in Kashmir to root out terrorism.

Bihar: Unidentified gunmen attack Muzaffarpur restaurant

Patna, Aug 20 (IANS): Unidentified gunmen have indiscriminately fired at a restaurant in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district. The assailants came on motor bikes and fired on the restaurant.



Some of the bullets hit the window panes. A video of the incidents has also gone viral on social media. Some customers are seen taking dinner meals inside the restaurant and immediately protect themselves by crawling under tables to avoid coming into the firing range. However, no one was dead or injured during the incident. It is believed that the accused committed the crime to extort money from the restaurant owner. "As soon as we came to know about the firing incident, we deputed a team of Sadar police station. <

7 from Gujarat killed as bus falls into gorge in U'Khand

Gandhinagar/Dehradun, Aug 20 (IANS): A total of seven persons all from Gujarat were killed after a bus carrying over 30 passengers fell into a gorge in Uttarakhand on Sunday, an official said.



The accident happened near Gangnani on the Gangotri national highway in Uttarakhand. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the police personnel engaged in the rescue work managed to pull 27 people alive from the wreckage.

Those who sustained injuries were transported to nearby medical facilities for treatment. Uttarkashi District Magistrate Abhishek Ruhela and Superintendent of Police Arpan Yaduvanshi rushed to the spot after the accident to inspect the rescue work. Ruhela said that helicopters from Dehradun could be called, if necessary, to assist in the rescue work.

Two arrested for hate slogans in J&K's Jammu

Jammu, Aug 20 (IANS): Two persons in J&K's Jammu city were arrested on Sunday for raising slogans against a particular community aimed at hurting religious sentiments, police said.

Police said that hurting the religious sentiments of any community will not be tolerated, adding that these arrests followed the registration of an FIR under Sections 295-A (deliberate acts to outrage religious feelings) and 147 (punishment for rioting) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Pacca Danga police station.

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had criticised the administration for this incident and had asked whether any action was being taken against the culprits. She alleged that murderous slogans were raised at the rally in Jammu. "What action has this administration taken against these criminals?" she asked.

Sacked techie in Hyderabad kills daughter to take revenge on wife

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (IANS): In a gruesome act, a sacked techie killed his eight-year-old daughter by slitting her throat, to take revenge on his estranged wife, police said. Kundeti Chandrashekar, who murdered Kundeti Mokshaja with a blade in his car after picking her up from her school in BHEL Township in Hyderabad, was arrested on Saturday. The ghastly crime came to light when his car hit a divider at Koheda under Abdullapurmet Police Station limits of Rachakonda commissionerate. Passersby, who came to help him, were shocked to see a girl lying in a pool of blood on the rear seat with a cut around her neck.

They informed the police, who arrested Chandrashekar. The techie was sacked by an IT company where his wife was also employed at a senior position and he was blaming her for losing the job. Police investigations have brought shocking details of how the accused killed the daughter to make his wife, also a techie, suffer.

Woman among two arrested with cocaine worth Rs 15 cr in Mumbai

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested an Indian passenger for allegedly smuggling 1496 grams of cocaine worth Rs 15 crore in Mumbai, an official said on Sunday. Later, the recipient of the cocaine, a Ugandan national woman, was also caught. A senior DRI officer stated that the accused arrived at Mumbai Airport from Addis Ababa. "1496 grams of white powder, purported to be cocaine, were recovered from his possession. He was apprehended following a tip-off," said the DRI officer.

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi assigned contract to kill Salman Khan to his brother Anmol Bishnoi: Sources

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): Sources within the Special Cell have claimed that gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has given the contract to kill Bollywood superstar Salman Khan to his brother and fellow gangster, Anmol Bishnoi.



Sources said that Lawrence Bishnoi had planned three attempts to eliminate Salman Khan, but each attempt failed. These three operations, designed by Bishnoi to kill Salman Khan, were led by gangsters Sampat Nehra, Deepak, and Tinu. "The trio failed in their mission.

Subsequently, Lawrence Bishnoi decided to assign the task of killing Salman Khan to someone else, opting

for his brother Anmol to execute the operation," sources said. The sources also revealed that Lawrence's gang has started using Germany-made PS 30 pistols instead of the Turkish-made Zigana pistols. These pistols are procured at prices between Rs 8 and 10 lakh and the gang is receiving these weapons from foreign-based associates. "Ranjit Dupla, based in the USA, is in contact with members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Dupla was previously a Punjab-based gangster who fled to the USA and is now an international arms dealer.

Congress to witness dip in seats in central Chhattisgarh: Survey

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): Chhattisgarh's ruling Congress which is confident of returning to power, is projected to see a decline in the Assembly seats in the state's central region as compared to the previous time, as per the ABP-CVoter Chhattisgarh Opinion Poll.



However, the party is expected to gain increase in vote share in the region. According to the survey, the Congress is projected to get 36 out of 64 Assembly seats in the region. The party had secured 43 seats in the last polls. The current projected range of seats estimated that Congress will get are 34 to 38. As per the survey, the vote share of the Congress is projected to increase from 41.7 per cent to 45.7 per cent, a swing is 4 per cent.

Amit Shah releases reports card of BJP govt's 20-year rule in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, Aug 20 (IANS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday released the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government's 'report card' from 2003-2023, claiming that the state has come out of 'BIMARU' category tag due to developments done in the past two decades.



He said that Madhya Pradesh came into existence in 1956 and since then, except for five-six years, the Congress ruled the state till 2003, but the state remained 'BIMARU' during their regime.

People of Madhya Pradesh took a historic decision in 2003 by removing the government of 'Bantadhar' (referring to the former chief minister Digvijaya Singh's tenure from 1993-2003), subsequently, BJP government laid the foundation of making the state developed and self-reliant in the last 20 years, the Union Home Minister said.

"BJP government has successfully brought the state out of the

'BIMARU' tag and put it on the path of development by implementing various welfare schemes," Shah said, adding that the Congress also should present a report card of its nearly five-decade rule in the state.

The 'BIMARU' term has often been used to refer to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and

Uttar Pradesh, to imply that these states lagged in terms of economic growth, healthcare, education, and other indices. Presenting the report card in Bhopal on Sunday, the Home Minister said Madhya Pradesh is at the top in the country with a contribution of 45 per cent in wheat exports as it has distributed more than 3.62 crore

Ayushman cards and has achieved the first position. Quality of rural roads developed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in MP is the best in the country, he added.

Madhya Pradesh BJP government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has approved cases worth Rs 4,300

crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme and the state has achieved the second place in constructing houses in rural areas under the PM Awas Yojana (PMAY).

Shah highlighted the achievements of the MP BJP government such as -- 1.36 crore people have come out of poverty in the state and claimed that state's per capita income has increased from Rs 12,000 in 2003 to Rs 1.40 lakh at present. He said the Congress won't dare come out with its report card of 50 years of ruling the state. "We have started a new tradition of giving accountability in the country wherever we are in power. I want to tell Congress leaders that they should not mislead people by talking of irrelevant things. The Congress should give the report card of its development. The pair of 'Mr Bantadhar and Nath should give the report card of Congress' 53 years of rule," he added.



Farmers were busy in planting rice saplings in their fields near Ranchi on Sunday, August 20. Erratic monsoon spells and deficient rainfall have affected farming across Eastern India.

Intra-Class karate tournament at MNPS

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 20 - Motilal Nehru Public School (MNPS) witnessed a dynamic display of martial arts prowess as it hosted an Intra-Class Karate Tournament on Saturday. The event, meticulously organized by the school, saw enthusiastic participation from approximately 60-70 karate students, showcasing their skills in a spirited competition.

The event was held under the expert guidance of karate coach Shihan Sarju Ram. The occasion was graced by the presence of Chief Guest, Akhilesh Dubey, President of MNPS, and Guest of Honor Ashu Tiwari, Principal of MNPS.



Akhilesh Dubey, in his address, highlighted the significance of karate as a sport, emphasizing its role in self-defense and personal discipline. He particularly stressed the importance of girls learning self-defense techniques through karate.

participating karate students and expressing her appreciation for the dedicated efforts of Shihan Sarju Ram and the entire team. She assured that the school management would continue to support and cater to the needs of the karate program.

recognition was reserved for Tejasya Mishra, a standout student who recently secured two silver medals in the National Karate Tournament held on August 12th and 13th. Akhilesh Dubey, and Ashu Tiwari felicitated Tejasya, acknowledging his outstanding achievements. (W-mb)

Blood donation camp to mark Sunny Baba Memorial Day on Sept 12

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20



The first Sunny Baba Memorial Day will be observed on Tuesday, September 12 at a grand Guru Darbar to be organized at the Ganesh Puja Maidan in Sidhgora. A team of Ragis (devotional singers) comprising Manpreet Singh Ji, Jaspal Singh Chhabra Ji, Gurdeep Singh Nikku Ji, and Baba Thakur Singh Ji will render Kirtans and share spiritual teachings. Bhai Savinder Singh, Bhai Jaspal Singh and women devotees jointly informed that the Sangat (devotees' group) was providing support to organize Baba Sunny's first Memorial Day programme. The Kirtan programme will be held in two phases, between 11 am and 3 pm and then again between 7:30 pm and 11 pm. Provisions for a Langar (community kitchen) will be in place during the programme.

A voluntary blood donation camp along with free health and eye checkup camp will be set up at the Guru Darbar. The organizing committee has urged all citizens to avail of the facilities that would be provided at the health and eye checkup camp on the occasion of the first Sunny Baba Memorial Day to be observed on September 21 at the Sidhgora Ganesh Puja Maidan. (w/gsd)

Career counselling session at Tinsplate Girls College



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 20: In a remarkable effort to empower and guide young girls towards a promising future, Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur East organized workshop focusing on mental well-being and career counselling at Tinsplate Union Girls Inter College.

Anjani Kumar Nidhi, renowned for his role as CEO of the Tribal Welfare Foundation was the key note speaker.

The workshop, held with the aim of addressing the challenges faced by students when choosing a career path, left an indelible mark on the attendees. Anjani Kumar Nidhi, recognized not only as a motivational speaker but also as a seasoned faculty member catering to both students and corporate executives, was able to captivate the young minds present at the event. (W-mb)

Prasad distribution at Sakchi Bazaar Shiv Mandir



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: Surabhi, the women's wing of Marwari Yuva Manch (MYM) steel city branch, organized prayers in memory of Girdhari Lal Debuka on Sunday at the Sakchi Bazaar Shiv Mandir. After the prayers and other religious rituals, prasad (consecrated food) was distributed among more than 450 persons.

The memorial prayers were organized by the Surabhi unit led by branch President Nisha Singhal, Secretary Kavita Agarwal, Treasurer Jyoti Agarwal, Usha Chowdhary, Anita Agarwal and Khushbu Kauntia and supported by Vinod Debuka and Sanjay Debuka.

Among those who assisted in distribution of prasad included Chhitarmal Dhoot, Nishant Dhoot, Subhash Shah, Omprakash Ringasia, Bajrang Agarwal, Umesh Shah, Sanwaram Agarwal, Girdhari Agarwal, Naresh Agarwal, Santosh Agarwal, Arun Bankrewal and Pradeep Debuka. (w/gsd)

Kalpana Patwari to perform on August 28 the last Monday of Shrawan

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 20 : Har Har Mahadev Seva Sangh, a philanthropic organization, is set to host a cultural soiree on August 28th, coinciding with the last Monday of the Sawan month. The event will feature a performance by renowned singer Kalpana Patwari and is expected to attract an audience of over 20,000 people at the Sakchi Gurudwara ground.

The founder of the organization, Amarpreet Singh Kale, announced that this event has been a tradition for the past 22 years on Antim Sombari. To ensure a successful event, the organizers are making elaborate

arrangements, including the construction of a waterproof pandal spanning 30,000 square feet. Special illuminations will also adorn Kalimati Road in front of Sakchi Gurudwara.

One of the highlights of the function will be the presentation of the Sangh Ratna Seva Award, which was established a few years ago to recognize professional excellence and distinguished service. The names of the awardees will be unveiled on August 25th.

Har Har Mahadev Seva Sangh has a history of hosting events on the last Monday of Shrawan. Notable artists such as Bhojpuri singer Bharat



Sharma, bhajan singer Lakhbir Singh Lakkha, and Bhojpuri singers Manoj Tiwari, Kalpana Patwari, and Devi have graced the grounds with their

performances. Har Har Mahadev Seva Sangh had been organising function on the last Monday of Shrawan. Bhojpuri singer Bharat

Sharma had performed at the grounds while noted bhajan singer Lakhbir Singh Lakkha had mesmerized the audience with his melodious voice in

2009. Kale said that various social welfare activities are being carried out throughout the year and blanket distribution is equally most sought after initiative. The purpose of distributing blankets to the needy spreads the message of sympathy, love and sacrifices to the society.

Sharing his experience, Kale says, "Like every year this year too, the drive will be organised. We are happy to witness the overwhelming response. I have watched the drive become more successful each year as members of the sangh open their hearts to help both the homeless and those struggling to make ends meet". (w-pb)

Jhurkuli village kids visit Tata Steel Zoo on World Humanitarian Day

Mail News Service

Gamharia, August 20: Tata Steel's CSR Department organized a visit to the Tata Steel Zoological Park for 38 underprivileged children and their parents from Jhurkuli Village in Gamharia on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day. The children had the opportunity to explore the zoo and museum, gaining insights into various animal species, their habitats, and wildlife conservation.

"TSLP's management believes in adopting a holistic approach to education and learning for the targeted students from marginalized backgrounds. The excursion to Tata Steel Zoological Park was organized on World Humanitarian Day to provide the rural children



an opportunity to learn about different species of animals, their habitats, and the importance of wildlife conservation. The company acknowledges that educational outings of this nature not only enhance knowledge but also foster a sense of wonder and curiosity towards nature," informed a departmental official.

During the visit, the children observed deer,

bears, monkeys, birds, tigers and lions in the Zoological Park. Museum Curator Prabhat answered the questions put up by the children and explained different facets about the habits and habitats of the different animals.

Gouri Rani Mahato, The Principal of New Jhurkuli School, Gouri Rani Mahto who accompanied the children and their parents to the Tata Steel Zoological

Park, expressed her appreciation and gratitude towards the company's efforts in providing this unique opportunity. "This is the first time for many of the students who have visited a zoo. Their curiosity to observe animals from close quarters and then to study animals and reptiles in their stuffed forms at the zoo museum have excited them and enhanced their knowledge of the animal kingdom. This practical knowledge will help them develop a deeper understanding of nature and the environment," Principal Gouri Mahto observed.

Health Camp on Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary at Sakchi



Jamshedpur, August 20: The Zila Nagar Congress OBC Cell organized a free health and eye checkup camp at Sakchi Shahid Chowk near the Hanuman Mandir on Sunday, August 20 to commemorate the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. More than 60 persons underwent health and eye checkup at the camp.

The health and eye checkup camp was inaugurated with the District Urban Congress OBC Cell officials and members offering floral tributes in front of the portrait of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Among those who offered floral tributes during the camp's inauguration were Dharmendra Sonkar, Urban Executive President of Congress, Surendra Sharma, former President of Congress Urban OBC Cell, SRK Kamlesh, Mohammed Rizu, Sonu, Mukesh, Rakesh, Aman, Karan Sonkar, Namita Mahato, Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Shamim Gaddi and other Congress party activists. (w/gsd)

Odyssey at LFS induces hyper adrenaline flow of excitement

Classes 7A and 10C bag Overall Championship Trophy

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 20: The highly anticipated event "Odyssey" at Little Flower School (LFS) set the stage ablaze as attendees experienced an electrifying surge of excitement, akin to a hyper adrenaline rush. The atmosphere was charged with an unparalleled energy as participants embarked on a thrilling journey through a myriad of exhilarating activities and captivating performances.

The two-day fest commenced on Saturday with an inaugural function at which Achintaya Singh, DGM CSR, Tata Motors Ltd. was the Chief Guest. The events of the day began with the much-awaited inaugural dance by the School Council. The enthralling performance by



the Council members got the audience into the mood for the day, as they

hummed and clapped to the beat of melodious songs. The choreography

competition which followed carried them further into the exhilaration

of the day, and there was no stopping their excitement. While dance, music in

various forms, painting, model-making, writing, dramatics and mimes are all presented at this fest, the first day had the following events in store for the eager students: Western Vocal (Solo), Grand Quiz, Antakshari, Instrumental (Solo) and the Western Solo Dance, Fantasy Fiction Quiz.

The final event, Ramp Walk, had the students modelling different Bollywood characters and zodiac signs which was truly sensational, and had the audience on their feet.

Overall Championship trophy was bagged by Class 7A in junior category and Class 10C in seniors.

It was a spectacular display of talent and fervor, after long hours of training and practice by the participants. (W-mb)

DGP, SI forced me to pay bribe for promotion, alleges Delhi Police Inspector

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): A Delhi Police Inspector has alleged that a Delhi Police DCP and a Sub Inspector (SI) forced him to pay a bribe of Rs five lakh, purportedly in exchange for favorable treatment regarding his promotion, arrears, and increments.

The Delhi Police Inspector, Ajay Gupta, who made these serious allegations against the DCP and a junior officer, is currently posted with the fifth battalion.

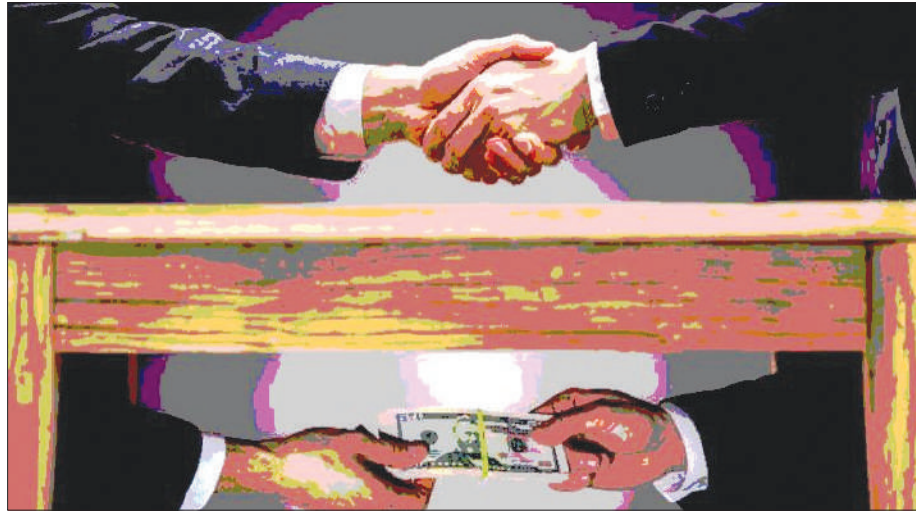
Before lodging the complaint by Gupta, the DCP ordered a Departmental Enquiry (DE) against him. However, Gupta claimed that the DE was initiated after he refused to pay the bribe.

In his complaint, filed with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Lieutenant

Governor (L-G), Lokayukta, and several concerned officials, including Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, on August 8, Gupta alleged that he was coerced into paying a bribe of Rs five lakh by Krishna Meena (DCP of the 5th battalion DAP) and SI Rajiv Nair, both of whom are also posted with the 5th battalion. Gupta said that the SI had accepted Rs 20,000 as an advance.

Gupta claimed to possess electronic evidence, including recordings of conversations with the SI, to substantiate his allegations.

"My promotion was delayed due to my involvement in a false criminal case, from which I was acquitted on October 28, 2022. Since then, my promotions, arrears,



increments, and other benefit-related matters have been pending in my 5th battalion DAP Delhi. In connection with these matters, I approached DCP Krishna Meena to request the prompt resolution of the pending issues, but to my avail," read his complaint

accessed by IANS. Gupta also stated in his complaint that on April 26th, he approached DCP Meena again regarding his matters and the pending preliminary enquiry.

"Instead of providing instructions to the concerned departments, DCP Meena directed me to

contact SI Rajiv. I pointed out that Rajiv was only an SI, and as a DCP, Meena should offer assistance. In response, Meena advised me not to worry and assured that Rajiv would address all my issues," Gupta said.

Gupta said in the complaint that based on

DCP Meena's behavior and attitude, he concluded that the DCP was seeking illegal gratification from him through SI Rajiv.

"The next day, SI Rajiv met me privately. Recognising their malicious intent and ulterior motives, I began recording our conversations. SI Rajiv insisted that I pay Rs one lakh for adjustments to my increments and the finalisation of the preliminary enquiry," Gupta's complaint stated.

Gupta conveyed his inability to pay such a substantial amount and requested a reduction, but SI Rajiv remained firm. Gupta ultimately paid Rs 20,000 and promised to settle the full amount after receiving his arrears.

"Even after receiving Rs 20,000 as a bribe, they continued to keep all my

matters pending. On August 1, I was summoned for a hearing, but DCP Meena postponed it, issuing an ultimatum to arrange Rs 5 lakhs due to the substantial arrears or face consequences," Gupta alleged in his complaint.

Gupta appealed to the Delhi Police Commissioner to assist him in filing a corruption case against DCP Meena and SI Rajiv. IANS also accessed the DE order, which stated that one Rajender Singhal had lodged a complaint against Inspector Ajay when he was an SI. The complaint was lodged with the Vigilance Unit of the Delhi Police, alleging that Gupta sought to acquire his property in Shyam Pur, Rishikesh.

During the enquiry into the complaint, Gupta was called in the office of the

EO with reference to his possession of property in Mussoorie. To this Gupta replied that in statement given in 2021 that he had wrongly mentioned about the purchase of a plot in Mussoorie. "This plot is situated 7 kms away from Mussoorie in the village Kyarkulai was executed through a Will. He does not want to disclose the identity of the executants as the same may be misused by the opposite party and can cause further trouble to him and refused to give detail of the plot and did not submit the Will during the preliminary enquiry," read the DE order passed by DCP Meena on August 3. Despite repeated attempts, DCP Meena was not available for comments. SI Rajiv stated that he preferred not to comment on the matter.

Fake gold racket: Assam police arrest two Punjab residents



Guwahati, August 20 (IANS): In a bid against the nexus of fake gold in Assam, the police arrested two persons in Sonitpur district, officials said on Sunday.

The arrested persons are native of Amritsar in Punjab. They have been identified as Harprit Singh and Balakrishna Dosa.

The police conducted an operation in the Gohpur area of the district and arrested the duo. Fake gold that weighs around 1.55 kg were recovered from the possession of two persons. A senior police officer of Gohpur police station told IANS: "The arrested individuals have come from Amritsar and went to a place in Lakhimpur district to buy fake gold. They bought around 1.55 kg of gold and were heading towards Guwahati. We intercepted their vehicle on Saturday night and seized the fake gold."

He said that the fake gold bars were kept hidden in the vehicle in which the duo was travelling. The arrested persons confessed that they arrived here to buy fake gold from a group operating in Lakhimpur.

"We have launched a manhunt to nab the gang involved in selling the fake gold in Lakhimpur. Meanwhile, the arrested duo was interrogated and they will be produced before the court," the officer added.

Scary scenes of mountains rolling down in Himachal -- a wake-up call

Shimla, Aug 20 (IANS) : Scary scenes of mountains rolling down, dams flooded, rivers gobbling up road networks, sweeping away hutments, villages submerged and thousands of people stranded in low-lying area have been coming out from the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh after relentless monsoon fury -- an unprecedented phenomenon and a wake-up call too.

Climate experts say flooding and landslides are common during monsoon but the climate crisis is making the rains stronger and more erratic. It is an urgent signal to act on the climate crisis and to think of a long-term infrastructure plan. The ferocious Beas ate up a large part of a highway running parallel to the riverbank and washed away at least nine bridges in Mandi and Kullu regions, snapping even pedestrian movement. The Chandigarh-Shimla national highway has remained blocked for several days owing to frequent landslides in Chakki Mor on the Parwanoo-Dharampur section. As per government records, 126 people have lost their lives due to landslides and flash floods since July 26, the onset of monsoon, vital for

BJP protest triggers tension in Telangana's Nirmal town

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (IANS): Protests by BJP workers in Telangana's Nirmal town on Sunday triggered tension as the police carried out a baton charge to disperse the agitators trying to lay siege to Forest Minister A. Indrakaran Reddy's house.

The party had called for a protest in support of its leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, whose indefinite hunger strike entered the fifth day. He is demanding that the Master Plan released by the Nirmal Municipality be scrapped.

Scores of BJP workers came on to streets to stage a protest, demanding the authorities to respond to Maheshwar Reddy's hunger strike. They sat on the road



and also tried to lay siege to the houses of minister Indrakaran Reddy and the district Superintendent of Police.

Police had to use force to disperse the protesters.

Some protesters were arrested. The protest triggered tension in the town. Shops and business establishments were shut down in some areas.

Additional police forces were being rushed to the town as a precautionary measure. Tension also prevailed at Maheshwar Reddy's house, where he continued his hunger strike.

As his condition started deteriorating, police personnel were deployed in large numbers in the area. Police are likely to forcibly shift him to hospital.

Earlier, police stopped BJP national Vice President D.K. Aruna and Nizamabad MP D. Arvind in Nizamabad when they were heading to Nirmal to show solidarity with Maheshwar Reddy.

Aruna and Arvind raised an objection to the police action and had a heated argument with the police officers. The police told them that there is no permission for visiting Nirmal. Several BJP leaders and workers reached there in support of their support. Union

minister and state BJP president G. Kishan Reddy has condemned the police baton charge on party workers. He told media persons in Hyderabad that the state government and ministers were indulging in illegal activities for real estate business.

Kishan Reddy alleged that Indrakaran Reddy allotted hundreds of acres to his relatives and those close to him. Maheshwar Reddy, who is on hunger strike in Nirmal, alleged that the leaders of ruling BRS were making crores from real estate ventures through changes in land use laws. He alleged that the master plan was poorly designed and affected the interests of the farmers.

Human Trafficking: Odisha Woman Sarpanch sells minor girl to Gujarat couple for Rs 5 Lakh

Sundargarh, Aug 20 : A woman sarpanch of Odisha's Sundargarh district allegedly sold an orphan minor girl to a Gujarat couple for Rs 5 lakh while the duo had engaged the victim as domestic help and used to torture her.

The accused, identified as Dalrasa Gudia, sarpanch of Birabira panchayat under Sadar block of the district, reportedly committed the offence in July of 2022. The matter has now come to fore as the girl managed to return to her village and narrated the ordeal before a woman of the locality.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl, police have registered a case against the sarpanch

and the couple under relevant sections of the IPC and started an investigation. The sarpanch has absconded to evade arrest.

According to reports, the sarpanch had sent the girl to a person namely Vinay Patel in Jharsuguda by telling her that she would learn tailoring at an institute there and become employable. Later, Vinay took the girl to Ahmedabad on the pretext of giving her training at a bigger institute.

However, Vinay engaged her as a domestic help at his house, where he and his wife Sunita started harassing and torturing her. The couple told the victim that the sarpanch took Rs 5 lakh from the

two for handing her over to them.

As the girl expressed her wish to return to her village, the couple confined her to a closed room for around six months. They released the girl and allowed her to go to her village in July of this year as she promised to come back. After coming to her village and staying there for some days, the sarpanch forced her to go to Ahmedabad again, following which the victim went to the Dharuadihi police station to lodge a complaint in this regard. Allegedly, the police didn't register the complaint. The girl then met the SP on August 5 and apprised the police official about the incident.

Blood donation camp at Rajasthan Bhavan on 22

Jamshedpur, Aug 20 : A blood donation camp is going to be organized jointly by the city's social and religious organization Shree Shyam Seva Samiti Bistupur and District Marwari Sammelan at Rajasthan Bhavan, Bistupur on Tuesday, 22 August. This camp will run from 9.30 am to 4 pm. In this regard, Mukesh Agiwal, convener of Shri Shyam Seva Samiti and Sunil Sonthalia, president of Marwari Sammelan Bishtupur branch, jointly told that Late Rama Devi and Late. This blood donation camp is being organized by his family members in the memory of Shyam Sundar Agarwal.

Court awards 5 years RI to key accused in East Champaran fake currency case

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): A special NIA court in Patna has awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment to a key accused in the East Champaran, Bihar in fake currency case, officials said on Sunday. The court, while awarding the jail term to the accused Raisuddin, also imposed a fine of Rs 5000 on him for committing the offence punishable under section 489B read with sections 120B of IPC, section 16 of UA(P) Act, section 18 of UA(P) Act, and section 20 of UA(P) Act. The NIA said that the accused is the fifth person to have been convicted and sentenced in the case.



Coal India plans policy for financial assistance to future mountaineers

Ranchi, Aug 20: Coal India Limited (CIL) chairman PM Prasad on Sunday said they are contemplating a policy to provide financial assistance to future mountaineers. Prasad was addressing the inaugural session of Everest Summit through video conferencing from Kolkata. The event was organised at the convention centre of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Ranchi, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Everest summit. Prasad said mountaineering is not only a difficult task but a costly one too. "There should be some funds for the purpose whether from the government or from our CSR. We are working on that for future



mountaineers," Prasad said. As many as 14 climbers, who have successfully conquered Mount Everest, were felicitated during the inaugural session to celebrate their achievements. On the occasion, the climbers shared their experiences of summiting Mount Everest and inspired employees and other stakeholders. Speaking on the occasion, CCL

chairman-cum-managing (CMD) director Dr B Veera Reddy said there are quite a number of similarities between a climber and miner. "As mountaineers, miners also face lots of challenges such as high temperatures and humidity when they go 600-700 metres deep and sometimes even a kilometre," he said. Mountaineers go through various

difficulties that need physical fitness, mental peace and endurance to achieve the feat. "Once they reach the peak, they forget all their problems they faced," he said. Detailing about CCL's contribution to promote sports, Reddy said it is maintaining and operating the academy of Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society (JSSPS) in Ranchi's Khelgaon where around

400 sportspersons are getting training. They have so far won 900 medals. "CCL spends around Rs 550 crore on CSR activities," he said. During the interaction session, mountaineers expressed concern over untrained and unprepared climbers going for mountaineering. Premalata Agarwal, who is the first Indian woman to scale the seven summits, said,

"Many people try to become climbers without any training or preparedness. They are polluting the mountains and creating troubles not only for themselves but for others." She said, "When we return from a mountain, we also bring down the human waste in a bag." Jharkhand's first tribal woman to climb Mount Everest Binita Soren and other climbers such as Manisha Waghmare, Satyarup Siddhanta, Ranveer Jamwal, Kuntal Joisher, Priyanka Mohite, Bhagwan Chawale, Hemant Gupta, Aditi Vaidya, Anuja Vaidya, Jamling Tenzing, Meghna Parmar and Rudra Prasad Halder were also present to share their experiences.

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Himachal CM seeks calamity relief on pattern of Kedarnath

Shimla, Aug 20 (IANS): Seeking financial assistance on the pattern of the Kedarnath disaster, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Sunday apprised visiting BJP national President Jagat Prakash Nadda and Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur about the extensive damage caused by unprecedented heavy rains in the state.

At a meeting here, the Chief Minister provided a comprehensive overview of the destruction wreaked by the natural calamity and appealed for financial aid akin to that provided during the Kedarnath and Bhuj tragedies to aid the state's recovery efforts.

Underscoring the severity of the situation, he said that substantial landslides, widespread destruction of homes, and extensive damage to public and private property has been caused.

The current relief manual of the Union government's financial provisions are inadequate to compensate the losses of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhu said, and called for a specially tailored relief package considering the state's geographical conditions and the severity of the disaster. He also took up the issue of delayed release of



the first installment of interim relief from the Union government. He pleaded Nadda and Thakur to expedite the process of providing financial assistance, saying the disaster had resulted in losses surpassing Rs 10,000 crore and said despite assessment teams being sent by the Central government, the interim relief was still pending.

The Chief Minister said the state had been utilising its limited resources to support the impacted population. He said the allocation of Rs 360 crore annually under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in two instalments has been released by the

Union government. He said the release of Rs 189 crore out of Rs 315 crore has been made by the Union government due to the state government's efforts in addressing audit objections and called for the prompt disbursement of the remaining Rs 126 crore.

He said by August 10, the state has raised claims worth Rs 6,700 crore by sending a detailed report of the damages caused in the state to the Central government. Sukhu also elaborated on the state's initiatives to enhance structural engineering and drainage systems, including plans for a new town near Shimla in Jathiyia Devi. Nadda reiterated Union

government's commitment to offering substantial assistance to Himachal Pradesh owing to the unprecedented loss. He assured that efforts would be directed towards securing the earliest release of the interim relief's first installment. He emphasised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge of unwavering support to the state during these challenging times. He said it is the resolve of the Union government in mitigating the losses incurred and ensuring adequate funds for recovery. Union minister Thakur and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur also provided their insights at the meeting.

The state has seen 113 landslides and 58 cloudbursts

The damage to roads has been extensive in Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts. For the first time, the bottom of the century-old Shimla-Kalka railway line was swept away in the landslide near Shimla and is hanging in the air.

"Our hometown is crumbling, a place where one grew up, walked to school and loved the mist and beauty of clouds. The rains now spell more doom and a dry day scares you of more slides," remarked Additional Director General of Police Satwant Atwal, who was brought up in Shimla that served as the summer capital of British India between 1864 and 1939.

As the state has been reeling under the relentless onslaught of nature's fury, a landslide in the Summer Hill area of Shimla on August 14 led to the smashing of a temple that was crowded with devotees, raising fears that the death toll could rise. Fourteen bodies have been pulled out of the rubble as rescue work is still on.

On the same day, a cloudburst in Solan district claimed seven lives.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, who demands more automatic weather stations, has said that it will definitely take a year to restore the state due to the colossal damage estimated at around Rs 10,000 crore.

He said a 157 per cent surge in rainfall was recorded in the state in 48 hours, the most rain in decades.



Presiding over a meeting here on Thursday, the Chief Minister said the main cause of the cracks on the roads is lack of proper drainage and cross-drainage systems.

"Henceforth, new road construction sans a proper drainage system will not be approved or passed," he said, adding this could only be ensured by quality work at the time of construction.

Last month also the state saw heavy monsoon showers on July 8 and 9, leaving a trail of widespread destruction.

The heavy loss of life caused by such calamities can be mainly attributed to the increasing human activity, particularly along the rivers and water channels.

Even the state's cold desert Lahaul-Spiti, the rain-shadow zone, had to face a deluge last month.

Climate scientists say in recent years flash floods have intensified as the mountains are getting older and they contribute to more silt and sand. The haphazard dumping of muck and debris along streams and rivers that disturbs their natural course often multiplies hazardous landslide chain reactions downstream.

Also debris from blasting and construction of hydropower projects and national highway projects is dumped on slopes, damaging the vegetation too.

Advocating sustainable development, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the state High Court have time and again rapped the state authorities over their lack of response to the growing unauthorised constructions across the state, especially in the capital.

Two killed as bus falls into valley near Vizag

Visakhapatnam, Aug 20 (IANS): Two persons were killed and about 30 others injured when a RTC bus fell into a valley in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharamaraju district on Sunday, police said.

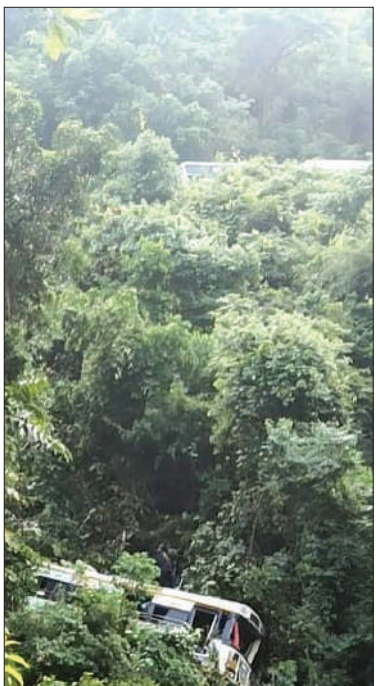
The accident occurred near Paderu Ghat Road Viewpoint, about 100 km from port city of Visakhapatnam, when the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus fell into a 100-foot valley.

The bus, with about 45 passengers, was heading to Chodavaram from Paderu.

Injured passengers including children were seen lying on the road before police and other officials rushed to help them. Ten of the injured sustained grievous injuries. Eight members of one family were among those injured.

Police shifted the injured to a hospital in Narsipatnam and also to the King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam.

MHA approves release of Rs 200



crore for Himachal flood relief Ministry of Home Affairs has approved release of Rs 200 crore,

as advance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), to the government of Himachal Pradesh, to help them undertake relief measures for affected people due to Monsoon disaster, an official spokesperson of MHA said on Sunday. New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) Ministry of Home Affairs has approved release of Rs 200 crore, as advance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), to the government of Himachal Pradesh, to help them undertake relief measures for affected people due to Monsoon disaster, an official spokesperson of MHA said on Sunday.

"The Government of India is monitoring the situation in Himachal round the clock, and providing necessary logistics and financial help to the State government to deal with the situation efficiently. So far 20 NDRF teams, nine columns of Indian Army, three teams of Indian Air Force helicopters are deployed in Himachal Pradesh for rescue and

relief work," official spokesperson further said.

It said that the Government of India without waiting for memorandum, has also deputed inter-ministerial central teams, to make an on-the-spot assessment of situation and relief work being carried out by Himachal Pradesh government, which visited affected areas from July 19 to 21.

On Saturday, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had visited Delhi and had said that his state had suffered a loss worth Rs 10,000 crore and it will take around one year to rebuild the state again.

Sukhu had said: "Himachal government is getting help from the entire country while Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh government lent it support of Rs 15 crore and Rs 11 crore respectively as relief."

Sukhu had said that Himachal had faced natural disaster twice, first during July 7 to July 11 and again from August 13, which continued to August 16.

Midday meals to have millet flavour in UP schools

Lucknow, Aug 20 (IANS): Students of government schools in Uttar Pradesh will now enjoy a millet dish in their midday meals.

Students will be served 'bajre ki khichdi' in the mid-day meals (MDM) on Fridays. The dish will be accompanied with seasonal vegetables and moong dal.

The move is being planned to ensure better nutrition to school kids. A government order issued by special secretary, basic education, Avadesh Tiwari to all district magistrates regarding changes in MDM menu, stated that pulses and vegetables will now be provided to children every day.

The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for the same was brought forward by the government of India and endorsed by



members of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) governing bodies, as well as by the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

UP's Mid Day Meal Authority, responsible for providing mid-day meals in government and aided schools from class 1 to 8, has proposed to the Union government that over 1.9 crore students in 1.43 lakh schools across the state be served a millet-based meal.

For this, MDM needs to procure an estimated 62,000 metric tonnes of

millet. "We have already asked the Centre to provide millets. Till the procurement is done, students will be served wheat and rice-based dishes like earlier," said an official.

Compared to staple grains like rice or wheat, millet has better nutritional value. "They are nutrient-dense and making them a part of regular meals can improve malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency among the masses, especially in children," said an MDM official.

Shahrukh becomes the brand ambassador of Sunfist Dark Fantasy

Ranchi, Aug 20: Sunfist Dark Fantasy announced the launch of an exciting new journey with the 'King of Fantasy' - Shah Rukh Khan as the new face of the brand.

Sunfist Dark Fantasy has launched its new brand offering, 'Sunfist Dark Fantasy - Har Dil Ki Fantasy'. It aims to establish a strong connect with the consumers. This unique offering is designed keeping in mind the desire to make a fantasy come true in everyday life. With this innovative approach, the brand seeks to encourage cross-section of consumers

to take flight of their personal fantasy anytime, anywhere. Shah Rukh Khan, the favorite of millions of hearts around the world, is indeed a fantasy of his fans. This commonality of the brand and Shah Rukh Khan makes it a great synergy.

The 'King of Bollywood' has now joined hands with the 'King of Biscuits'. Starting a new journey of 'Har Dil Ki Fantasy', Sunfist Dark Fantasy invites its consumers on a journey to a wonderful world with the charm of Shah Rukh Khan and the delectable taste of its biscuits.

Tharoor, Hussain express gratitude to Congress top leaders after appointed as CWC members

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): Congress MPs Sashi Tharoor and Syed Naseer Hussain on Sunday expressed gratitude to the party's central leadership after they were appointed as members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) -- the party's highest decision making body.

"I am honoured by the decision of the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge ji and the Congress central leadership to nominate me to the Working Committee. As



one who is aware of the historic role played by the CWC in guiding the party

over the last 138 years, I am humbled and grateful to be part of this

institution, and look forward to the opportunity to serve the party alongside my dedicated colleagues," he wrote on X.

The MP from Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram added, "None of us can accomplish anything without the lakhs of committed workers who are the lifeblood of the party. Today, above all, I bow to them. The countless Indians who seek a more inclusive and accepting India deserve the best from us."

Upcoming state polls to determine political future of Mayawati's nephew

Lucknow, Aug 20 (IANS): Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati, who has kept the reins of the party in her hands, now seems to be passing on the baton to her nephew and the party's national coordinator Akash Anand.

By handing over the responsibility of the assembly elections to be held in four states to Akash, she has started taking him forward. It is said that Mayawati is slowly preparing her second line leadership. The success and

failure in these states will determine Akash's future.

If political experts are to be believed, after several failures in the Lok Sabha and assembly polls, Mayawati started promoting her nephew Akash Anand in politics and gave him important positions in the party.

He has been given election responsibilities in all four poll-bound states. Along with this, the party, which has distanced itself from agitations, demonstrations and padyatras, is now taking up

padyatras to launch Akash properly.

Akash Anand started the 'Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya Sankalp Yatra' of 3,500 kilometres in view of the Rajasthan assembly elections. This journey has also been named 'Bahujan Adhikar Yatra'.

The yatra will pass through about 150 assembly constituencies of the state. Politician experts say that during the yatra, the BSP will work on a strategy to attract the Dalit, OBC and Muslim vote bank.



During the start of the yatra in Rajasthan's Dholpur, Akash Anand said that the BSP will contest elections in the state with the resolution of Sarvajan

Hitay, Sarvajan Sukhaya. He said, "The BSP's resolution will be that all classes of people should be getting benefited if it comes to power. The victims, the

downtrodden and the exploited should get relief."

A senior BSP leader said that 'Behan Ji' has given a big responsibility to Akash, in which there is a lot of challenge but there will be a lot to learn as well. "He is implementing his aunt's social engineering formula. Youths will join him."

Many experienced leaders, who are also engaged with him, will keep on giving him the knowledge to move forward from time to time. He said that there are challenges in all these states

but there is a lot to learn.

In June, Akash along with two trusted leaders Ashok Siddharth and Ramji Gautam was entrusted with the responsibility of the assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. Meanwhile, Akash remained very active in Madhya Pradesh.

He marched to the Raj Bhavan on Tribal Day. His statement on Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar was in the limelight.

Political analyst Prasun Pandey says that elections

in four states are enough for Akash Anand to prove himself. However, he hasn't faced any major conflicts yet. Still, Mayawati has launched him well.

It is a big challenge for him to select loyal and winnable candidates in Rajasthan. The BSP used to have six MLAs at one point of time, but now they have joined the Congress. Similar will be the case in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh where it will be a challenge for the BSP to stop the decline in its vote share and to save its cadre.

Karaoke Singing Competition at Parsudih Petrol Pump

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: With aspiring singers being drawn more to Karaoke mode of presentation either on social media platforms, amateur shows or professional stage shows, the horizon of budding singing talents have expanded and gained wider dimensions.

Popular vocalist adept in rendering songs in almost all genres, Rajendra Sah Raj has taken the initiative to add more than a shot in the arm for singers keen on presenting their vocal talents with the aid of Karaoke music system. He will be organizing a group Karaoke singing competition at the Parsudih Petrol Pump for such singers on September 5, 10, 16 with the grand finale on Saturday, September 23.

The participants will be divided into four age groups that will include Group A (10 years), Group B (11 to 20 years), Group C (21 to 35 years) and Group D (36 years and above). Entry cards are mandatory to participate and they can be obtained at the Parsudih Petrol Pump. For further details, those eager to participate in the event may contact Amit Santra at 9031389201.

Giving additional details on the karaoke Singing Competition, Rajendra Sah Raj and Amit Santra jointly informed that winners would be honoured with mementos, certificates and prizes. (w/gsd)

Jeevan holds workshop on 'Stress Management' to empower students

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: In a proactive effort to prioritize mental health and raise awareness about stress management and suicide prevention, the 'Jeevan' Suicide Prevention Centre orchestrated a comprehensive two-hour workshop at Arka Jain University. Attended by approximately 85 first-year Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) students, the workshop aimed to equip young minds with essential skills to cope with stress and extend support to those in need.

The management of Arka Jain University extended a warm invitation to 'Jeevan', recognising the vital importance of addressing

mental health concerns among students. The workshop featured distinguished speakers who expertly navigated through the intricate web of stress, anxiety, and depression.

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatia, the National Secretary of Befrienders India and Deputy Director of Outreach at Jeevan, delivered the first session titled 'Understanding and Handling Stress'. She eloquently delved into the various stressors that impact individuals, emphasizing the significance of identifying both physical and behavioral changes as markers of stress and depression. Bhatia passionately highlighted the crucial role of awareness in recognizing



symptoms and fostering a culture of mindfulness, which could ultimately save lives.

The second session, 'Win over Stress Anxiety and

Depression', was conducted by Preeti Saini, a proficient Consultant Psychologist. Saini introduced an interactive element by involving the students in a

Stress, Anxiety, and Depression tabulation exercise. This exercise enabled participants to introspect and evaluate their emotional responses to different situations, empowering them to grasp the nuances of their feelings and reactions.

Both sessions proved to be engaging and insightful, fostering an environment of open dialogue and learning. Notably, faculty members and program coordinators also graced the event, commending the workshop's well-structured and interactive approach.

Students were made aware of the avenues of support available to them in times of emotional crisis. Jeevan volunteers stand ready to provide assistance over the phone at 929777499/929777500, offer face-to-face counseling sessions at the Center located at 25, Q Road, Bistupur, and accept queries through WhatsApp, text messages, or emails at the provided contact details: jeevan.jamshedpur@gmail.com.

The workshop left an indelible impact on the participants, equipping them with essential tools to manage stress and extend a helping hand to those struggling with mental health challenges. As the 'Jeevan' Suicide Prevention Centre continues its mission to safeguard mental well-being, the workshop stands as a testament to the collective commitment to fostering a supportive and resilient community. (w-pb)

Narbheram Hansraj English School students excel in Karate Championship

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: AUG 20: In a remarkable display of skill and determination, students from Narbheram Hansraj English School (NHES) won eight medals including 3 gold in CISCE Regional Karate Championship organised by Don Bosco School, Patna.

The event showcased the exceptional talent and dedication of the school's young karate enthusiasts.

The medal winners include: Yashasvi Yadav won gold medal in girls U/14 46 to 50 kg category.

Ishan Kumar bagged bronze medal in boys U/14 35 to 40 kg event. Aditya Jaiswal of the school claimed silver medal in boys U/14 30 to 35 kg category. Ivjot Singh



Dhanjal won gold in boys U/14 45 to 50 kg category.

Subh Kumar Singh was the silver medal winner in boys U/14 40 to 45 kg. Diwakar Devraj also won the silver medal in boys U/17 62 TO 66 kg event. Ishmeet Kaur claimed silver medal in girls U/17

60 to 64 kg event.

Yash Kumar bagged gold medal in boys U/19 62 TO 66 kg category. Under the guidance of karate coach Niraj Kumar & Team manager N. Murli Mohan students showcased their martial arts techniques with finesse and precision.

Sindhara Utsav induces religious euphoria at Jugsalai Rani Sati Dadi Mandir

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: 'Shri Rani Sati Satsang Samiti, Jugsalai' organized Sindhara Teej Festival (Hariali Teej) at the Shri Rani Sati Dadi Mandir at Jugsalai Girls School Road on Sunday. The couple, Sudha-Anil Kumar Agarwal performed the worship and lighted the ceremonial lamp. The temple's priest, Bimal Pandey, conducted the rituals. A group of 121 women in traditional attire recited the Mangalpath that commenced at 3:30 pm. The performance of the Jhulan Utsav rituals of Shri rani sati Dadi Magrabbed attention of the devotees. Local Bhajan singer Govind Bharadwaj initiated the Utsav the rendition of Ganesh Vandana that was followed by the recitation of Mangalpath. Sunita Bharadwaj led the team of



women reciting the sacred verses inter-spread with her musical rendition of hymns that made the recitation devotionally more engrossing.

The recitations and songs covered various aspects of the festival such as Dadi Ma's birth celebration, the Chumri (scarf) festival, and the Gajra (flower garland) ritual. The committee members, including Jagdish Sharma, Sudhir Sharma, Bajinath Sharma, and Aditi Bharadwaj



rendered bhajans in ode to Rani sati Dadi Ma in their catchy vocal nuances that enhanced the religious euphoria among the devotees present.

The floral decoration of the Mother's court by Kolkata flower designers

came in for plaudits.

The managing committee for the event included Kamal Agarwal, Ajay Agarwal, Dilip Kumar Ringasia, Manish Kedia, Deepak Goyal, Manoj Sharma, Rajesh Agarwal, Vinod Kumar Garg, Rajesh

Kaseria, Dinesh Agarwal, Kailash Sharma, Arun Agarwal, Sushil Agarwal, Dilip Kedia, Umesh Kumar, Anil Khandelwal, Ashwani Agarwal, Om Bharadwaj, Aman Agarwal and Manoj Agarwal. (w/gsd)



World Photography Day was celebrated by Saraikele-Kharsawan district photographers in Gamharia.



The Chaurasia Parivar celebrated Nag Panchami Festival with piety in Gamharia.



A one-day symposium of Lord Shiva's devotees was organized by Harinandan Foundation at Shriram Divine Academy Ground, Gamharia.



Congress Party members led by party leader Abhijeet Singh observed Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi's 79th birth anniversary as National Pride Day at the party's office at Jugsalai Station Road.

NIA chargesheets 16 in Jharkhand CPI (Maoist) arms seizure case

Ranchi, August 20: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge sheet against sixteen accused, including a woman in the CPI (Maoist) arms and ammunition seizure case of Jharkhand, an official said here on Sunday.

The supplementary charge sheet was filed on Saturday. As of now, the probe agency has chargesheeted twenty five accused in this matter.

Jharkhand Police, which was handling the matter initially, had filed the first charge sheet on May 18, 2021 against nine accused under various sections of IPC, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act, CLA Act, and UA(P) Act.

The case relates to the arrest of CPI (Maoist) cadres and the seizure of a huge cache of arms and ammunition from P.S Peshrar, Lohardaga in Jharkhand. This case was initially registered at the local Police Station on February 21, 2022.

Later, it was transferred to the NIA on June 14, 2022.

After taking over the matter, the NIA conducted several raids in the forest area of Bulbul, where CPI (Maoist) Regional Commander Ravindra Ganju, along with active cadres Balram Oraon, Muneshwar Ganju, Balak Ganju, Dinesh Nagesia, Aghnu Ganju, Lajim Ansari, Markush Nagesia, Sanjay Nagesia, Sheela Kherwar, Lalita Devi and around 40-60 others, had assembled

to conspire and plan violent attacks on the security forces and in the Bauxite Mines area.

A joint operation was conducted by the local police and the CRPF, during which the CPI (Maoist) cadres had fired indiscriminately on the security forces on the way to Bahabar Jungle, at Harkatta Toli and Bangla Pat.

Search of the area surrounding the firing had later led to the recovery of

a large quantity of arms, ammunition, explosives and other items.

The NIA investigations have revealed that the armed cadres and members of CPI (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organisation, had hatched a conspiracy to carry out violent acts and unlawful activities and endanger the security of India. Their plan was to destabilise the democratically elected government by committing terrorist acts and violence attacks.

Investigations have further established that CPI (Maoist) top commanders and armed cadres had entered into a criminal conspiracy at Budha Pahar during August-September, 2022, and had decided to take revenge against the arrest of senior CPI (Maoist) leader Prashant Bose.

They had intended to carry out terrorist acts against the security forces and the police.

Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: Under the leadership of East Singhbhum District Youth Congress Committee District President Neeraj Singh, near Kashidih Line No. 1 near Shiv Santoshi Temple, the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna late Rajiv Gandhi, was celebrated. On the occasion, study materials were distributed. Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee Secretary Prince Singh as chief guest, State General Secretary of Youth Congress Rakesh Sahu was present in the program. Tribute was paid and the study materials were distributed among the needy children by the State Secretary Prince Singh.

Priyanshu and Manpreet bag Allrounder Student Award

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, Aug 20: DBMS College of Education organised graduation Nite on Saturday. The ceremony unfolded in the auditorium, graced by esteemed guests including Dr. Jayant Shekhar, Registrar of Kolhan University, as the chief guest, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand.

The distinguished attendees included Bhanumati Neelkanth, the Patron of the DBMS Trust, BK Chandrasekar, the College Chairperson of Finance, Sriprya Dharmarajan, Secretary, along with other members of the DBMS Trust, the College Principal, Dr. Juhi Samarпита, and Vice Principal, Dr. Monika Uppal.

The event began on a spiritual note with a captivating Ganesh Vandana presented by the college's music teacher, Amrita Chowdhary, and the B.Ed. students.

DBMS College organises graduation nite



Dr. Juhi Samarпита, the college's principal, commenced the proceedings by delivering the annual report. This was followed by the report from Sriprya Dharmarajan, the college secretary. B. Chandra shekhar, the General Chairperson of the DBMS Trust, extended a warm

welcome to the esteemed guests, emphasizing the institution's commitment to providing excellent facilities.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of various awards. Among them, the General Proficiency Award was bestowed upon Kajal Mahto

from the B.Ed. 2020-22 batch, and K. Chandramani from the D.El.Ed. 2019-21 batch, with the honor presented by B.K. Chandrasekar. Students who excelled in various subjects were also recognized, including M. Manisha for Hindi, Ashwini for English, Sana

Parveen for Social Studies, and others.

Special recognition was extended to individuals who displayed exceptional dedication. The Principal's Honor was awarded to Abhay Pratap from the B.Ed. 2020-22 batch, with the trophy presented by the Principal herself.

Prem Nitish Lakda received the Trailblazer Award in memory of Late Shiv Shankar Singh, while D. Komal was honored with the Trend Setter Award, both acknowledging their unique contributions. Priyanshu Kumari and Manpreet Kaur received all rounder student award.

The ceremony concluded with heartfelt acknowledgments, including awards for attendance and performance. The chief guest, Dr. Jayant Shekhar, praised the college's commitment to providing quality education. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, in his address, acknowledged the challenges of education and lauded DBMS College for its exceptional efforts in shaping the future.

As the evening drew to a close, Kajal Mahato, a B.Ed. 2020-22 student, presented her report, and the assembly witnessed the dedication of the Rotaract Club Badge.

An Indian jamboree

By Yajurvindra Singh

The word "jamboree" seems to be an ideal way to describe Indian Cricket at present. The cricket schedules and commitments have created confusion and chaos, not only among the cricketers but more so among the millions of fans following Indian cricket.

One has lost one's bearing as to who is the Indian captain, who is playing where and in which of the Indian teams.

India seems to have captains coming out of the woodwork. The senior most and officially the man at the helm is Rohit Sharma. However, with the Indian teams being sent to Ireland, the Asia Cup and the Asian Games we have had and appointed in the last two years of international cricket, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Rituraj Gaekwad, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Shikhar Dhawan as captains.

Similarly, one is at sea identifying players as to which team a specific player is playing in. I can imagine the plight of a young Indian player, who may be happy to get into one of the sides, however, he must be confused as to whether his performance will merit a selection into the Indian Senior side.

The sword that seems to hang over a youngster's head, is the return of the trusted older players from rest or injuries. These days the latter is more relevant than the rest part of it.

India needs to ensure that only one Indian team is in operation at all times. Yes, players can be rested, however, it has to be only a single side that represents the country in an international fixture. The reason is that one is representing one's country and not a club or a state side. There is India's pride at stake and diffusing it is definitely not acceptable.

Furthermore, an Indian cap needs to be earned and dishing it out in such a frivolous way, does not augment well for the sport. Between the three upcoming tournaments and a series against Australia before the World Cup'23, one may see well over 10 new debutants, some of whom would never have ever deserved it.

The India 'A' tours are a wonderful way in which to assess players and give them a platform to showcase their talent. Presently, a good season in the Indian Premier League (IPL) has become the benchmark for a player to get recognized and catapulted into the reckoning for an Indian cap. A few of them have barely played first-class domestic cricket but have been successful in the IPL, where they have very little to lose but plenty to gain without immense pressure or fame to live up to.

This brings me to a wonderful article written by Michael Gervais. He has researched the experience and performance anxiety of professional and amateur sportsmen. He calls it "FOPO". The "Fear of People's Opinion". This is relevant to Indian cricket as it seems to target both the younger and the experienced ones.

The Indian cricket stars have a name and reputation to live up to, which one has seen, seems to affect their performance on the world stage when most needed.

The fear of failure is what brings about anxiety which makes them more cautious, watchful and tentative. Whereas, a youngster, who may have done brilliantly to achieve his place in the side, did it without the pressure and responsibility that the established cricketer faces. FOPO is an anticipatory mechanism that involves psychological, physiological and physical activation to avoid rejection as Michael Gervais puts it. He said that when challenged, one protects one's ego and surrenders one's viewpoint. Unfortunately, with the gigantic fan following an Indian cricketer faces he needs to learn how to deal with it. This is where Rahul Dravid along with the selectors need to play their part. Brendon McCullum along with Ben Stokes has done this quite remarkably. The English side seems a completely transformed unit that looks to play without fear and inhibitions. One can see that each of their players seems to have gone past it and is not concerned about what the critics and people think. They have decided to play and approach the game according to their plan.

The Indian cricket team needs to get over the FOPO syndrome. They need to play with pride as one unit and on their terms. The Indian team is brimming with talented players, they just need to believe in themselves.

Who is having the last laugh in the 'Battle of Lal Chowk'?

Ahmed Ali Fayyaz

Srinagar's business hub of LalChowk admittedly does not represent the entire Kashmir valley's situation and political aspirations. But its iconic landscape and skyline does arguably contain Kashmir's most representative political countenance. That is why diverse characters chose it as their stage to dominate the scene and promote their narratives and ideologies over the last 100-odd years.

In the evening on Tuesday, India's Independence Day, hundreds of enthusiastic Kashmiris gathered at LalChowk, danced around a fountain and the newly rebuilt clock tower and clicked pictures from all angles. Earlier in the day, different non-governmental groups and individuals took turns to wave the Indian national flag and get pictures and selfies clicked.

As scores of the I-Day revellers danced on the granite floor base of a fountain, it cracked under their weight. One of the participants was caught while removing the letter 'L' of the commemoration 'LALCHOWK' for a souvenir. All the buildings around were resplendent with radiance. This was in total contrast to the ambience of fear and gloom LalChowk presented until recently.

For the first two years of Omar Abdullah's National Conference-Congress coalition in 2009-10 and later in Mehbooba Mufti's PDP-BJP regime in 2016-18, Lalchowk was quite



often known for the crates of concertina wire and paramilitary deployments put in place to stop the separatists' marches to the Civil Lines. The summer headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) used to be their second most favourite destination for theatrics.

Living at the nearby Maisuma, JKLF chief Yasin Malik used to be a frequent demonstrator at LalChowk. On every separatist-militant sponsored call for shutdown, dharna or march, Police and paramilitary columns used to close Lalchowk with razor wires and other barricades. Entire Civil Lines presented the looks of a ghost town. Not a single pedestrian or civilian motor driver would be allowed to pass through Maulana Azad Road or

Residency Road.

Just five years after the breakdown of Mehbooba Mufti's government, LalChowk, as well as the entire capital city and the nine rural district headquarters are calm and quiet. Everything from street clashes to stone pelting mob attacks, separatist demonstrations and Pakistani flags, bullets, pellets and teargas, arson and encounters, has vanished. After the constitutional changes of August 2019, almost the entire separatist violence has ended. From funeral processions and gun salutes to the militants killed in encounters, everything has disappeared. Education is continuing at schools, colleges, universities and coaching centres without any disruption. Trade and tourism are flourishing. As a result of this unimagined transformation, traders in Srinagar and elsewhere,

particularly in the Srinagar Civil Lines, are making remarkable businesses. They claim this is for the first time since 1988.

Before 1947, LalChowk scripted a new history for Kashmir. A year after Bollywood produced its first sound film, Ardeshir Irani's 'AlamAra', in 1931, a Sikh philanthropist Bhai Anant Singh Gauri opened Kashmir's first cinema, Palladium Talkies, at LalChowk. 'AlamAra' was screened at Palladium. In 1947, Palladium served as headquarters of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's Emergency Administration and National Militia of Peace Brigade.

National Militia, comprising Kashmir's men and women, picked the first guns and supported the Indian Army in resisting and failing the Pakistani raiders' invasion with the popular slogan of "Hamla Aawar Khabardaar, Ham Kashmiri Hain Tayar". Later, Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sheikh addressed a massive gathering of the Kashmiris at LalChowk.

In the last 50 years, LalChowk has been witness to a mosaic of political developments. In February, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah received an enthusiastic reception here from his Kashmiri followers after he dumped his 'Mahaz-e-Raishumari' and returned to the mainstream politics as Chief Minister with support of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In his fiery speech, Sheikh blasted Pakistan for sending raiders to loot Kashmir, for killing

innocent Kashmiris and for being hypocritical to Kashmir.

In 1980, the year when Bajaj business group raised the old Clock Tower at LalChowk, Sheikh delivered another historic speech. Two days before, a clash had occurred between the taxi drivers and soldiers in which then SSP Srinagar Ali Mohammad Watali was also injured. Sheikh doused the flames of turmoil and reconnected the civilians with the Indian Army.

In 1989, Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah addressed his last rally of the pre-militancy period in front of Palladium. He asserted that Pakistan's gun would only destroy Kashmir and exhorted the Kashmiris to reject the gun culture and separation. In March 1990, Kashmir's massive pro-azadi processions to UNMOGIP passed through Lalchowk. In the next few years, a number of LalChowk's business centres and hotels, including Palladium, were reduced to ashes in terror attacks and encounters.

In January 1992, senior BJP leaders Murli Manohar Joshi and Narendra Modi drove all the way to Srinagar and hoisted the Indian national flag at LalChowk under tight security and serious threats from militant organisations.

In 1994, top separatist leader Shabir Shah addressed a massive gathering of his followers at LalChowk. He stressed on unification of the separatist groups and assured his audiences to reunite the "100 beads of the rosary".

INDIAN CINEMA'S TOP 10 OPENING WEEKENDS

2023 is turning out to be bountiful for Bollywood, with two films released this year - 'Pathaan' and 'Gadar 2' - figuring on the all-time Top 10 opening weekends list. Note: The figures are not inflation adjusted.

1 25 Jan 2023 280.75	2 14 Apr 2022 193.99
3 06 Jul 2016 180.36	4 02 Oct 2019 166.25
5 05 Jun 2019 150.10	6 11 Aug 2023 134.88*
7 12 Nov 2015 129.77	8 28 Apr 2017 128.00
9 08 Nov 2018 123.00	10 09 Sep 2022 120.75

■ Release Date ■ Opening Weekend (₹ crore) * : Still playing IANS

India moves a step closer to collar 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana after ruling by US court

In what brings 26/11 terror attack accused Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana closer to extradition to India, a US court has denied the writ of habeas corpus filed by him.

The denial has paved the way for US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to issue a certification for him to be extradited to India where he is facing a trial for his alleged involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

"The court has denied Tahawwur Rana's petition for writ of habeas corpus by a separate order," read orders by Judge Dale S Fischer, United States District Judge, Central District of California.

During the recently concluded monsoon session of the Indian parliament the Home Minister Amit Shah had informed the House that Tahawwur Rana would face the Indian judiciary soon.

Rana has filed an appeal against the order and sought a stay on his extradition to India till the time his appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court is heard. He had filed "writ of habeas corpus" in June this year challenging a court order that acceded to the request of the US government that the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks accused be extradited to India.

The special public prosecutor of the 26/11 case



Ujjwal Nikam said that it was a great diplomatic success and a major blow to terrorism. "With extradition almost finalised, we now need to decide which court he will be tried, whether in the NIA court at Delhi or elsewhere, those questions will be decided by the investigating agency," said Nikam.

Judge Fischer in his rejection order said that he didn't find any solid grounds as Rana has only made two basic arguments in the writ. First, he claims that, pursuant to the treaty, he cannot be extradited because India plans to prosecute him for the same acts for which he was charged and acquitted in a

United States court. Second, he argues that the government has not established that there is probable cause to believe that Rana committed the Indian offenses for which he is expected to stand trial, the judge said.

"Given that, even if (David) Headley's testimony were the entire basis for the probable cause finding, it would be sufficient for the purposes of habeas review because it constitutes some competent evidence supporting the finding. For the reasons stated above, Rana's petition for a writ of habeas corpus is DENIED," the judge wrote.

Tahawwur Rana was

arrested in the US on an extradition request by India for his role in the Mumbai attacks that killed 175 people, including six Americans.

Indian authorities allege that Rana conspired with his childhood friend David Coleman Headley to assist the Pakistani terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba in orchestrating the terror attacks. David Headley had pleaded guilty and testified against Rana.

Following Judge Fischer's order, Patrick Blegen and John D Cline, Rana's two attorneys filed an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the Central District of California.

10, 2023, for denying his petition for writ of habeas corpus.

In a separate appeal, Blegen has filed a petition "for a stay of extradition pending his appeal" to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the court's order denying his petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

"As set forth in the accompanying memorandum, petitioner submits that a stay of extradition pending appeal is appropriate because he has made a strong showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits of his non bis in idem claim; he will suffer irreparable harm if he is extradited, potentially including the death penalty; a stay pending appeal will not substantially injure the government; and the public interest favors a full review of Rana's non bis claim before he is sent to a country that seeks to execute him," Rana's attorney wrote on August 14. In June, the Biden administration had urged the court to deny the writ of habeas corpus filed by Rana. "The United States respectfully requests that the court deny Rana's petition for a writ of habeas corpus," said E Martin Estrada, US attorney for Central District of California, in his petition filed before the US District Court for the Central District of California.

Heat, wildfires, floods make summer of 2023 'a summer of extremes'

The summer of 2023 is "a summer of extremes" due to the scorching heat, wildfires and floods that have resulted in major damage to people's health and the environment, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

Clare Nullis, spokesperson for the WMO, said at a press briefing here on Friday that dangerous weather, including intense heat and devastating rainfall, has impacted large

parts of the world in this "summer of extremes", reports Xinhua news agency.

She said many new station temperature records around the world were broken in July, and the start of August also saw a winter heat wave in parts of South America.

In a series of updates on extreme weather, WMO said earlier this week that many countries like France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Algeria and Tunisia all reported new

maximum daytime and overnight station temperature records.

Large parts of the US have also been gripped by extensive heat waves.

"We need to broaden focus beyond maximum temperatures because the minimum temperature is most important for health and critical infrastructure," said WMO extreme heat senior advisor John Naim.

WMO pointed out that



heatwaves are among the deadliest natural hazards with thousands of people dying from heat-related causes each year,

while the full impact of a heatwave is often not known until weeks or months afterwards.

According to WMO, sea surface temperatures of the Mediterranean are set to be exceptionally high in the coming days and weeks, exceeding 30 degrees Celsius in some parts, and more than 4 degrees Celsius above average in a large part of the western Mediterranean.

WMO believes that the

impacts of marine heatwaves include migration of species and extinctions, arrival of invasive species with consequences for fisheries and aquaculture. Speaking at Friday's press briefing, the WMO spokesperson also said that Canada is experiencing its worst wildfire season on record.

In Canada, record-breaking wildfires continue to burn big forest areas. More than 650 wildfires were out of control as of July 24.

Hockey India announces 39 core probables for senior men's national camp

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): Hockey India on Sunday named a 39-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp scheduled to be held from August 21 to September 18 at SAI Centre in Bengaluru.

The camp will serve as an opportunity for the players to gear up for the all-important Hangzhou Asian Games, which is scheduled to be held from September 23 to October 8 in China.

The Indian men's hockey team will begin their campaign in the Hangzhou Asian Games against Uzbekistan on September 24. India are placed in Pool A along with Pakistan, Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Uzbekistan. The Indian team will head

into the Asian Games high on confidence, having won the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai recently.

India were unbeaten in the Asian Champions Trophy, winning their first game 7-2 against China, drawing 1-1 against Japan before beating Malaysia 5-0 and winning against South Korea 3-2. They also defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 4-0 in a group-stage game.

In the knockout round, India beat Japan 5-0 in the semifinal and staged a remarkable comeback in the final to beat Malaysia and win the title for the record fourth time.

Talking about the upcoming national coaching camp, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "Over the past few months,

Hangzhou Asian Games



we have shown that we are growing as a team and learning constantly. The

camp is an important one for us as we are spearheading our

preparations for the Hangzhou Asian Games which could be our road to

securing a spot for the Paris Olympics 2024. "In the Asian Champions

Trophy in Chennai, we played really good hockey and given the fact that we remained unbeaten in the tournament shows that we are heading in the right direction, and we want to keep that going in upcoming tournaments."

Meanwhile, the Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh said, "The camp will be an opportunity for us to work in certain areas and to work together as a unit. We displayed solid team performance in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy, and it is important for us to keep the same momentum going," he added.

List of players in India's 39-member core-probable group:

Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, PR Sreejesh, Suraj Karkera,

Pawan, Prashant Kumar Chauhan

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Gurinder Singh, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Manjeet

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Sumit, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mousen, Maninder Singh

Forwards: S. Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Sanranjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Pawan Rajbhar.

India's Anahat Singh wins gold in U-17 category at Asian Junior Squash Championship

Mumbai, Aug 20 (IANS): India's Commonwealth Games squash star Anahat Singh clinched the gold in the girls under-17 category of the 30th Asian Junior Squash Individual Championship held in Dalian, China, on Sunday.

In the event held from August 16 to 20, the 15-year-old Anahat defeated Ena Kwong of Hong Kong 3-1 to clinch the title. Earlier, the squash player from Delhi defeated Doyce Lee of Malaysia in the quarters and Whitney Isabelle Wilson of Malaysia in the semis to reach the finals. This is her second gold and third medal for Anahat, who is coached by former India star Ritwik Bhattacharya, at the Asian juniors so far. She won her first gold medal in the girls under-15 at the Asian junior championships in Thailand in 2022 and a bronze in the girls' under-13 category in 2019 at the Asian Junior Championships held in Macau 2019. In between the championships did not take place due to covid.

Bournemouth sign United States captain Adams from Leeds on five-year deal

London, Aug 20 (IANS): AFC Bournemouth have signed United States captain Tyler Adams from Leeds United on a five-year contract, the Premier League club said on Sunday.

The American international, who became only the sixth-ever player from the USA to play for the club, will wear the number 18 shirt at Vitality Stadium. The midfielder established himself as one of the Premier League's top tacklers in the 2022/23 season. Adams, who was also linked with Chelsea this summer, made 24 Premier League appearances last season after joining Leeds from RB Leipzig. Before joining Leeds, the 24-year-old spent three seasons in Germany with Leipzig, helping them reach the semifinals of the UEFA Champions League and winning the DFB-Pokal. He started his career at New York Red Bulls in 2016 and in 2022 was named the US Soccer Player of the Year. "We're thrilled to have brought Tyler to the club and he is a player we've admired for a long time. It's been widely documented how much his talents have been recognised in this transfer window by other clubs, so to have him sign for AFC Bournemouth shows the ambition we have as a club," Bournemouth chief executive Neill Blake said.

Leagues Cup: Lionel Messi guides Inter Miami to title with penalties win on Nashville



Washington (USA), Aug 20 (IANS): Argentine star Lionel Messi extended his prolific scoring run as Inter Miami beat Nashville 10-9 on penalties to win the Leagues Cup final on Saturday.

The Argentine World Cup winner put the hosts ahead in the 23rd minute at Nashville's Geodis Park when he cut onto his favoured left foot and drilled an unstoppable shot into the top-left corner.

The hosts equalised just before the hour through Fafa Picault, who nodded home from close range after Sam Surridge's headed flick from a corner.

Both sides had chances to win in the dramatic final stages of the allotted 90 minutes.

Nashville's Sam Surridge saw his angled finish, palmed away by goalkeeper Drake Callender before Messi and Leonardo Campana both hit the post for the visitors as the game finished 1-1 at the final whistle.

Mumbai Half Marathon 2023: Chhagan Bombale retains men's title, Haryana's Bharti wins women's event

Mumbai, Aug 20 (IANS): Chhagan Bombale from Hingoli district in Maharashtra retained the men's half-marathon title in the 7th edition of the Ageas Federal Life Insurance Mumbai Half Marathon for the second year in succession.

The 22-year-old third-year BA student completed the 21 km distance in a time of 1:12.14, an improvement of over four minutes over his winning effort in the 2022 edition.

The women's half marathon (21.1k) was comfortably won by 25-year-old Bharti from Sonapat, Haryana, who breasted the tape in a creditable 1:19.19 after taking the lead at the halfway stage. Finishing nearly two minutes behind was Prajakta Godbole in 1:21.08 while Prajakta Shinde trooped in third in 1:21.27.

Bombale, who was running well within himself in the initial stages, surged ahead at the 10 km mark and built up a comfortable lead over the chasing pack.

Dheeraj Yadav strove hard to bridge the gap but had to be content with the second position, finishing less than half a minute behind the winner in 1:12.41.



Anant Gaonkar completed the podium line-up in third place in 1:14.03.

"I'm very happy to come back and win again for the second time. The organisation was good and the conditions were ideal," said an elated Bombale after collecting his trophy and winner's cheque from event brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar.

Organised by NEB Sports, the half marathon (21.1k), the timed 10k and the 5k fun run races, which started and ended at the Jio

Gardens in the Bandra Kurla Complex, were run under cloudy skies, marked by a brief drizzle. Over 20,000 runners -- both serious and amateur -- enthusiastically participated across the 3 race categories.

In the men's 10 km, Bhavishya Kaushik took the top honours with a decent time of 31.11 mins. Akshay Kumar took the silver in 32.10 mins and Atul Barde the bronze in 32.33 mins. The women's 10 km was won by Sonali Desai in 39.56 mins while

Sakshi Bhandari breezed in second in 42.20 mins and Padma Karande third in 42.57 mins.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, event brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar extolled the "passion" witnessed among the participants on Sunday.

"This is the seventh edition and I remember seven years ago, we had about 3,000 odd participants. But today I can proudly say we've grown seven times with over 20,000 runners taking part. It is a matter of great happiness and a reflection of how we as a country are thinking, taking our health seriously, and it is a positive step towards what we want to achieve for our nation, a young and healthy nation," Tendulkar enthused.

The Master Blaster extolled the "women's power" that was evident on Sunday with about 25 per cent of the participants being female, while also complementing the Indian Navy for sending 2,000 plus entries as well as the paralympic athletes and visually impaired runners who took part.

Tendulkar also had a special word of praise for Vighnesh

Shahane, MD & CEO of Ageas Federal Life Insurance and his team, adding that "without teamwork, it is not possible to pull off such things".

Vignesh Shahane, while agreeing with Tendulkar that the event had "exponentially grown" since its launch seven years ago, said the rising participation in the Ageas Federal marathons is a testament to the fitness movement that has now taken hold of the country. This year's race theme, 'Run Ageless, Run Fearless' was chosen to inspire participants to shed their inhibitions about their age and ability, and fire them up to run and give it their best shot.

Results: Half marathon (21.1k): 1. Chhagan Bombale 1:12.14 2. Dheeraj Yadav 1:12.41 3. Anant Gaonkar 1:14.03.

10 km: 1. Bhavishya Kaushik 31.11 2. Akshay Kumar 32.10 3. Atul Barde 32.33.

Women: Half marathon (21.1k): 1. Bharti 1:19.19 2. Prajakta Godbole 1:21.08 3. Prajakta Shinde 1:21.27. 10 km: 1. Sonali Desai 39.56 mins 2. Sakshi Bhandari 42.20 3. Padma Karande 42.57.

Now, Hyderabad seek change in World Cup fixtures, wants to avoid back-to-back matches

Mumbai, Aug 20 (IANS): Just a few days after changing the schedule of nine matches during the upcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has received another request for a change in fixtures for the event to be held across India in October-November this year.

The request has come from the Hyderabad Cricket Association after the local police raised concerns over hosting back-to-back matches, including the marquee clash between former champions Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal in Hyderabad is

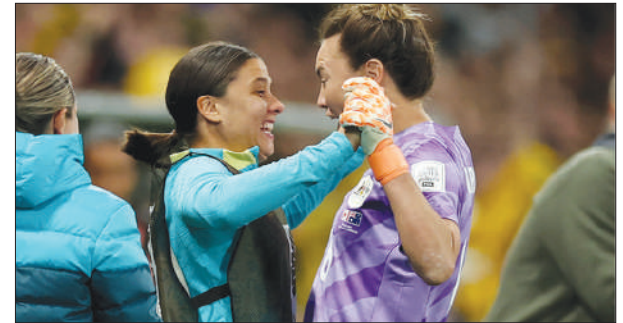


scheduled to host the New Zealand versus the Netherlands clash on October 9 followed by a match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on the next day. The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) is scheduled to host only three of the 45 matches with the Pakistan-Sri Lanka match

scheduled for October 12. But with the BCCI reworking fixtures for nine matches to accommodate clashes with other schedules to avoid security hassles, the Pakistan vs Sri Lanka match was moved ahead to October 10 from its original date of October 12. This was done to give the 1992 World

Cup winners enough time to prepare for their much-anticipated clash with hosts India at Ahmedabad on August 14. According to multiple reports from Hyderabad, the HCA has sent in an official request for a change in the schedule to ensure a sufficient gap between the two matches. The Hyderabad Police have informed HCA that organising back-to-back matches may result in them failing to provide adequate security to the Pakistan team it will also require posting a sufficient number of troops at the stadium and the team hotel. Apparently, the HCA was not consulted before the Pakistan-Sri Lanka match was moved ahead.

Football: FIFA World Cup the 'best four weeks', says Australia captain Kerr



Canberra (Australia), Aug 20 (IANS): Matildas captain Sam Kerr has praised Australian football fans for their support during the FIFA Women's World Cup. The Matildas were on Sunday morning presented in front of fans in Brisbane after losing the World Cup third-place play-off to Sweden. It marked Australia's best-ever finish at a World Cup and was again watched by millions of people across the country, reports Xinhua. Addressing the crowd, Kerr said it was a "dream come true" for the squad to play World Cup matches in front of sold-out crowds at stadiums in Australia. "Me and the girls definitely felt the love," she said.

Avesh Khan might replace Arshdeep for 2nd T20I against Ireland, says Saba Karim

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS): As the Jasprit Bumrah-led Indian team gets ready to take on Ireland in the second T20I in Dublin on Sunday, team composition is under consideration with some experts suggesting replacing Arshdeep Singh with Avesh Khan.

India won the first match by two runs (DLS method) and are looking to win the second match and seal the series on Sunday night. Former India opener Saba Karim expects the team management to make one or two changes in the young side.

"I do expect one or two changes because this is a young side and there are one or two players who didn't have the opportunity to play so far. Avesh Khan, for instance, was part of the T20I side that toured West Indies but didn't get a chance to play. Therefore, there's a possibility that Avesh might be brought in, potentially replacing Arshdeep Singh," Saba Karim, the JioCinema expert, said speaking about the possible team combination.



UAE script history with series-levelling win over New Zealand

Dubai, Aug 19 (IANS): Skipper Muhammad Waseem led from the front with a 29-ball 55 as UAE scripted a stunning win over New Zealand in the second T20I here on Saturday to level the three-match series.

After restricting the Black Caps to 142/8 with Aayan Afzal Khan claiming 3-20 and Muhammad Jawadullah taking 2-16, the hosts rode on a superb knock by their skipper to 144/5 in 15.4 overs to win by two wickets with 26 balls to spare.

Waseem started off in a cautious manner, getting to 16 off 13 balls before going berserk. The opener slammed four fours and three sixes and raced to his fifty off just 27 balls as UAE made a strong start in pursuit of 143.

UAE were 44/2 at the end of the powerplay



thanks to Vriitya Aravind's 21-ball 25, but Waseem was yet to take charge at that point of time.

In the first over after Power-play, Waseem started to show more intent, smashing Mitchell Santner down the ground for a four and then hammering a six off Kyle Jamieson in the next over. He hit a four and a six off Cole McConchie before hoisting Santner for a six to get to his fifty off a

mere 27 balls. Waseem fell soon after his fifty, but the opening wasn't quite enough for New Zealand to put pressure on the hosts.

Asif Khan played a mature hand in the company of Basil Hameed as the duo put on a stand that further frustrated the Kiwis. While UAE weren't still marching to a win, that changed in the 15th over when Asif Khan hit James

Neesham for two fours.

He followed it up with a six off Tim Southee in the first ball next over to put UAE on the brink of a memorable win. Two more fours followed as UAE celebrated a remarkable win, their first T20I win over a Test-playing nation other than Ireland and Afghanistan. Earlier, New Zealand once again lost early wickets as Tim Seifert fell in the third over and Aayan Khan picked up the wickets of Mitchell Santner, promoted to No.3, and Dane Cleaver off back-to-back deliveries.

Mark Chapman stood tall for the visitors even as the UAE bowlers chipped away at the other end. Chapman made 63 off 46 balls and was only dismissed in the final over, but aside from Neesham's 17-ball 21, he hardly found any support.

Take life as rare gift for promoting general good

D.C. PATHAK

New Delhi, August 20 (IANSLife) The Hindu spiritual thought resting on two fundamentals - theory of Karma and concept of Rebirth - calls for pursuit of righteous action with dedication without getting deterred by the fear of 'failure' in regard to its results and generally defines the mission of life in terms of devotion to duty towards all including the 'self', practice of honesty and remembrance of the supreme power of God. It is remarkable that it commends non-attachment towards 'material' things on one hand and treats the striving for 'legitimate' means of earning money at par with Dharma, on the other.

The idea of 'rebirth' or the 'cycle of births' may be in contrast to the interpretation of science that human beings were the culmination of a process of evolution propelled by 'natural selection' and that the body of all living beings was a machinery that one day 'stops' working, marking its end. It is also different from the prescription of many religions that the dead would wait for the Judgement Day and then would spend the last spell of

their 'only life', in heaven or the hell, on a balance of their good and bad deeds.

Hindu philosophy provides some comfort on the unsettling mystery of what happened after death through an appealing idea of the individual redeeming oneself in another birth in case the given life turned out to be not totally flawless. The spell of retribution or heavenly reward went with that particular birth as the 'soul' - the ultimate identity of the individual - moved towards the final goal of liberation from the trap of rebirth. All faiths gave primacy to a life lived with honesty and conscious abstinence from sins that also served the purpose of establishing a bench mark in socio-cultural conduct.

The underlying message of any religion is to emphasise the importance of 'the present life' gifted by nature in a limited timeframe, to be spent in 'happiness' and steered clear of socially mandated 'misdeeds' committed consciously - even the man-made code of punishment did not count something done unknowingly.

For both spiritual and temporal reasons the best one can do is to live an active and purposeful life without being pulled down

by the saddening thought of having to 'leave everything behind'.

This great commonality of purpose of human existence across beliefs, communities and geographical boundaries should be the best guarantee for global peace but it so happens that religion is either pushed back to a degree where it became inconsequential in determining the socio-cultural outlook of the person or is made, on the other hand, a symbol of national or political identity that only caused international and communal disputes. Respect for all religions presumes that there will be no declared 'supremacist' element in a faith or promotion of a kind of 'exclusivism' that led to a 'rejectionist' attitude towards others.

If there is 'One God', then it also means 'the same God', whatever be the name given to 'Him' and the mode of worship adopted by the faithful. Conflict between communities can arise when this is not accepted and on a wider level between nations when they chose to be governed on an exclusivist religious identity.

Today, global security is threatened by faith-based terrorism that advanced a



'political cause' using religion as an instrument and advocating 'superiority' of a faith for driving the 'motivation' behind it. During the G20 at Bali an inter-faith conference led by Indonesia's largest Islamic organisation, Nadwatul Ulama, clearly disapproved of extremism and 'radicalisation' - this stand has to be carried forward for isolating those forces which were instigating violence in the name of Jihad.

This is a threat to the democratic world as a whole. Faith represents a personal relationship between man and his God and it need not come in the way of all citizens of a country upholding the 'national culture' and feeling proud about it. Entry of religious separatism in national and international politics is a great cause for

concern as it negates all that religion was expected to do for human goodwill and world peace.

A wider meaning of religion as something that provided the impetus for leading a life of personal and social morality needs to be restored everywhere for making the world a better place. India's motto 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' for its G20 Presidency is ideally suited for this.

Regardless of spiritual theories on life after death, all religions give prime importance to the present life and call for an idealism about seeking the best outcome of it for the individual - and for the society at large.

The thought that this life is all that you had, is sure to add positivity to one's approach to the available span and left to himself man

- at the apex of 'evolution of species' - is gifted with enough 'wisdom' to put him on the side of good deeds that took note of fellow human beings as well.

Democracy perhaps comes out of a churning of ideas on a bigger scale on how best a state could help and facilitate the growth of an individual who had freedom of right to worship as well. There is a lesson in this for the democratic world to unite to counter the forces that used faith-based militancy for their political advancement. The thought of its combined security should come to the democratic world even before the matter of economic cooperation was given its due attention.

India as a major power of global South - more so as the leader in South Asia - must consider both global security and international economic relations during the G20 Presidency and get the forums formed in that connection, particularly Think 20 and Civil 20, to deliberate on this challenge.

India is ideally placed to show light to the world - beyond the political and economic spheres - on how to improve the human life, promote brotherhood on a cultural - not religious - base and take to the path of renunciation of armed

conflicts.

'Covert warfare' is a new phenomenon that represents a common challenge for the democratic order all over the world - its leading protagonists are Pakistan and China, working in cahoot to use Terrorism as a weapon for furthering their interest. Countering this should be an important mission of G20 as the world could be getting pushed towards a religion-based 'war' precipitated by Pakistan with the Marxist dictatorship of China watching it as a spectator and looking out for its own gains in it.

In the Indian context, values of a nationhood shared by all citizens regardless of their faith and mode of worship, have to be promoted in various ways, among students, work force and those handling the tasks of governance.

Equality of opportunity and protection of the state, can be firmly established through elimination of corruption at all levels, public-service orientation of the police and an affirmation secured from all players in public life that national security will be kept above party politics. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' appropriately, is India's call to the world to unite for a higher human cause.

India should project the danger of faith-based militancy as a threat to human rights and to the democratic content of a state run on the principle of 'one man one vote'.

All democratic countries of the region and those beyond must cooperate in countering the new global terror that was disrupting economic development and growth required for improving the lot of the common people.

Apart from putting down terrorists behind the 'covert' violence through Intelligence-based operations of Army and the police, there should be an organised effort to spread public awareness against terrorism and closer exchange of information among the democratic countries affected by the same.

G20 should deal with this problem at the global and regional levels and expose the hidden hands of all those who were fomenting it themselves or conniving with the terror sponsors for their vested political interest. India as the biggest victim of cross border terrorism has the right to lead this campaign during its G20 Presidency since this is as important as cooperation for economic development.

Parents share tips on how to manage stress during exams

New Delhi, August 20 (IANSLife) Since it is exam season, thousands of kids and their parents are experiencing sleepless evenings as they worry and stress about tests and results. Anxiety, stress, and tension work as barriers, affecting concentration and performance during the exams.

Even for the most intelligent pupils, fear and anxiety frequently manifest as physical and psychological symptoms that make learning more challenging. The pressure of the exam is genuine! Additionally, worry and anxiety, if not treated in a timely manner, can actually result in issues that persist long after exam season.

While students are now vocal about these stress inducers and the overall exam pressure, not every student is comfortable talking about it.

Parents play a critical role here both for the vocal as well as the quiet sufferers. From ensuring access to therapists and counselors who can address the mental health concerns of their children to simply taking the time to talk to their children and help them align expectations, parents are integral to a child's stress management journey.

Often the fear begins at home, thus making it essential for parents to communicate with children and assure them that just results alone do not in any way determine their capabilities to abilities to succeed in the future. It is



essential to acknowledge a child's strengths and unique abilities and play them up, in order to build inner confidence and conviction. A parent is a child's first validation, which goes a long way in shaping his or her attitude toward life.

Here are some tips shared by experienced parents on ways to reduce stress among children:

Rajnee Sinha, mother of a 14-year-old girl who works at a leading IT firm said, "I used to be worried about my child's grades and enforced strict study hours. Even after hours spent with his books, he was not scoring well."

That was when I thought that I might be following the wrong approach. I was searching on the internet when I found @getsetparentwithpallavi, an amazing page on parenting. Dr. Pallavi Rao Chaturvedi is India's leading Parenting Coach, Educationist, Entrepreneur

and Founder of India's fastest-growing Parenting resource organization-Get Set Parent with Pallavi.

The page instantly became my parenting bible. Dr. Pallavi says that while every parent wants better grades for their children, it is important for them to understand that the children are often equally anxious and stressed about their exams and results.

So, as a parent, I now try to create a more supportive and empowering studying environment that is engaging rather than daunting. I allow my child to participate in the decision-making by allowing him to create his own timetable.

The accountability and relaxed approach have made my child more responsible and he is not only scoring better but also enjoying the learning journey." Sangita Gopinath, a communication

professional, said, "Just keeping the study desk and environment clean helped my daughter. Often cluttered and dirty environment blocks the mind which induces stress. Apart from the clean environment, it's really important to prevent your kid from all kinds of germs and infections."

My daughter is appearing for 12th boards this year and her big fear was that she will fall sick during exams. To prevent that I clean my house twice a day to be extra careful during the exams to ensure my daughter's environment is germ-free."

Ajit Asthana, Principal of a renowned school in Uttar Pradesh and father of two kids, said, "Every child is different and they have their own way of grasping knowledge. So even a slow learner, is still a learner. Be patient and ensure you celebrate every little achievement and unleash

innocent joy. The feel-good moments can go a long way in making exams less distressing."

Swati Srivastava, a homemaker from Lucknow said, "The power of soft music is well-established as it affects our emotions and can be an extremely effective stress management tool. Soothing music can slow the pulse and heart rate, lower blood pressure, decrease stress hormone levels, and distract us from our worries. When people are feeling stressed and overwhelmed, there is a tendency to avoid actively listening to music."

Perhaps because it feels like a waste of time when there's so much to do and to worry about. But adding music to our day is a small effort that can produce great rewards since our productivity actually increases when stress is reduced. So, I have created a playlist on Spotify called Exam Fever with some soothing tunes and songs for my kids."

Deepali Verma, HR professional and mother of a 12-year-old girl, said, "My daughter is very sensitive by nature and easily gets hassled and disturbed even if she senses that we are anxious."

So, we try to stay calm around her. Yes, exams can be stressful for the parent, but one needs to stay calm rather than add to the anxiety of an already worried child." (IANSLife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in)

Craft Odyssey



New Delhi, August 20 (IANSLife) Under the auspices of the Ministry of Textiles and DC, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) organised a performance at the 36th International Surajkund Crafts Mela 2023 that celebrated India's many handloom traditions (Handloom).

The gathering, "My Handloom, My Pride," took place on February 16, 2023, and featured eight ensembles each from six designers. They included Samant Chauhan, Khanijo, Madhu Jain, Payal Jain, Kora by Anjali Kalia, Divyam Mehta, and Kora. Each one stood out for its unique way of highlighting the richly textured, from all over India, anciently wise fabrics.

Designer Samant Chauhan elevated the Bhagalpuri weave in Tussar silk, while Gaurav Khanijo, used Khadi woven in Bengal, with Kantha embroidery detailing on his modern cuts. Divyam

Mehta worked with yarn crafted from agri waste, woven in Bengal. Interestingly, Madhu Jain paid homage to weaves from Orissa, channelling simplicity.

Payal Jain gave the ancient Pekhwa weaving technique which has been passed down generations of master weavers, a memorable representation with endearing shapes. On another note, Anjali Kalia's hand block prints in red, black and olive, highlighted with gota, offset with thread, dori and sequins embroidery, made a play for a melange of hues.

M.D Sinha, IFS, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism and Heritage, government of Haryana and Vice Chairman, Surajkund Mela Authority said, "India's handloom sector is a symbol of our country's rich and varied cultural heritage. At Surajkund International Crafts Mela we proudly present handlooms in the most

creative and innovative manner, through our collaboration with FDCI. It's our endeavour to make traditional handlooms into heirlooms."

"The Ministry of Textiles has always supported such initiatives where handloom is the showstopper. The show celebrates the vivacity of weaves we have in India. Textiles weaving provides employment to more than 31 lakh households all over the country, and sustenance to more than 35 lakh weavers, mostly women. The show is a tribute to their resilience, skills and artisanal prowess. We are delighted to be showcasing at a venue like Surajkund, which is engulfed in traditional crafts, along with the Ministry of Textiles and DC (Handloom)," said Curator of the event, Sunil Sethi, FDCI.

(IANSLife can be contacted at ianslife@ians.in)

Zauq : A pioneer of poetic existentialism, not a Ghalib detractor



By VIKAS DATTA

New Delhi, August 20 (IANSLife) His portrayal as an insecure and devious court poet, jealous of emerging talent, in TV serial "Mirza Ghalib" may be termed artistic license, but is actually disservice to 'Zauq'. While most historic accounts depict him as a courteous and contemplative man, his

poetry also shows a loftiness of thought, that makes him an early stand-bearer, if not pioneer, of what would later become existentialism.

No doubt there was some rivalry between Zauq and Ghalib, as is between leading practitioners of any craft, but it did not lend itself to such snide behaviour from him as in the serial. His depiction in the film "Mirza Ghalib" is more balanced, where he does not lose his equanimity as audience beating him to complete some of his best known shers, and then, goes on to introduce Ghalib when the latter's turn comes. Sheikh Mohammad



Ibrahim 'Zauq' (1789/90-1854) hailed from modest circumstances, being the son of a mere soldier in what was left of the once-glorious Mughal Army. His elementary education was at the house of a nearby cleric, who also wrote poetry and was consulted by aspiring poets. Their

discussions made an impression on young 'Zauq'. "As I used to hear them, many verses stuck in my memory. My heart received a sort of spiritual pleasure from the reading and hearing of poetry. And I used to wander around, always reciting to myself. My heart was full of

enthusiasm, and I used to pray to God, 'Oh God, may I learn to compose poetry!' author Mohammad Hussain Azad, who personally knew Zauq, quoted him as saying in his magisterial "Aab-e-Hayat", the first-ever history of Urdu poetry (1880).

The self-learnt 'Zauq'

also got some guidance from a senior poet, before the latter grew indifferent, and then envious. A showdown ensued when he wrote a ghazal on the metre of celebrated poet Mirza Mohammad Rafi 'Sauda' and was roundly abused for his presumptuousness. As the "Aab-e-Hayat" recounts, 'Zauq' went and reflected in a shrine where he ran into another senior poet of his acquaintance, who asked why he was so downcast. As 'Zauq' revealed what had happened, the poet asked him to recite his ghazal, praised it, and told him to go ahead with it at a mushairah, saying "If anyone makes an objection,

it will be my responsibility to answer it."

And as Azad writes, 'Zauq' did and it was a turning point: "... Now his poetry began to be more widely spoken of. The liveliness of his temperament and the energy of his verses began to run through listeners' hearts like electricity... Venerable elders of pure temperament, who were the living memorials of the masters of the past, saw him in the mushairah and graciously praised him and lifted his heart. In fact, if they arrived after he had recited his ghazal, they made him recite it again. His ghazals began to fall from the lips of the singers,

and scatter colour through streets and bazaars...."

"Aaya hoon nur leke main bazm-e-sukhan mein 'Zauq'/Aankhon pe sab bithayenge ahl-e-sukhan mujhe" as he wrote.

'Zauq' went on to become a poet laureate at the imperial court when just 19, a special favourite and poetic instructor of Crown Prince Mirza Abu Zafar Siraj-ud-din Muhammad, who paid him monthly salary of Rs 4 then. This was hiked when the Prince became Emperor Bahadur Shah 'Zafar' - though to only Rs 30 due to the machinations of a greedy courtier, and then to the intended Rs 100, after this employee was sacked.

Wildfires scorch US' Hawaiï, Canada, Spanish island, causing heavy losses

Beijing, Aug 20 (IANS) Wildfires that raged in the US state of Hawaii, Canada and a Spanish island have caused heavy losses as firefighters continue to battle the blazes and rescuers search for the deceased and accommodate the displaced.

The death toll from the Maui wildfires in Hawaii reached 114 on Friday, the deadliest fires in modern US history, authorities said. Hawaii Governor Josh Green said Friday that more than 2,200 buildings have been destroyed and another 500 have been damaged, at an estimated cost of nearly 6 billion US dollars, Xinhua news agency reported.

"But far more devastating than any material loss is the loss of precious lives -- of mothers, fathers, grandparents, sons, and daughters -- lives that can

never be replaced," he said. Green said there are now 470 search and rescue workers and 40 search dogs combing through hundreds of burned buildings, and they have already completed searching more than 60 percent of the disaster area.

The governor said the death toll is expected to rise as the search continues. The Maui County Emergency Management Agency, which is responsible for sounding the sirens, faced intense criticism because it didn't activate the system before the disaster.

The agency's head, Herman Andaya, resigned on Thursday. US President Joe Biden will travel to Maui on Monday to meet with first responders, survivors, as well as federal, state and



local officials, said the White House in a statement earlier this week. Meanwhile, wildfires also wreaked havoc in other parts of the United States. Thousands of people fled the Medical Lake area in eastern Washington State, as a wildfire burned

thousands of acres and left one person dead, officials said on Saturday. By noon Saturday, the Gray Fire that erupted Friday had grown to an estimated 9,500 acres (about 38 square kilometers), according to the Washington State

Department of Natural Resources. Earlier this week, a wildfire in Siskiyou County, northern California, prompted evacuations and road closures, officials said on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Hurricane Hilary is barreling toward

southern California, putting the storm on a collision course with several wildfires burning in the Golden State. For the past few months, Canada has been battling the worst-known wildfire season in the country's history. There have been more than 5,700 fires, which have burned more than 137,000 square kilometers across the country, according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. British Columbia and the Northwest Territories have recently declared state of emergency. David Eby, premier of British Columbia, said Saturday that about 35,000 people have been ordered to evacuate wildfire zones across the province and an additional 30,000 were under an evacuation alert. He said he was restricting

non-essential travel to fire-affected areas to free up accommodations for displaced residents and firefighters. Helped by milder weather on Saturday, firefighters were able to keep wildfires at bay near Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories. The city faded into a ghost town as nearly all of its 20,000 residents had fled to safety. "We're by no means out of the woods yet," Mike Westwick, wildfire information officer for the city, told The Associated Press. "We still have a serious situation. It's not safe to return." In Europe, heat waves as a result of global warming also sparked wildfires in the Spanish holiday island of Tenerife. Over 4,500 people have been evacuated on Saturday in the northeast of

Tenerife as the wildfire has taken on an unprecedented dimension in the Canary Islands. The fire, which began late on Tuesday night in hilly and forested terrain, has now expanded its perimeter to 50 km and blazed over 5,000 hectares of land. President of the Tenerife Cabildo (Municipal Council) Rosa Davila said on Saturday that the fire was "taking on a situation that has never been seen before in the Canary Islands." It has been so fierce that it was "out of our capacity to extinguish it," she said. Most of Spain remains on an "extreme" level for further wildfires as the fourth heatwave of this summer is expected to affect the country over the weekend and the start of next week.

S.Korea, US set to launch joint military drills amid N.Korean 'threats'

Seoul, Aug 20 (IANS) South Korea and the US are set to kick off major combined military drills this week as the allies seek to bolster joint readiness against evolving military threats from North Korea. The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) exercise, based on an all-out war scenario, is set to take place from Monday to August 31, featuring various contingency drills, such as the computer simulation-based command post exercise, concurrent field training and Ulchi civil defence drills, Yonhap news agency reported.

Some 30 allied field training events are



scheduled to take place during the exercise period, compared with 25 during this year's springtime Freedom Shield exercise and 13 in last year's UFS, according to a Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) official. This year's UFS is known

to include scenarios to train troops to swiftly transition into wartime as well as to respond to false information possibly spread by Pyongyang during wartime or a contingency. In addition to the allies' Army, Navy, Air Force and

Marine personnel, US space forces will also partake in the drills, according to the US Forces Korea (USFK). The US military launched the US Space Forces Korea, a USFK component, in December last year. Aside from South Korean and US participants, personnel from nine member countries of the UN Command (UNC) will join the exercise. The countries are the UK, Australia, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand, according to the USFK. The UNC is a key enforcer of the armistice that halted the fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War. The Neutral Nations

Supervisory Commission, an observer of the armistice, will also attend the drills. The commission has representatives from Sweden and Switzerland. Meanwhile, the South Korean military is strengthening its readiness posture against possible military activities by Pyongyang during the exercise period, such as ballistic missile launches. The North has long accused the allies' military drills of being rehearsals for an invasion against it, with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un recently calling for a "drastic boost" in the country's missile production capability.

Bangladesh posts current account deficit at \$3.3 bn in FY 2022-23: official

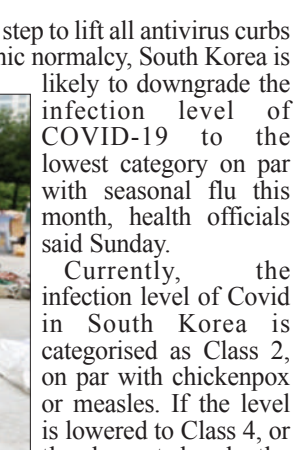
Dhaka, Aug 20 (IANS) Bangladesh registered a current account deficit of some \$ 3.3 billion in the last fiscal year running from July 2022 to June 2023, a Bangladesh Bank (BB) official said on Sunday. The central bank official told Xinhua that the current account balance showed a deficit of 3.334 billion dollars in fiscal year 2022-23, compared to the deficit of 4.575 billion dollars recorded a year earlier, Xinhua news agency reported. Remittances, however, helped Bangladesh by cushioning the impact of current account deficit with moderate export income growth, said the official. According to the official, inflow of remittances from some 10 million Bangladeshis living and working in over 100 countries and regions in fiscal year 2022-23 amounted to 21.61 billion dollars.



The latest BB data showed the South Asian country's import payment was 69.50 billion dollars, down 15.76 per cent, from July 2022 to June 2023, while earnings from exports stood at 52.34 billion dollars, up 6.28 percent, during the same period.

SKorea likely to downgrade Covid on par with seasonal flu this month

Seoul, Aug 20 (IANS) In a step to lift all antiviral curbs and fully return to pre-pandemic normalcy, South Korea is likely to downgrade the infection level of COVID-19 to the lowest category on par with seasonal flu this month, health officials said Sunday. Currently, the infection level of Covid in South Korea is categorised as Class 2, on par with chickenpox or measles. If the level is lowered to Class 4, or the lowest level, the virus will be on par with the seasonal flu, Yonhap News Agency reported. Health authorities plan to hold a meeting on Monday, and they are expected to announce the planned downgrade of the COVID-19 infection level on Wednesday, officials said. But the exact timing of when the adjustments would take effect could change depending on what the government and experts decide to do in terms of protection of high-risk patients and medical support for infected patients, officials said.



20 dead as bus catches fire after collision with pick-up van in Pakistan

Islamabad, Aug 20 (IANS) At least 20 people were killed and 14 others injured when a bus caught fire after collision with a pick-up van carrying diesel barrels in the Pindi Bhattian area in Pakistan's Punjab province in the wee hours on Sunday. As per rescue officials, the bus, carrying 40 passengers, was proceeding towards Islamabad from Karachi, ARY News reported. District Police Officer (DPO) Fahad said the injured have been rushed to Pindi Bhattian hospital. The fire, which engulfed the bus shortly after collision, was caused by a short-circuit, he said.

7 killed, dozens injured in missile attack on Ukraine's Chernihiv

Kiev, Aug 20 (IANS) At least seven people were killed and more than 90 others injured when a missile fired by Russia hit the city of Chernihiv in northern Ukraine, the country's Ministry of Internal Affairs has said. Ten police officers and 12 children were among those injured in the attack, the ministry said in a Telegram post. The missile hit a theatre in the central square of the city, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a statement published on the ministry's website. Ukraine's UNIAN news agency reported that the theatre had hosted a drone exhibition at the time of the attack.

3 killed in fire in Paris suburb

Paris, Aug 20 (IANS) Three people were killed while 19 others, including 4 firefighters, injured in a fire that broke out in an apartment building in the northern suburb of Paris. "This (Saturday) morning around 9:30 a.m., a violent fire broke out in Rue de la Commune de Paris in Ile-Saint-Denis from the 9th floor to the 12th floor of a residential building," the Prefecture of Seine-Saint-Denis said. Speaking to local media, Jacques Paris, deputy mayor of Ile-Saint-Denis, said that the building already suffered a fire in 2021 in the stairwell, but no one was injured, Xinhua news agency reported.

11 labourers killed in militant attack in Pakistan, says Caretaker PM

Islamabad, Aug 20 (IANS) Eleven labourers were killed in a militant attack in North Waziristan district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan caretaker prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on Sunday. Taking to social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, Pakistan caretaker prime minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar posted, "Heartbreaking to know about the terrorist attack in North Waziristan which claimed the lives of 11 innocent laborers. Strongly condemn this senseless act of violence and stand in solidarity with the families."

Despite crop loss over drought, Sri Lanka rules out rice shortage

Colombo, Aug 20 (IANS) Sri Lanka has ruled out a shortage of rice until the harvest of the next cultivation season despite the impact of dry weather on the current crop, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement on Sunday. Quoting Agriculture Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, the statement said that 503,000 hectares of paddy fields have been cultivated in the current season, with some of them affected by drought. The minister said there will not be a shortage of rice in the future as a successful harvest was received in the last cultivation season, Xinhua news agency reported. Sri Lankan meteorology department has forecasted that the dry spell will continue till the end of September. Rice is the staple food of Sri Lanka and is cultivated in two seasons a year in the South Asian country.



In rebellion against Democrats' elite-led agenda, Trump's base stands firm

New York, Aug 20 (IANS) He has been indicted four times, but former US President Donald Trump's support within his Republican Party and the electorate is unwavering. "So far, Donald Trump remains the clear Republican frontrunner, unscathed among his Republican base amid mounting indictments," said Lee Miringoff, the director of the widely respected polling organisation, Marist Institute for Public Opinion. According to his poll just before the latest charges were filed against Trump in Georgia, 65 per cent of Republicans and sympathisers said they will back the former president in next year's election -- an increase of 8 per cent from a poll three weeks earlier. The RealClear Politics aggregation of polls shows Trump with 44 per cent support in the general election, almost on par with incumbent President Joe Biden's 44.4 per cent. The key to understanding Trump's solid backing may

be an offhand comment made by his rival Hillary Clinton in 2016 when she ran for the presidency calling half his supporters "the basket of deplorables". The unwavering support for Trump is his base's rebellion against those they perceive as the descending elites. Her comment illustrates the chasm between the Democratic Party which has increasingly become elitist, despite having a majority of minorities, and the Republican Party, which has turned into a haven for Whites without college degrees -- the working class and the underclass, who were once the Democrats' mainstay, who feel they are disadvantaged. This has created an estrangement from the Democratic Party for the Whites from those backgrounds, which the billionaire Trump has exploited to emerge paradoxically as their champion through his focus on social issues. Tech billionaires and their highly-paid employees as well as the

superstars of showbiz and culture touting their Democrat identification deepen their rage. The stark dichotomy is writ in Rockland County's elected leadership to the west of the nation's liberal capital New York, and Nassau County's to its east which are Republican and where "Trump 2024" flags flutter here and there. The demographics of the two parties have made an about-turn, according to Pew Research. While in the mid-1990s, the majority of college graduates -- 50 per cent -- supported the Republican Party, they were only 37 per cent by 2019, while the Democratic Party support among the graduates rose from 42 per cent to 57 per cent during this period. The Democratic Party is now a coalition of the elites and minorities -- whose support has been eroding somewhat among some like Latinos and African American men. The shift in the Democratic Party is reflected in its ideological and social priorities, which are driven by the college-



educated elite, a significant number of them Whites from the other end of the spectrum. The party is increasingly identified with issues driven by the elite like lax immigration -- bordering on open borders -- crime, education and parental rights, and transgender and gay matters overwhelming its economic message. The elite is mostly inured from the fallout of these policies, while the working class of all hues are more directly affected by them. While for minorities these effects are offset by what are social justice issues like empowering them and fighting police

brutality and racial profiling -- as well as the unflinching support for civil rights, which has benefited Indian-Americans too, they don't have the same relevance to the working class -- and underclass -- Whites. In addition to crime and immigration issues, social questions like transgender - boys allowed to use girls' bathrooms in school when they consider themselves transgender, teachers allowed to use cross-gender names and pronouns for children while keeping it secret from parents -- teaching about homosexuality to children below third grade and

lessons inspired by the so-called "critical race theory" that question the Independence cause of the US and paint Whites as exploiters at the extreme and in a less volatile form raise questions about privileges that Whites enjoy have inflamed the Trump base. Possibly driven by some of these issues, support for the Republican Party is also inching up among Latinos and African-Americans. A Wall Street Journal poll last year found that African-American support for the party candidates in Congressional elections had risen from 8 per cent in 2018 to 17 per cent. An EquiLab analysis of 2020 elections found that about 30 per cent of Latino voters picked Trump. The other driving force for Trump's supporters is the robust nationalism he advocated -- the "America First" and the "Make America Great Again" slogans. The nostalgia for the low inflation, low-interest rates and high employment during the pre-Covid times of Trump's reign are also

factors. There is a measure of justification, though, for the interpretation from some in the Democratic Party that some of these Whites are driven by resentment that their position of assumed superiority has been eroded by the improvement in the status of and empowerment of minorities. Religion also comes into this mix with Christian Evangelicals -- the fundamentalists -- showing up in Trump's core of support, although a chink appears to be emerging. In 2020, 76 per cent of them voted in 2020 for the twice-divorced self-proclaimed playboy, and in a Monmouth University poll last month 83 per cent said they had a favourable opinion of Trump now entangled in a messy suit involving a porn star, although only 51 per cent wanted him as the Republican candidate in 2024. Trapped in the Trump vise, the Republican Party's leadership, if anyone other than Trump can be given the title, is afraid of challenging him and fears

his wrath. Trump, who is boycotting a debate of the party's candidate's presidential nomination on August 22, blackmails the party with a threat of running independently if he is not the nominee. Of the main candidates for the Republican nomination only Trump's Vice President Mike Pence, former governors Chris Christie of New Jersey and Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas and Governor Doug Burgum have dared to take him on directly. Even Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is leading the pack of Trump's challengers, has avoided attacking him directly, preferring to turn the other cheek to Trump's constant slaps. A strategy document prepared for DeSantis for Wednesday's debate went as far as to suggest that he should "defend Donald Trump in absentia in response to a Chris Christie attack". DeSantis and most of the candidates have adopted elements from Trump's playbook

Health

Partner violence, child abuse up diabetes risk later in life



New York, Aug 20 (IANS) Scientists have discovered that victims of partner violence and child abuse face a 20 per cent increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

According to a new study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, published by Elsevier, exposure to interpersonal violence throughout childhood or adulthood increases the chance of developing adult-onset diabetes and the risk level is similar among adult males and females.

While previous research has linked exposure to interpersonal violence with a higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes, "our study is the first to confirm a consistent association among different genders and races within a large, diverse population," said Maureen Sanderson, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Moreover, we were able to establish the temporal sequence for experiencing violence and the subsequent risk of developing diabetes over time," Sanderson added.

The investigators took a deeper look at the relationship between these factors, particularly obesity, and the risk of developing adult-onset diabetes using data from the Southern Community Cohort Study. More than 25,000 participants were contacted multiple times from 2002 to 2015, answering questions about partner violence, child abuse and neglect and current health (including diagnoses for adult-onset diabetes).

"From this uniquely diverse cohort of over 25,000 participants, we saw that two commonly occurring forms of interpersonal violence, partner violence and child abuse (36 per cent and 32 per cent, respectively, in the study group), increased the risk of developing adult-onset diabetes by 20-35 per cent," said Ann Coker from College of Medicine and Center for Research on Violence Against Women, University of Kentucky.

These forms of violence increase the risk of trauma-associated stress disorders, which can cause adult-onset diabetes, she mentioned.

Experiencing both child abuse and adult violence increased the risk of developing diabetes by 35 per cent for both Black and White participants and males and females.

Rates of interpersonal violence, psychosocial distress, and obesity all increased during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The findings that lifetime interpersonal violence was associated with a significantly high risk of developing diabetes before the additional social stress of the pandemic "strongly suggests the need for helping professionals across disciplines to implement effective violence prevention and intervention strategies to reduce the social and health consequences of partner violence and child abuse," Sanderson noted.

The week of seniors

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) The Independence Day weekend has been hogged by the veterans of the Indian screen. Be it on Hindi, Tamil or Telugu screens.

This weekend is one of the special few in a year that filmmakers seek for the release of a new film. The other sought-after weekends are Republic Day (January 26), Diwali, Eid and Christmas.

Some of the biggest hits were released during one of these periods and it is universal knowledge that Hindi cinema's historical blockbuster, 'Sholay', was released on August 15, 1975.

Actors have their favourite release slots like the Eid week is Salman Khan's. Shah Rukh Khan chose January 26 this year for 'Pathaan'.

If the holiday for any of these special days falls on a Friday, it assures a film of a decent opening and the rest depends on its merits. But for any film, if the holiday



for one of these occasions comes mid-week, it works as a booster dose adding to its weekend collections.

Independence Day was on a Tuesday this past week and one can't ask for a better weekend than this. Because, out of the four films released on August 11, three have opened well, though OMG2 was a slow starter. The four films are Sunny Deol's 'Gadar 2', Akshay Kumar's 'OMG 2', Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' and

Chiranjeevi's 'Bhola Shankar'. As the week progressed, as 'OMG 2' picked up pace, 'Bhola Shankar' started dropping.

I call this a week of the seniors because three of the four stars credited for these films are senior citizens. Sunny Deol is 66, Rajinikanth 72 and Chiranjeevi 68. Akshay Kumar at 55 isn't a senior citizen yet, but is a senior-enough artiste who has

been doing films for almost 33 years.

What these four have done this past week is set the box office on fire all over. These films were released on August 11 and Independence Day, which fell on the fifth day of their release, only added to their glory. It may have also helped to have the Parsi New Year, an optional holiday in certain parts of India, fall on August 16.

As far as the initial draw

went, Akshay Kumar's 'OMG 2' suffered because of the whimsical ways of the Censor Board. The exhibitors felt the film's release was uncertain because the Censors had raised some silly issues about the film's content. So, rather than not having a new release for the Independence Day week, most halls opted for 'Gadar 2', leaving fewer cinemas for 'OMG 2' than the film merited.

Worst still was that this film, dealing with the sensitive issue of sex and young adults on the verge of entering the teens, was granted an Adult only certificate! Imagine, at age 12, a boy is going through his initial urges and seeking a solution, and the film can be seen only by an 18-plus. That 12-year-old and million such young adults needed to watch this movie!

With such setbacks, the film still managed to open with Rs 10 crore but the headlines were hogged by

'Gadar 2' grossing Rs 41 crore. It is worth seeking a legal opinion on whether the Censor Board can be sued for damages on the grounds of its nil understanding of the facts of life, whimsical ratings of films, and causing huge economic losses to films and filmmakers.

'OMG 2' picked up as the week progressed and it looks like it has overcome the initial setback. Coming back to 'Gadar 2', though the sequel comes after a gap of 22 years, the fact is, the film would have done well even if it was not a sequel. Quite a few of the generation today may not have watched 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha' and for those who did, the gap is too huge.

The reason is, the theme in the original and the sequel is the same, the cause is just incidental. And Sunny Deol's one-man army running roughshod over the Pakistanis and whatever represents power there.

Madras HC to hear PIL against UA certificate issued to Rajinikanth-starrer 'Jailer'

Chennai, Aug 20(IANS) The Madras High Court will hear a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking direction to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to revoke the UA certificate issued to Rajinikanth-starrer film 'Jailer', which allows children under 12 years of age to watch the movie with parental guidance.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S.D. Gangapurwala and Justice P.D. Adikesavulu is likely to hear the petition -- filed by an advocate named M.L. Ravi -- next week.

The litigant contended that the movie has several violent scenes, including chopping of head and cutting of ear, which are not appropriate for children to watch. The petitioner said the same movie has been



issued an 'Adult' only (A) certificate in the US and the UK. There is a scene in the film in which the antagonist hangs people upside down and smashes their heads with a hammer, the PIL contended, adding that there is also a scene in

which the villain beheads a person.

Advocate Ravi said the CBFC guidelines on film certification require the board to ensure that anti-social activities, including violence, are not justified or glorified in a film.

Other than the CBFC Chairman and the Regional Officer of the censor board in Chennai, the film's producer, Sun Pictures, and director, Nelson Dileepkumar, were also listed as respondents to the PIL.

Jack Antonoff gets hitched to Margaret Qualley in a grand reception

Los Angeles, Aug 20 (IANS) Rockstar Jack Antonoff, the lead singer of rock band Bleachers, has now got hitched with his fiancée, actress Margaret Qualley, as the couple tied the knot amid a grand reception in New Jersey.

As reported by People magazine, the celebrity couple got hitched on a night star studded bash in New Jersey which was attended by various Hollywood A-listers such as Channing Tatum, Zoe Kravitz and musicians Taylor Swift and Lana Del Ray.

Qualley (28) was photographed holding hands with her new husband Antonoff (39), and later arriving at a post-wedding party, wearing a simple white halter dress and matching white Mary Jane flats. Her hair was styled in a short bob. Antonoff sported a classic black suit and tie for the occasion which was made to impress.

After the intimate ceremony, the newlyweds as well as the numerous guests, made their way to the low-key reception. Both Qualley and Antonoff were seen sweetly holding hands while crossing a street while their family and friends followed closely behind.



Anvesha shares lessons she learnt from Pankaj, Akshay: 'It is crucial to be kind, humble'



New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) Actress Anvesha Viji, who was recently seen in the drama 'OMG 2', has shared valuable insights gained from her experience working alongside stalwarts Pankaj Tripathi and Akshay Kumar.

Anvesha played the role of Pankaj's onscreen daughter Damyanti in the movie. The flick is a spiritual sequel to 'OMG - Oh My God!', which was released in 2012. Directed by Amit

Rai, the movie talks about sex education in Indian schools. The film also stars Yami Gautam, Pavan Malhotra and Arun Govil in pivotal roles.

Opening up on the valuable lessons she learned from her co-actors Pankaj and Akshay, Anvesha expressed: "I've learned something important from Pankaj Sir and Akshay Sir. It doesn't matter how great of an actor you become; being a good human comes

first. It's really crucial to be kind and humble."

"And these two are not only good actors, they're also excellent co-actors. When you work in a team, you have to take care of everyone, to move forward together. This is something I'll always remember and want to do in my life. I've also noticed how positive they are on set. They're happy and truly love their work. I feel the same way. So, I want to be like them - positive, enjoying what I do and loving what I'm passionate about," she added.

Hailing from Delhi, Anvesha gained recognition as Nikki Kapoor in Prime Video's 'Crash Course'. 'OMG 2' follows the story of Kanti Sharan Mudgal (Pankaj), a devout follower of Lord Shiva, who confronts hardship when his son is falsely accused and expelled from school. Unveiling a web of deceit, Kanti sets out on a truth-seeking journey guided by divine intervention. Empowered by his revelation, he pursues justice, determined to confront the responsible parties in a dramatic courtroom face-off.

Ranbir, Alia pose for the lens at airport; fans say 'they look upset'

Mumbai, Aug 20 (IANS) Bollywood's power couple Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor were spotted at the airport recently, as they flew out of Mumbai on Sunday.

The video shows Alia wearing a white top, with matching pants and blue jacket.

She completed the look with a cross body bag and white sneakers. While, Ranbir opted for a blue jacket, matching joggers, and a black beanie. He completed the look with white sneakers.

Ranbir held Alia closely while they posed for the cameras. Alia flaunted her bright smile, while her husband Ranbir maintained a serious expression.

Reportedly, the actor couple is going for a vacation to an undisclosed location.



However, fans took to the comment section and wrote: "They are the only couple who want to pose for the paps. No other bolly couple do this everytime they are spotted together. No one gives a f*** if u just walk off. These two have got married only for attention"; "fake"; "They both look upset. Looks like

a fight happened before," said another.

"Ranbir ki alia se shadi k baad smile kaha chli gyi h."

"Why ranbir always look sad?"

"She looks so sad when she is with this obnoxious person"

"Ranbir regrets not marrying Katrina." "He looks very

sad..kuch toh gadbad hai."

"Clearly they aren't happy at the moment."

"Why I feel they don't match.. netizens went on."

Ranbir and Alia got married on April 14, 2022 in a traditional Hindu ceremony at their residence in Mumbai. In November 2022, she gave birth to their daughter Raha.

On the work front, Alia was last seen alongside Ranveer Singh in romantic comedy family drama 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'. She also featured recently in the streaming film 'Heart of Stone', starring Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan.

Ranbir was last seen in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' alongside Shraddha Kapoor. He next film 'Animal' is in the pipeline.

Hailey Bieber has a girl's night out with BFFs, shares about her life 'lately'

Los Angeles, Aug 20 (IANS) Hailey Bieber has shared a photo dump of her life "lately" on Instagram, which includes a girl's night out with pals Justine Skye and Lori Harvey.

Bieber included several up-close selfies showing off her newly-debuted darker "cinnamon cookie butter" hair colour and "strawberry girl makeup" trend, which prominently features faux freckles on her nose and a rosy complexion, reports People magazine.

She also showed off her style with a snap of her leg extended forward while walking. Though her entire outfit cannot be seen, she appears to be wearing a grey top, black shorts, white socks and black flats with an adorable bow.

As per People, she also posted a few shots of the pastel-coloured clouds at sunset and a blurry snap of a yellow traffic sign with a bright orange moon in the background. Bieber even indulged her followers with a video of some delicious-looking corn rice pasta that had Skye, 27, asking about the dish in the comments. "What's this corn rice pasta situation?" she wrote.

Katrina Kaif on 'Made in Heaven 2': 'Had to finish entire season in one go'

Mumbai, Aug 20 (IANS) Actress Katrina Kaif has heaped praise on the second season of the web-series 'Made In Heaven' and said that she completed the entire show in one go.

Katrina on Saturday took to Instagram, where she shared her points on the series created by Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti.

She shared a poster of the show along with a 'must-watch' sticker and wrote: "What a show, can't remember a time when I just had to finish the entire season in one go, all the



characters just keep you hooked..."

Katrina added: "Amazing so well done... no stone left

turned in putting up a spectacular show... binge-worthy. And the ENTIRE cast just brilliantly

performed." 'Made In Heaven' chronicles the lives of Sobhita Dhulipala's Tara

and Arjun Mathur's Karan, two wedding planners in Delhi running an agency named Made in Heaven. In

the new season, wedding planners Tara and Karan are back with grander weddings.

It also features Kalki Koechlin, Jim Sarbh, Shashank Arora and Shivangi Rastogi, Mona Singh, Ishwak Singh, Trinetra, Mrunal Thakur, Radhika Apte, Shibani Dandekar and Sarah Jane Dias, among others. The show airs on Prime Video.

On the work front, Katrina will next be seen with Salman Khan in 'Tiger 3' and also has 'Merry Christmas' starring Vijay Sethupathi.

Markets looking jaded, may lead to a breakdown sooner or later

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) Markets continued to drift downwards and lost ground once again on a weekly basis. They lost on two of the four trading sessions of the truncated week which had Independence Day as the holiday.

At the end of it all, BSESENSEX lost 373.99 points or 0.57 per cent to close at 64,948.66 points while NIFTY lost 118.15 points or 0.61 per cent to close at 19,310.15 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 lose 0.68 per cent, 0.65 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. The action packed BSEMIDCAP and BSESMALLCAP too lost ground this week and were down 0.54 per cent and 0.02 per cent respectively.

The Indian Rupee was under pressure and lost 26 paise or 0.31 per cent to close at Rs 83.10 to the US Dollar. Dow Jones too had a bad week and lost on three of the five trading sessions. It was down 780.74 points or 2.21 per cent to close at 34,500.66 points. What could be interesting to note is the fact that the two days of gains on the Dow were the opening and closing sessions of the week and both days saw gains of an almost identical 26 points. Losses were much bigger at 360 points, 180 points and 290 points. There are concerns in the US about interest rates and the looming downgrade of banks.

Coming to Indian markets, the benchmark indices have lost ground for a fourth consecutive week. In what could be a precursor for future trends, the midcap and Smallcap which were at the forefront of all action, lost ground this week after being up for seven consecutive weeks. Is fatigue factor setting in? Only the weeks ahead will tell, but certainly it's a cautionary signal, something not to be ignored.

Primary markets saw two listings in the week gone by. The first share to list was SBFC Finance Limited which has issued shares at Rs 57. The share listed on Wednesday (August 16) at Rs 81.99 on BSE and at Rs 82 on NSE. The closing price on listing day was Rs 92.21 on BSE, a gain of Rs 35.21 or 61.77 per cent. In the remaining two days the share lost some ground on profit taking and closed at Rs 88.24, still gaining Rs 31.24 or 54.80 per cent.

The second share to list was Concorde Biotech Limited which had issued shares at Rs 741. The discovered price was Rs 900.05, a gain of Rs 159.05 or 21.46 per cent. As the day progressed, the share gained ground and closed at Rs 941.85, a gain of Rs 200.85 or 27.10 per cent.

The issue from TVS Supply Chain Logistics Limited which had tapped the markets and closed on Monday



(August 14) received a tepid response, but was oversubscribed 2.84 times. The QIB portion was subscribed 1.37 times, HNI portion 2.44 times and Retail portion was subscribed 7.88 times. There were 3.65 lakh applications in all.

The week ahead sees the issue from Aeroflex Industries Limited tap the markets with its offer for sale of 1.75 crore shares in a price band of Rs 102 to Rs 108. The selling shareholder is SAT Industries Limited which is a listed entity on the bourses.

The company is into the business of manufacturing and supplying environmentally friendly metallic flexible flow solution products like

braided and unbraided hoses, solar hoses, gas hoses, interlock hoses, hose assemblies etc. About 80 per cent of its turnover is exported to customers in the US and Europe among others. The company claims it has no peer group in India.

It reported revenues of Rs 269.46 crore for the year ended March 23 against the previous year figure of Rs 240.8 crore. The profit after tax was at Rs 30.15 crore against previous year of Rs 27.5 crore. Capacity utilisation has been high and was at over 83 per cent. This limits the growth that the company can achieve going forward without doing capex. The EPS for the year ended March 23 was Rs 2.64. At

this EPS, the PE band is 38.63-40.91, certainly not cheap even considering that the company has quoted foreign companies as peer comparison.

The company had as recently as May and June 23 done a secondary transaction where approximately 87 lakh shares were transacted at Rs 87.56. The asking price at the top end of the price band is a steep premium of over 23 per cent. One wonders what has changed that the asking price has moved so significantly.

The business is good and as mentioned earlier needs investments in capital expenditure to add capacity. Currently the mood of the market is that over and above the issue price, irrespective of valuations there is a healthy grey market active in all issues. This issue is no exception. Apply for listing gains and sell on successful allotment.

Some interesting data points on the retail participation in markets. New demat accounts opened in July 23 were 29 lakh, taking the total to 12.34 crore demat accounts. Of these a staggering 9.07 crore demat accounts or 86 per cent are with CDSL and 3.27 crore or 14 per cent are with NSDL.

FPI inflows into India in the first four months of the current fiscal are at 18.16 billion US dollars. Similarly, inflows into the capital markets through SIPs and mutual funds continue to be robust.

Shares of demerged Jio Financial Services Limited would list on Monday (August 21) and would add some flavour to the market colour. Readers would recall that the discovered price for the same on (July 20) was at Rs 261.65. The share would trade in the T-to-T segment for the next ten trading sessions.

Coming to the markets in the week ahead, it has become clear that 20K on NIFTY is Mount Everest and will need a superhuman effort to be taken out. Immediate support for markets is at 19,200 on NIFTY and at 64,650 on BSESENSEX. If these levels were to break and trade below them, we could see a sharp fall in the markets. This breakdown could ultimately bring us to levels around 18,600 and 63,000 on BSESENSEX. For this sharp fall, the breakdown must happen first and also sustain. The trading strategy for the week would be to remain nimble footed. It is early signs that midcap and Smallcap stocks have run out of steam and are ripe for correction. Use sharp dips to buy select stocks and rallies to sell.

In conclusion, markets would remain range bound with a downward bias, with a strong possibility of a downward breakdown looming large.

(Arun Kejriwal is the founder of Kejriwal Research and Investment Services. The views expressed are personal)

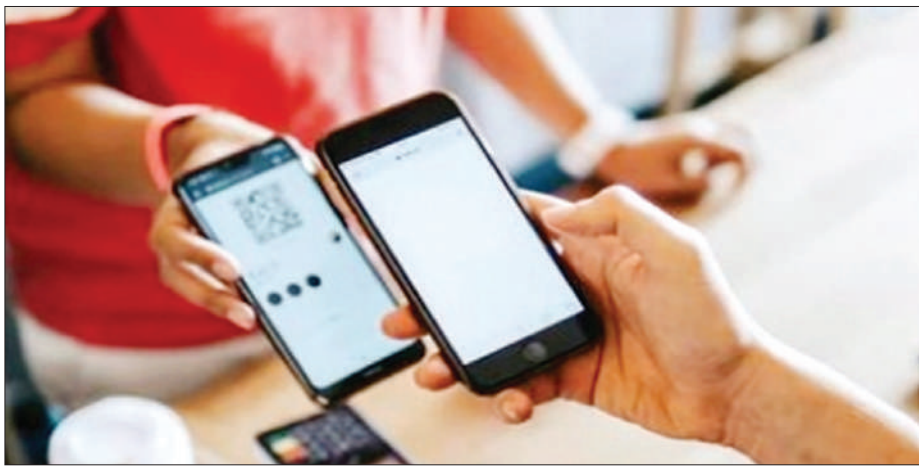
Powered by govt push, UPI transactions shot up to Rs 83.2L cr in 2022

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) Unified payments interface (UPI) transactions rose manifolds between 2018 and 2022 in terms of value as well as volume, by 1,320 per cent and 1,876 per cent respectively.

In 2018, UPI transactions in terms of volume stood at 374.63 crore, which went up by 1,876 per cent to 7,403.97 crore in 2022.

In terms of value, the UPI transactions were Rs 5.86 lakh crore in 2018, which went up by 1,320 per cent to Rs 83.2 lakh crore in 2022.

RBI had in February this year allowed access to foreign nationals and NRIs visiting India by enabling them to make payments using UPI while they are in India. This facility has been extended to travellers from G20 countries at select



international airports (Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi) for their merchant payments.

Further, a provision has also been made by RBI to provide UPI access to NRIs who have international mobile numbers linked to their NRE or NRO

accounts. Also the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has said that the facility is allowed for 10 countries namely Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE and United

Kingdom. The UPI acceptance in foreign countries started in 2022. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), is responsible for

internationalisation of UPI. RBI has been facilitating engagements for the expansion of UPI in countries which have potential for collaboration, official sources said.

UPI transactions have been on the rise over the past few years owing to the arrival of several such interfaces, and people increasingly using them to make all sorts of payments, with small shopkeepers to big institutions preferring such modes of payments, a finance ministry official said.

internationalisation of UPI.

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UPI transactions have been on the rise over the past few years owing to the arrival of several such interfaces, and people increasingly using them to make all sorts of payments, with small shopkeepers to big institutions preferring such modes of payments, a finance ministry official said.

Also the government has been aggressively promoting these modes of payments, especially the BHIM app, which has gradually led to their increase, both in terms of volume and value, the official said.

Bengal to take Rs 2,500 cr loan from World Bank for infra development

Kolkata, Aug 20 (IANS)

West Bengal government is taking a Rs 2,500 crore loan from the World Bank and the entire money will be utilised for the purpose of infrastructure development in the state. Sources in the state finance department said the focus area of infrastructure development through utilisation of the loan amount will be improvement of road networks and water transport systems in the state.

"The government wants to emphasise on improving exports from the state in the next 10 years, for which it is necessary to develop a quick transit system. So, work on this count will start before the forthcoming Bengal Global Business Summit scheduled in November this year," said a senior official in the finance department.

Apart from overall infrastructure development, the official said the loan amount will be utilised for special training



of the people engaged in the logistic sector.

The state government has already set a target for setting up four economic corridors covering an area of 930 km. Out of that, the longest corridor of 630 km will be in North Bengal and the remaining three will be in South Bengal.

"The development of these economic corridors will enable the state government to showcase Bengal in a better manner to the potential investors," the official said.

Urge India to reconsider PC import restrictions: Top industry groups ask US govt

San Francisco/New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) Top industry groups and tech giants, including Apple and Intel, have sent a letter to the US Department of Commerce, protesting against India's recent import restrictions on PCs, laptops and servers.

In the letter, the biggest players in technology and manufacturing said the move "could significantly disrupt trade, hamper efforts to more closely integrate India into global supply chains, and harm businesses and consumers in both countries".

Eight American trade groups asked the government to urge India to reconsider the policy, reports Bloomberg News.

The industry groups included the Information Technology Industry Council, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Semiconductor Industry Association.



They wrote in the letter that any barrier to trade could affect the shipment of US-made computers and electronics into India.

According to the notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in India, for clearance of import consignments with effect from November 1, 2023, a valid licence for restricted imports is required. The government has told tech companies that the restrictions are not to ban imports but to promote exports via domestic manufacturing.

Meanwhile, top consumer electronics

companies like HP, Apple and Dell last week urged the government to extend the November 1 deadline for the licences required for PCs, laptops and tablets by at least an year, as it will take time to configure and set up manufacturing/assembly units as per new guidelines.

In a meeting with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) officials, also attended by leading industry bodies the Manufacturing Association of IT Hardware (MAIT) and the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

Govt imposes 40% duty on onion export

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS) The government on Sunday imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onion exports till December 31.

The announcement was made through a notification on Saturday. This notification shall come into force with immediate effect, and will remain in force up to and inclusive of the December 31, 2023.

The prices of several vegetables including onion, potato and tomatoes have skyrocketed in last few weeks.

Following the soaring prices of tomatoes, the government decided that it will sell tomatoes at Rs 40 per kg from August 20 onwards with an aim to further cool down its prices.

NAFED and NCCF have been directed by the consumer affairs department to sell tomatoes at Rs 40 per kg from August 20, in view of continued decline in tomato prices in wholesale and retail markets. The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Friday announced the decision, saying that till date more than 15 lakh kg of tomatoes have been procured by NAFED and NCCF since July 14.



I-T Dept revises rules for valuing rent-free accommodation given by employers

New Delhi, Aug 20 (IANS)

Employees having high grade salaries and also rent-free accommodation given by their employers, will be able to save more tax and take home a higher salary, as per amendments notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in income tax rules. These shall come in effect from September 1, 2023. The Income Tax Department has revised norms for valuing such accommodations, which will lead to more tax saving by the above-mentioned category of employees, thus resulting in greater take home salary.

As per the notification, where unfurnished accommodation is provided to employees other than the central or state government employees and such accommodation is owned by the employer then the valuation.

Microsoft lists Ottawa Food Bank as tourist destination, says 'human', not AI error

San Francisco, Aug 20 (IANS) In a hilarious incident, a Microsoft travel guide for Ottawa, Canada, recommended tourists to must visit the Ottawa Food Bank, along with the National War Memorial and Ottawa Senators' hockey game.

Now, the company says this was due to "human error" and not due to 'unsupervised AI'.

The Verge had reported that the Microsoft listing for tourists had a food bank as the No 3 recommendation.

The tech giant clarified, saying the content was not curated by its AI but generated through "a combination of algorithmic techniques with human review".

"This article has been removed and we have identified that the issue was due to human error. The article was not published by an unsupervised AI. We combine the power of technology with the experience of content editors to surface stories," the company said in a statement.

"In this case, the content was generated through a combination of algorithmic techniques with human review, not a large language model or AI system. We are working to ensure this type of content isn't posted in future," Microsoft added. For the food bank, Microsoft's summary included an astoundingly awful statement given the context of the place it was talking about: "People who come to us have jobs and families to support, as well as expenses to pay. Life is already difficult enough. Consider going into it on an empty stomach. "Needless to say, this is not the type of messaging or 'story' we would ever put out or wish to be included in," the Ottawa Food Bank.



Telangana nets over Rs 2,600cr as application fee for liquor shops

Hyderabad, Aug 20 (IANS) In a new record of sorts, the government of Telangana has earned a revenue of Rs 2,639 crore as application fee for allotment of liquor shops in the state.

A total of 1,31,954 applications have been received for the 2,620 liquor shops in the state. The Excise Department earned the money without even selling a single liquor bottle.

The record revenue was earned in the form of a non-refundable application fee. The liquor shops will be allotted by draw of lots on August 21.

The Excise Department will grant licenses for operating the shops from December 1, 2023 to November 2025. Over 1.31 lakh liquor traders applied for licenses across the state. This is an all-time high number of applications since the

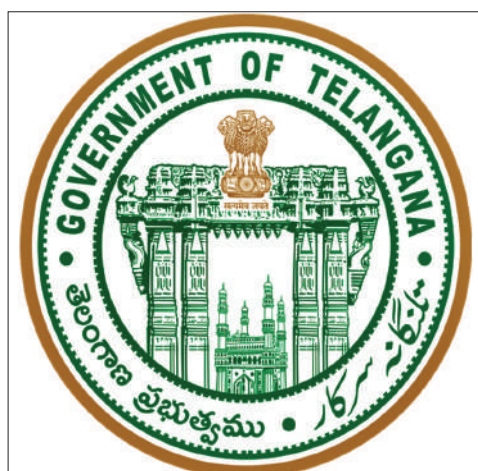
formation of Telangana state in 2014.

During the last round of licenses in 2021, the government had received 69,000 applications. It had earned Rs 1,350 crore under non-refundable application fee and Rs 3,500 crore through shop license fee.

Under the new liquor policy 2023-25, the non-refundable fee for each application has been fixed at Rs 2 lakh.

The license fee for per annum per shop is in the range of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1.1 crore depending on the population of the area. Eligible applicants have to submit 25 per cent of the amount as excise tax for one year.

The yearly special retail excise tax per annum will be Rs.5 lakh. The licenses will be issued for 2,620 shops across the state. The government has reserved 15 per cent shops for various weaker sections.



A total of 786 shops will be allotted to Gowdas, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes. Of the total shops, 615 will be allotted in Hyderabad. Under the new liquor policy, the margin for traders has been fixed at 27 per cent for ordinary category and 20 per cent for premium category and beer.

Though the current licenses are valid till November 30, the state government initiated the tender process well in advance in view of the Assembly elections due to be held in November-December. A total of 1,31,490 applications have been received. An average 50 traders are competing for each shop. Maximum number of applications (10,908) were received for a shop in Saroornagar area of Hyderabad.

According to excise officials 10,811 applications were submitted for a shop in Shamshabad. For a shop in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, the lowest number of

applications (976) were received.

Adilabad stands at the second lowest with 979 applications. August 18 was the last date for receiving the applications. More than 87,000 applications were received in the last two days.

Participation of several politicians, businessmen or their representatives in the tender process is said to be the main reason for a big jump in the applications this year. The traders expect huge liquor revenues in view of the series of elections for next one year, starting with Assembly elections.

Telangana's revenues from liquor sales have doubled from Rs 12,703 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 25,585 crore in 2021-22. This was despite the hike in prices of all forms of liquor a couple of years ago. The sales during 2022-23 were estimated to be nearly Rs 30,000 crore.

Mines Secy inspects closed Surda mines



Mail News Service

Ghatshila, August 20: Mines Secretary of Union Ministry Vivek Bhardwaj on Sunday reached the Director Bungalow of Indian Copper Complex, a unit of Hindustan Copper Limited, located in Maubhandar, Ghatshila.

Vivek Bhardwaj along with HCL CMD Ghanshyam Sharma and director (mines) Sanjeev Kumar Singh left for Surda to physically inspect the copper mines of ICC Company.

According to the information, after the inspection, a meeting will be held with the Chief Secretary and Mines Secretary of Jharkhand in Ranchi on Monday regarding the issue related to mines.

This visit has raised hopes among the workers associated with ICC. With the visit of the Mines Secretary, the employees are hopeful that the efforts to reopen the mines of the closed Musabani Group of Mines will accelerate.

Incidentally, mines have been closed for a long time due to different reasons. The visit of the Mines Secretary can prove to be important in the direction of starting it.

Recently, Jamshedpur MP Bidyut Mahato met the Mines Secretary and demanded a concrete initiative in this direction soon. In such a situation, it is expected that the visit of the Secretary of Mines can prove to be a boon for the ICC in the coming days. (w-rg)

Solar system stolen from labour office

Jamshedpur, August 20: Solar system was stolen from the office of labor department under Sitaramdera police station.

In this regard, on the statement of Labor Superintendent Arvind Kumar, an FIR has been lodged in Sitaramdera police station. The incident is being told of 9 August. Although the matter was first investigated at the departmental level, after that an FIR was lodged at Sitaramdera police station. Regarding the matter, station in-charge Bhushan Kumar said that the solar system installed on the roof of the Labor Department office has been stolen. Whose cost is one to one and a half lakh rupees. Police has registered an FIR and started investigating the matter. (w-rg)

Train safety and passenger comfort top priority: AGM during Tatanagar station inspection

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: The AGM (Additional General Manager) of South Eastern Railway, Anil Dubey, inspected Tatanagar Station on Sunday. During the visit, Assistant ADRM of Tatanagar, Abhishek Kumar Singhal, ADRM Vinay Kujur, ACM (Commercial) Baban Kumar, Station Director Raghuvansh Kumar and Tatanagar RPF Post In-charge SK Tiwari, along with other officials, were present.

Following the scheduled program, the AGM first held a meeting with all the officials and then proceeded to inspect the guard lobby. From there, he went straight to the second entry gate. Observing water on the floor that trickled down from the



water filter near the second entry gate, he expressed dissatisfaction and instructed the officials concerned to immediately rectify the problem. He then proceeded to inspect the parcel room.

Addressing the media, AGM Anil Dubey emphasized, "Safety of trains and the convenience of passengers are top priorities." He discussed how complaints received through the 'Rail Madad' app were being



addressed. He explained that the operation of between 84 and 90 trains were currently being managed within the section, which accounted for late running of several trains. "Moreover, frequent block periods also

contribute to delays," he stated. The SER AGM, during his inspection, urged the officials to focus on night inspections and engage with the local community to minimize accidents. (w/gsd)

Fast for repair of sluice gate at Bagbera



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: On Sunday, the residents of Bagbera township observed a one-day fast at Sido Kanhu Maidan, demanding repair of the sluice gate at Bagbera Shivghat.

The residents tried to draw the attention of the district administration towards this problem by fasting. In this regard, former Zilla Parishad member Kishore Yadav said that the sluice gate was constructed at Shivghat by

spending crores of rupees, so that flood situation does not arise in the coastal areas of the river in Bagbera. Over the years, the condition of the sluice gate has become dilapidated. Due to not opening the gates properly, drain water is entering hundreds of houses in the coastal areas within two hours of rain.

Due to sewage water entering the houses, the outbreak of filth and epidemic is increasing. In view of this situation, the Deputy Commissioner of the district had given

necessary directions to the officials of the concerned department to improve the situation. Despite this, the situation remains as it is. It is notable that due to continuous 48-hour rains in Jamshedpur, water had entered hundreds of houses in Bagbera's Naya Basti, Sido Kanhu Basti, Golegappa Basti, due to which people suffered a lot. SDO Piyush Sinha has instructed the departmental officials to take action in this regard but no action has been taken by the department so far. (w-rg)

Yoga Academy celebrates Silver Jubilee

Physical fitness necessary for healthy life

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: Kadma's Sarkar Yoga Academy, organized Silver Jubilee celebrations at Sakchi Ravindra Bhawan on Sunday.

East Singhbhum SSP Prabhat Kumar, former vice-chancellor of Kolhan University Shukla Mohanty, former VP of Tata Steel T Mukherjee, former zilla parishad vice president Rajkumar Singh were present as guests on the occasion. Nishant Dayal, director Elite Sports Management, inaugurated the function. During this, about 350 participants of different categories and district yoga competition which lasted for two days were awarded by the guests.

On the occasion, the SSP also released a souvenir



commemorating the 25 years of the Academy.

In his address, the SSP said that those who do yoga remain fit not only physically but also mentally. To avoid the disease, everyone should take out time for this every day and must work hard for at least one hour.

Dr Shukla Mohanty said that yoga not only keeps our body healthy, but also

gives us a disciplined life. It also connects people with employment. Describing the basic mantra of 'do yoga, stay healthy', she said that it must be implemented in life, because yoga also keeps the mind pure.

Academy's founder and director Anshu Sarkar said that mental ability is greater than physical ability. With the help of this we can win even the lost game. (w-rg)

30th AGM of Chaibasa Chamber held

Traders resolve to work in interest of businessmen

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, August 20: The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Chaibasa Chamber, which was held at the local Pillai Town Hall, started the program from its scheduled time, as per the schedule, the first 21-member working committee was invited on the stage, the lamp was lit by the office bearers.

About 225 members who attended the Annual General Meeting from all over the district were greeted and welcomed in the program by the president Madhusudan Agarwal with his welcome speech.

The members present themselves can assess what has happened, they said that they were always ready to work in the interest of businessmen and will remain so.

In the session 21-23, the working committee, elected by the regulatory secretary Sanjay



Choubey, in the two years of its tenure, presented a brief description of the works done in the interest of business, industry and public in the form of its biennial report to the respected members present in the House.

According to the schedule of the Chaibasa Chamber of Commerce and Industries,

treasurer Aditya Vikram Sarada presented the details of income and expenditure of two years in front of respected members. A copy of the minutes was distributed among the members present.

In the next phase of the program, according to the suggestion of the Constitution



Amendment Committee, the proposals supported by the working committee were kept on the table of the house, a total of seven proposals were kept on the table of the house, which were voiced by the respected members present in the house with absolute majority in the midst of some unwanted

opposition.

In the meeting, the chairman of various sub-committees mentioned the work done by the members of their sub-committee through their reports and presented them among the respected members present in the house. (w-rg)

BJP leader quizzed in Banna's viral video case



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 20: BJP leader Vikas Singh was questioned at the cyber police station on Sunday in connection with the viral video of Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta.

Earlier, the police had sent a notice to Vikas Singh to appear in the police station. During this, cyber station in-charge Upendra Mandal and police sub-inspector Deepak Kumar interrogated Vikas Singh for about half an hour. Many questions were asked by cyber police in the case of alleged vulgar videos.

Vikas Singh made it clear in the cyber police station that until the real woman comes forward and refutes the matter or the minister himself brings the real woman forward, this video will continue to go viral from time to time.

Assuring the cyber station in-charge, Vikas Singh said that wherever cyber station needs cooperation in the whole episode, he will do it. (w-rg)

Rajiv Gandhi's sacrifice will always remain exemplary for the nation: Congress

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Aug 20: The birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi, Congressmen was celebrated with a two-minute silence at Congress Bhavan, Chaibasa and paid their heartfelt tributes. Describing the former Prime Minister as a visionary Prime Minister, the Congressmen said in one voice that it was Rajiv Gandhi who did the work of getting India involved in the race of modernity, communication revolution is his gift. Congressmen said that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is considered the father of information revolution in India. The credit for the computerization and telecommunication revolution of the country and the creation of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya also goes to Rajiv Gandhi. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had also done the work of 33% reservation for women in local self-government institutions and reducing the voter's age from 21 years to 18 years to give the youth the right to vote in elections. He worked to strengthen the panchayats by implementing the three-tier panchayat system. Rajiv Gandhi is still alive in the hearts of people and will always be. The sacrifice of Rajiv Gandhi will always be exemplary for the people of the nation. Congress's Ranjit Yadav, Trishanu Rai, Diku Sawaiyan, Jitendra Nath Ojha, Sumit Sharma, Santosh Sinha, Jahangir Alam, Rakesh Kumar Singh, Pratap Singh Sawaiyan, Raju Rajak, Jagdish Samad, Kartik Bose, Sushil Kumar Das etc were present on the occasion.

CRPF DG visits Jharkhand to reinforce anti-Maoist operations

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, Aug 20: Sujoy Lal Thaosan, Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), embarked on a two-day visit to Jharkhand, officials said on Saturday.

This two-day visit, August 18-19, came in the wake of recent anti-Maoist operations in the West Singhbhum region, resulting in the obliteration of a Naxal camp and substantial recoveries of IEDs, explosives, and ration materials.

During the said operation against the Maoists, three personnel of the security forces made the ultimate sacrifice while one jawan was wounded. Thaosan, DG CRPF,

alongside senior officers, arrived at Chaibasa on Saturday.

The primary objectives were to uplift the morale of the officers and personnel involved in the operation, assess operational readiness, and ensure strategic preparedness. Detailed deliberations took place with local police and CRPF officials, delving into meticulous strategic planning to combat the Maoist threat.

Subsequently, DG CRPF and the senior officials proceeded to visit the Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the interior area of West Singhbhum. Amidst the ranks, DG CRPF instilled a renewed sense of purpose and determination, acknowledging the valiant service of officers and

troops deployed in the region.

In his address, DG CRPF praised the ongoing anti-Maoist operations within Jharkhand. He affirmed that the Maoist movement in the state is in its final stages, confined to an extremely limited area. DG CRPF expressed unwavering confidence that the remaining Maoist activities would be swiftly quelled, and security forces are on the cusp of achieving a decisive victory over this menace. He lauded the valour and courage exhibited by CRPF personnel in their relentless fight against Naxalism. Sujoy Lal Thaosan, DG CRPF held discussions with senior officials of CRPF and also met DG Jharkhand Police and other senior officials at Ranchi. The discussions

Naxals kill elderly man in Chaibasa

Chaibasa, Aug 20: In a horrifying act of violence, suspected members of the CPI-Maoist Naxal group executed an elderly man in Chaibasa. The victim's throat was brutally slit on Saturday night, with the assailants accusing him of being a police informer. The incident occurred near Gitilpi Chowk, situated within the highly Naxal-affected region of the Goilker police station area in West Singhbhum district.

Local authorities revealed that the armed CPI Maoist Naxalites orchestrated the gruesome act, leaving the community in shock. Police were alerted to the incident and arrived at the crime scene early Sunday morning to investigate and secure the area. The lifeless body of the elderly man was subsequently taken into police custody.

In a disturbing twist, the Maoists left behind posters at the site of the crime. The posters carried a stern message, warning

Special Police Officers (SPOs) and police informants to cease their alleged espionage activities and instead embrace a life of laborious work. The posters conveyed that police informants had a chance of redemption only if they surrendered to the CPI Maoist group.

The incident has once again cast a spotlight on the prevailing security challenges posed by Naxalite activities in the region. Authorities have been grappling with Naxal-related violence and insurgency for several years, with innocent civilians often caught in the crossfire. This incident serves as a grim reminder of the ongoing struggle between security forces and the Naxal movement.

As the investigation into this disturbing incident unfolds, questions surrounding the safety of local residents and the efforts to combat Naxalite influence in the area continue to be at the forefront. (w-pb)

revolved around the current Maoist landscape in the state and the tactical strategies employed by security forces to counter the threat