

SPARKLERS



Value the present moment, be grateful and appreciate your innumerable blessings.

H. H. Swami Avdeshanand Giri

Jharkhand IMA demands implementation of Medical Protection Act

Ranchi, Aug 27 : The Jharkhand Chapter of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Sunday demanded that the state government implement the Medical Protection Act (MPA) and an amendment to the Clinical Establishment Act (CEA) at the earliest in Jharkhand for benefit of doctors and patients.

The IMA during its executive body meeting here decided to request the government in this regard, failing to which they may launch a fresh agitation.

Addressing the media, Jharkhand chapter IMA president Arun Kumar Singh said that their demands are still pending with the state government. "We are just given assurances but no concrete step has been taken yet. The government has adopted a lackadaisical approach towards our long pending demands, which is not acceptable," he said.

I-T dept initiates action against Atiq Ahmad's 'benami' assets

Prayagraj, Aug 27 : The Income-tax department has attached half a dozen land parcels in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj district, being held by a BPL cardholder security guard, as part of its action against slain gangster-politician Atiq Ahmad whose family and gang are considered beneficiary of several "benami" properties worth crores of rupees.

This is the first action undertaken by the department's benami prohibition unit (BPU) located in the state capital Lucknow against Atiq Ahmad's empire as part of a comprehensive investigation under the anti-benami law against his family and gang members. It was detected by the I-T authorities that a number of such lands and other immovable assets were held by people with "very limited means" and the funds being generated through these sales were purportedly being channelised for the requirement of Ahmad's family even after his death, official sources said.

Devise ways to make global businesses more consumer-centric : PM Modi at B20 summit

Modi lauded Chandrayaan-3's success during the event in Delhi

New Delhi, August 27 (IANS) : While addressing the G20 business leaders at B20 summit in Delhi on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the success of Chandrayaan-3 moon mission. He said that the festive season in India started from August 23, Chandrayaan-3's landing on the lunar surface.

"ISRO played an important role in the success of India's lunar mission. Along with this India's industries have also played an important role," said Modi.

He pointed out that "this celebration is to accelerate India's growth." "This celebration is

about innovation... This celebration is about bringing in sustainability & equality with the help of space technology," he said.

Praising the digital transformation in India, Modi said that the country has become the face of digital revolution at the time of Industry 4.0. "India has the largest youth talent... Business can transform potential into prosperity, obstacles into opportunities and aspiration into achievements. Whether they are small or big, global or local business can ensure progress for everyone," he said.

Referring to the tough times during Covid pandemic, he said mutual trust was imparted built



across the world. "Pandemic gave a lesson to every country, society, business house and cor-

porate entity...we need to invest maximum in mutual trust...India gave mutual trust to the world

during the pandemic...during Covid, India provided medicines to more 150 countries," Modi was quoted by ANI.

He also stressed businessmen to devise ways to make global businesses more consumer-centric.

"A profitable market can be sustained when there is a balance in the interest of producers & consumers...Treating other countries only as a market will never work. It will harm the producing countries sooner or later. Making everyone equal partners in progress is a way forward. Can we all give more thought to how to make business more consumer-centric?" he said.

He also mentioned the green credit system launched by India. "We need to create an ecosystem that will make the planet healthy...One should be concerned about the planet's health," said Modi.

The B20 India Communique includes 54 recommendations and 172 policy actions for submission to G20, it said.

PM also spoke about artificial intelligence and cryptocurrencies. B20 is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. B20 is among the most significant groups in G20 with companies and business organisations as participants.

CM Hemant Soren Takes Command Of Dumri Assembly By-poll

Ranchi, August, 27 : Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren took charge of Dumri Assembly by-election from Saturday. He addressed the election rally in Telobandh Kochatand Maidan of Telo-5 in favour of JMM candidate Baby Devi. Addressing the gathering, he said that the NDA has divided the state during its 20-year rule. "We are working on improving it, but it will take some time." He said that when Jharkhand became a separate state, there was 27 per cent reservation for backward people.

The CM said that before the separation of the state,



there was Khatian in 1932, but the NDA government reduced the reservation to 14 per cent. At the same time, he said, "the Khatian Act of 1932 was complicated and amended in 1985, but we are trying to increase the reservation for tribals." He said that if Corona did not allow us to work for a year, then the opposition also plotted to topple the government, but

we remained firm. Several by-elections were held, in which the opposition was defeated in almost all of them.

"In this by-election too, the public will respond by confiscating the bail of the opposition. Because the government which imposes tax on flour, rice, milk, curd and closes 11 lakh ration cards in the state is working to poison the people by

playing Hindu-Muslim politics.

But JMM does politics with dignity and self respect. We are fighting for the tribals-natives, dalits-backward people of Jharkhand. I have never compromised with my self-respect and never will," the Chief Minister said.

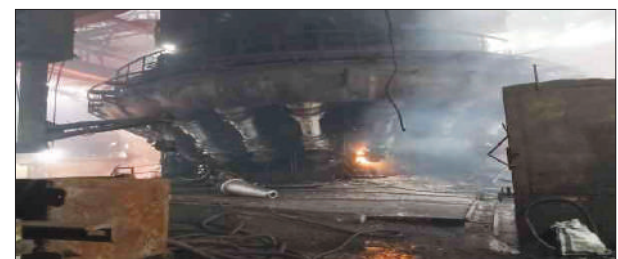
Voting for Dumri by-election will be held on September 5, while the results will be announced on September 8. This seat fell vacant after the death of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA Jagannath Mahato, who was the Education Minister in the state government.

Major fire breaks out in Bokaro Steel Plant's blast furnace

Bokaro, Aug 27: A sudden fire broke out in the Blast Furnace 1 of Bokaro Steel Plant at around 10.30 am on Sunday. Many large equipments were burnt by the flames. This affected the production in the plant.

The fire was so dangerous that the personnel of BSL's fire department had to struggle a lot to extinguish it. After about four hours of hard work, the fire could be controlled.

After the incident, there was chaos in the entire plant premises. The labourers and workers working there ran away. There is no information about any casualty. The CISF personnel on duty informed the



fire department about the incident. The fire brigade team immediately reached the spot and got involved in extinguishing the fire which was brought under control after about four hours of effort.

BSL's head of communication ManikantDhan said that the cause of the fire could not be ascertained yet. As soon as the informa-

tion was received, many senior officers reached the plant. The management is busy assessing the damage caused by the fire. The technical team has started repairing the equipment burnt by the fire. The head of communication said that production would start from the blast furnace before the start of the night shift.

West Bengal: At least 5 killed in blast at illegal firecracker unit in North 24 Parganas

Kolkata, Aug 27 : At least five people were killed and several others injured in a blast at an illegal firecracker factory in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Sunday, police said.

The explosion happened around 10 am at when several people were working at a two-storey building in Nilgunj's Moshpole in Duttapukur police station area, around 30 km north of Kolkata, they said.

Several buildings in the vicinity were also damaged in the powerful blast. The injured, which includes women and children, were rushed to a nearby hospital in Barasat.

The search and rescue team recovered at least five bodies from the debris. The firefighters were trying to douse the fire that broke out after the explosion. Police officers and disaster management department officials arrived at the scene to help with the rescue efforts.

Enraged by the explosion, a mob ransacked the house of one of the Duttapukur factory owners.

BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari slammed the state government, alleging that West Bengal has turned into a storehouse of powder kegs. "There is no monitoring of illegal activities by the police. These firework units are patronised by local TMC leaders," he alleged.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary alleged that illegal businesses keep running because the state government stays quiet. "The amount in which the explosives are found it is clear that Bengal government has given the permission to use explosives wherever one wants.

Chandrayaan-3: ISRO shares new findings from Vikram lander's ChaSTE payload



Shriharikota, Aug 27 : With Vikram lander and Pragyan rover beginning to explore the lunar world, all eyes are on new findings in the Chandrayaan-3 mission. In the latest update, ISRO released the first observations from one of the three payloads in the Vikram lander.

The solar-powered Vikram has three payloads. One is the Rambha-LP, which measures the density of near-surface plasma, and monitor its variations in time. Another one is ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermo-physical Experiment, which measures the temperature

profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the moon's surface. The third one is ILSA (Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity), which serves the purpose of measuring seismicity around the landing site and help delineate the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

The new observations released by ISRO are from the ChaSTE payload, which is jointly developed by the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) in Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, and the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad. ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) has a temperature probe equipped with a controlled penetration mechanism capable of reaching a depth of 10 cm beneath the surface.

The temperature probe is fitted with 10 individual thermal sensors. The latest graph released by ISRO illustrates the temperature variations of the lunar surface/near-surface at various depths, as recorded during the probe's penetration. This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. ISRO said that detailed observations are underway.

Manipur violence: Houses torched in Imphal's New Checkon area



Guwahati, Aug 27 : The miscreants torched five houses at the New Checkon area in Manipur capital Imphal on Sunday afternoon. It is predominantly a Kuki locality in the Imphal East district. The houses burnt belonged to both Kuki and Meitei communities. Personnel of the fire brigade doused the inferno before it could spread. The incident occurred despite the deployment of a large number of security personnel in the area. A crowd had gathered at the site after the incident and tried to enter the area. The personnel dispersed them by firing tear gas shells. The situation was tense when reports last came in. Security was further tightened to thwart any untoward incident. Meanwhile, all eyes are on the August 29 session of the Assembly. Congress veteran and former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh said there might be no discussion at all in the House on the state's unprecedented situation. Obituary references, presentation of committee report(s), if any; and other business, if any, figure on the "provisional calendar of sitting" issued by Assembly secretary K Meghraj Singh. "I say it from my experience that when obituary references are taken up on a day in the Assembly, no other business is discussed," Singh told journalists. He said he learnt that the session had been summoned for a day to fulfil the constitutional obligation.

UK-India trade deal: British PM Sunak faces conflict of interest over wife's shares in Infosys

London, Aug 27 : With India and the UK aiming to complete their protracted negotiations for a free-trade deal by this year, Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak may face a fresh conflict of interest over the post-Brexit trade agreement. The latest conflict of interest surrounding the British PM once again involves his wife Akshata Murthy, the daughter of Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy.

According to a report by The Guardian, British lawmakers and trade experts have flagged concerns over "transparency issues" related to his wife's shares in Infosys worth GBP 481.2 million which account for most of the Sunak family wealth.

In 2023, the Sunday Times rich list estimated that Akshata's shares in Infosys will likely have produced about GBP 54 million in dividends to boost the Sunak family income over the last seven years.

The all-party House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee has speculated that Infosys could benefit from the free-trade agreement and urged Sunak to be more open about his wife's financial interests.

All eyes on opposition meeting in Mumbai, alliance logo, seat sharing for 2024 polls on agenda

A few more parties likely to join INDIA bloc, says Nitish

Mumbai, Aug 27 : As the race for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls heats up, all eyes are on the opposition bloc INDIA's meeting in Mumbai where a logo of the coalition is likely to be unveiled and strategic issues including seat sharing are expected to be deliberated upon.

There is also talk of the 26-party opposition alliance expanding with some more regional outfits joining it in Mumbai as top leaders in opposition ranks huddle for a two-day conclave starting August 31 in the capital city of Maharashtra where the BJP-Shiv Sena government is in power.

The INDIA bloc's first meeting was held in Patna in June, while the second one took place in

Bengaluru in mid-July. The Bengaluru conclave had finalised the name of the bloc - Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

Ahead of the Mumbai meeting, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said that a few more political parties were likely to join the opposition INDIA bloc during its upcoming meeting.

However, the JD(U) leader, who played an instrumental role in bringing together different parties opposed to the BJP, did not reveal the names of the likely entrants but said that poll-related modalities such as seat-sharing will be discussed at the meeting. Talking to reporters in Patna,



Kumar said, "We will discuss the INDIA bloc's strategies for next year's general elections during the upcoming meeting in Mumbai. Issues such as seat-sharing will be discussed and several other agendas will be finalised. A few more political parties will join our coalition."

"I wish to unite the maximum number of parties before the 2024

Lok Sabha polls. I am working in that direction... I have no desire for myself," he said.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction) leader Sanjay Raut had said last week that there is a possibility that new political parties, especially from northeast India, will take part in the two-day gathering.

The Rajya Sabha MP had said leaders of the INDIA alliance, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and MPs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, will participate in the third meeting of the bloc in Grand Hyatt, a luxury hotel in suburban Mumbai.

"The INDIA (alliance) logo will be unveiled (during the meeting).

Discussions are on for the same. We are trying to reach out to 140 crore Indians. The logo will symbolise the country, its unity, and reflect the energy needed to keep the country together," Raut had said.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Milind Deora said seat sharing for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls among alliance partners is more or less finalised in many states with only a few states requiring more time.

Deora, who is closely involved in the organising of the meeting, hailed the "evolving chemistry" between INDIA partners and said the best example of that was in Maharashtra.

Purendra performs Bhoomi Pujan of puja pandal



Mail News Service

Gamhariya, August 27: Bhoomi Poojan of the proposed grand puja pandal of Sri Sri Ganesh Puja organized by New Disco Club, Road Number- 15+ 16+ 20, was completed today with religious rituals by chief guest Purendra Narayan Singh, former Vice President of Adityapur Municipal Council.

Income Tax Inspector Santosh Choubey, Manoj Kumar Thakur, RJD State Secretary Dev Prakash Devta, Advocates Sanjay Kumar, Ajay Kumar Thakur, Santosh Mahto were present on this occasion.

After Bhoomi Pujan, President of New Disco Club Ashutosh Kumar Gupta said that on September 18 at 7:00 pm, the puja pandal will be inaugurated by the guests. On September 19, Sri Sri Ganesh Puja will begin. He told that about 1.5 lakh A grand pandal in the shape of an imaginary temple is being constructed by Singh Event at a cost of Rs. He informed that the construction work of the statue of Lord Ganesha sitting on the throne by famous sculptor Jhantu Da has started. Lighting arrangements have been given to Shiva DJ Adityapur.

Criminals leave crime or leave city : Superintendent of Police



Gamhariya, August 27: 'Criminals leave the crime or leave the city'. Criminals involved in any kind of incident in the district will not be spared. Police is always ready to deal with criminals. The above things were said by District Superintendent of Police Dr. Vimal Kumar on the occasion of the felicitation ceremony organized by the Jewelry Shopkeepers Association at Rajasthan Bhawan, Gamharia. This felicitation ceremony was organized by the Jewelry Shopkeepers Association on the inauguration of the incident of robbery in Ishwar Lal Jewelers of Gamharia. In his address on this occasion, the SP said that the success achieved in the investigation of the robbery case in Ishwar Lal Jewelers near Gamharia Lal Building Chowk in the past is not personal, but the success of the entire team. All the police officers involved in that team deserve congratulations. Earlier, SP Dr. Vimal Kumar was given a grand welcome by local shopkeepers at Lal Building Chowk. During this, the members of the women's committee also welcomed her by presenting bouquets and showering flowers. The SP was welcomed by Pawan Aggarwal, secretary of the Shopkeepers Union, at Rajasthan Bhawan, Gamharia, by covering him with a shawl and other members of the union and local citizens presented him with a bouquet. In his address on this occasion, the SP said that there should be simplicity in the life of every person. Traders or general public keep their problems. Efforts will be made to solve their problems soon. On this occasion, he said that the love given to me by you people is unprecedented.

SP participates in MYM's Cyclothon



Seraikela, August 27: On the call of All India Marwari Yuva Manch, Marwari Yuva Manch Seraikela branch organized Cyclothon 3.0 cycle marathon for the purpose of health awareness on National Sports Day 27th August. In which Superintendent of Police Dr. Vimal Kumar, Deputy Development Commissioner Praveen Kumar Gargai, Seraikela police station in-charge Nitish Kumar and former Vice President of Seraikela Nagar Panchayat Manoj Kumar Choudhary, who were present as chief guests, flagged off the Cyclothon 3.0 cycle marathon on the Seraikela-Kandra main road. Sahu left from college turn. In which SP Dr. Vimal Kumar himself participated and made people aware of staying fit while cycling about 2 kilometers. A total of 600 youth including students of Sister Nivedita English Medium School, KVPDSD Girls High School, NR Government Deposit High School and Boys Middle School of Nagar Panchayat area participated in the Cyclothon 3.0 cycle marathon. Reaching Birsa Munda Stadium, the main venue of the cycle marathon covering a distance of about 2 kilometres, giving a message to the students and common people, SP Dr. Vimal Kumar said that they should give half an hour in their daily routine for their health. If you ride a bicycle daily, then surely some diseases will not attack you. He has told the students that if they remain healthy then they will be able to study well. Rekha Sakseria, Prem Aggarwal, Narayan Kumar, Vidyadhar Dash, Jairaj Dash, President of Marwari Mahila Samiti were mainly present on this occasion.

Drug eradication campaign in all panchayats of Gamharia block

Gamharia, August 27: The anti-drug campaign has been started by the Jharkhand government. The campaign which started on Thursday will continue in the area. In order to make the program successful, an awareness campaign against drugs is being run by the youth and women in all the panchayats of the block. On this occasion, a rally was taken out by all the workers, Sakhi Mandals under GSLPS. During this, people are being made aware against drugs.

Tata Steel celebrates 164th birth anniversary of Sir Dorabji Tata



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: Tata Steel today celebrated the 164th birth anniversary of Sir Dorabji Tata remembering the icon while paying homage and launching book on his life and times to inspire next generations of leaders.

Sir Dorabji Tata was the first Chairman of Tata Steel, who infused the Company with standards in corporate governance that were way ahead of its time. He introduced first-ever initiatives like 8-hour day work, maternity leave, provident fund, accident compensation, free medical aid and many more welfare measures, long before they became legal obligations.

In Jamshedpur, the day's celebrations started with a home ceremony at Sir Dorabji Tata Park, Chankaya Choudhary, Vice President Corporate Services, Tata Steel graced the occasion as Chief Guest

along with Dr T Mukherjee, former Deputy Managing Director (Steel), Tata Steel as Special Guest and Sanjeev Choudhary, President, Tata Workers' Union as Guest of Honour. Also present during the occasion were senior officials of Tata Steel and other group companies, members of the Union and eminent citizens of Jamshedpur.

A comic book based on the life and times of Sir Dorabji Tata, written by Prabha Nair and Tripti Naiwal, published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd. was also launched to mark the occasion. The book will be distributed to students of various schools so as to inspire the youths. Students from Masti Ki Pathshala and bridge schools run by Tata Steel Foundation also



took part in today's event along with sports trainees of the Roller Scating Training Centre, Football Training Centre and Handball Training centre.

During his speech, Chanakya Choudhary said, "Sir Dorabji's commitment to social welfare, industrial development and nation-building is a testament to his remarkable character. His foresight and dedication enabled future generations in the systematic and scientific advancement positioning India as a prominent player in the global economy. His legacy extends beyond the realm of industry. His deep concern for the welfare of workers, their families, and the communities laid the foundation for our enduring commitment in the field of corporate social responsibility." While addressing the gathering, T Mukherjee, former Deputy Managing Director (Steel), Tata Steel touched upon the

importance of Indian Institute of Science, which was established by Sir Dorabji Tata and played a pivotal role in the growth of science and industry in the country.

Sanjeev Choudhary, President, Tata Workers' Union also mentioned how Sir Dorabji Tata understood the plight of the labours and help nurture the Union.

Sir Dorabji Tata's passion for sports was evident as he interwove sports with the company's ethos, following his father's vision to reserve areas for sports and parks. His desire to see India participate in the Olympics led to the sponsorship of athletes for the Antwerp Olympic Games in 1920. His efforts resulted in securing a place for India at the Paris Olympics in 1924 and his appointment to the International Olympic Committee. He was first President of Indian Olympic Association.

Sawan Milan at Excel India Model School

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: Sawan Milan program was organized at Excel India Model School at Murakati in Birsanagar. Teachers expressed their ideas on Sawan Utsav in their respective mother tongues. They were dressed in green, the color of Sawan, and present songs and dances in their languages. A fashion catwalk, quiz that included a rapid fire round enthralled all present at the Sawan celebrations.

Teachers Subhadra Kumari, Dulari Besra, Kavita Nayak, Pinky



Kumari, Mukta Dey, Manjulata, Kavita Sahu, GS Sheela, Seema Sharma, Shefali Tudu, Asha Kumari and Manjari Ekka organized the Sawan fest at the school.

In her concluding remarks, Principal Mamta Kumari said, "There is an artist hidden in all of us, it

just needs to be unearthed and given exposure. Today, women are marching shoulder-to-shoulder with their male counterparts and performing exceedingly well. Even in our highly successful Chandrayaan-3 Mission, women scientists shared thr glory of success." (w/gsd)

Senior Anand Marg Pracharak Dinesh Dada passes away

Gamharia, August 27: Senior Anand Marg Pracharak, Dinesh Dada passed away on Saturday due to cardiac arrest. He was 80 years old. A resident of Kandra, Dinesh Dada had been deeply influenced by the Anand Marg philosophy and had been initiated into the fold by Acharya Sakhadeva Ji in the year 1960. He played a significant role in establishing Anand Marg awareness in Kandra. His sons, Surya Prakash and Manoj, are actively involved in Anand Marg activities. The entire Anand Marg fraternity mourned the demise of Dinesh Dada.

Jharkhand State ABTSM honours Rakesh Sahu at Ranchi convention

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: The East Singhbhum District President of Akhil Bharatiya Taiilik Sahu Mahasabha (ABTSM), Rakesh Sahu was honoured at a state level convention of the organization at Ranchi on Sunday for his outstanding contribution to the

community. The convention was chaired by the State President of ABTSM, Arun Sahu. Rakesh Sahu was presented a letter of encouragement and recognition by Pratapgarh (UP) MP, Sangam Lal Gupta. Rakesh Sahu, while speaking on the occasion, informed, "Several programmes are being

undertaken for the socio economic development of our Teli community. We are always at hand to provide all support to the financially weak in our community for their daughters' marriages, cater to medical support of the needy and financial help to individuals in need. We always encourage students and provide

incentives so that their education remains unhampered. Our humanitarian work for our community and its social uplift is a continuing process." The ABTSM State convention was attended by district presidents and committee members from all 24 districts of Jharkhand. (w/gsd)

Mrinal Sawa's book unveiled

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: The 8th anniversary celebration of Amyra Fashion Studio, a distinguished ladies' designer apparel showroom located at Circuit House Area Main Road, was marked by the unveiling of 'Every woman is basically herself', a remarkable book authored by Mrinal Sawa. Cine star Poonam Sinha, had inaugurated the book in Mumbai a few days prior. The book offers a fresh perspective on women's beauty and self-worth, highlighting the concept that each woman is whole and complete in herself.

The Amyra Fashion Studio, owned by Mrinal Sawa, specializes in designer ready-to-wear and clothing for women. With



over seven years of establishment, the showroom has captured the admiration of fashion-conscious women not just in Jamshedpur, but also in the nearby areas. Drawing on more than two decades of experience in designing women's attire, Mrinal

Sawa personally oversees the selection of high-quality fabrics, stitching, and materials for each garment, ensuring the creation of distinctive designer pieces. The showroom showcases an array of designer wear suitable for various

occasions, from weddings to festivals and parties, leaving every visitor captivated.

Among the attendees at the anniversary event were not only city dignitaries but also the Sawa family, adding a special touch to the celebrations. (w-pb)

Quality of mid-day meal of school children will not be compromised: DSE



Mail News Service

Seraikela, August 27: Under PM Poshan Yojana, block-level one-day training was organized for cluster resource workers and coordinators in all the blocks of the district. In which training was given to all the package resource workers of the block and two coordinators of each package. It was told that after this training will be organized at the cluster level and the said training will be given to the cooks and mothers of all the schools by one CRP and two trained convenors as master trainers. District Superintendent of Education Charles Hembram was present as the chief guest in the training of the said PM Nutrition Scheme organized at the Block Resource Center in Seraikela on Saturday. On the occasion, while addressing the Sankul Sadhan Sewis and Sanyojikas who were receiving training, he said that the ultimate objective of all should be to provide quality mid-day meal to the children studying in the school as per the prescribed menu. In this, he specially instructed to take care of cleanliness. He said that no laxity would be tolerated in the quality of mid-day meal being provided to the school children. On this occasion, Block Program Officer Rabikant Bhakat and Block Mid Day Meal Scheme Incharge Rajaram Mahato were mainly present. After this, District Education Superintendent Charles Hembram participated in the training program of PM Nutrition Scheme being organized at Block Resource Center of Rajnagar. Where in the presence of Rajaram Mahato, in-charge of the mid-day meal scheme of the block, he gave necessary guidelines to the trainees undergoing training.

Review meeting of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation

Mail News Service

Seraikela, August 27: A review meeting of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation was called under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla in the meeting hall located at the District Collectorate. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner mainly reviewed the works being conducted under the Jal Jeevan Mission, "Har Ghar Jal", Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission. In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner gave instructions to increase FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) and to ensure that there is no compromise on quality in the implementation of the scheme. During this, the Deputy Commissioner convened a review meeting with all the selected contractors for the implementation of the schemes and gave instructions to complete the schemes on time. The Deputy Commissioner said that it is the resolve of the Chief Minister to provide water to every household by the year 2024. If there is any problem in the implementation of the scheme, then inform the Deputy Commissioner's office so that its execution can be ensured in time.

Jharkhand Viklang Manch requests school for blind

Mail News Service

Seraikela, August 27: A delegation led by Jharkhand Viklang Manch President Arun Kumar Singh met Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla and requested him to start a blind school in Dugni. It was informed by the Speaker that about 15 years ago, for the purpose of imparting education to visually impaired children, the government had constructed a school building in Dugni. But soon after the building was completed, a CRPF camp was made. Since then the building has been occupied by the CRPF. That is why there is a need to remove the occupation of CRPF and start a blind school. Because about 80 visually impaired children are of reading age in the district. He told that the Deputy Commissioner has assured to take quick action on this. During the meeting, the problem of Divyang Phoolmani Manjhi, a resident of Rudia of Chandil block, was kept. In which he has told that the Maa Sharda Mahila Samiti formed by me was given a public distribution system shop 13 years ago by the district administration. But both the secretary and the treasurer of the committee are equal persons and in connivance have snatched the shop from me. I currently have the support of 60% of the total members, so I should be given back the right to operate the shop.

Workshop on alternative agricultural crops

Mail News Service

Seraikela, August 27: A one-day workshop on alternative agricultural crops cum farmer scientist inter-meeting program was organized under anti-narcotic activity at Atma Auditorium Seraikela. Deputy Commissioner Ravi Shankar Shukla, who was present as the chief guest in the program, told that all the farmer brothers who cultivate opium / hemp etc. should leave that farming and cultivate other agricultural crops and become a leader in building a drug-free society. He said that drug addiction destroys the family and the society. During this, it was told by Deputy Superintendent of Police Chandan Kumar Vats that cultivation of opium ruins the family and the society.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Syed Mohammed Zishan Ali, S/O Syed Ragheebul Islam Haider, Resident of Road No.14, Zakir Nagar, Mango, Jamshedpur, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1. That my actual and correct name is 'Syed Mohammed Zishan Ali' which recorded in my Aadhar Card No.8301 8461 5033.
2. That I have passed Indian Certificate of Secondary Education in the year 2003 from D.B.M.S. English school, Kadma, Jamshedpur, vide Index No.T/2511/180.
3. That in my educational Certificate my name has been written and recorded as 'Mohammed Zishan Ali' inadvertently instead of 'Syed Mohammed zishan Ali' which is my actual and correct name.
4. That now I want to rectify my name as 'Syed Mohammed Zishan Ali' instead of 'Mohammed Zishan Ali' in my above mentioned Educational Certificate.
5. That I am swearing this Affidavit to confirm the above facts and produce it before concerned authority for necessary correction and rectification in my name.

Advocate

Cong burns effigies of PM, Amit Shah



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: The funeral procession of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah was taken out by district Congress against the central government's anti-people policy, false promises, dictatorial attitude, inflation.

The procession begun from Sakchi Ramlila Maidan to Sakchi Bada Golchakkar.

An effigy of the dead body was burnt at Sakchi Bada Golchakkar amid sloganeering, this programme

On the occasion, executive city president of East Singhbhum Congress committee, Dharmendra Sonkar said that the public is paramount and in 2024, the public has geared up to uproot this egoistic, dumb-deaf central Modi government. (w-rg)

BJP leader alleges irregularities in PMAY-U houses

Complaint lodged with DC, JNAC

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: A case of corruption has come to light in the flats being constructed in the housing society being built in Birsanagar under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

Jharkhand BJP spokesperson cum former MLA Kunal Sarangi exposed irregularities and corruption while conducting a surprise inspection on Sunday.

In Jamshedpur, the construction work of 9592 houses in 32 blocks is going on as per the affordable housing project G+8 structure. In which the construction work of 7372 houses has been started so far.

According to the information received, the documentary process of allotting houses to 3836 beneficiaries in the first phase, 834 beneficiaries in the second phase and 696 beneficiaries in the third phase through lottery has been completed.

At the same time, the construction work of flats is also going on in full swing. The local administration had fixed the target of getting a surprise inspection on Sunday.

One of the ambitious schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this scheme is aimed at providing houses to the poor. The beneficiaries who have been allotted houses in the lottery were continuously complaining about the



quality of construction. Kunal Sarangi did a surprise inspection of the construction site along with

local BJP leaders and party workers on Sunday. Several irregularities and corruption came to the fore

during the surprise inspection of the PM's residence (Urban) under construction at Birsanagar

on Sunday especially questions on the poor quality black bricks and second-rate construction materials being used in the construction.

The matter has been informed to the informed Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri and Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee's Special Officer Sanjay Kumar.

The BJP leader claimed that apart from the use of poor quality bricks in the construction, the biggest corruption was that the walls were plastered with putty or plaster of paris without plaster.

In the race to complete the work of the flat in a hurry, the concerned contractor has committed a large scale blunder. (w-rg)

Security Forces destroy Maoist camp in West Singhbhum, top leaders neutralized

Mail News Service

Chaibasa, August 27: In a significant blow to the banned Naxalite organization CPI (Maoist), security forces executed a meticulously planned operation, resulting in the obliteration of a Maoist camp in the dense forests of West Singhbhum. The operation, led jointly by the Chaibasa Police, Jharkhand Jaguar, Cobra 209 CH, CRPF 60th, 112th, 157th, and 193rd battalions, unfolded as part of a continuous campaign against subversive activities in the Kolhan area.

Intelligence gathered against the notorious top leaders of the Naxalite group, including Misir Besera, Ramesh Uff Anal,



Ajay Mahto, Anmol, Mochu, Chaman, Kande, Sagen Angriya, and Ashwin, revealed their movements and camp locations. With this actionable information, the joint campaign team

embarked on a mission to effectively neutralize the threat posed by the Maoist leaders and their squad members. The operation commenced on August 26, 2023, as the security forces targeted specific regions

including Vanagram Nawada, Ulibera, Sarugod, and the border forests of Gitiuli under Karaikela police station. The banned Naxalite organization's top leaders K Chaman (also known as Lambu), Amit

Munda, Saluka Kayam, and Prabhat M Munda (Mukhiya) were reported to be roaming in the border area between Seraikela and Khunti districts.

On August 27, 2023, at approximately 10:15 in the morning, the security forces achieved a significant breakthrough. A meticulously planned operation led to the destruction of hillside camps erected by the Naxalite group in the Vangram Ulibera and Gitiuli forest areas. As the security forces combed through the camp sites, a cache of valuable items was recovered, shedding light on the group's operations.

The recovered items include around 30 kg of rice and pulses, indicative of the Maoists' daily

sustenance needs. Additionally, seven plastic tents, two pairs of shoes (jungle shoes and sports shoes), two batteries, a power cord, a gaiti, two mashals, a thermos, a pot, a mug, and various life-saving medicines were seized from the camp site.

The combined efforts of the Chaibasa Police, Jharkhand Jaguar, Cobra 209 CH, and CRPF 60th, 112th, 157th, and 193rd battalions exemplify the determination of the security forces to combat the menace of Naxalism in the region. This successful operation marks another step forward in the ongoing anti-Naxal campaign, underlining the commitment to restoring peace and stability to the Kolhan area. (w-pb)

Youth shot dead at Mango

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: Local resident Pawan Kumar Yadav was shot dead by criminals at around 11.15 pm on Saturday night near Gurdwara Basti Shiv Mandir under Mango police station.

After executing the incident, the criminals fled from the spot. In an injured state, Pawan was taken by his colleagues to MGM Hospital for treatment, from where he was referred to TMH.

After investigation at TMH, doctors declared him brought dead. Pawan used to do the work of rearing cows.

He has been jailed in the past in the Arms Act case. It is learnt that Pawan and two companions were sitting on the bank of the river, when three criminals came there. One of the criminals shot Pawan in the head. The criminals fled through the river bank. The fleeing criminals were saying that whoever testifies will be shot.

The police is investigating the case. Till the news is written on Sunday, the second day of the incident, there is no information about the police getting any success.

The police said the murder of Pankaj Yadav was the outcome of an old enmity. "Those who attacked Pankaj Yadav are yet to be identified, but the way he was attacked suggests it is an outcome of old enmity. We are hopeful that the case will be solved soon," said Mango thana OC, Vinay Kumar while talking to Avenue mail.

One of the two friends of the murder victim is learned to have revealed before the police that two of the attackers were of short height whereas the third one was a tall guy. Pankaj who was a resident of Mango would earn a living by running a milk business. He had set up a small dairy having kept three-four cows in a shed along the Subarnarekha river. He would earn money by selling milk. (w-rg)



Groundbreaking ceremony for Andhra Sangam Ganesh Puja Pandal at Sidhgora



Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Andhra Sangam Committee's Ganesh Puja was performed on Sunday amidst chants of Vedic mantras by priests in Sidhgora. Dinesh Kumar, former BJP District President was present as a special guest during the ground breaking (Bhumi Pujan) ceremony. Dr AP Rao and his wife, were the hosts of this religious function and performed the prayers.

Committee Chairman, Y Anand Rao informed that this year, Ganesh Puja would be organized in an elaborate manner. "Local skilled craftsmen are diligently constructing the puja pandal," he stated. Other guests at the ground breaking ceremony were CH Shankar Rao, Ishwar Rao, B R C Rao, N R K Rao, K Raju Rao, Appal Raju, Raman Rao, Mahesh, G Nageshwar Rao, N Prabhakar Rao and Appa Rao. (w/gsd)

Suicide over family dispute

Jamshedpur, August 27: A dead body of a person was found on the railway line near Dukhu Market under Jugsalai police station on Sunday morning.

Local people informed the police about the body being found. Here, after getting the information, the police reached the spot and got involved in the investigation. The body has been identified as 38-year-old Bijendra Bariha, a resident of Devnagar, Sitaramdera. Police took the body into custody and sent it for postmortem. According to the information received, Bijendra had left his house late on Saturday night due to a family dispute. The relatives searched for him throughout the night but could not find anything about him. His body was found on the railway track on Sunday morning. (w-rg)

Man commits suicide in Chakulia

Chakulia, August 27: A middle-aged man committed suicide by hanging in depression.

Subhash Sarkar alias Raju Sarkar (52 years), a resident of Mistripada of Chakulia Nagar Panchayat, committed suicide by hanging himself in the room of his house on Sunday morning.

The dead body will be sent for postmortem. According to the information, Subhash Sarkar was in depression. (w-rg)

Kasidih HS PHOTOGRAPHIA stokes students' creativity through the lens

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: Kasidih High School's Equality Club, headed by Shalini and Shania Nanra, organized the first inter-school solo photography contest, - FOTOGRAFIA-2023 in celebration of Women's Equality Day.

Thirteen schools from across the city participated in FOTOGRAFIA. The photography contest aimed to identify young visual artists in Jamshedpur who possessed the aptitude and interest to harness their creative and technical skills in the field of photography which, at one point of time was once seen as a hobby but has now transformed into a full-fledged profession. The primary objective of this contest was to extract the potential talents of teenagers and



introduce them to the artistic realm of photography.

The panel of judges comprised prominent and experienced photographers Harjinder Singh, Daljeet Singh Gaabri, Ranjeet Singh Gaabri and Sunny Choudhary. The theme of the photography contest encompassed nature, architectural photography,

The winner of Group 1 was Gulmohar High School, with Sri -Sri Ravi Shankar Vidya Mandir, Ghatshila, securing the runner-up position. In Group 2, Sri Krishna Public School emerged winner followed by JUSCO School South Park. In addition to FOTOGRAFIA, the celebration of Women's Equality Day featured cultural performances and

theme-based activities. The event's chief guests were Miss Bebo and Miss Saira, transgender leaders. Souvik Saha graced the occasion as the guest of honor.

Vice Principal of Kasidih High School, Rakesh Pandey, while offering the vote of thanks, appreciated the dedicated efforts of the core team that organized the FOTOGRAFIA contest. (w/gsd)

Narbheram Hansraj English School launches Alumni Connect Programme

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: Narbheram Hansraj English School (NHES) celebrated a momentous occasion on August 25, 2023, with the launch of its highly anticipated Alumni Connect Programme. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mr. Nakul Kamani, President of the School Managing Committee, alongside esteemed dignitaries including Mrs. Varsha Gandhi, Secretary, Mr. Devang Gandhi, Joint Secretary, and other distinguished members of the Managing Committee.

In a bid to bridge the gap between past and present, NHES partnered with Vaave, a Hyderabad-based company, to design an alumni website. This platform stands as a testament to the school's commitment to fostering enduring connections between its alumni,

students, and teachers. Notably, the platform transcends geographical boundaries, enabling NHES alumni from across the world to reconnect, share experiences, exchange insights, and potentially collaborate on future ventures.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from NHES alumni, with attendees representing pivotal milestones in the school's history. Among those present were the trailblazing students of the 1st ICSE batch of 1994 and the 1st ISC batch of 2000, adding a touch of nostalgia to the momentous occasion.

Even across continents, the celebration witnessed engaging virtual contributions from accomplished alumni. Ashutosh Kumar, an alumnus of NHES who secured the prestigious ISC State Topper accolade in the Science stream in 2016, graced the occasion



virtually from his current academic pursuit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Another distinguished alumnus, Md. Najaf Bin Manawar, hailing from the 2005 batch, shared his

thoughts through the online platform. Currently managing the global supply chain for Google's Pixel phones in the USA, his success serves as an inspiration to current and future NHES students.

Archana Shukla, a luminary from the 1999 batch and a dedicated reporter at BBC based in Mumbai, illuminated the ceremony with her virtual presentation, sharing her valuable experiences and

insights garnered from her professional journey.

The entrepreneurial spirit of NHES alumni was showcased through Randeep Singh, a member of the 2004 batch, who has carved a niche for himself as a city-based entrepreneur.

Adding a touch of medical expertise, Dr. Vivek Kedia, an accomplished eye specialist and alumnus from the 1999 batch, reminisced about cherished memories and charted a path forward for NHES alumni.

Principal Paramita Roychoudhury expressed her gratitude, highlighting the instrumental role played by Nakul Kamani and Devang Gandhi in making the Alumni Connect Programme a reality. The initiative stands as a testament to NHES's dedication to nurturing lifelong connections within its vibrant community. (w-pb)

PM Modi pitches for International Consumer Care Day for strengthening trust

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi while underlining that a profitable market can be sustained when there is a balance in the interests of producers and consumers, on Sunday suggested for a 'International Consumer Care Day'.

He also said that treating other countries only as a market will not work.

"A profitable market can be sustained where there is a balance in the interest of producers and consumers. This also applied to nations, treating other countries only as a market will never work. It will even harm the producing countries sooner or later," Modi said while addressing the B20 Summit India 2023 here.

He said, "Making everyone equal partners in the progress in the way forward. There are many global business leaders



here, can we all give more thought on to how to make business more consumer-centric. These consumers could be individuals or countries, their interest need to be taken care of as well."

"Can we think of a yearly campaign for this? Every year, can global business leaders come together to dedicate themselves for the good of the consumers and their markets. We talk about consumer rights. The Consumer Rights Day is

also celebrated across the world. Can we take the initiative for consumer care?," Modi asked the business leaders.

He further said, "Once we start celebrating the Consumer Care day, the environment will change with a positive signal. If we talk about the consumer care, then the issues related to rights, will automatically be solved. Therefore, International Consumer Care Day, I want you all to think on this. This will

further strengthen trust between the consumer and the business."

The Prime Minister elaborated that consumers are not confined to retail consumers within a particular geography but also the nations that are consumers of global trade, global goods and services.

Referring to climate change, water security, cyber security, among others, the Prime Minister said, "These all puts an impact on business. We have to increase our efforts to tackle this."

Talking about the challenges of cryptocurrencies, Modi said, "More and more integrated approach is required. For this, a global framework should be made in which all the stakeholders should be taken care of."

Mentioning about the Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Prime Minister said,

"Today the world is seeing excitement for AI. But, there are some ethical considerations, skilling and re-skilling. We have to unitedly solve this."

"Global business communities and governments together have to ensure that ethical AI gets expand," Modi added.

The Prime Minister also said, "As a business, we also have to focus on creating an ecosystem that will benefit us in the long term. Now, due to the policies implemented by India in the past few years, 13.5 crore people have come out of poverty in just 5 years. These people are the new consumers."

"This neo middle class is also giving momentum to India's growth. That is, the net beneficiary of the work done by the government for the poor is our middle class as well as our MSMEs," Modi said.

G20 presidency is people's presidency, Aug 29 to be celebrated as Telugu Language Day: PM Modi

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that India is fully prepared for the G-20 presidency and "our presidency of the G20 is people's presidency." He also announced that August 29 will be celebrated as Telugu Language Day, just months ahead of assembly elections in Telangana. Addressing his 104th episode of the monthly broadcast of 'Mann Ki Baat' and discussing the upcoming event G-20 Summit, Modi said that India is fully prepared for the G-20 Leaders' Summit next month. The Prime Minister said that heads of 40 countries and many global organisations are coming to the national capital to participate in the event. "This will be the



biggest participation ever in the history of the G-20 Summit. During its presidency, India has made G-20 a more Inclusive Forum. The African Union also joined the G-20 on the invitation of India and the voice of the people of Africa reached this important platform of the World," Modi said. Modi said that since India took over the Presidency of the

G-20 in Bali last year, so much has happened that fills India with pride. "Moving away from the tradition of big events in Delhi. We took it to different cities in the country. About 200 meetings related to this were organised in 60 cities of the country," Modi said. He said, "Wherever the G-20 delegates went, people warmly welcomed them.

CPI demands three assembly seats for alliance with Congress in Telangana



Hyderabad, Aug 27 (IANS): The Communist Party of India (CPI) in Telangana is ready for electoral alliance with the Congress party for the upcoming Assembly elections provided it is given three seats.

The Congress party has initiated talks with both the CPI and CPI-M for electoral alliance. CPI state secretary K. Sambasiva Rao has placed the precondition before the Congress leaders. The CPI is keen to field its candidates from Bellampalli, Husnabad, Kothagudem and Munugode constituencies. The party wants the Congress to leave at least three seats for it. The CPI-M is also understood to have made a similar demand. The Congress has initiated the talks with the leaders of the Left parties after the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) decided to go alone. Last week, the BRS announced candidates for 115 out of 119 Assembly seats.

Himachal to set up police outposts in forests



Shimla, Aug 27 (IANS): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday issued the directions to integrate forest outposts with police outposts to combat timber smuggling.

Chairing a meeting of the Forest Department here, the Chief Minister emphasised the installation of advanced technology, including CCTV surveillance, at the integrated outposts.

He said timber smuggling results in revenue loss for the government and the Forest Department should take proactive measures to restrain the illegal trade.

The forests of Himachal serve as the lungs of northern India, besides trees being highly valuable assets to the state, he said. However, the torrential rains have caused significant damage to them, resulting in immense losses.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of the Forest Department promptly removing the uprooted trees from the forests and ensuring their proper disposal.

He also reviewed the working plans for harvesting khair trees in five forest divisions -- Una, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Nalagarh, and Kutlaihah.

Man held with German-made sophisticated weapon in Delhi's Dwarka



New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): The police have arrested a criminal, who was carrying a German-made sophisticated weapon along with four live cartridges and one extra magazine, in Delhi's Dwarka, said officials on Sunday. A senior police officer said the accused, identified as Vikram, was wanted in two cases, and was making plans to extort money from local businessmen. "The team of AATS, Dwarka got a tip off about the accused. The information was developed and it was learned that the accused was carrying a Germany made sophisticated weapon. The team learned that he was active near Tajpur Enclave, Qutub Vihar," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Dwarka M. Harshvardhan. The police conducted a raid and arrested the accused. A case under sections 25, 54, 59 of the Arms Act was registered in this respect at the police station Chhawla.

Dalit youth beaten to death, mother stripped & assaulted in MP village

Bhopal, Aug 27 (IANS): A Dalit youth was beaten to death and his mother allegedly stripped and assaulted by a group of men in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district.

The shocking incident happened on Thursday late night in Barodia Naungar village in the district.

The accused also vandalised the Dalit family's house. The deceased's mother said police gave her a towel to wrap herself, after they rushed to the spot following the incident.

At least nine persons belonging to the OBC community and the minority community have so far been arrested under IPC Sections pertaining to murder, sexual harassment and voluntarily causing hurt, a Sagar district police official said on Saturday. According to the police, a group of men led by prime accused Vikram Singh (28) stormed into the house of 20-year-old Nitin Ahirwar on Thursday late night and forced him to withdraw a 2019 case of sexual harassment of Ahirwar's sister by Vikram and family members.



When Ahirwar refused, the attackers mercilessly assaulted him with sticks and rods. As alleged by his mother, when she came to save her son, the accused men stripped her and thrashed her.

The critically hurt Dalit youth was subsequently rushed to the Bundelkhand Medical College in Sagar district only, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Meanwhile, referring to the June

2023 incident of razing of several houses of Dalit families, including those built under the PM Awas Yojana on the forest department land, state Congress chief Kamal Nath said, "During the present Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led regime, Sagar district is turning into an experimental lab of Dalit harassment. We demand adequate compensation to the bereaved family. I have talked to the concerned family and a Congress delegation has met them in Sagar district." Notably, this shocking incident occurred a week after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a poll rally in Sagar and raised the issue of atrocities against Dalit and tribals in Madhya Pradesh. Before Kharge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Sagar on August 12 and had laid the foundation stone of Sant Ravidas temple. The village where the incident took place is located in the Khurai Assembly constituency of state cabinet minister Bhupendra Singh.

Delhi gears up for G-20 Summit; 6.75L flower, foliage pots to adorn roads, venues



New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): As many as 6.75 lakh pots of flowering and foliage plants will adorn the 61 roads and venues associated with the G-20 Summit in the national capital, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) office said on Sunday.

"After a preparatory meeting headed by the L-G V.K. Saxena, directions were issued identifying agencies who would undertake this drive and they were tasked with procuring specific number of plants, pots, preferably from their own nurseries. This resulted in seamless coordination between five departments, agencies undertaking the procurement and placement of these potted plants, with LG personally monitoring the progress of work and inspecting different corridors in the last couple of months," the Raj Niwas said.

It further said that while the Forest Department and the

UP slaps: School running without recognition, asked to shut down

Muzaffarnagar, Aug 27 (IANS): The school in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, where earlier this week a teacher allegedly asked students to slap a fellow classmate belonging to a minority community, has been ordered shut down as it was operating without required recognition.



A purported video of the incident surfaced online on Friday, in which the teacher was seen asking students to slap the child belonging to a minority community.

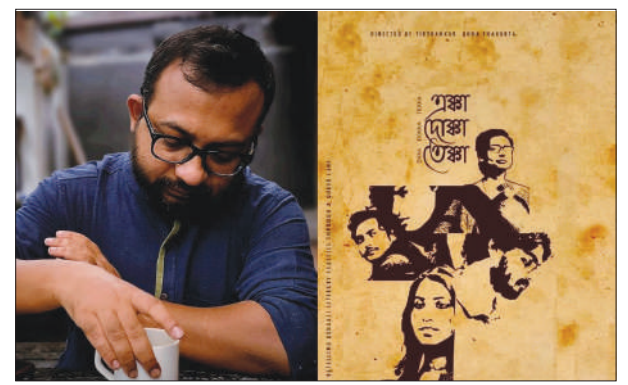
The incident reportedly took place on Thursday at Neha Public School, located in Khubbapur village under the jurisdiction of Mansurpur police station.

An investigation was launched into the matter after the purported video went viral on social media. In the probe, it was found that recognition of the school has ended an year ago.

'Ekka-dokka-tekka', a medical teacher's attempt to retell Tagore's characters in QUEER perspective

Kolkata, Aug 27 (IANS): The evening of August 26 was special for Dr Tirthankar Guha Thakurta, a Kolkata-based medical teacher, whose post Covid-19 lockdown attempts for cinematic retelling of the iconic literary characters by Rabindranath Tagore and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay was for the first time screened for the public.

'Ekka-dokka-tekka', the 20-minute short trilogy depicts characters of Mrinal in Tagore's Streer Potro (A letter from a wife), Bolai, and another literary character by Tagore



again and Srikanto, the iconic symbol of romanticism created by Chattopadhyay. Speaking to IANS at the end of the first public screening, the director Dr Thakurta, an assistant

professor with Kolkata-based K.P.C. Medical College & visiting Kolkata and visiting faculty of Calcutta University's department of psychology, explained his rationale of retelling these iconic

literary characters in the QUEER perspective.

"In your study of certain dialogues in Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's Srikanto, you will understand some distinct underlying Queer messages there, which the great Indian writer spelt out even at that point of time in a high orthodox Bengali society. Interpreting that underlying message without hurting the root sentiment of that great novel was my task and I have made a humble attempt to do that by retelling the stories of Srikanto and his friend Chandranath," Thakurta said.

Haryana's Nuh: A new hub of cybercrooks

Gurugram, Aug 27 (IANS): Haryana's minority-dominated Nuh, which is the most backward district of the state, is fast gaining notoriety for being a hub of organised cybercrime activities, particularly in the form of phishing scams, targeting people from all across the country.

The source of fake SIMs and bank accounts is mainly linked to Bharatpur district in neighbouring Rajasthan, as per police.

According to the police, most youngsters of the district are indulging in cybercrime by using stolen high-end phones. Most interestingly, most of the hackers have studied only up to Class 12, while some are even illiterate.

Some also have rewards on their heads.

According to the police, illiterate youths, who were involved in vehicle theft, phone snatching, cattle smuggling and other crimes, shifted to cybercrime during the past two years after being "trained" in such activities.

The police investigation also revealed that most of the youth arrested by the police in Nuh were trained in the villages of Jurehera and Ghamdi in Rajasthan's Bharatpur.



The two villages, located on the Haryana-Rajasthan border, have emerged as the "cybercrime training hub".

Police said that the accused revealed the training comprises how to trap a person with communication skills and what are the precautions to be taken while making a person a victim of cyber fraud or transferring money from their bank account.

These two villages offer fake SIM cards and documents which help in opening bank accounts. Most accounts were opened in Uttar Pradesh and

Rajasthan. The police disclosed that the accused mostly targeted job-seekers, senior citizens and students. They even offer lucrative offers on OLX.

They said the accused usually committed crimes at the border areas of Rajasthan and Haryana as it is difficult to track the mobile locations of the criminals. A scammer does a lot of research before selecting a target - age of the victim, bank balance, location, employment history.

Data is usually purchased online from companies for

a fee. According to sources in the police, bank employees often help them locate accounts of senior citizens with a steady balance of over Rs 50,000.

The Nuh police revealed that 14 villages were considered to be hotspots of cybercrime in the district - Khedla, Luhinga Khurd, Luhinga Kalan, Gokalpur, Godhola, Aminabad, Mahu, Gulalta, Jaimat, Jakhopur, Nai, Tirwara, Mamluka, and Papda.

According to the police, these criminals used to cheat people across the country with fake SIM, Aadhaar cards etc. and used to deposit money in fake bank accounts to avoid arrest. These fraudsters lure the victims with attractive offers of sale on products like bikes, cars, mobile phones etc. by posting misleading advertisements on Facebook Bazaar/OLX.

The cybercriminals were also duping victims through sextortion by creating

attractive profiles on social media platforms and luring the victims to come on a video chat where they carry out screen recordings of the victims in compromising positions and then extort huge sums of money from them. They duped people from all across the country but mainly those from Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Andaman and Nicobar. The proceeds of the crime were usually spent the cheated amount on house construction, bikes, saloon visits, and their day-to-day expenses.

In the last few years, the police from every state of the country has reached Nuh in search of cyber criminals and for investigation of cybercrime cases. A recent raid by the Haryana Police in Nuh revealed that cybercriminals have so far defrauded around 28,000 people, to the tune of more than Rs 100 crore, from all states and Union Territories.

Seat sharing formula will be decided in Mumbai meeting, says Nitish



Patna, Aug 27 (IANS): Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday said seat sharing formula of opposition bloc INDIA for 2024 Lok Sabha election will be decided in a meeting in Mumbai.

"I do not have any personal ambition to achieve post. I just want to unite all opposition parties. We are expecting some more parties to join us in Mumbai. The meeting will also decide who will fight from which place. Every thing will be finalised in Mumbai meeting," Kumar said while inspecting the Lohia Path Chakra in Patna.

The meeting in Mumbai is scheduled on August 31 and September 1 and will be hosted by NCP and Shiv Sena-UBT. Reacting on BJP's remark on deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar, he said that there is no need to pay attention to the saffron party.

"We are uniting the opposition parties and it will certainly hurt them. Hence, they are making statements against us. I do not notice their statements."

26 CCTV cameras, ex-army men in JU to prevent ragging



Kolkata, Aug 27 (IANS): In the wake of death due to ragging in students' hostel of Jadavpur University, authorities in the varsity have decided to install 26 CCTV cameras in the campus and replace outsourced security guards with former Army men to prevent recurrence of such events. According to JU insiders, 26 CCTV cameras will be installed at different corners of the campus including all the entry gates to the campus and the entry-point of the students' hostel where the tragedy took place on August 10. All these CCTV cameras installed there will be artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled with an innovative neural network that takes into account all the potential errors before reporting an accident which brings down the rate of false alarms. The cost estimated for installing the 26 CCTV cameras, having audio and video recording facility, will be to the tune of around Rs 38 lakh.

The varsity will replace the existing outsourced guards with retired or former army personnel for which requisition has already been sent to the Directorate Resettlement Zone (East).

The JU insiders said that a total of 30 retired or former army personnel will be deputed for that purpose and their assignments will be mainly intensive patrolling within the campus after the end of the scheduled working hours within the university campus. The annual estimated cost on this count will be to the tune of around Rs 3 crore.

The JU insiders admitted that there is still an objection among a section of the students of the university about such installation of CCTV cameras or deployment of former army personnel for security purposes.

2 held for cheating bizman through email phishing

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): The North Delhi Police has arrested two persons who duped a businessman through Email phishing. They generated the fake email from Nigeria through local internet service provider to dupe the victim. A senior police officer said that they received a complaint in this regard from one Ajay Khandelwal. Khandelwal stated that someone cheated him to the tune of Rs 3,64,560 through email phishing.

"The complainant alleged that he is a client of OTS Ltd Kolkata, West Bengal who provides transportation services to his company Mahendra Steels. Both used to communicate through emails for bill payments and transport bookings. The communication is done through the registered E-mail ID of OTS Ltd. But some unknown person sent numerous e-mails regarding payment clearance through fake E-Mail IDs. The complainant transferred Rs 3,64,560 to the account provided in fake E-mails," the official said.

Political slugfest erupts over blast in Bengal firecracker factory

Kolkata, Aug 27 (IANS): Following the major blast at an illegal firecracker factory at Duttapukur in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas on Sunday in which seven people were killed and several injured, a political slugfest surfaced soon after.

The leader of the opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari claimed that the state administration was understating the casualty figure since as per the information available with him the death count was around 10.

"The owners and operators of the illegal firecracker factory and warehouse are all close confidants of the ruling



Trinamool Congress and hence the administration will not take any action against them. The administration will just wait for the media attention and hullabaloo to ebb on the issue. The political

interests of Trinamool Congress are associated with the operation of these illegal firecracker units," he said.

Trinamool Congress' state spokesman in West Bengal Kunal Ghosh said it

was a wrong conception that all firecracker factories were illegal.

"The incident is tragic. But this is a matter of accident, which can happen any time. But it does not mean that all firecracker

units in the state should be closed down. The livelihoods of lakhs of people are involved with this trade. There are frequent reports of such blasts at the firecracker manufacturing hub of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu. But that did not result in the closure of the firecracker units there," he said. Senior Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Minister Rathin Ghosh said the local All India Secular Front (AISF) leader Ramzan Ali was behind running the illegal firecracker warehouse at Duttapukur where the blast took place on Sunday morning. "AISF is extremely strong in the area. Unfortunately neither we nor the local police

were aware of the illegal business," he said.

However, since the blast the local people had been protesting claiming that despite repeated complaints, the local police did not take action against the illegal firecracker factory.

Naushad Siddique, the lone AISF representative in West Bengal Assembly said that two local Trinamool Congress leaders, namely Keramat Ali and Azibar Ali were responsible for the tragedy. "They are trying to escape. They should be detained immediately and questioned. The local Trinamool Congress leadership received regular commissions from them," he said.

Nitish is irrelevant; Lalu still carries 'jungle raj' taint: Top Bihar BJP leader

Patna, Aug 27 (IANS): Senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha completed one year as the leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly. During his tenure, he claimed that BJP did a commendable job taking the role of the principal opposition in Bihar and brought the ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' government to its knees by cornering it over several significant issues affecting the state.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Sinha, known for his outspokenness, said that when asked about the politics of Bihar till 2025, said that Janata Dal-United President and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has become "irrelevant" for the politics of Bihar and people have not forgotten the "Jungle Raj" (lawlessness) prevalent when the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad's government was in power.



The Bihar Opposition leader said that the 'Mahagathbandhan' (Grand Alliance) government that is running today did not get the people's mandate.

"Nitish Kumar has left National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in his thirst to become the Prime Minister of the country," he added. Sinha said that criminal incidents have increased since the Mahagathbandhan-led RJD government came to power in Bihar.

When asked about the promise of the Grand

Alliance government to provide employment, the senior BJP leader said that the reality is that the appointment letters which have been distributed so far by the Nitish Kumar-led government were given during the previous NDA government in the state. The NDA government even gave appointment letters to those people who were already employed.

Regarding the teacher recruitment examination for filling the posts of 1.7 lakh teachers by the Bihar Public Service Commission

(BPSC), Sinha said: "first let the examination results be released."

He added that while Lalu Prasad wants to make his son Tejashwi Yadav, the next Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar too aspires to become the Prime Minister of the country. However, the people of Bihar remain neglected by them.

When IANS asked Sinha about the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A), he said that former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) has exited the the formation of the Grand Alliance in Bihar. The Grand Alliance that exists in Bihar today has taken the form of the Opposition-led INDIA alliance. The recent by-elections were held in Bihar in which the BJP contested alone and most of the results came in its favour.

Newly-wed woman, sister-in-law charred to death in refrigerator blast in Bihar



Patna, Aug 27 (IANS): Two women, including a newly-wed and her sister-in-law, were charred to death after a refrigerator exploded in Dumri Parmanandpur village in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Sunday.

One of deceased is identified as Rita Kumari who was married just three months ago while another was a teenager. Rita was sleeping in room along with her sister-in-law when the refrigerator in the room exploded.

Other family members present in the house failed to rescue the victims.

"We have learnt that two females, including a newly married woman, were charred to death in Dumri Parmanandpur village. We have not received any written complaint so far," said Saraiya SDPO Kumar Chandan.

Automatic platform screen doors in Kolkata metro stations to prevent suicide attempts



Kolkata, Aug 27 (IANS): With frequent cases of suicides and attempts being reported from different stations of Kolkata Metro Rail, the authorities have decided to introduce automatic platform screen doors at all the stations.

A senior official of the metro railways said that the automatic platform screen doors will open automatically after the train reaches and halts at a station and will automatically close after the process of entry and exit of the passengers is completed.

"This will make the rail tracks totally inaccessible and invisible to the passengers all the time and hence there will be absolutely no chance for suicide attempts by jumping on the tracks. Hence the delay in schedule following such suicides or suicide attempts will also be ruled out," the official explained.

New UPCC chief Ajai Rai says Amethi remembers Rahul fondly

Lucknow, Aug 27 (IANS): Five-term MLA Ajai Rai, who challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections, has assumed charge as the new president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC).

After assuming office, in an interview with IANS, he said that the public is now frustrated with the false promises of the BJP and is once again remembering Congress leader and former Amethi MP Rahul Gandhi. The Congress will hold full-fledged preparations for the 2024 elections, and in the coming days, we will hit the streets to expose the BJP. Ajai Rai is a prominent and strong leader from Purvanchal. He not only has the responsibility of strengthening the party but also faces the significant challenge of leading the Congress in the 2024 Lok



Sabha elections.

This challenge is even tougher because the Congress is up against a strong party like the BJP, which is considered skilled in the art of election management. When asked about senior BJP leader Smriti Irani consistently targeting Rahul Gandhi after his announcement of contesting from Amethi, Ajai replied that when a person speaks falsehoods and indulges in deceit, it troubles them. "Smriti had

said during the elections, "Press the lotus button and take Rs 13 per kg of sugar." Today, she is the MP from Amethi and is not able to provide sugar for Rs 13. That's why she is worried and anxious," he said.

Ajai said: "Rahul Gandhi's connection with Amethi is not just political but generational. The people there remember his tenure. The people of Amethi demand that Rahul Gandhi should contest the next election from here

because he has never relied on lies to win elections."

Sharing about the challenges faced after becoming the UPCC president, he said there are about eight months left for the Lok Sabha elections. In such a scenario, we are preparing our organisation vigorously. During this time, you will also witness our struggle on the streets.

Ajai added: "We will expose the BJP's facade in front of the public. These people are sitting in power and only practicing tyranny and injustice. They are only using the ED, CBI, and bulldozer. We need to remove fear from people's minds. We need to remove them (BJP) from power."

While answering a question on the Congress's preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, he said that the party is fully prepared. The public stands against them (BJP). People are joining the Congress with enthusiasm.

WB's largesse to Durga Puja committees 57% of Chandrayaan-3 budget

Kolkata, Aug 27 (IANS): The organisers of community Durga Puja committees in West Bengal might be rejoicing over the announcement this week by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to enhance the annual dole from the state government by Rs 10,000 to Rs 70,000 for each of these committees.

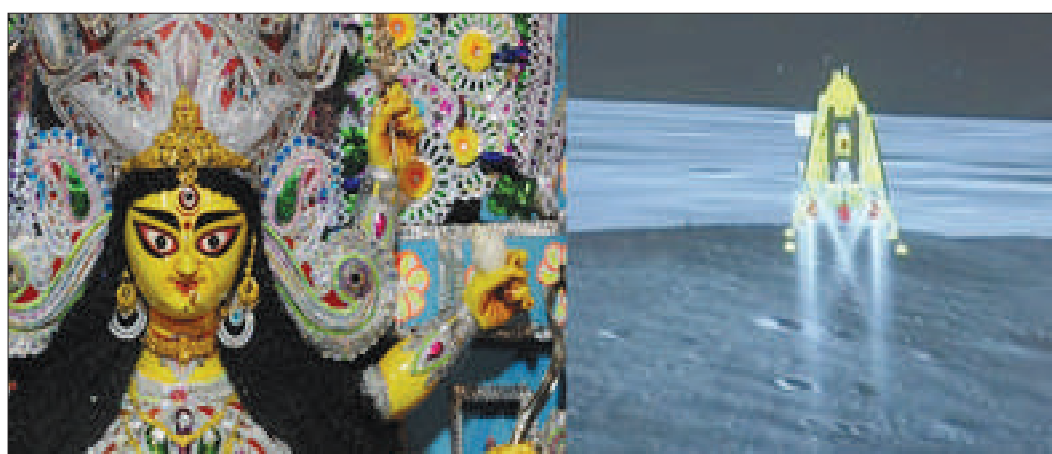
This year, the Chief Minister also announced that these communities will be entitled for state government advertisements from the departments of commerce and industries, as well as tourism, at attractive rates besides the regular subsidy on electricity bills. According to initial estimates calculated by the state Finance Department, the total outflow in this entire dole package will be to the tune of Rs 350 crore.

"Out of which Rs 280 crore will be straightaway for the dole payment at the rate of Rs 70,000

to 40,000 puja committees, out of which around 3,000 are in Kolkata and the remaining are in the districts. We have estimated another outflow of Rs 70 crore on account of government advertisements and electricity subsidy, which can be even more," said a Finance Department official.

Now questions are being raised about the justification of bearing such a huge expenditure of Rs 350 crore, which is around 57 per cent of the total cost of Chandrayaan-3 expedition at Rs 615 crore. The Chief Minister, however, has her own logic to justify the whopping donation.

"Durga Puja is not just a festival. It is also a huge business opportunity providing income to lakhs of people directly or indirectly associated with the festival. A huge market of around Rs 60,000 crore is being created over this festival every year," she has said.



BJP councillor in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Sajal Ghosh, who is also a principal organiser of the famous Santosh Mitra Square Puja committee, said that like the last two years they will not be accepting the dole from the state government this year as well. "Pujas have been organised with lots of pomp and

grandeur even before this dole was introduced. So it will happen this year as well. But we do not want to be party in this utter wastage of money from the state exchequer and that too at a time when the state government are not being able to meet essential expenditure for development or go for recruitment for the vacant post

or pay enhanced darkness allowances to the state government employees giving the excuse of lack of funds," Ghosh said.

BJP legislator Shankar Ghosh pointed that while the Trinamool Congress MLA Idris Ali has given a public statement calling the expenditure behind Chandrayaan-3 as wasteful, the

supremo of the party he represents is draining out tax payers' money with the narrow political motive to keep those associated with the Puja committees in confidence.

"When a frog residing in a whale considers that abode as an ocean, such mindless actions take place," he said.

However, an office bearer of the Swabhumi Durga Puja committee in the northern outskirts of Kolkata, which enjoys the patronage of the state fire services minister Sujit Basu, said that they view this donation from the state government as an honour for them.

"It is true that the amount offered as donation is a paltry amount for bug-budget pujas where the total budget exceeds a crore of rupees. But still we accept it as an honour and respect the chief minister's sincere attempts to associate the state government with the

biggest festival of Bengal. It is useless to find faults behind every decision of the government," he said.

Economist P.K. Mukhopadhyay pointed out that there were several cautions from the expert circles that the state government should concentrate more on asset-creating capital expenditure and simultaneously reduce avoidable revenue expenditure.

"Even the latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General has given an adverse report on this count where it has also been pointed out that there had been misclassification of revenue transactions under the capital section to project a lower revenue deficit. But from the state government's continuing spending spree behind avoidable revenue expenses like such donations it is evident that these cautions have fallen in deaf ears," he said.

India has earned its place in global space powers club, say experts

With Chandrayaan-3 scripting history by becoming the first to land on the South Pole of the Moon, the Indian space sector has made a successful mark globally, experts have said. New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) With Chandrayaan-3 scripting history by becoming the first to land on the South Pole of the Moon, the Indian space sector has made a successful mark globally, experts have said.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft consisted of a propulsion module (weighing 2,148 kg), a lander named Vikram (1,723.89 kg) and a rover named Pragyan (26 kg). It landed near the South Pole of the Moon on August 23 after travelling about 3.84 lakh km for over 40 days. "From the international perspective, India is viewed as a space giant nation due to its tremendous progress in recent times. Indeed, India is an emerging space power as ISRO successfully marks its footprints globally because of its capability in achieving goals in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner," Prof Santabrata Das, Department of Physics, IIT Guwahati, told IANS.

"In particular, ISRO has gained trust among the developing countries who continuously seek assistance in building up their capabilities in space technology," he added. Earlier in August, the Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh told Parliament that India is fifth among spacefaring nations having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development.

Amit Kumar, a faculty at Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras, said that space research in India has evolved - from being primarily focussed on the needs or development of the country, it is now "more serious" and the country is "working at par with whatever is happening around the world". "I think there are many areas where India is working on a par with whatever is happening in space", he said referring to manned missions by space agencies of China, US and others, and making things in space. We also see these kinds of activities happening in India," added Kumar, who is also the co-principal investigator of extra-terrestrial manufacturing research group at IIT Madras. With the success of Chandrayaan-3, India has also become the fourth nation to make a soft landing on the Moon after the erstwhile Soviet Union, the US and China. The soft landing has been a tricky issue as it involves a series of complex manoeuvres consisting of rough and fine braking.

Recently, Russia had aimed to land on the Moon, after 47 years, with its Luna 25 mission. However, on August 20, the country's space agency Roscosmos announced on Telegram that Luna 25 crashed while entering a pre-landing orbit on the lunar surface.

In April, a software glitch prevented Japanese lunar exploration company ispace's Moon lander from making its historic touchdown on the lunar surface. Earlier in 2019, two attempted lunar landings, by India's Chandrayaan-2 and Israeli nonprofit SpaceIL's Beresheet had crashed. In those landing attempts, the trajectory and speed data went awry before the signals were lost. "Chandrayaan-3 is an excellent technical demonstration where we have achieved what a very limited number of countries around the world have been able to achieve," astrophysicist Prof. Varun Bhalerao at IIT Bombay, told IANS.

"And this makes it extremely clear that we are among the top who actually are able to take up very ambitious, very difficult missions in space. And we are also able to do it for a low cost. And that is always going to be an important factor as more and more private enterprises from around the world enter into the space industry," he said. Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri, Founder and CMD of Ananth Technologies (ATL) India, also hailed the low-cost "frugal engineering technology", with which the cutting-edge lunar mission was aced with minimal resources.

The firm, which has been a long standing partner of ISRO in launch vehicles and satellites, has contributed to the launch vehicle (LVM3) for Chandrayaan-3. "India's operational research has been excellent, and the proof of that is the way that we made the landing on the Moon."

"The Americans are spending a lot of money to go to the Moon. We spent very little on the Chandrayaan-3 mission. But, when space tourism becomes a reality, it is going to be the Indian technology that will dominate the world," said Pavuluri, who's also the President of SIA-India, a space industry association.

Why on earth are nations back in the race to return to the Moon

After about 50 years of humankind's giant leap to the Moon, there has been a renewed interest to return to the lunar surface. Water, and increased availability of elements such as oxygen, iron, silicon, hydrogen and titanium have been the major attractions for the scientists aiming to return to the Moon. Also it can provide a gateway to other interplanetary missions.

Scientists also believe that a lunar outpost may serve as a backup for civilization in case of a global catastrophe, like an asteroid impact or a pandemic.

Currently about six space missions from three countries -- India (one), US (four), South Korea (one) are revolving in the Moon's orbit. While spacecraft have previously landed successfully on the Moon closer to the equator, only India's Chandrayaan-3 made history on the coveted South Pole of the lunar surface.

It is majorly due to the tricky landing owing to the uneven terrain and because there is no sunlight. The South pole is also not visible from the Earth, and so it is also difficult to establish communication with the spacecraft there.

Russia's Luna Lander mission, which was expected to be on the Moon's South Pole along with Chandrayaan-3 however crashed on August 20, while entering a pre-landing orbit on the lunar surface.

Countries like Japan, US, Israel, China and Russia are soon likely to launch orbital and lander missions to the Moon.

"South side of the Moon is of



special interest to scientists because of the occurrence of water ice in permanently shown areas around it. Extreme contrasting conditions make it a challenging location for Earthlings to land, live, work, but the unique characteristics hold promise for unprecedented deep space scientific discoveries that could help us learn about outplacement in the universe and venture farther into the solar system," Dr. Reetanjali Moharana, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Jodhpur, told IANS.

"The number one reason to go to the Moon is it will help us to go to other planets. Number two is the abundance of some rare metals like helium and lithium on the Moon which has caught the interest of scientists worldwide. And as

resources around the globe are dwindling, this may be a way for strengthening ourselves for humanity tomorrow," added Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri, Founder and CMD of Ananth Technologies (ATL) India.

The firm, which has been a long standing partner of ISRO in launch vehicles and satellites, has contributed to the launch vehicle (LVM3) for Chandrayaan-3. Moharana explained that in the Lunar South Pole, the Sun hovers below or just above the horizon, creating a temperature upwards of 130 degrees Fahrenheit (54 degrees Celsius) during the sunlit period.

"Even during these periods of illumination, soaring mountains cast dark shadows and deep craters protect perpetual darkness in their

abysses. Some of these craters are homes to permanently shadowed regions that have not seen daylight in billion years, experiencing a temperature of -334 degrees Fahrenheit to -414 degrees Fahrenheit (-203 degrees Celsius to 248 degrees Celsius).

"Expected discoveries are planetary processes and the character and origin of Lunar Polar Volatiles. It travels around our planet once every 27.322 days. The Moon is tidally locked with earth, which means that it spins on its axis exactly once each time it orbits synchronous rotation," Moharana said.

Astrophysicist Professor Varun Bhalerao from IIT Bombay told IANS that the race to the moon is different now from the early days of space exploration.

"During the initial phase of lunar missions in the 1960s and later, 'the space race was hot and the people were trying to make a point'."

"Now I think it's a bit different as a scenario where access to low Earth orbit has been extremely democratised. There are a lot of nation state players as well as private players who can now actually launch into low Earth orbits and then it becomes natural that the next stepping stone for everyone would be to go to our nearest neighbour," Bhalerao said.

"And I think going forward, we'll see more and more of this happening. Countries will try to explore and understand Moon and also use it to perfect their technologies for missions that go further out into outer space," he added.

A reform that was overdue

India, under the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has achieved a rare success in emerging as a world power whose voice mattered on the issues of global peace and economic advancement.

New Delhi: India, under the regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has achieved a rare success in emerging as a world power whose voice mattered on the issues of global peace and economic advancement.

However, in the area of internal governance, the country's image was getting somewhat marred primarily because law and order - a subject exclusively falling in the ambit of responsibility of state governments - was not being handled well for a variety of reasons of which 'politicisation' of police was perhaps the most important.

At regular intervals, cases of public violence of the kind that demonstrated a complete lack of fear of the law, occurred in one state or the other and heinous offences against women including a girl child that should shake the conscience of the nation, threatened to become an ugly trend.

A voice for police reforms was consistently raised, a debate was set in motion about the share of responsibility of the police leadership that was by and large in the hands of IPS officers and even the highest judiciary of the land had played a helpful part by laying down guidelines on the crucial matter of appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state.

In no other major country is a career in police offered - through a merit-based national level examination prescribed for the educated lot, for selecting IPS officers - in which a young man or woman was launched at the leadership level within a couple of years after the initial service training, to manage and be on the front line of the thousands of Police personnel who served the state and the district.

Maintenance of law and order is the first duty of the state regardless of the political complexion of the ruling elite and the law recognised the investigation of a cognizable crime as a sovereign function of the Police. And yet if the state machinery failed often on that front, people must wake up to the threat that this posed to the democratic system itself.

It is in this context that Home Minister Amit Shah deserves a huge round of applause for tabling a comprehensive set of reforms in Parliament in respect of the basic legal framework contained in IPC, CrPc and Indian Evidence Act - in the spirit of highlighting the need

for a sovereign nation like India to adopt an integral Code of law of its own, appropriately disowning any 'colonial' legacies and ensuring a uniform system of law and order management throughout the length and breadth of this country.

He apparently set in motion an in-depth examination of this huge task a long time ago. It is now incumbent on all Indians to take a deep interest in the future debates in Parliament whenever the proposed laws come up there for discussion.

The laws have to be 'strong' in the first instance but their implementation also has to be just and 'untainted'. The police leadership has to be professionally effective to ensure that the handling of order and law both is impartial - being protective of the law-abiding citizens and capable of producing deterrence for the law-breakers.

While a detailed examination of the new proposed laws would be going on, one has to appreciate the political boldness and recognition of national concern shown by the Union Home Minister, in proposing the death sentence for the rape of a minor as also for 'lynching' which is a crime where a mob beats an individual to death.

Moreover, considering the fact of anti-India lobbies and misuse of social media becoming an instrument of 'proxy war' against this country, there was an urgent need to expand the law to take care of many 'covert' threats posed to India in the new age we live in.

Of course, the execution of any law has to be evidence-based and if the use of digital media was made for causing subversion, fostering terrorism and inciting separatist violence, admissibility of evidence has to include digital channels as well. There are strong laws available for dealing with hate speeches that incited communal discord but their implementation was not as prompt - one inadequacy was about the inability of the police to produce the 'record' of the speech as evidence. The merit of the proposed new laws is that they cater to the developing national and international scene and fill many legal gaps in the state's wherewithal to protect citizens against internal and external threats and thus provide a strong base for the dispensation of justice.

The creation of strong laws has to go with the exercise of reinforcing the police leadership to ensure impartial management of law and order and improve the working of police stations which are the establishment of legal authority closest to the citizens.

Officers of the Indian Police Service like the IAS, are recruited, trained and allocated to the states by the Centre and there is no reason why through mid-service

orientation programmes organised by the MHA on a national basis at different Academies and the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) and through the instrumentality of DoP&T which kept track of the performance of both IAS and IPS an effective oversight of the Centre could not be maintained on these services for the national good. The Centre would have a legitimate role in the appointment of DGP if the process of selection for the post prescribed that this would be made only out of the panel of three drawn by UPSC on the basis of seniority-cum-merit, in consultation with the state government. This should be pursued on a more vigorous note as this process had already been supported by the Supreme Court itself. There should be zero tolerance towards death in Police custody or the use of 'Third Degree' in police interrogation.

The persistent malady of police stations not registering a complaint of a cognizable offence has kept the image of police stations low in the eyes of citizens. In the CRPC, it is clearly laid down that all senior officers enjoyed the power of Station House Officer throughout their respective jurisdiction which was an affirmation that IPS officers were expected to oversee and improve the working of the police station. This unfortunately had not been achieved to the desired extent during the long existence of this service. It is a matter of great satisfaction that in the proposed new legal Code, there are provisions of Zero FIR, online receipt of complaints and admissibility of evidence recorded in digital media.

The Union Home Minister has shown a good perception of the need to make the investigation more scientific in prescribing that the visit of the Forensic Team to the scene of crime would be mandatory in certain cases.

It goes without saying that a far greater allocation of funds was needed to ensure all of this - in times of Home Minister Amit Shah the work of modernisation of Police had been stepped up, particularly in the field of computerisation and speedy communication.

There are three areas of criminality that the country's Penal Code had to still work on - they represent the unhappy outcome of the mismatch that had been created between a competitive material advancement and the sociological progress that should go with it.

Of these three, one is the obnoxious 'ragging' in educational institutions of higher learning that resulted in suicides in many cases.

Acts of criminality in the name of ragging were totally unacceptable

and a set of laws should be framed that put a basic share of responsibility for the same on the head of that institution as well.

Ragging began in Medical Colleges as a practice devised to make the freshers familiar with the seniors with whom the former had to work closely as a team and it was totally free of anything that amounted to the use of physical force. The subsequent degeneration of 'ragging' as a phenomenon in which the 'goons' of the institution had a field day, calls for enactment of specific laws against what clearly had become a criminal activity.

The second cause for concern - essentially a case of corruption resulting from the decay of moral values - is the growing frequency of leakage of question papers of competitive examinations, by those who were a part of the controlling mechanism. A separate law is needed to prevent such scams.

And finally, the rising graph of induction of children in beggary in metropolitan centres, in particular, needs to be taken note of - not only from the angle of poverty alleviation but more importantly for the likelihood of this having been made a 'cartel' activity.

There should be a separate listing of this serious crime with exemplary punishment and police should use Intelligence techniques like surveillance to reach the culprits. All of these new kinds of criminal conduct damage the image of the country, contribute to social destabilisation and tend to grow in the absence of an effective deterrent. It might be useful for the MHA to get BPR&D to urgently examine this matter as a prelude to the introduction of new laws.

In the time of Home Minister Amit Shah, serious efforts are being made to strengthen internal security against the new threats materialising through misuse of social media and other covert means. The frequency of gruesome murders, attacks on women and cases of public violence add up to creating an impression of lawlessness that does not do credit to democratic governance.

Failures of state governments and state police are spoiling India's national image before the world as the outsiders did not understand the federal system of this country that gave total control to the state over the police and made the Centre somewhat of a mere observer.

The deterrent punishment provided by the proposed laws for certain crimes no doubt will help but it is the efficient and quick investigation of offences that would hold the key to success on this front - a lot of improvement was needed there. State governments have to spend more to bring the Police-Public ratio closer to normal.

PRICES ON FIRE

How much food prices have gone up over the past one year...

	Tur Dal	28% ↑
	Rice	10.5% ↑
	Urad Dal	8% ↑
	Atta	8% ↑
	Onion	5% ↑

Potato is the only important food item whose price has gone down by 12%.

The retail price of tur dal is Rs 136 per kilo, compared to ₹106.50 per kilo last year. Similarly, the price of rice today, ₹41 per kilo, is higher than last year's ₹37 per kilo. And, urad dal costs ₹114 per kilo against last year's ₹106.50.

Tomatoes, meanwhile, show no signs of climbing down from record highs.

All-India Average Price of tomatoes: ₹ 140 per kilo (2022 price: ₹ 34 per kilo)

Delhi: ₹213 per kilo

Bulandshahr (highest): ₹257 per kilo

Mumbai: ₹157 per kilo

Source: Price Monitoring Cell, Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Cricket fans face hassles in search of tickets for non-India matches

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): When the much-delayed sales of tickets for the non-India matches in the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup began on August 24 (for Mastercard users), and August 25, for the general public, at 8 pm, it didn't make for a pleasant experience for many cricket fans eager to see the best of 50-over cricket at home in October-November.

Add to their woes, BookMyShow, the official ticketing platform for the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, had crashed initially when the tickets were put up for sale at 8 pm after the previous timing of 6 pm.

Sanika Sawant, a Mumbai-based cricket fan, was trying to buy tickets for the England-South Africa match on October 21 in Wankhede Stadium, but didn't succeed.

"I logged in around 7:45 pm as the sale of tickets was to start from 8 pm. But till 8:30 pm, it was showing 'coming soon'. After that, the sale started and I was able to get in. But they only showed tickets for the Sunil Gavaskar stand and when I tried to book, there were no seats available. I refreshed the page and it showed 'sold out,'" she

told IANS. Sanika added many members she knew from the North Stand Gang, a group of cricket fans in Mumbai and regular attendees of matches at Wankhede Stadium, faced the same issue as her. She feels a lack of clarity in the number of tickets on sale as well as of which stands were being made available was the reason.

"I believe from the whole gang, only four or five people got the tickets for that game. There were many interested in watching this game and were keen to book tickets. Many people whom I spoke to said tickets weren't open for the North Stand, only Sunil Gavaskar and Divecha stands were open that time."

"I think I will be seeing this World Cup matches from home -- firstly due to the uncertainty over booking tickets and secondly, prices are very high. INR 1,000-2,000 tickets are for the Sunil Gavaskar stand, which is a side view stand. I mostly prefer to have a straight view, like from North stand or Sachin Tendulkar stand," she added.

Vipul Yadav, a widely travelled sports fan, was trying to book tickets for three non-



India matches in Mumbai, but couldn't get a single one.

"I was online on the website from 7:45pm on Friday evening and at 8 pm, tickets came. From

there till 11:30 pm, it was all tamasha."

"I am not someone who's restricted to watching only India games; I want to watch World

Cup matches. If I get a World Cup semifinal ticket, it will be amazing. But this experience has been something which I can't say in words," he said to

IANS. As an MBA student in 2011, Vipul had tickets for the Men's ODI World Cup quarterfinal between India and Australia in Ahmedabad, held on March 24, by June 1, 2010. He would go on to have tickets for the final between India and Sri Lanka at Wankhede Stadium via a lucky draw process.

This time, he is agast to see not a single ticket released for the North Stand when he tried to book one in Mumbai, apart from its exorbitant pricing.

"At North Stand, where all regulars sit for the matches, only level 2 was open, priced at INR 10,000 for the South Africa-Bangladesh clash. Afterwards for the Australia-Afghanistan game, only a block was open in Level 1."

"Generally, all regulars sit at level 3 as it gives a straight view and all the atmosphere is there too. It's the biggest stand and not even one ticket was released. Right now, I have very little interest in buying tickets, because you can't make it so difficult for fans. It feels like an obstacle course and fans are asked to get past it to reach stadiums for watching matches." Just like Sanika, Vipul also expressed concern

over only side view tickets being put up for sale. "For the New Zealand-South Africa game in Pune, there are no straight view tickets available, due to which people have bought side view tickets. Ideally, straight-view tickets should be put on sale first and I can't understand for whom they are being saved. Ideally, if I were to see a neutral match, I wouldn't like to see it from the side view." (Vinesh Prabhu, a passionate cricket fan based in Mumbai, had to refresh constantly for 30 minutes after tickets were put on sale to secure his INR 2,000 tickets for the Australia-England match in Ahmedabad on November 4.

But to his surprise, he saw that INR 1,000 tickets were available later, which wasn't the case when he was striving to buy tickets. Vinesh hopes to buy tickets for the India-Pakistan, and India-Sri Lanka games, as well as semifinals and final, but wants more transparency in the process. "When I got through the app, only 2000-3000 rupees tickets were available. I saw the cheaper option which fit the budget too and booked one ticket for 2000 rupees immediately.

Will be personally very happy if we can reach the final, says Taskin Ahmed ahead of Asia Cup



Dhaka, Aug 27 (IANS) Bangladesh fast-bowler Taskin Ahmed said he would be personally very happy if the side manages to reach the final of the upcoming Asia Cup, to be held from August 30 to September 17 in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh will be opening their 2023 Asia Cup campaign against co-hosts Sri Lanka on August 31 in Pallekele before taking on Afghanistan in Lahore on September 3. Taskin will be tasked with being a key player in the pace-bowling line up, especially with Ebadot Hossain out due to knee injury.

"Our main aim is to play the final of the Asia Cup as the teams' achievement is the biggest achievement. I will be personally very happy if we can reach the final and could (be) able to play as a team."

"Please everyone pray for us. Obviously we wish to become the champion but the main thing is to play better cricket since we have the World Cup coming shortly. If we can play our best cricket it's possible to become the champion," Taskin was quoted as saying by The Daily Star ahead of team's departure at the airport on Sunday.

The report also said that Jalal Younus, Cricket Operations committee chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), confirmed opening batter Liton Das will not be on the flight with the Bangladesh contingent to Sri Lanka due to fever.

He added that young pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib, drafted as a replacement for injured Ebadot, will travel to Sri Lanka by another flight later as his ticket was not confirmed.

Top two sides from Groups A and B will progress to the Asia Cup Super Fours, where they will play three more games at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, which will also host the final on September 17.

Chelsea completes signing of goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic from New England

London (UK), Aug 27 (IANS): Chelsea has completed the signing of Serbian goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic from MLS side New England Revolution, the Premier League club said.

Petrovic has moved from MLS on a seven-year deal with a club option of a further year and become Chelsea's 15th signing of the summer transfer window.

"It's a big step for me and it's always been a dream of mine to sign for one of the biggest clubs in the world. Today I have achieved that goal and I'm so happy. Playing in the Premier League is something I'm really looking forward to doing and I hope to learn many things here at Chelsea. I can't wait to meet everyone and play at Stamford Bridge," Petrovic told Chelsea's official website.

The 23-year-old, who has been capped twice by Serbia, played 43 times in MLS for New England. He made 21 appearances during the 2022 campaign and was nominated for the MLS Newcomer of the Year Award and the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year.

With the signing of the Serbian international, the Blues are adding greater depth to their goalkeeping department after the departures of Edouard Mendy to Al-Ahli in the Saudi Pro League, Kepa Arrizabalaga on loan to Real Madrid, and Gabriel Slonina on loan to KAS Eupen.

Chelsea's next Premier League fixture is at home to Nottingham Forest on September 2.



MYM CYCLOTHON in celebration of National Sports Day

Mail News Service

Jamshedpur, August 27: The three branches of Marwari Yuva Manch (MYM), Steel city Surabhi, Tatanagar Achievers and Jamshedpur joined hands to celebrate National Sports Day by organizing a CYCLOTHON-3.0 in which participants were distributed in three groups namely children aged 14 and below, men and women. The cycling event showcased unity and the sporting spirit.

The CYCLOTHON-3.0 route commenced at the Sir Dorabji Tata Park and continued across the B a u g - e - J a m s h e e d roundabout, IRCS Bhawan, Jubilee Par Sakchi Gate, District Collectorate Office roundabout before culminating near the Sacred Heart Convent School main gate. More than 120 participants in all



the three categories participated in the CYCLOTHON-3.0. the registration fee was charged @ Rs 99. Special event T Shirts were presented to 100 participants while wristbands, certificates of participation and snacks-packets were distributed among all of them.

The winners included Rajdip (first), Bhavya Agarwal (second)

and Abhivatsal Debuka (third) in the Children's Section; Dipti Patel (first), Preeti Bhauka (second) and Rinki Kumari (third) in the Women's Section; Ranjan Pradhan (first), Sandeep Das (second) and Punit Gaurav (third) in the Men's Section. All winners were presented medals.

Prominent members of the community including Mukesh Mittal, District

President of Marwari Sammelan along with Mohit Sah, Manisha Sanghi, Sanjana Agarwal, Parminder Sharma, Usha Choudhary were present during the event.

The organizing team comprised Nisha Singhal, Ravi Kumar Gupta, Dinakrit Agarwal, Kavita Agarwal, Anshul Ringasia, Ashwini Agarwal, Jyoti Agarwal, Aditya Jajodia, Manoj

Sharma, Preeti Budhia, Vijay Soni, Gaurav Agarwal. Rajkamal Electronics Sakchi and Mohit Photography Jugsalai were associated in the hosting of CYCLOTHON-3.0.

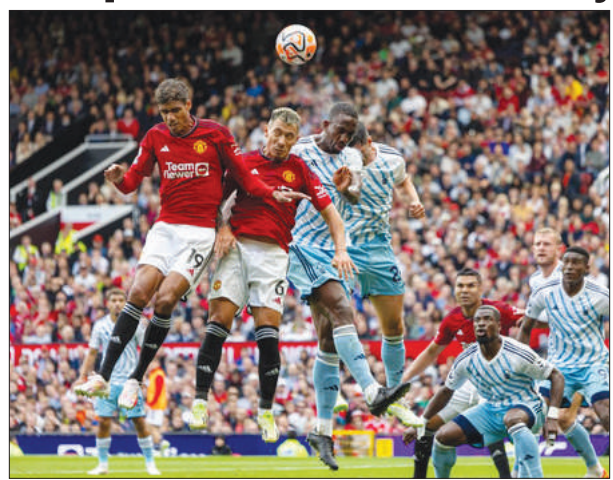
It may be mentioned that CYCLOTHON-3.0 was organized by 800 MYM branches nationwide in which more than 1.50 million persons participated. (w/gsd)

Asia Cup: Karim Janat, Najibullah Zadran, Sharafuddin Ashraf back in Afghanistan squad

Kabul, Aug 27 (IANS): Karim Janat, Najibullah Zadran and Sharafuddin Ashraf have made a return to Afghanistan's 17-member squad for the Asia Cup, to be played from August 30 to September 17 in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Janat played his only ODI for Afghanistan in February 2017 against Zimbabwe and hasn't featured in the format since then. But Janat has made appearances in T20Is, including taking a hat-trick against Bangladesh, and also made his Test debut this year. Ashraf, who hasn't played ODIs since January 2022, also makes a comeback to the team as a reserve spinner. Najibullah, who missed the recently-concluded ODI series against Pakistan due to a knee injury, has been included in the lineup and is expected to recover from the injury before the start of the event, said Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) in its statement.

West Ham United led Premier League on Saturday night with an impressive 3-1 win away to Brighton

London, Aug 27 (IANS): West Ham United led Premier League on Saturday night with an impressive 3-1 win away to Brighton. David Moyes' side made light of Brighton's positive start to the campaign as they led 3-0 before Brighton scored a late consolation goal, reports Xinhua. James Ward-Prowse put West Ham ahead in the first half after taking advantage of a poor backpass. Jarrod Bowen and the impressive Michail Antonio scored the second and third goals in the second half, before Pascal Gross netted a late consolation for the home side. James Maddison



opened the scoring as Tottenham continued their unbeaten start under Ange Postecoglou with a 2-0 win away to Bournemouth on

Saturday lunchtime. The England midfielder turned in Pape Sarr's smart pass in the 17th minute. Although Bournemouth

improved after the break, Dejan Kulusevski doubled Tottenham's advantage in the 63rd minute after good work from Son Heung-Min. Manchester United beat Nottingham Forest 3-2 at home after conceding two goals just four minutes into the game as Taiwo Awoniyi scored on the break and Wily Boly chested home after a corner. Marcos Rashford was vital in all three of United's goals, setting up Christian Eriksen for their first in the 17th minute, giving the pass for Bruno Fernandes to assist Casemiro after 52 minutes and then winning the penalty to allow Fernandes to win the game.

Treble for Lyles and a relay championship record on night when Kipyegon and Duplantis shine

Budapest, Aug 27 (IANS): Day eight at the World Athletics Championships Budapest 23 ended in joyful fashion for the United States as Noah Lyles and then Sha'Carri Richardson anchored victories in the respective men's and women's 4x100m finals after earlier trademark wins for Faith Kipyegon in the 5000m and Mondo Duplantis in the pole vault. Chase Ealey also became a multiple world title winner in the shot put, while Marco Arop claimed a maiden global gold in the 800m and Pierce LePage added another win for Canada in the decathlon.



Indian team leaves for Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier

Bengaluru, Aug 27 (IANS): The Indian Men's Hockey Team on Sunday flew to Salalah, Oman for the Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier, set to take place from August 29 to September 2.

India Team has been placed in the Elite Pool along with Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, Oman, and Bangladesh. The Indian Team will open their campaign on Tuesday against Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Challengers Pool consists of Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran. After their opening

contest against Bangladesh, India will take on Oman and Pakistan on Wednesday and then follow it up with matches against Malaysia and Japan on Thursday. To earn one of the 16 available berths at the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup, India would have to earn at least a top-three finish in the upcoming tournament. Oman have already booked one of the berths from Asia, being the host nation.

Mandeep Mor will be the Indian team, with Mohammed Raheel Mousen serving as Vice-Captain. Suraj Karkera has been named as the goalkeeper, and the



defenders are Jugraj Singh, Dipsan Tirkey, and Mandeep Mor. Sukhvinder has been added to India's defence line as a late replacement for Manjeet, who suffered an injury

during a training session at the SAI Centre Bengaluru. Maninder Singh and Mohd Raheel Mousen have been named as the attacking players. Pawan Rajbhar and Gurjot Singh will lead the attack.

Captain Mandeep Mor spoke ahead of the team's departure and stated that the players are excited for the tournament to begin. "We have a solid squad and we have prepared well for the upcoming competition. All the teams are strong in this format, so it will be a tough tournament. But with a chance to qualify for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup at stake, our team is hungry and determined to get positive results."

Team Vice-Captain Mohammed Raheel Mousen also spoke on India's prospects and said, "We will not take any team lightly and we have studied

all opponents thoroughly. We have planned our strategies accordingly. We are confident of a good showing in the tournament and our aim is to earn a direct qualification for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup."

Indian Men's Hockey Team Squad:
Goalkeeper: Suraj Karkera
Defenders: Jugraj Singh, Dipsan Tirkey, Sukhvinder, Mandeep Mor (Captain)
Midfielders: Maninder Singh, Mohammed Raheel Mousen (Vice-Captain)
Forwards: Pawan Rajbhar, Gurjot Singh.

The man in khaki who 'stood tall' in Himalayas for tourist evacuation

By Vishal Gulati

Shimla, August 28 (IANS) In one of the toughest operations in rain-battered Himachal Pradesh, rescuers on Thursday succeeded in the evacuation of 266 tourists, comprising foreigners and local shepherds, who have been stranded for the past five days in the snow-marooned Chandertal, a lake surrounded by Himalayan mountains in Lahaul-Spiti district.

The man behind the operation was Superintendent of Police Mayank Chaudhary, a young and daring 2019-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. As per an update by the state police, three tourists, who were among the first batch of 60 people, rescued from Chandertal have reached safely at the Lossar check post.

"All stranded tourists are en route and will reach

there shortly," it said.

The evacuation of the tourists in 58 vehicles, who were stationed in government camps in the vicinity of Chandertal for five days, began in the morning after the snow-clearing operation on a 30-km stretch between Losar and the Kunzum Pass, the gateway to the lake, was over.

Patting on the back of his officer to safely evacuate the tourists, acting Director General of Police Satwant Atwal, who was monitoring the evacuation, tweeted: "Man of the Moment. He stood tall in 4 feet snow at Chandertal for the last three days/nights. Kept everyone in high spirits and left last after ensuring evacuation of all 266 tourists. Proud of you Mayank."

On knowing that the tourists had been stranded at different places in the Chandertal area, the Superintendent of Police

reached the spot despite braving the hostile weather of torrential rains and snowfall.

With the logistic backup provided by Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar, a rescue team led by the Superintendent of Police reached the spot three days ago and made arrangements of tents, food and first-aid for the stranded people. They stationed them at the spot.

A satellite phone was arranged at the spot to enable the tourists to inform about their welfare to their family members and well-wishers.

Another team comprising 'snow warriors' was working vigorously for the past three days to dig through mounds of snow to reopen the mountain pass.

The snow-clearing operation was over last night. Seven tourists, most of them elderly and facing health issues, were evacuated by a chopper on



Tuesday from Chandertal.

On Wednesday evening, Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots refused to land at the Chandertal due to the absence of a heliport, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, who did aerial rescue.

The stranded people comprising tourists, largely from Maharashtra, Madhya

Pradesh and Gujarat and three women foreigners -- two from Ireland and one from the US, have been stuck at the Chandertal for the past four days as rain-battered the hills and snapped road links.

On reaching Losar, one of the rescued tourists from Bhopal told locals who welcomed them that they

didn't face any problem at the Chandertal, except their mobile phones were not working owing to snapping of communication networks.

"Mayank Chaudhary helped us a lot and motivated us a lot. He came and talked to everyone about their welfare. He was staying near to our accommodation and we got an opportunity to interact with him two-three times," remarked a woman tourist, who was donning woollens and a cap.

She added: "We enjoyed some moments and got an opportunity to learn something new."

Sensing that evacuation by air was not possible owing to hostile climatic conditions, the Chief Minister on Wednesday deputed two colleagues, Jagat Singh Negi and Sanjay Awasthi, by road at the spot to oversee the rescue operation.

After 18 hours of back-

breaking journey, both Negi and Awasthi reached the Chandertal early Thursday with the rescue convey.

Director General of Police Atwal simultaneously tweeted by saying the first JCB machine, involved in clearing snow and roadblocks from the road, also reached Chandertal.

At around 8 a.m., the first batch of tourists was sent to Lossar from the spot.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also inquired about the arrangements being made to evacuate the tourists.

He said the administration, the ITBP and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) engaged in rescue were doing road restoration work on a war footing. He appealed to the people to cooperate in the event of the disaster.

Officials told IANS if the weather permits the tourists

from Losar would be taken to Kaza, the headquarters of Spiti, some 320 km from the state capital Shimla through Kinnaur district.

Not accessible by road throughout the year, the picturesque Spiti Valley, an ideal getaway for trans-Himalayas, remains cut off from the world for more than four months a year due to heavy snowfall.

It reopens once the snow starts thawing after mid-April. A century ago Rudyard Kipling in his novel 'Kim' described Spiti as "a world within a world".

Things have hardly changed there. A part of the remote but picturesque Lahaul-Spiti district, the Spiti Valley, a cold desert dotted by tiny hamlets spread over the Himalayan peaks, adjoining Tibet, takes you to a land of Buddhism and virgin nature.

(Vishal Gulati can be contacted at gulatiians@gmail.com)

Body polishing at home

By Blossom Kochhar

New Delhi, August 28 (IANS) In the pursuit of radiant and glowing skin, body polishing has emerged as a popular skincare technique. Traditionally offered at spas and salons, this luxurious treatment involves exfoliating and rejuvenating the skin to reveal a smoother and more luminous complexion.

However, you don't need to book an expensive appointment to enjoy the benefits of body polishing. With the right knowledge and a few simple ingredients, you can indulge in this pampering experience right in the comfort of your own home. In this article, we will explore the benefits of body polishing and provide easy-to-follow steps for an effective at-home treatment.

Benefits of Body Polishing: Body polishing offers numerous benefits that go beyond simple exfoliation. By incorporating this practice into your skincare routine, you can experience the following advantages:



Exfoliation: Body polishing helps remove dead skin cells, unclog pores, and promote cellular renewal, leaving your skin smoother and more refined.

Improved Texture: Regular body polishing can help improve the texture of your skin, making it feel softer and more supple.

Brightened Complexion: The exfoliation process in body polishing helps to remove dullness and reveal a more radiant and glowing complexion.

Enhanced Blood Circulation: The massaging action during body polishing stimulates blood flow, promoting better oxygen and nutrient supply to the skin.

Moisturisation: Body polishing allows for better absorption of moisturisers, helping to keep your skin hydrated and nourished.

Relaxation: The process of body polishing is not just about skincare but also offers a relaxing and indulgent experience, promoting overall well-being.

Ways to Do Body Polishing at Home:

Dry Brushing: Start your body polishing routine with dry brushing. Using a natural bristle brush, gently brush your body in upward strokes, moving towards the heart. This helps to exfoliate dead skin cells, stimulate blood circulation, and prepare the skin for further treatments.

Sea Salt Soak: Draw a warm bath and add sea salt to the water. Soak in this bath for 15-20 minutes to help detoxify and soften your skin. The minerals in sea salt

provide a gentle exfoliation, leaving your skin refreshed and rejuvenated.

Moisturize: After exfoliating, it is important to moisturise your skin to lock in hydration. Choose a nourishing body lotion or oil and apply it all over your body. Massage it gently to promote better absorption and leave your skin feeling smooth and supple.

Body polishing is a wonderful way to pamper your skin and achieve a radiant glow. By incorporating this practice into your skincare routine, you can enjoy the benefits of exfoliation, improved texture, and a brighter complexion.

With the simple and cost-effective methods mentioned above, you can indulge in body polishing at home and experience spa-like results. So, why wait? Treat yourself to a luxurious and rejuvenating body polishing session right in your own bathroom. Your skin will thank you!

(Dr. Blossom Kochhar, Chairperson Blossom Kochhar Group of Companies)

Spinning around Bollywood



By Olivia Sarkar

New Delhi, August 28 (IANS) Biking or cycling has become quite the favourite amongst Bollywood's top league. Don't be surprised if you spot an actor or two cycling around the streets of Mumbai nonchalantly. Some treat it as a hobby and others treat it as part of their exercise routine. But all in all it ranks as one of the top activities among the cool set.

Here's a look:

Ranbir Kapoor

Ranbir Kapoor is frequently seen riding a bicycle in Mumbai. However, after the lockdown, the actor found a new "mate". The Mate X foldable electric bike is priced at Rs 1,46,000.

Ayushmann Khurana

Khurana has been an avid cyclist his while life. He included cycling to his exercise regimen and has Scott bike, which

typically costs between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 6 lakh.

Shahid Kapoor

According to the media, Shahid's electric bicycle features a u-bend chassis and appears to be a comfortable ride, but it could set you back anything between Rs 2.5 to 3 lakh.

Sara Ali Khan

Sara chose the u-bend chassis-equipped Vogue by Riders as her choice of two wheelers, a pocket friendly option it typically cost between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 15,000.

Sooraj Pancholi

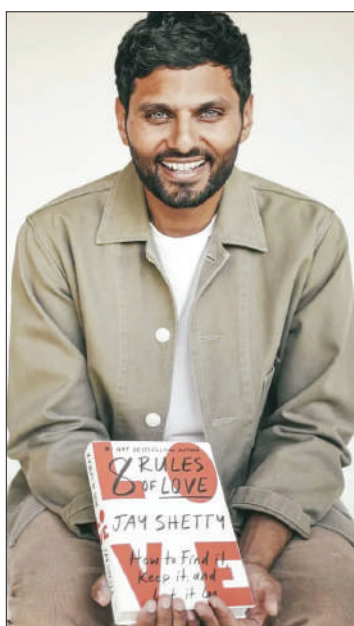
In contrast to most, Sooraj Pancholi places a high priority on riding. The young enthusiast rides in a professional manner and is practically a regular at bike rides with his Being Human BH 12 and Factor 02 Miami Blue.

(Photo source: instagram)

Best-selling author, podcast guru Jay Shetty turns global talent scout

Los Angeles, August 28 (IANS) UK-born Indian bestselling author of 'Think Like A Monk', podcast host, social media sensation, life coach and former Hare Krishna monk Jay Shetty is expanding his media footprint, now launching a talent agency, 'Variety' has learned exclusively. Shetty, whose health and wellness podcast 'On Purpose' has featured the likes of Alicia Keys, Khloe Kardashian and Kobe Bryant, is said to have been downloaded more than 300 million times, but he has also been accused of plagiarism, which has made him get careful about attribution of quotes. Shetty now lives in California after spending four years as a Hare Krishna monk in India.

His second book, '8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It and Let It Go', has become an instant 'New York Times' best-seller after being released last week. Along with his partners Rula Zabri, Brittany Louks and Blaire Zierke, Shetty has announced the formation of House of 1212, a full-service, purpose-driven talent agency that will represent creators, thought leaders and innovators who are impacting positive change, according to 'Variety'. Shetty will serve as co-founder and partner of House of 1212; Zabri as founder and CEO; Louks as co-founder and president; and Zierke as co-founder and head of operations. Zabri was previously Shetty's chief of staff, overseeing business initiatives and managing his day-to-day operations. The name of the agency '1212' is derived from numerology. It is known as an angel number, which symbolises abundance, organisation and harmony with prosperity, growth and enlightenment centered at its core, 'Variety' notes.



Why muscles matter as you age

By Irfan Shaikh

New Delhi, August 28 (IANS) We've all dealt with a jar lid that just won't budge. Maybe we tried hammering it on the counter or holding it under hot water, and if all else failed, we probably asked someone for help. Over the years, it might start to feel like these stubborn lids are getting stronger but for many people, the problem is that their hands and bodies are simply getting weaker.

Could your health status be in the palm of your hand? It's not quite that simple, but your hand grip strength is a critical indicator of overall muscle strength and can tell you a lot. Muscle loss, an often-overlooked aspect of the ageing process, remains largely unaddressed, with symptoms like diminished hand grip strength commonly dismissed as something that happens when you grow older.

According to a multicontinental study involving a healthy elderly population, 17.5 per cent of Indians had advanced muscle loss, also known as sarcopenia. This is a considerably higher figure than other Asian countries and Europe.

Our muscle health can often tell us how we are going to age and how we can measure and rebuild muscle health to reduce the effect of sarcopenia as we age.

Sarcopenia and Your Health Sarcopenia, also known as advanced muscle loss, is when a person loses a large amount of muscle mass along with strength and function as they age. Muscle loss is not just a disease of the old, but it starts much early in life. In fact, starting at the age of 40, adults can lose up to 8 per cent of



muscle mass per decade. After 70 years old, that rate potentially doubles. Prevalence of sarcopenia has been observed in every 3rd man or every 5th woman in India. Globally, an estimated 50 million people are affected by this condition, and this number is expected to increase to more than 200 million in the next 40 years.

Muscle loss can reduce energy and movement, raise the risk of falls and fractures and also compromise someone's recovery and survival from sickness or surgery. When it comes to measuring muscle mass, it is also a far better indicator of health than the widely used measurement tool Body Mass Index or BMI.

Measuring Muscle Mass Why is measurement so important? Sarcopenia is

considered as a hidden or invisible condition because, unless you test your muscle strength, you may not know if you're losing muscle mass.

So, how do you put your muscle strength to the test? Grip test is a simple test you can do for yourself which is as simple as opening a jar, squeezing an orange, or detecting the strength of your handshake. If you see a difference in your strength, it's time to take action.

A chair challenge test is also a simple measure of your muscle strength which can help you to adopt timely corrective measures. The time you take to do 5 sit-ups on a chair of 43cm (1.4 feet) height can determine muscle age. To know more about how the chair challenge test works, you can visit www.muscleagetest.in

Rebuilding Muscle and Strength As You Deal With Sarcopenia

While this invisible condition is not talked about enough, the good news is that muscle and strength can be rebuilt and regained through a combination of strength exercises and a balanced diet with sufficient nutrients. Here is how you can do that:

Don't skip breakfast no matter how scarce your time is. Breakfast is the powerhouse of nutrition that your body needs to take on the day ahead. You should eat nutrient-dense and well-rounded meals with food like eggs, whole grains, fruit and dairy can help you stay full while also keeping your energy levels high.

Ensure daily physical activity as it can go a long way in making muscles stronger. You can begin

by including simple activities like walking, cycling, swimming, jogging, playing badminton/cricket, or even climbing stairs in your daily routine. An hour of physical activity every day can make a significant difference in muscular strength and health.

Identify and meet your daily protein needs - Consuming adequate high-quality protein per day (about 1g/kg of body weight) along with physical activity can help your body optimize protein for muscle building and restoration throughout the day.

Embrace nutrition supplements-While a regular and balanced diet is essential for building stronger muscles as you age, some nutritional deficiencies might persist. To close these gaps, people should incorporate balanced nutrition supplements such as Ensure HMB into their diet. Beta-hydroxy-beta-methylbutyrate (HMB) supplementation, can help in maintaining and restoring lean body mass, muscle strength and function in adults.

Muscle plays an important role in many aspects of life, and there are plenty of effective ways to test and improve muscle health to effectively deal with sarcopenia. Through awareness, education, and action, we can empower ourselves and others to prioritize muscle health by adopting healthy lifestyle habits and promoting a vibrant and active ageing experience. Together, we can build a future where healthy ageing and strong muscles go hand in hand, enabling us to live life to the fullest at every stage.

(Dr Irfan Shaikh, Head, Medical & Scientific Affairs at Abbott's Nutrition business)

US military aircraft crashes off Australia's coast



Canberra, Aug 27 (IANS): A US military aircraft crashed off the coast of Australia's Northern Territory on Sunday when it was participating in a training exercise.

The Boeing V-22 Osprey was participating in a training exercise at 9:43 a.m. local time on Sunday when it went down on Melville Island, approximately 60 km north of Darwin, Xinhua news agency reported. As of Sunday afternoon, there had been no confirmed fatalities, but the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported air medical service CareFlight transported three injured passengers, one of whom was in critical condition, to the Royal Darwin Hospital.

In a statement, Australia's Department of Defence said that all personnel on board the aircraft were Americans. "Initial reports suggest the incident involves US defence personnel and that Australian Defence Force members were not involved," a spokesperson said.

"At this critical early stage, our focus is on the incident response and ensuring the safety of those involved." More than 2,000 troops are participating in the annual Predator's Run training exercises in the Tiwi Islands.

Man, daughter killed due to landslide Bangladesh



Dhaka, Aug 27 (IANS): A man and his daughter were killed in a devastating landslide triggered by heavy rains in Bangladesh's seaport city Chattogram on Sunday morning.

"Md Sohel, 35, and his seven-month-old daughter, Bibi Jannat, died in the landslide triggered by heavy rains in Chattogram city," Abdullah Harun Pasha, a senior official of the Chattogram Divisional Fire Service said. Rescue efforts were ended, with scores of workers and volunteers deployed to the site to search for the missing individuals who live in houses with thatched roofs at the foot of the hill, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the official. Bangladesh's seaport city has experienced persistent downpours and flash floods in the hills since the beginning of this month, causing flooding in parts of the Chattogram. The latest phase of rainfall in the city began on Wednesday lashing Chattogram for five days prior to the incident, as indicated by weather tracking data. Authorities earlier this month evacuated people from the hills at risk of landslides after a hill collapsed on a microbus.

Bankrupt Darshan Bathija-led Vault to hire new CEO, Board to bailout creditors

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Darshan Bathija-founded Vault, a Singapore-based crypto exchange that has been in ongoing bankruptcy proceedings since last year, has received permission from the courts to restructure its board and appoint a new CEO. The beleaguered crypto-lending will appoint a new CEO, a creditor representative, and a scheme manager, Bathija posted on X (formerly Twitter).

According to him, the Singaporean courts have approved Vault's proposed restructuring plan. The new top management will lead the company's bailout process. "Vault (Defi Payments Pte Ltd) got its scheme of arrangement passed in Singapore courts. As part of the scheme, the current board will be replaced with a new CEO, a creditor representative, and a scheme manager," Bathija posted. "Customers are currently re-submitting their KYC information. More updates to follow in short order," he added. In August 2022, Indian law enforcement agencies seized Vault's bank assets worth Rs 370 crore over its "predatory lending practices".

The ED conducted searches at various premises of Yellow Tune Technologies Pvt Ltd in Bengaluru, and froze assets belonging to Flipvolt crypto exchange which runs the Vault in the country.

The company, like several other players offering crypto services in India, had received summons from the ED office, "seeking certain information/documents".

Indian-American town council candidate's campaign sign defaced

New York, Aug 27 (IANS): An Indian-American candidate running for a town council seat in North Carolina state was shocked to find her face "scratched off" and replaced with a Black person's photo in one of her campaign signs, a media report said.

Sarika Bansal, who, if elected, would be the first Indian-American and second woman of color to serve on the Cary Town council, was attending a meeting when a friend texted her about the sign. The Herald-Sun daily reported on Friday.

Bansal said the sign was found in the Highcroft Village neighbourhood in west Cary in District D -- the place from where she is running for a council seat.

She told the daily that her head on the sign was



scratched off and a photo of a Black person was superimposed over her face. "This was shocking. .. Even after the meeting, I usually walk down and talk to the council members but I couldn't because I was so shocked. I came home, I had my dinner, and my

phone started going crazy because it was all over social media," Bansal told The Herald-Sun.

Bansal said she did not know if any other signs had been vandalised, and said that she is "truly saddened by the act of vandalism and racism against my

campaign".

"We must embrace diversity as a means of building strength and unity in our town. There is no place for bigotry and racism against people of colour, brown or black in the Town of Cary," Bansal said in a statement released

on Friday. She called on her fellow candidates and elected officials to reject this behaviour and commit themselves to working for a Cary that accepts people of all backgrounds and colour.

Issuing a statement on behalf of the Town of Cary, Mayor Harold Weinbrecht said that they would get the matter investigated.

"This racist, despicable act stands in stark opposition to the values we hold dear in Cary and will only serve to bring our community closer. We will do everything we can to get to the bottom of this," Weinbrecht said. In North Carolina, it is a class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalise or remove a political sign that is lawfully placed. It is punishable by up to 30 days in jail, \$500 in fines, and up

to a year of probation. Cary is home to over 180,000 residents, and Asian Americans make up 20 per cent of the population.

An accomplished information security professional and small business owner, Bansal is an advocate for women's rights, common sense gun reform and better mental health resources throughout the community. After moving to Cary in 2015 to pursue a career opportunity in the field of cybersecurity, Bansal, along with her husband, started a jewellery business.

Cary's municipal election is on October 10, weeks before the November presidential elections. Along with Bansal, current councilman Ryan Eades and newcomer Rachel Jordan will face off for District D.

Rishi Sunak faces a new conflict of interest row over India trade talks

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces a new conflict of interest row before the G20 summit in New Delhi next month over claims that his family could stand to benefit financially from a post-Brexit trade deal that he is negotiating with India, the media reported.

MPs and trade experts say there are concerns at the highest levels of government over potential "transparency" issues relating to his wife Akshata Murty's shareholding - worth almost 500 m pounds - in the massive Bengaluru-based international IT services and consultancy company Infosys, The Guardian reported.

Labour, and the chair of



the all-party House of Commons business and trade select committee, called on Saturday night for Sunak to be more open about his wife's financial interests, given that Infosys could be a key beneficiary of any agreement. One leading expert said he should recuse himself from the trade negotiations altogether.

Darren Jones, the Labour chair of the business and trade select committee, said, "As the prime minister recently learned, it's important he declares any interests properly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too."

The calls come as former culture secretary Nadine Dorries, a vocal critic of the prime minister, finally

handed in her resignation as an MP, The Guardian reported.

Sunak will attend the G20 summit in New Delhi in two weeks and is expected to discuss the UK-India trade negotiations in a separate bilateral meeting with India's prime minister, Narendra Modi.

Trade secretary Kemi Badenoch flew back from India this weekend after holding intensive talks on the prospective deal, The Guardian reported.

Infosys, which has had contracts with the British government as well as many UK companies, is known to want to improve access to this country for its many thousands of contract workers through changes to the UK visa regime.

Zimbabwean president Mnangagwa re-elected

Harare, Aug 27 (IANS): Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected after securing 2.6 per cent of the total votes cast in the August 23-24 elections, country's poll body announced.

As per Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairperson Priscilla Chigumba, Mnangagwa beat 10 other presidential contestants after polling 2,350,711 votes, Xinhua news agency reported.

Mnangagwa's main challenger and opposition Citizens for Coalition Change (CCC) leader, Nelson Chamisa, secured 1,967,343 votes or 44 per cent of the valid votes cast, Chigumba said.

"Mnangagwa Emmerson Dambudzo of ZANU-PF party is declared duly elected president of the Republic of Zimbabwe with effect from August 26, 2023," Chigumba said.

According to the ZEC, Mnangagwa's ruling ZANU-PF party has won the majority of the 210 parliamentary seats.

Zimbabweans voted on Wednesday and Thursday, with a voter turnout of 68.9 percent, to choose a new president, members of parliament and representatives of local governments.



After over 3 years Covid restrictions, NKorea allows citizens abroad to return

Seoul, Aug 27 (IANS): Reopening its border following more than three years of its stringent virus restrictions, North Korea has lifted an entry ban imposed on its citizens staying abroad over Covid-19 concerns, state media reported Sunday.

According to the Korean Central News Agency, North Korean "citizens abroad have been allowed to return home," as it has decided to "adjust the anti-epidemic degree in reference to the eased worldwide pandemic situation." "It added that those who return home will be put under "proper medical observation at quarantine wards for a week," Yonhap news agency reported quoting KCNA. The move came after North Korea resumed commercial flights with China and Russia last week following more than three years of border



closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Flights operated by Air Koryo, North Korea's national carrier, arrived in Beijing and Vladivostok from Pyongyang last week, bringing the North's people staying there back home.

With the lifting of the entry ban, more North Korean diplomats, laborers and students staying in foreign nations are expected to come back to the North. North Korea, which closed its border in

January 2020, imposed "maximum emergency anti-epidemic" measures in May 2022, when the country reported its first COVID-19 case. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un declared victory against the COVID-19 crisis in August last year, claiming an end to the pandemic in the country. But North Korea had maintained its tight border closure while only resuming cargo operations by train and truck with China and Russia last year.

Indian-origin doc Sumeet Chugh spots symptoms before impending cardiac arrest

New York, Aug 27 (IANS): For women, the most prominent symptom of an impending sudden cardiac arrest is shortness of breath, whereas men may experience chest pain, scientists led by an eminent Indian-origin health expert have revealed. The study from the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, led by sudden cardiac arrest expert Sumeet Chugh, found that 50 per cent of individuals experienced warning signs prior to their cardiac arrest. The Chugh-led team learned that this warning symptom was different for women than it was for men, according to the study published in the peer-reviewed journal Lancet Digital Health. Smaller subgroups of both genders experienced palpitations, seizure-like activity and



flu-like symptoms. "Harnessing warning symptoms to perform effective triage for those who need to make a 911 call could lead to early intervention and prevention of imminent death," said Chugh. "Our findings could lead to a new paradigm for prevention of sudden cardiac death," he added. For this study, investigators used two established and ongoing community-based

studies in the US, each developed by Chugh. Both studies provide Cedars-Sinai investigators with unique, community-based data to establish how to best predict sudden cardiac arrest. "It takes a village to do this work. We initiated the SUDS study 22 years ago and the PRESTO study eight years ago. These cohorts have provided invaluable lessons along the way," said Chugh.

G20 core mandate cannot advance unless Global South concerns not addressed, says Jaishankar

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS): Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar while drawing attention to the Global South said the core mandate of the G20 is to provide economic growth and development, and it cannot advance if the concerns of the Global South are not addressed.

"The core mandate of the G20 is to promote economic growth and development, and that cannot advance if the crucial concerns of the Global South in the areas that are not addressed," Jaishankar said on Sunday while addressing the B20 Summit here on the 'Role of the Global South in the Emerging World 2.0'.

He further said, "For a variety of reasons, the Global South was largely being reduced to being a



consumer rather than a producer. Their contribution very often was to provide resources for manufacturing elsewhere. They only did not reap the full benefits of economic change but often ended up with unviable debts.

"The current focus on the Global South emanates from the global conviction that these are countries that are truly deserving of

special care. These are also societies under exceptional stress which if left unaddressed would become a serious drag on the world economy," he said.

Referring to India's G20 presidency, the Minister said, "When India assumed the G20 presidency last December, we were acutely conscious that most of the Global South would not be at the table when we met.

This mattered very much because the real urgent problems are faced by them." "To discuss their concerns without providing them a fair hearing, appeared extremely unfair. Therefore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to convene the 'Voice of the Global South Summit' in January this year. We heard from 125 countries directly about their challenges and priorities. On their behalf, this has been made a centre of the G20 agenda," he added. Jaishankar further said, "It is an undeniable reality that the international system remains dominated by the Global North. This is naturally reflected in the composition of the G20 as well."

The Minister further said that the Narendra Modi-led government is committed to ease of living.

Pakistani doctor jailed for 18 years in US for attempting to help Daesh

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) A Pakistani doctor, living in the US on a work visa, was sentenced to 18 years in jail for attempting to provide material support to a terrorist organisation, Daesh, media reports said.

The Pakistani doctor identified as Muhammad Masood was formerly employed as a research coordinator at a medical clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, under an H-1B visa, Geo News reported.

"A Rochester man was sentenced today to 216 months in prison, equivalent to 18 years, followed by five years of supervised release for attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organisation," a press release issued by the US Department of Justice stated.

As per the official statement, Masood's activity from January 2020



to March 2020 showed he became a part of the militant outfit and provided material support in carrying out terrorist acts in the US.

"Between January 2020 and March 2020, Masood used an encrypted messaging application to facilitate his travel overseas to join a terrorist organisation," the statement added, Geo News reported.

It further stated that the Pakistani man made multiple statements about his desire to join Daesh and also pledged his allegiance

to the designated terrorist organisation and its leader.

"Masood also expressed his desire to conduct 'lone wolf' terrorist attacks in the US. On February 21, 2020, he bought a plane ticket from Chicago, Illinois, to Amman, Jordan, with plans to travel to Syria from there," Geo News reported.

However, his travel plans changed on March 16, 2020, owing to the border closure by Jordan under the coronavirus travel restrictions.

He then decided to fly

from Minneapolis to Los Angeles, where he would meet a person who he believed would help him with travel via a cargo ship to deliver him to the territory claimed by Daesh.

On March 19, 2020, Masood traveled from Rochester to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) to board a flight bound for Los Angeles, California.

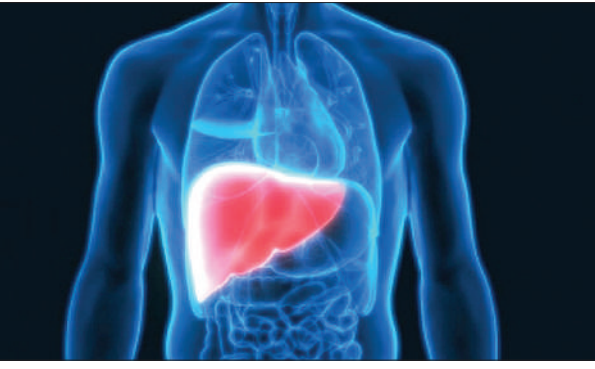
However, he was eventually arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) upon arrival at the airport, Geo News reported.

Masood pleaded guilty last year on August 16 to attempting to provide material support to Daesh.

Senior Judge Paul A. Magnuson sentenced him to 18 years in prison on Friday, after the completion of investigations by the FBI's JTTF.

Health

Gene therapy offers potential new treatment for liver cancer



New York, Aug 27 (IANS) US researchers have found that a type of gene therapy can some day help treat people with hepatocellular carcinoma -- the most common form of liver cancer -- and metabolic diseases like diabetes.

The team led by University of California-Davis discovered a gene therapy that induces the body to create microRNA-22 (miR-22), a naturally occurring molecule, aided in treating mice with hepatocellular carcinoma.

The miR-22 treatment also reduced liver inflammation and produced better survival outcomes with no observable toxicity compared to the US FDA-approved liver cancer treatment lenvatinib.

"This research introduces miR-22 gene therapy as a promising and innovative approach for treating hepatocellular carcinoma," said Yu-Jui Yvonne Wan, Professor from the UC Davis Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

"The study's findings suggest that miR-22 therapy could provide better survival outcomes, enhance anti-tumour immunity, improve metabolism and reduce inflammation."

In the study published in the journal Molecular Therapy, the researchers explained that the miR-22 acts like a brake, stopping the production of certain proteins, including cyclin A, protein deacetylases and hypoxia-inducible factor -- all that can fuel liver cancer growth.

Wan's previous research shows that metabolites produced by the gut microbiome help create miR-22 and have anti-cancer benefits. These metabolites include retinoic acid, short-chain fatty acids, bile acids and vitamin D3. When people have colon or liver cancer, signalling from these metabolites is reduced, which in turn reduces miR-22. This was a clue for Wan that returning miR-22 to a higher level might act as a treatment for liver cancer.

For the study, Wan used an inactivated adenovirus, and introduced miR-22 into mice with a single intravenous injection. The mice treated with the gene therapy were compared with mice treated with the current US FDA-approved drug lenvatinib (administered orally once a day), untreated mice and healthy mice.

Both miR-22 and lenvatinib inhibited the progression of liver cancer compared to untreated mice. However, the miR-22-treated mice had longer survival times without toxicity compared with lenvatinib-treated mice.

Kangana lauds ISRO's female scientists: 'Epitome of simple living, high thinking'

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Actress Kangana Ranaut on Sunday heaped praise on India's leading women scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), who were behind the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission, saying that they are the "epitome of simple living and high thinking."

ISRO has achieved the successful soft landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the Moon.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Kangana shared a happy picture of the ISRO's women scientists, who were dressed in sarees and represented Indian traditional culture.

She captioned the photo: "India's leading scientists, all of them with bindi, sindoor and Mangal sutra... epitome of simple living and high thinking ... true essence of Bhartiyaatya 🇮🇳🇮🇳🇮🇳"



living and high thinking ... true essence of Bhartiyaatya", followed by the emoji of Indian flag.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also announced that the landing point of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission would be known as "Shiv Shakti Point". The PM also said that the day of touchdown of the Vikram Lander on the Moon (August 23) will be celebrated as the "National Space Day" in the country.

Meanwhile, Kangana will be next seen in 'Chandramukhi 2', which also stars Raghava Lawrence and is the sequel to blockbuster Tamil film 'Chandramukhi' starring Rajinikanth and Jyothika.

She has Sarvesh Mewara's 'Tejas' in the pipeline which is expected to release on October 20.

Ananya Panday, Aditya Roy Kapur spotted together again



Mumbai, Aug 27 (IANS) Fuelling their relationship rumours, actors Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur, were once again spotted at Mumbai airport.

The new rumoured couple of the B-town seems to be going for another vacation together as they were papped at the airport's departure area.

In a video shared by a paparazzi, Ananya was seen in a white tank top, she paired it with olive green cargo pants and white sneakers. She completed the look with big transparent aviators, a bracelet and a neck chain. With a no-makeup look, she let her hair down, and was carrying a tote bag.

On the other hand, Aditya looked dapper in a chequered green and blue shirt. He paired it with grey pants and white sneakers. He completed the look with a black round sunglasses and a backpack.

Jason Momoa spotted in Metallica concert alongside John Travolta

Los Angeles, Aug 27 (IANS) Actor Jason Momoa, alongside John Travolta was spotted entering the Metallica moshpit and headbanging with the rest of the fans.

The 'Aquaman' actor, 44, was seen at a Metallica concert. Attending the gig at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, Jason was seen at the venue with Travolta attending the gig.

Heavy metal icons Pantera were among one of the two acts that opened up the show for Metallica, with one of the band members sharing some behind-the-scenes snaps, mirror.co.uk reported.

However, John Travolta too was seen having a blast with the 'Face Off' actor also entering the moshpit and rocking out with



Metallica while even Charlie Benante, who is meeting up with the Pantera Pantera's new touring drummer, took to social

media to share some snaps which revealed the 'Aquaman' actor rocking out hard at the Metallica moshpit. Captioning the post, Benante wrote: "@metallica @panteraofficial @sofiastadium last night was a blast! Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that I'd play there? But it gets better. Talking to @johntravolta about folding 2 slices of pizza together while walking and eating was hilarious. If you've seen the opening of #saturdaynightfever you'll understand." In an early interview, the actor while preparing for his roles for playing Conan the Barbarian and Aquaman had said that heavy metal music was his inspiration.

Abhishek Banerjee-starrer 'Stolen' only Indian film to make it to Venice

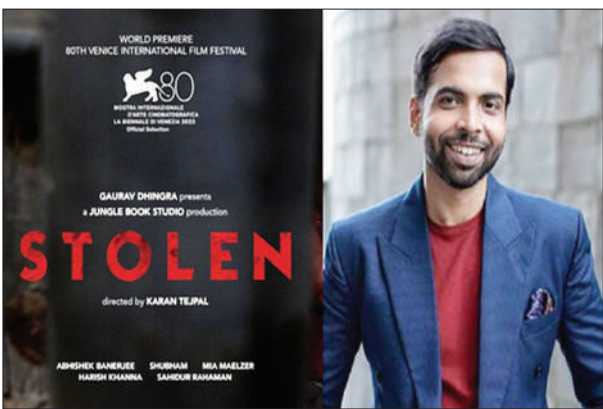
Mumbai, Aug 26 (IANS) The Abhishek Banerjee-starrer 'Stolen' will be showcased at the World Premiere of the Venice Film Festival 2023 as India's sole selection.

A suspense thriller film helmed by debutant Karan Tejjal, 'Stolen' will be showcased alongside impressive international features, notably David Fincher's 'The Killer', Bradley Cooper's 'Maestro' and Sofia Coppola's true-story movie 'Priscilla'.

Reacting to the news, Abhishek said: "'Stolen' representing India at the prestigious Venice Film Festival is undoubtedly a monumental achievement. I am honoured beyond words."

He added: "This recognition underscores the power of storytelling and its ability to transcend borders. I am eagerly anticipating how audiences on the global stage will connect with our film."

Set in a remote rural railway station in India, 'Stolen' tells the gripping tale of a



five-month-old baby abducted from her mother, a woman named Jhumpa Mahato. This dark and grievous incident draws the attention of two urban brothers, Gautam and Raman, leading them into a labyrinth of challenges that test their relationships and convictions.

Describing his character, Abhishek said: "The character I portray is vastly different from who I am in real life. It compelled me to delve into the depths of human emotions and experiences, demanding a level of authenticity and vulnerability that pushed me beyond my comfort zone."

Amid break-up rumours, Malaika shares thoughts about 'a beautiful soul'

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Amid her break up rumours with actor Arjun Kapoor, actress and model Malaika Arora on Sunday shared a new post that reads: "beautiful thoughts build a beautiful soul."

On August 26, Malaika had unfollowed Arjun's family members including father Boney Kapoor, sisters Anshula, Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor. However, she is still following Sonam Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor.

She even shared a cryptic message on her Instagram story which read: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." Malaika then shared another post featuring two sunglasses kept on a dining table and wrote: "Sunny days r here again."

Arjun also took to Instagram Stories, and had shared a cryptic post, which read as: "Garbage, the one thing we can always count on



in this world." Now, on Sunday morning, Malaika dropped a quote on Instagram Stories, which read as: "Beautiful thoughts build a beautiful soul. GOOD MORNING."

Besides, on International Dog Day on Saturday, Malaika had



shared an adorable video with her pet dog Casper. She captioned the Reel: "#InternationalDogDay: I couldn't have asked for a better companion to spend my shoot days with. Isn't he such a natural? Celebrating today and everyday with my superstar, Casper." Arjun took to the comment

section of the post and wrote: "The real star of ur life #casper", and "handsome boy".

However, neither Arjun nor Malaika have addressed the breakup rumour yet. Before dating Arjun, Malaika was married to actor-director Arbaaz Khan - the brother of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan.

After getting married in 1998, they announced their separation in March 2016, and got officially divorced in May 2017.

On the work front, Malaika was seen in the 2022 film 'An Action Hero', in a special appearance in the song 'Aap Jaisa Ko'. The movie stars Ayushmann Khurrana and Jaideep Ahlawat in the lead.

Arjun was last seen in action thriller film 'Kutty', directed by Aasmaan Bhardwaj. He will be next seen in 'The Lady Killer', which is a noir thriller film, also starring Bhumi Pednekar. Arjun also has 'Meri Patni Ka Remake' in the pipeline.

Sunny Deol: India's Marvel hero; Hollywood to note

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Just out of the success of his 'Gadar 2', Sunny Deol is grabbing headlines all round. The beline at his office has started again after almost two decades to sign him up.

After all, heroes like Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn and Aamir Khan are all knocking on the sixties and have been ruling the roost in the Hindi film industry. Unfortunately, lately their careers have remained fickle. Consistency is lacking in the box-office outcome of their films.

Just when the filmmakers contemplate giving up on them, they turn up one successful film which gives them another couple of years of career extension. Of course this success enjoys the added advantage of inflated box-office figures. Let alone the public, but even other filmmakers get taken in by these!

To coincide with Sunny's success with 'Gadar 2', there was bad news for him. His

family property in the prime Mumbai location of Juhu, Sunny Villa, was put on the auction block by the Bank of Baroda for liquidation, for loan recoveries through a public notice in mainstream newspapers. The notice was, of course, withdrawn within 24 hours.

Sunny Villa has seen a glorious past. So here is some inside information on the property. Sunny Villa, spread over just about 600 square metres, was once a very happening place, full of life.

Sunny Villa is located in a prime location among prime properties in Juhu. It accommodates a recording studio and an editing suite, along with a preview theatre, above which is located Sunny's office and a personal suite. On the ground floor, there's an open air cafeteria and offices in the front. Sunny Villa had seen its golden days till the end of 2000. The recording studio was the most sought after, bookings were rarely available. The front area remained always crowded



with people of all hues. It looked like a jamboree of the who's who in the film trade. It was a melting pot.

At least two films I know of were planned and made using the outer premises of Sunny Villa. These were producers who had no permanent address and no office. They operated using the premises. No tables or chairs, all the business was transacted 'khade khade'. They not only planned, but also completed their films.

One of these films was 'Deewana', the film that launched Shah Rukh Khan to stardom! Three first-time aspiring producers met, planned and completed their film. The other film was Vinay Sinha's Rajkumar Santoshi-directed 'Andaz Apna Apna'. There may have been a few more.

Sunny Deol was a sought-after actor, launched with his home production, 'Betaab', in 1983, a hit, and then consolidating his career with another love story, 'Sohni Mehwal'. He came up with an intermittent big hit such as

'Tridev', 'Ghayaal', 'Narsimha' and 'Damini'. In the year 1989, he had as many as eight new releases and in 1993, seven titles. There seemed to be no problem with the money flow.

The problem with male actors in those days was that their palms were always open flat to welcome whatever cash came in. This was the era of 'token money'. Every filmmaker chased a successful star and expressed his intentions by giving these actors a couple of lakh in cash as a token. No record, no receipt, no script.

Most often, this token money never materialised into a solid commitment. There was no system of returning the money. Demands for refund, in case a project did not materialise, fell on deaf ears.

But turning a deaf ear won't work with a Bank of Baroda.

Success has come to Sunny Deol after a long time with 'Gadar 2'. They say in a human's life cycle, fortune favours twice. That is the belief of Indian horoscopy. So, fate gives you an opportunity to avoid past

mistakes and also erase them.

Sunny Deol has given an interview to the Hollywood publication, 'Variety'. Not his fault that publications such as 'Variety' never showed an interest in Indian cinema. Now that they have noticed our film industry, it has become the first step to draw the attention of Hollywood.

But, then, there is the story of 'RRR'. The makers were sure they were a contender among others and went all out to promote the film in the Hollywood film circles.

They held shows and made sure some of the top celebrities watched the film and commended it. You need to appoint a public relations agency in Hollywood (not to be compared with the way PRs work in India). The film has to be lobbied for.

No media was spared, including the street signs, by the 'RRR' makers. After all, they were selling a product which was not one of Hollywood's own. Now, that costs a helluva lot of money, all in dollars.

Expiry week could lead to some selling pressure

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) It was an eventful week at the markets which kept people glued to their seats as to which way they would move. Till Friday, they were positive for the week and then just gave way ending with small losses for the week. However, at the end of the week they have given enough indicators that going forward, markets could weaken further.

Markets gained on two of the five trading sessions, lost on two and remained flat on the fifth, showing how even-stevens things were. BSESENSEX lost 62.15 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 64,886.51 points while NIFTY lost 44.35 points or 0.23 per cent to close at 19,265.80 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.11 per cent, 0.22 per cent and 0.40 per cent. BSEMIDCAP was up 1.50 per cent and BSESMALLCAP was up



2.19 per cent.

Indian Rupee recovered from the previous week's losses and gained 45 paise or 0.54 per cent to close at Rs 82.65. Dow Jones gained on two of the five trading sessions and lost on the remaining three. It was down 153.76 points or 0.45 per cent to close at 34,346.90 points. The US FED Chairman has in a meeting held on Friday

indicated that there could be further rate hikes as inflation continues to remain high. This could be a cause for worry in US markets as well as globally.

In India too, RBI is cautioning on inflation and that they would do whatever is required to keep it under check.

Primary market saw a lot of action. We had one issue open and close for

subscription, while yet another opened and would close next week. We also saw one issue have its roadshow and would open next week. We also had one issue list on the bourses.

The issue from Aeroflex Industries Limited saw its issue getting subscribed 97.78 times. The QIB portion was subscribed 190.97 times, HNI portion 129.56 times and Retail

portion 35.28 times. There were 27.64 lakh applications. The issue was open between Tuesday (August 24) and Thursday (August 26) and the price band was Rs 102-108.

The second issue is from Vishnu Prakash R Punglia which opened on Thursday (August 24) and would close on Monday (August 28). The issue is for 3.12 crore shares and the price band is Rs 94-99. The company is an infrastructure company involved in water projects, Railway projects, Road projects and Irrigation network projects. The company generates close to 85 per cent of its revenues from water supply projects which are executed for state governments, local municipal bodies, Ste PWD bodies and many more. They are integrated players doing EPC (engineering, procurement and construction). The company reported

revenues of Rs 1,171.46 crore for the year ended March 23 and a profit after tax of Rs 90.64 crore. The EPS on a fully diluted basis is Rs 10.41 and the PE band is a very attractive 9.03-9.57. The company has a robust order book of over Rs 3,800 crore which would be executed in about 24-30 months. The issue is very attractively valued and offers scope for appreciation. At the end of the 2nd day of subscription, the issue was overall subscribed 10.63 times with QIB subscribed 0.35 times, HNI subscribed 19.39 times and Retail subscribed 12.89 times. There are 7.61 lakh applications in all.

The issue from TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited which had issued shares at Rs 197 listed on Wednesday (August 23). The issue had received a tepid response during subscription. The share closed day one at Rs

200.95, a gain of Rs 3.95 or 2.00 per cent. It slipped during the balance of the week but still managed to close with minuscule gains at Rs 197.05.

The issue from Rishabh Instruments Limited opens on Wednesday (August 30) and closes on Friday (September 1). The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 75 crore and an offer for sale of 94.58 lakh shares in a price band of Rs 418-441.

The company is a global energy efficiency solution company focused on electrical automation, metering and measurement, precision engineered products, et al. with diverse applications across industries including power, automotive and industrial sectors.

They supply a wide range of electrical measurement and process optimisation equipment, and are engaged in designing, developing and manufacturing, and sale of

devices significantly under their own brand across several sectors. They provide comprehensive solutions to customers looking for cost-effective ways to measure, control, record, analyse and optimise energy and processes through the array of products. They also provide complete aluminium high pressure die casting solutions for customers requiring close tolerance fabrication (such as automotive compressor manufacturers and automation high precision flow meters manufacturers), machining and finishing of precision components.

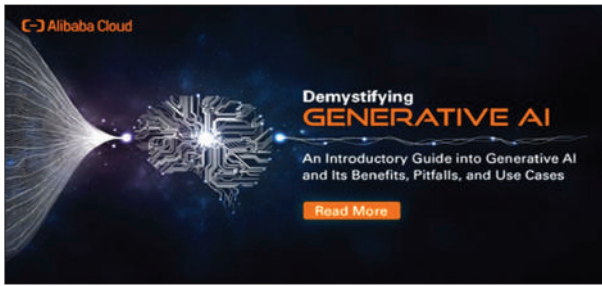
The company reported revenues of Rs 579.78 crore for the year ended March 23 and Rs 49.68 crore profit after tax. The EPS for the year was Rs 12.76 on a fully diluted basis. The working for FY23 was affected due to the chip shortage.

China's Alibaba, S. Korea's Naver launch GPT rival AI models

Hong Kong, Aug 27 (IANS) Chinese internet giant Alibaba has launched new artificial intelligence (AI) models that can understand images and perform more complex conversations.

The two new models, called Qwen-VL and Qwen-VL-Chat, will be open source for researchers, academics and companies worldwide, reports CNBC.

Alibaba said that Qwen-VL can respond to open-ended queries related to different images and generate picture captions. Qwen-VL-Chat caters to more "complex interaction," according to Alibaba, including writing stories and creating images based on photos that a user inputs.



Alibaba's AI models are built upon the company's large language model called Tongyi Qianwen.

Meanwhile, South Korean company Naver has also launched its own large language model HyperCLOVA X along with generative AI-powered search tool Cue and a chat app called Clova X.

HyperCLOVA X is a backbone model of Naver's AI technology based on

supercomputing and data-analysing capabilities and operational experiences from its all-in-one online platform, ranging from Korea's largest search engine to cloud services, email, shopping and other internet products. CLOVA X is a large language model-based AI chatbot and CUE: is a generative AI search service, both of which are powered by HyperCLOVA X.

Cyber-security firm Fortinet lays off employees in sales, business development



San Francisco, Aug 27 (IANS) Global cybersecurity company Fortinet has reportedly laid off employees in roles related to sales, business development and channel partners. According to CRN, Fortinet had 13,677 employees and contractors as of June 30.

Some of the affected employees of the US-based security company took to professional network LinkedIn to post about the job cuts.

"I'm writing to share some difficult news that I was affected today by a round of layoffs at Fortinet, that has also affected many others in the CDR/BDR org," posted Noah Herman, a channel development specialist with Fortinet.

"While it is hard, I understand that this is also difficult for the company and that this isn't personal. Thank you to everyone who supported me and helped me develop during my time in the role," Herman added.

HackerRank lays off 53 employees amid economic uncertainty

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) HackerRank, a leading technology hiring platform, has laid off 53 employees globally amid the ongoing economic uncertainty.

Vivek Ravisankar, Co-founder and CEO of HackerRank, sent an email to employees last week, seen by IANS, saying "we notified 53 people today that we are going to be parting ways".

Ravisankar wrote that the company's financial performance "has not been good for quite some time" and "every one of us is trying super hard to turn it around and it's been a frustrating endeavour".

"Given the uncertainty, the only reasonable financial plan is to



disproportionately shift investing dollars to protecting our customers vs new business, while continuing to innovate to capture the upside when the market does come back up," said Ravisankar.

The company is providing severance, which includes 12 weeks of base pay along with 1 week for every full year of tenure for those who have been with the company for less than 4 years, or 2 weeks for every

full year of tenure for those who have been with them for more than 4 years.

The package includes six-months of COBRA health insurance for employees in the US and an extension of up to 6 months to exercise vested options.

"We want to support them in their job search. Therefore, we are asking them for permission to disclose their names and we will compile a list," Ravisankar wrote in the email. Since the launch in 2022, the platform has helped 2,000 customers transform their hiring process, assessed more than 7 million developers worldwide and "10 per cent of the developers who changed jobs went through our platform" just last year.

Coal Ministry plans pump storage projects on closed mines for hydro energy

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) In a major diversification plan, Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are planning to set up pump storage projects (PSP) on huge tracts of de-coaled (closed mines) lands at their disposal.

According to highly placed sources, the plan to set up such projects in the first phase will be finalised in a month's time, as the central government is quite bullish over such projects.

Part of the coal ministry's ambitious plans is to diversify towards alternate sources of energy and through these pump storage projects, it plans to utilise solar energy to develop hydro projects.

The power ministry earlier this year had come out with guidelines for PSP



initiative and the coal ministry plans to develop such projects based on them, sources informed further.

Under it, the CIL and its subsidiaries will use their closed mines, which have water stored in them, to lift it through solar energy. It will set up reservoirs over such closed mines where the lifted water will be stored. During night time, it

will use the water lifted through solar energy to generate hydro energy.

"We have de-coaled land where underground reservoirs of water are there, while we need to build over ground reservoirs on such mines. We are making plans towards this. In a month, the first phase plan will be ready for PSPs. We want to go for it in a big way," a

ministry source said.

Under PSP, all coal mines, where coal has been evacuated and water is there, will be turned into reservoirs after studying their feasibility and we will make reservoirs above them too. We will pull up the underground water through solar energy and store them in the over ground reservoirs and during night time, generate hydro energy which will run the turbine, the source added.

"Though PSPs are common abroad, it is a novel concept for India as we are thinking on these lines for the first time. A consultant will be appointed by the coal ministry and the action plan will be ready in a month. It's a high priority area," said an official.

India's real estate sector aims for USD 5.8 Trn valuation by 2047

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) India's real estate industry could reach a value of USD 5.8 trillion by 2047, according to a joint report by the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and Knight Frank. The report "Vision 2047" was unveiled during NAREDCO's 25th Silver Jubilee Foundation Day celebration in Hyderabad in the presence of prominent figures, policymakers, industry leaders, and real estate experts.

Residential real estate might contribute USD 3.5 trillion, office real estate around USD 0.43 trillion, and Private Equity (PE) Investments could hit USD 54.3 billion, says the report.

This growth would elevate the real estate sector's contribution to the economy from 7.3 per cent

to 15.5 per cent by 2047.

As India approaches its 100th year of independence in 2047, its economy is projected to range from USD 33 trillion to USD 40 trillion. Speaking at the launch, Rajan Bandelkar, President NAREDCO India said: "Vision 2047, not just for NAREDCO but for Indian Real Estate, is about the roadmap of India's economic growth, and the role of real estate as one of the leading engines of that growth story."

"Significant expansion of the Indian economy by 2047, will be powered by Real Estate. A multifold economic expansion will boost demand across all the asset classes - residential, commercial, warehousing, industrial land developments etc - will grow at a multiplier rate to



accommodate the growing needs of the economy and consumption needs of the individuals," Bandelkar said. The report suggests that Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) could extend beyond offices and retail spaces to include residential, warehousing, and other sectors. Developers may also explore REITs for various asset classes like data centers,

hospitality, and education.

The report anticipates changing income profiles will lead to housing demand across all price categories. While affordable housing will initially be in demand, there will be a gradual shift towards mid and luxury segments. The proportion of lower income households is expected to decrease from 43 per cent to 9 per cent by 2047, resulting in more middle-income.

Not just tomatoes: Wider range of food items drive 7%-plus inflation

New Delhi, Aug 27 (IANS) Staples like cereals and pulses are unlikely to offer relief in the near term amid hardening international prices and subdued sowing domestically.

This raises the likelihood of inflation remaining above 7 per cent in August, said a research report by broking firm, Prabhudas Lilladher.

In July, India witnessed a surge in CPI inflation, reaching a 15-month peak at 7.44 per cent, a significant jump from June's 4.81 per cent. This reveals two primary insights for July's inflation narrative: Firstly, the primary driver of this inflation spike was food

tomatoes. Instead, a wider range of food items, including cereals, pulses, and spices, have contributed to the price pressures.

Climate risks of irregular weather and rainfall patterns along with a pick-up in global food inflation resulted in domestic food prices presenting an absolute shocker in July 2023, the report said.

"El Nino can turn out to be a potential potboiler for food inflation in coming months. We have seen sharp increase in food inflation in last two months mainly due to damage to a few crops and unseasonal weather pattern," the report said.

The sowing of pulses is down by 9.2 per cent, while that of oilseeds is lower by 1.7 per cent. It is likely to impact the production of moong, toor, urad and spices.



"Dry climate in the coming couple of months can impact height, density and yields of pulses in a major way as their cultivation is done more in the rain-fed areas. We note that prices of some of the spices are on the boil and don't rule out higher prices of pulses and oilseeds," the

report said. "We believe high inflation can be a political hot potato in an election year, forcing govt to slow down capex," it added.

In August, the monsoon has fallen significantly short of the long-term average, registering a deficit of 30 per cent, Motilal Oswal

Financial Services said in a report. The southern regions of India, in particular, have experienced notably dry conditions.

After starting the month on a positive note with a 5 per cent surplus due to a wet July, the monsoon took a downturn in August, with an overall deficit of 7 per cent as on August 20, the report said.

While the Northwest (6 per cent above normal) has received above normal rainfall, Central India (2 per cent below normal), South Peninsula (13 per cent below normal) and Eastern and Northeastern regions have witnessed deficient rainfall patterns (20 per cent below normal).

El Nino has strengthened from a "weak" to a "moderate" state and the latest update from the US weather agencies said there

is a 66 per cent chance of it developing into a strong event later this year.

Kharif sowing as of August 18 stands at 0.1 per cent higher than last year. The area under paddy cultivation is now 4.3 per cent higher than last year. However, the area under pulses is still 9.2 per cent lower than last year. Production of jute, cotton, and oilseeds is also lower.

Coarse cereals (1.6 per cent YoY) and sugarcane (1.3 per cent YoY) continue to do well, the report said.

Lower irrigation cover across the major states could have a more pronounced impact on the production of pulses. Inflation in pulses has nearly doubled in the past five months. Deficient rainfall, and consequently lower rice and pulses sowing, has pushed prices

higher.

Rice constitutes around 4.4 per cent and pulses have a weight of 6 per cent in the overall CPI basket.

The extent of the jump in food inflation and other upside risks to inflation can compel the RBI to go in for at least a symbolic rate hike to anchor inflationary expectations, said Sujan Hajra, Chief Economist and Executive Director, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers.

This is even more likely because the RBI views inflation as primarily a monetary phenomenon requiring monetary policy action to control it, irrespective of whether it is supply or demand sided.

These have adverse implications for the financial markets, Hajra said.

The case for a rate cut in

the next 12 months seems to have vanished with adverse consequences for the financial markets, including debt and equity.

Apart from high food inflation, the sharp jump in global crude oil and grain prices are serious concerns. While edible oil inflation is currently extremely benign, the global El Nino effect can change the situation. Progressive softening of core inflation is a silver lining.

At 7.4 per cent in July, India recorded the highest inflation in the last 15 months. On an annualised basis, food inflation jumped nearly 70 per cent and fuel more than 20 per cent, resulting in an over 50 per cent jump in non-core inflation. The silver lining included the year on year fall in fuel and core inflation, Hajra added.



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