

DSPL-87



ମହିଳା ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ପାଇଁ ସୁଗାନ୍ତୁକାରୀ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ



ମାନ୍ୟବର ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ
ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ

ସୁଭଦ୍ରା

ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ଅଧୀନରେ ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳାମାନଙ୍କୁ
ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ସହାୟତା ରାଶି

୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ପାଇବେ
ମୋଟ ୫୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା

ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ, ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ଜୀ



ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ
ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ

- ▶ ଉପକୃତ ହେବେ ୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଊର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ମହିଳା
- ▶ ପାଞ୍ଚ ବର୍ଷରେ ବ୍ୟୟ ହେବ ୫୫ ହଜାର ୮୨୫ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା

ପ୍ରମୁଖ ବିଶେଷତା

୨୧ ବର୍ଷ କିମ୍ବା ତଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଏବଂ ୬୦ ବର୍ଷରୁ କମ୍ ବୟସର ସମସ୍ତ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ମହିଳା ହେବେ ଉପକୃତ

ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଓ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସର୍ବାଧିକ ପରିମାଣର ଡିଜିଟାଲ କାର୍ଡର କରୁଥିବା ୧୦୦ ଜଣ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ରାଶି

ବାର୍ଷିକ ଦୁଇଟି କିସ୍ତିରେ ୧୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ
ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରୀୟ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମା ଏବଂ ଅନୁର୍ଜାତୀୟ ମହିଳା ଦିବସ (ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୮ ତାରିଖ)ରେ
୫,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଲେଖାଏଁ ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଆଧାର ପେମେଣ୍ଟ୍ କ୍ରିଜ୍ ସିଷ୍ଟମ୍ (APBS) ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ଆଧାର ସଂଯୋଜିତ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଖାତାକୁ ସିଧାସଳଖ ଅର୍ଥରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ



ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

You are an imaginative and enterprising person, and today you may taste success. Ganesh says that you are ambitious but warns you not to take on more work than you can handle. You are positive about your capabilities, so work sincerely and have faith in God.

TAURUS

This is one of those days when not goes well, warns Ganesh. No matter how hard you try you may not be able to keep problems and difficulties at bay. You may not be pleased or comfortable doing what has been assigned, or required, and could simply sit sullenly, doing nothing.

GEMINI

Your mind will be uneasy and anxious due to some reason today. You will be unable to express your anxieties. You will be able to secure the love of your partner by sharing your feelings. You need to let go of the past and strive to keep on moving forward with confidence, says Ganesh.

CANCER

restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesh. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

LEO

You will seek the opinion of others in a lot of matters today. You need to patiently listen to others and keep your lips sealed during the course of conversations today. Your self-confidence may take a beating today, hence do not take any important decisions. It is time for a major change in your work or field of work, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesh warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will showcase your ability and skills today in your work field and impress people. You will develop and express your inner love for art and artistic things and you will purchase a new work of art today. Ganesh showers you with all his blessings.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesh, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as ever, a get away with friends may be liberating and relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS

A day to full of caution, warns Ganesh. There are chances that your heart will find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to be handled with care. Also, it's time to guard your reputation.

CAPRICORN

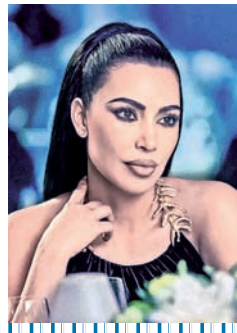
Forced to some backbreaking work today, you will feel exhausted by the end of the day. It is a cut-throat competition when it comes to the business world. Your arch rivals are looking out for one small opportunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less. You understand their moves.

AQUARIUS

Academically, you have performed exceptionally well, and Ganesh congratulates you for that. You will inspire and motivate a number of people, and may create a fan following, too. This, however, doesn't mean that you throw your weight around.

PISCES

The day will be exceptional for working people as the planets seemed to be aligned perfectly, portends Ganesh. You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today. Those looking to pursue further studies in foreign countries will also make progress and come closer to fulfilling their dreams.



KIM KARDASHIAN BATS FOR CLEMENCY

When reality television star Kim Kardashian is not being chased by the paparazzi, she likes to work towards making society inclusive. The reality star recently approached the authorities for clemency of the prisoners of the state who may be now ready to get absorbed in society.

TARANTINO IS BIG FAN OF THE TOY STORY TRILOGY

Legendary filmmaker Quentin Tarantino said that he doesn't watch all animated stories. "I don't watch all the animated movies and stuff, but I'm a big fan of the Toy Story trilogy," he said in a clip that has since gone viral on X, formerly known as Twitter.



'Army upbringing makes a difference'

Mumbai: Rhea Chakraborty returned with another episode on her podcast, *Chapter 2*. The actress shared how she withstood the intense public scrutiny she faced following the unexpected death of her partner, actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in 2020.

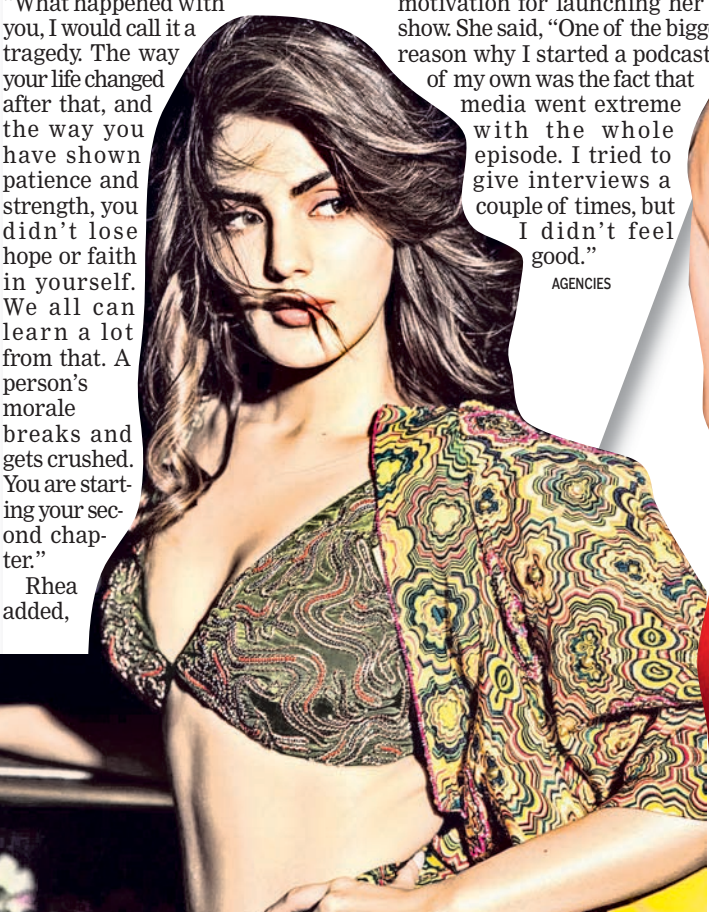
Actor Aamir Khan complimented Rhea's bravery in their conversation in the most recent episode. He said, "What happened with you, I would call it a tragedy. The way your life changed after that, and the way you have shown patience and strength, you didn't lose hope or faith in yourself. We all can learn a lot from that. A person's morale breaks and gets crushed. You are starting your second chapter."

Rhea added,

"I think army upbringing also makes a difference. Because you know life is tough. You have seen it from childhood that when dad leaves, there's a possibility he may not come back. You are taught to fight and never give up. To always stay hopeful. It's just inherent in your DNA. No one can defeat you easily."

Rhea also talked about her true motivation for launching her own show. She said, "One of the biggest reasons why I started a podcast of my own was the fact that media went extreme with the whole episode. I tried to give interviews a couple of times, but I didn't feel good."

AGENCIES



Rakul's pick for Lord Krishna

Mumbai:

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who was recently seen in *Indian 2*, has shared her opinion on the ideal hero to essay the role of Lord Krishna if Mahabharata is adapted into a movie.

When asked by this agency if Mahabharata was being made into a movie, who does she think should essay the role of Krishna, she said, "Lord Krishna is such a multifaceted character, wise, mischievous, charming, and deeply spiritual. I think someone who can balance all these traits with grace would be ideal. Perhaps someone like Hrithik Roshan, or even Mahesh Babu, who can bring both the playful and profound sides of Krishna to life on screen with his energy and versatility."

Talking about her favourite delicacy and prasad during Jannashtami, she said, "I haven't personally cooked Prasad on Jannashtami, but the memories of relishing the special Prasad and food prepared at home are unforgettable. My favourite has always been the makkhan mishri. It's something I always look forward to every year."

IAN S

Chinta O Chetana's Barsha-2024 concludes



Former Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan receiving Neelachakra Award from the dignitaries

Bhubaneswar: The 47th edition of the three-day dance and music extravaganza Barsha-2024, the monsoon festival, organised by the state's prominent socio-cultural organisation Chinta O Chetana at Rabindra Mandap, concluded Tuesday.

Former Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan was the chief guest on the occasion, while musician Laxmikanta Palit, President of Chinta O Chetana Sahadeb Sahoo, Secretary Surendra Das, K.I.T founder Achyuta Samanta, and Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Babu Singh were in attendance. Harichandan was conferred with the Neelachakra award on the occasion.

The first show of the concluding evening was by Chimmay Kumar Das of Cuttack, who performed Shri Hari Stotram while Sonali Das and Sambhabi Mohapatra performed Abhinaya on popular Jagannath Bhajan Pacharile Radhikanku Dine Nandabala by legendary singer Bhikari Bala.

After that, a group dance depicting *Ramayana* by Nupur dance group led by Niranjan



A performance by Sonali and Sambhabi

Rout and group was performed.

Earlier, Governor Raghuraj Das had inaugurated the festival Sunday by lighting the ceremonial lamp and offering garlands on the portraits of former Chief Ministers of Odisha, Nandini Satpathy, Biju Pattnaik, and Harekrishna Mahatab.

Odisha's only homegrown daily Orissa POST and Odia daily Dhartri were the print media partners of the event.

PNN

Barnali Hota: Our music deserves to be heard globally

Bhubaneswar: Emerging Odia singer Barnali Hota added yet another feather to her hat by becoming the second runner-up at *Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash*, a prestigious national level singing competition. Her mellifluous voice and striking style captivated both the judges and the audience throughout the competition. Her rooted numbers such as *Utha Kankala*, *Furr Kina Udigala Bani*, *Maira Dada*, and *Kene Gheni Jaucha* have gone viral.

Reacting to the success, the singer

said, "Thank you, Odisha, for your unwavering support and boundless love. Representing our state's vibrant folk traditions on a national platform has been an incredible honour. I carried the pride of our culture with me every step of the way," she said.

Looking ahead, she vows to continue working tirelessly to promote Odia folk music, with the goal of spreading its beauty and significance across India and beyond. "Our music deserves to be heard globally, and I am committed to

making that a reality," she added.

Barnali's journey began at 11 when she participated in the *Saregamapa Lil Champs*. She further showcased her talent in 2017 on *Dil Hai Hindustani*, leaving a lasting impression with her powerful performances.

Airing on DD National, India's first folk music reality show, *Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash*, featured contestants from all 28 states and eight Union Territories.

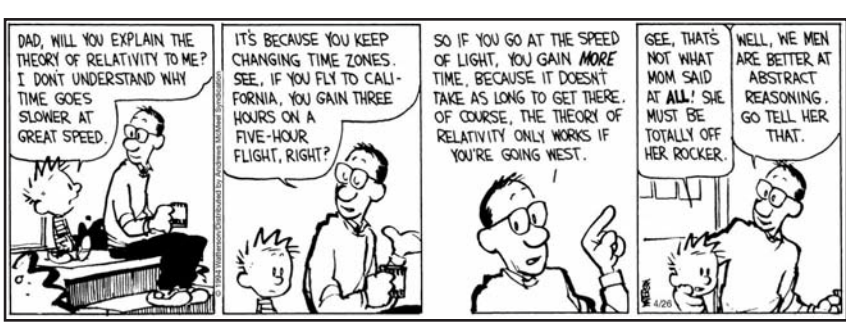
MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP



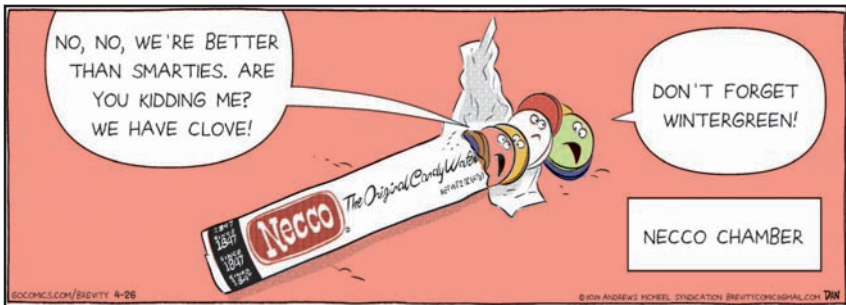
PEANUTS



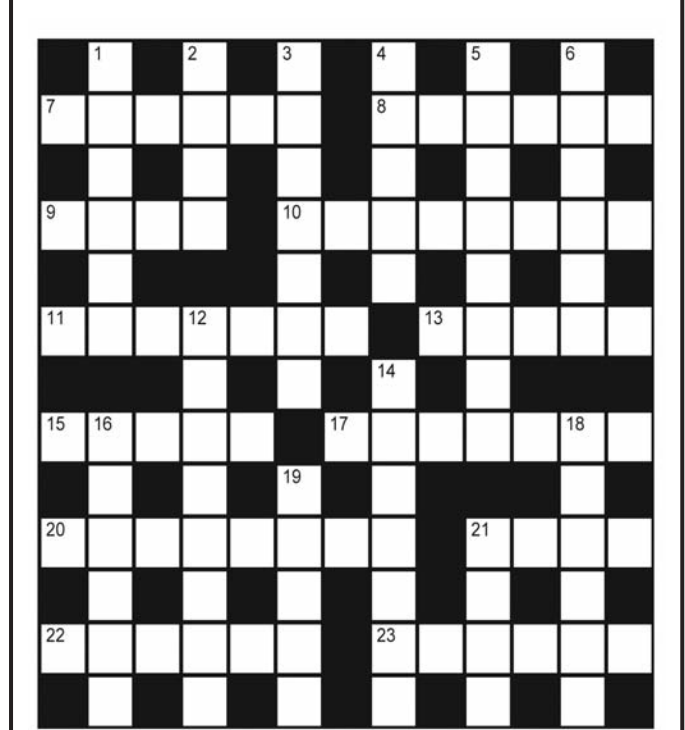
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



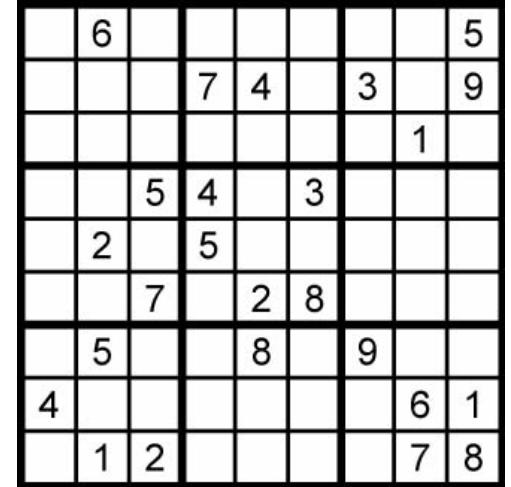
FUN post CROSSWORD



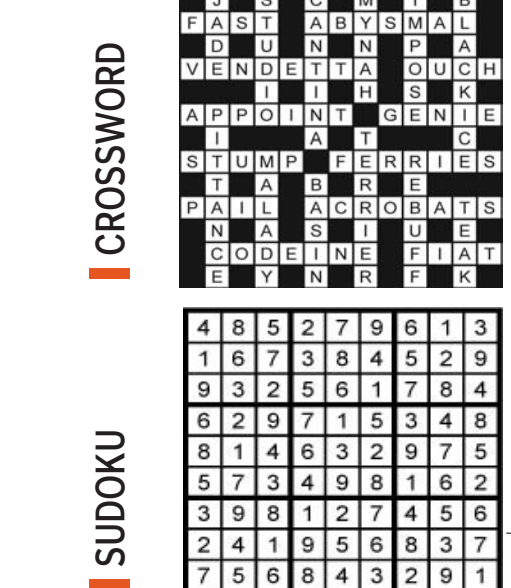
- Across**
- 7 Kind of school
 - 8 Flips over
 - 9 Washday buildup
 - 10 Kitchen aid (3,5)
 - 11 Pickle
 - 13 Banquet
 - 15 Nimble
 - 17 Type of pudding
 - 20 Heart attack
 - 21 Cast off
 - 22 Winged messengers
 - 23 Call forth
 - 6 Common vipers
 - 12 Command to Fido
 - 14 Long-horned grasshopper
 - 16 Like some beef
 - 18 Impertinent
 - 19 Cantina offering
 - 21 Goalie's feat

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

'No free power'
No announcement made on giving free electricity upto 300 units, says Dy CM KV Singh Deo

DOWNTOWN | P3

Russia warns West
Russia warns the United States Tuesday of World War III for allowing Ukraine to strike deep into the country

INTERNATIONAL | P8

Under scrutiny
US Customs and Border Protection detains \$43mn in shipments of Indian equipment under law banning goods made with forced labour

BUSINESS | P9

Shah youngest ICC chairman
Jay Shah, 35, becomes the youngest ICC chairman as he is elected unopposed after no one else files nomination

SPORTS | BACK PAGE



FLOOD FURY: A flooded area after heavy monsoon rainfall, in Vadodra, Tuesday

Battleground Kolkata

Kolkata, August 27: Large-scale violence on the streets of Kolkata and adjacent Howrah marred the cries for justice for the RG Kr hospital victim Tuesday afternoon after protestors, aiming to reach the West Bengal state secretariat, Nabanna, fought pitched battles with the police at multiple stoppage points.

The violence, which lasted for nearly four hours, led to several injuries on both sides with senior police officers and women protestors among those who were hurt. More than 200 people were arrested from across the state, police said. Protestors took to incessant pelting of stones and glass bottles on the police at several spots. Fifteen Kolkata Police and 14 state police force personnel were injured in the clashes.

Police resorted to large-scale lathi-charge, unleashed water cannons and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the aggressive crowd who poured in from multiple converging points at Nabanna.

BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari alleged that over 160 protestors, including 17 women, suffered injuries in the police action.



Condemning the police action on protestors, BJP's Bengal unit president Sukanta Majumdar called a 12-hour Bangla bandh Wednesday. Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari urged Governor CV Ananda Bose to "impose President's Rule" in the state.

The 'Nabanna Abhijan' call was given by an unregistered student body 'Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj' and a dissident state government employees' platform 'Sangrami Joutha Mancha'.

The West Bengal government urged people not to respond to BJP's 6am-6pm general strike.

It issued a notification stating that all government offices would remain open and all employees, except those facing agencies or are on leave, would have to report for duty August 28 or face show-cause for unauthorised absence.

Mohanlal steps down as AMMA president

Thrissur, August 27: Just over two months after being elected president of the Association of Malayalam Movies Artists (AMMA) for the third successive term, superstar Mohanlal Tuesday announced he was stepping down and the rest of the 17-member executive committee also quit, in wake of criticism of the film body over the revelations made in the Justice Hema Committee report. It was at the AMMA's annual general body in June that Mohanlal secured his third three-year term through the ballot. **P6**



We thought it would be prudent to mention this

Why pick & choose: SC

New Delhi, August 27: In a relief to BRS leader K Kavitha, the Supreme Court Tuesday granted her bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, while questioning the Central agencies over the fairness of their probe and asking if they were free to "pick and choose" an accused.

The apex court said Kavitha's custody was no longer required as both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have completed their probe against her. The Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) lawmaker from Telangana has been in jail for over five months.

A bench of Justices B R Gawai and K V Viswanathan noted since 493 witnesses were to be examined and 50,000 pages of documents were to be considered



in the two cases, there was no likelihood of the trial being concluded in the near future.

"The appellant (Kavitha) is directed to be released forthwith on bail... on furnishing bail bonds in the sum of ₹10 lakh in each of the cases," the bench said, while allowing her appeals against the July 1 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had denied her bail in the two cases.

Later in the day, a Delhi court issued release warrants for Kavitha, paving the way for her release from jail. While quashing the high court verdict, the apex court said Kavitha shall not make any attempt to tamper with evidence or influence the witnesses and shall deposit her passport with the trial judge.

It said she shall regularly attend the trial court proceedings and cooperate to ensure expeditious disposal of the trial.

The two federal agencies came in for some sharp criticism over the "fairness" of their investigations, with the apex court ob-

191 illegal City buildings to be razed

Bhubaneswar, August 27: The state government has issued orders to raze 191 illegal apartments and buildings in the Capital city here, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krishna Chandra Mohapatra told the Assembly Tuesday.

In a written reply to BJD legislator Ranendra Pratap Swain, Mohapatra said a total of 491 cases were registered against apartments and buildings allegedly constructed illegally in the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) area.

Of those, demolition orders have been issued in 191 cases while 63 cases have been dropped and the remaining 237 cases are under trial, he said.

Similarly, 1,444 cases have been registered against illegal constructions in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area. Of that, 451 cases have been disposed of, while 993 are under trial, he added.

Reportedly, Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das had earlier stated that the BMC would demolish unauthorised apartments in the Capital city if the state government ensured adequate compensation in this regard.

Das said many builders had sold the plots and fled, leaving the civic body with limited control over the unauthorised constructions. These constructions were earlier under the jurisdiction of panchayats but have now come under the BMC's control. That apart, numerous natural water bodies have been encroached upon, leading to severe drainage problems in the areas, she said.

"BMC will undertake demolition of these unauthorised structures in the event the government agreed for compensation. Following the receipt of relevant official orders, the BMC will take the necessary actions to demolish the illegal structures," she added.



servicing "Sorry to see this state of affairs." "You will pick and choose anyone?" it asked, while referring to one of the witnesses whose statements were read out in the court during the arguments.

"The prosecution has to be fair. You can't pick and choose anyone. What is this fairness? A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness," the bench said, adding, "Tomorrow you will pick up anyone as you choose and leave anyone as you choose as an accused? Very fair and reasonable discretion!"

When Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the probe agencies, referred to some witnesses who have claimed Kavitha's involvement in the alleged scam, the court told him it would be compelled to "observe everything" if he tried to pull it into the details.

"We will have to observe about the fairness and impartiality of the investigating agencies," it said, adding, "If you want those observations, you argue more". **P6**

'SUBHADRA' FOR MORE THAN 1 FAMILY MEMBER

Bhubaneswar, August 27: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Tuesday said that all eligible women, including more than one member of a family, will be able to get the benefits of Subhadra Yojana.

According to the guidelines of the scheme, each beneficiary will receive ₹10,000 per year in two equal instalments. Over five years, each eligible woman will receive a total of ₹50,000.

Parida said all eligible women of 21-60 age group will get the benefit. "A total of 1.37 crore women of this age group are there in Odisha. Excluding the higher income and economically sound, about 1.08 crore women will be covered under the scheme," she said.

If there are two or three eligible women in one family, all will get the benefit, she said. "All eligible women including those getting widow pension and scholarship from the government will get the assistance," she added.

Mohanta wins RS bypoll unopposed



Bhubaneswar, August 27: BJP candidate Mamata Mohanta Tuesday returned to the Rajya Sabha after winning unopposed in the by-election, which was necessitated by her resignation as a BJD MP and switching sides.

Mohanta was declared elected unopposed as there was no candidate in the fray when the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended, officials said.

The Opposition BJD and Congress did not field any candidates. However, BJP fielded Jagannath Pradhan as a 'dummy candidate', but he withdrew his nomination papers before the end of the deadline, paving the way for Mohanta's re-election.

Chief Minister Maohan Charan Majhi congratulated Mohanta in the Assembly after the result was declared. Mohanta, a leader of the Kudumi community from Mayurbhanj district, had quit the BJD and resigned as its Rajya Sabha MP in July with 18 months left of her tenure, forcing the by-poll. She switched over to the BJP, which nominated her as its candidate.

Brazilian moms take lead in securing medical marijuana

Sao Paulo, August 27: The 4-year-old boy struggled to balance while walking through the living room. His mother's eyes attentively followed his every move. Then a seizure knocked him to the ground, the dull thud of his small body echoing through the home.

On this July morning in Guarujá, a coastal city in Brazil's state of Sao Paulo, Murillo quickly regained his senses as his mom, Janaina Silva, cradled him.

"From five minutes of agony, it's now just seconds," Silva said, recalling how only three months ago her son's seizures would have lasted much longer. Murillo was diagnosed as a baby with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a type of epilepsy with multiple types of seizures that cause stiff-



ening and dropping of the head and limbs.

His shorter — and less intense — seizures are a result of a steady dose of liquid cannabidiol (CBD) that Silva can acquire for free through the state public health system. It's a step the federal government has failed to take, as legislation to regulate medical cannabis at the national level has stalled in Congress for years.

In drugstores, a 30 milliliter bottle (1 fluid ounce) of the CBD that Murillo's pediatrician prescribed for his condition costs as much as 900 reais (\$180) — more than half Silva's monthly wages as an office assistant. Since June, she has spent zero on Murillo's CBD medication. Twice a day, she drips the oil into the boy's mouth, and each bottle lasts about 45 days.

Sao Paulo, Brazil's most populous state with over 44 million people, was the first to enact legislation making CBD available for free.

The law was a win for Brazilian moms who have led a decade-long campaign to secure access for their sick children. They have fought through civil disobedience, court petitions,

tain some CBD when her daughter's neurologist smuggled it inside her luggage when returning from an overseas trip. Later on, with the help of a lawyer, she obtained special court permission to start growing marijuana in her backyard in Sao Paulo city, and has been producing the extract for her daughter and 200 other patients.

In 2019, Caio França, a center-left state lawmaker drafted the country's first bill aiming to allow families to request medication through the public health care system. The bill passed in late 2022, with nearly two-thirds support from the state's legislature.

Recreational marijuana is still prohibited in Brazil, but following years of deliberations, the Supreme Court in June decriminalized it for personal use, up to a maximum-allowed quantity.

One of the mothers leading the charge is Maria Aparecida Carvalho, 56, a former bank employee. Her daughter, Clárian, was diagnosed at age 10 with Dravet Syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy that can cause cardiorespiratory arrest and lead to sudden death. She was able to ob-

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	81711.76	↑ 13.65
NIFTY	25017.75	↑ 7.15
DOLLAR	83.92	↑ ₹0.02
EURO	93.79	↑ ₹0.08
GOLD	₹71,919	↓ ₹120
SILVER	₹85,376	↓ ₹292

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.7°C	31.0°C
Min Temp	23.5°C	22.5°C
Humidity	95%	98%
Rainfall	27.6mm	88.8mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of one/two spells of rain

national

of the day quote

They sent me, Sanjay Singh to jail and then they sent Arvind Kejriwal behind bars in a fake case. They thought that they won't allow us to come out of jail before Delhi elections

MANISH SISODIA | SENIOR AAP LEADER

The attack on the family members of Micheal Lamjathang, a leader of the Thadou community, one of the oldest among the ethnic tribes of Manipur as well as a BJP spokesperson, by vandalizing his house was an act of cowardice

N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

He (Lalu Prasad Yadav) had put forth strong arguments for the caste census, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved it. Following this approval, the parliament functioned smoothly

TEJASHWI YADAV | FORMER BIHAR DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

Kiran Choudhry elected to RS

Chandigarh: BJP leader Kiran Choudhry was declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana after the deadline for withdrawal of nomination ended at 3 pm Tuesday. Choudhry, a former Haryana minister, had filed her nomination for the bypoll Wednesday. Being the lone candidate in the contest, she was declared elected unopposed. The winning candidate was given a certificate at 4.33 pm by Returning Officer Saket Kumar for the bypoll at the Haryana Vidhan Sabha secretariat here.

Port, dock workers' unions defer strike

Mumbai: Port and dock workers' unions of major ports have deferred their indefinite strike proposed from Wednesday, official sources said Tuesday. The decision came after an agreement between representatives of workers' unions and ports management on workers' demands at a marathon meeting in the national capital Tuesday, they said. Subsequently, strike notices were served by the unions to administrators of the respective ports August 12. The committee is headed by Mumbai Port Authority Chairman Rajeev Jalota.

Bodies of 2 girls found hanging

Farakkhabad (UP): The bodies of two teenaged girls were found hanging from a tree in a mango orchard outside a village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehgarh Tuesday, with police launching an investigation into what it prima facie believed to be a case of double suicide. The Dalit girls, aged 18 and 15, had left their homes Monday around 10 pm to visit a nearby temple on the occasion of Janmashtami but did not return, police said.

Four booked for raping minor

Kota (Raj): Four persons were booked for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl inside her house here, police said Tuesday. The incident took place on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, police said, adding two of the accused are residents of Sheopur in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. Efforts are underway to nab the accused who have been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act.



We have requested that warnings and awareness announcements be made across all metro stations, bus stations and other public transport hubs to inform people about dengue prevention

SAURABH BHARADWAJ | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

B SRINIVASAN APPOINTED AS NSG CHIEF

Senior IPS officer B Srinivasan was Tuesday appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism force, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Srinivasan is a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre. He is currently serving as the director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir



METOO MOVEMENT IN MOLLYWOOD

Mohanlal resigns as AMMA chief

The mass resignation of Mohanlal and other office-bearers of AMMA comes as the Kerala film industry grapples with revelations by some female actors who have narrated their traumatic experiences through the media, following the disturbing findings of the Hema Committee report, which exposed widespread atrocities against women in the Malayalam film industry



sued a press statement announcing the mass resignation of its office-bearers, including its president Mohanlal. The veteran actor, in his capacity as president, reportedly convened an online meeting of A.M.M.A members to discuss the unprecedented dilemma being faced by the association, before taking a decision about the resignation of its executive panel members. A.M.M.A said that the current administrative panel has resigned as such, taking moral responsibility for the allegations. Following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report, allegations of sexual assault and harassment came out on social, visual and print media against some office-bearers of A.M.M.A, including actor Siddique who quit as its general secretary. The present executive panel was resigning taking moral responsibility in view of these allegations against some office-bearers, A.M.M.A explained. A new administrative panel will be elected within two months after



convening a general body meeting, it said, adding that the outgoing panel will continue temporarily to carry forward the association's various ongoing programmes without hindrances until the next general body meeting. Earlier in the day, Suresh Gopi accused the media of misleading public perception about the film industry with regard to the allegations of sexual harassment against actors and directors snowballing into a controversy. The state BJP leadership disagreed with his stand. Gopi, when asked about the allegations against actor and CPI(M) MLA Mukesh, said the issue was before court and it would take a decision. "You (media) are not only making people fight each other for your own gains, you are also misleading public perception. The complaints are in the form of allegations at the moment. What are you telling people? Are you the court? You are not. The court will decide. Let the court decide," Gopi told reporters in Thrissur.

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi/Thrissur, August 27: The Malayalam film industry, long hailed for its artistic prowess, was shaken to its core Tuesday as Mohanlal, the celebrated actor and president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (A.M.M.A), resigned alongside other top officials amid fierce backlash over some of its members facing sexual abuse allegations. The day also saw the Congress and the BJP stepping up their demands for actor-politician Mukesh's resignation as CPI(M) MLA, citing the gravity of the accusations against him. Meanwhile, Malayalam superstar and Union Minister Suresh Gopi faced criticism from within his own party, the BJP, for his perceived defence of Mukesh, who faces similar abuse allegations, as well as for allegedly mishandling media personnel in his constituency, Thrissur, Tuesday. On Tuesday, A.M.M.A, the influential actors' union, is-

Only free-ranging cheetah in Kuno dies

Sheopur (MP)/New Delhi, August 27: The only free-ranging cheetah in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park has died, with officials suggesting drowning to be the primary cause of death. Wildlife activists, however, suspect poaching although there were no external injuries on the Namibian cheetah Pawan, found lying near the edge of a swollen nullah amid bushes around 10:30 am Tuesday. According to a statement, veterinarians were alerted and a closer inspection revealed that the front half of the cheetah's body, including the head, was submerged in water. The incident comes as India is expediting efforts to bring a new batch of cheetahs by the end of the year. "We are actively engaging with South Africa on the matter. A delegation will visit the country in late September or early October to hold ground-to-ground negotiations," an official from the National Tiger Conservation Authority told PTI Tuesday. "We have commu-



nicated to South Africa that we want to expedite efforts to bring another batch of cheetahs by the end of the year as per the recommendation of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee and in accordance with the action plan," the official added.

BJP, Cong trade barbs after bail to Kavitha



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, August 27: The BJP and Congress in Telangana traded barbs Tuesday soon after the Supreme Court granted bail to BRS MLC K. Kavitha in the Delhi excise policy case. While the BJP claimed that the Congress and its advocates secured bail for Kavitha, the grand old party alleged that she got bail due to a connivance between the BJP and the BRS. Reacting to the development, Union Minister of State for Home and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar said in a post on X: "Congratulations to the Congress and its advocates for securing bail for BRS MLC in the infamous liquor scam. Your untiring efforts finally yielded fruits. This bail is a win for both the BRS and Congress - a BRS leader is out on bail and a Congressman goes to Rajya Sabha," in an apparent reference to Abhishek Manu Singhvi, the Congress candidate for Rajya Sabha from Telangana. "Remarkable political acumen by KCR in supporting the candidate, who initially argued for the bail, to be nominated to Rajya Sabha unopposed by the ruling Congress. Congratulations to the partners in crime who wine and dine," added the BJP leader. On the other hand, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President Mahesh Kumar Goud claimed that bail to Kavitha shows that the process for BRS party's merger with the BJP has started. He also claimed that BRS lead-

The ED had arrested Kavitha from Hyderabad March 15 and since then she was in judicial custody in Delhi

ers K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao held talks with the BJP leaders in Delhi and as a result, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) helped Kavitha get bail. The MLC said they had been predicting for a long time that Kavitha will get bail due to a connivance between the BRS and BJP, alleging that for the last 10 years, there was secret pact between the two parties. "When you delve deep into the reasons for Kavitha getting bail now, it becomes clear that the process for BRS' merger with the BJP has commenced," he said in a statement. The Congress leader also alleged that the two parties have come together publicly to create problems for the Congress government in Telangana led by Revanth Reddy. In a big relief to Kavitha, the daughter of BRS President and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the Supreme Court Tuesday granted her bail in connection with the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. The apex court clarified that it made no observations on merits while releasing Kavitha on bail, and such observations will not prejudice the conduct of trial.



Police use tear gas shells during a protest march by Chhatra Samaj activists to state secretariat against the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor in Howrah, West Bengal

Court orders Darshan's transfer to Ballari jail

Bangalore, August 27: A court here Tuesday granted permission to shift Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Central jail here in the Renukaswamy murder case, to Ballari prison. The court also permitted the shifting of other co-accused in the murder case to various prisons in the state. Earlier in the day, both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara indicated that authorities were weighing the option of shifting Darshan, after a photograph of him hanging out with three others, including a rowdy-

CM must quit over Shivaji Maharaj statue collapse: Oppn

Mumbai, August 27: Under attack over the collapse of a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue nearly nine months after it was unveiled, the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra Tuesday said the structure was built by the Navy, while the opposition targeted the ruling alliance and sought Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation. As the collapse of the statue of Shivaji Maharaj, a revered figure in Maharashtra, in Sindhudurg district threatened to snowball into a major controversy ahead of assembly polls, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra



Fadnavis said the state government has now decided to install a bigger statue of the 17th century Maratha warrior king at the same place. Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar, who hails from Sindhudurg, proposed a 100-foot statue of Shivaji Maharaj at the same location -- Rajkot Fort in Malvan tehsil in

the coastal district -- around 480km from Mumbai. The collapsed statue was 35 feet high. Following an outrage, the Sindhudurg police also registered a case against contractor Jaydeep Apte and structural consultant Chetan Patil, both involved in the project, over the statue collapse incident. An inquiry was already underway, Fadnavis said. The Navy said it has noted with "deep concern" the damage caused to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj that was unveiled on Navy Day as a dedication to the citizens of Sindhudurg. "Along with the state government and concerned specialists, the Navy has deputed

a team to immediately investigate the cause of this unfortunate accident and initiate steps to repair, restore and reinstate the statue at the earliest," according to a statement by the naval force issued by its spokesperson in New Delhi. The 35-foot statue of the 17th century Maratha empire founder, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajkot Fort December 4 last year, collapsed Monday afternoon. The incident, which comes months ahead of the state assembly polls, has caused an embarrassment to the state government and invited criticism from the Opposition parties.

HP Assembly passes Bill to raise women's marriage age

Shimla, August 27: An amendment Bill to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls in Himachal Pradesh by three years to 21 was passed unanimously without discussion in the legislative Assembly Tuesday, the first day of the monsoon session, bringing it at par with that of men. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil presented the Himachal Pradesh Child Marriage Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the House.



Now the Bill will be sent to the Governor for approval. The minimum age of marriage for girls in the state is 18 years. The state government is increasing it by three years. Its draft was approved by the Cabinet seven months ago.

the girls with better opportunities for education and career growth. "Raising the marriage age (from 18 to 21) will ensure that girls are given the chance to fully develop and achieve their potential before entering into marriage," he said. He pointed out that early marriages often result in negative health outcomes for young mothers and restrict their personal and professional development. Earlier, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu had directed that a committee be formed to look into the issue of increasing the marriage age. On December

8, 2023, an official statement said as per the direction of the Chief Minister, a committee to examine an increase in the marriage age of girls in Himachal Pradesh has been formed. The committee comprised Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary M. Sudha Devi, who chaired the panel, with Rural Development Secretary Priyatu Mandal, Law Secretary Sharad K. Lagwal and Director of Labour and Employment Manasi Thakur as members. Priyanka Verma, the Managing Director of the National Health Mission, was the Member Secretary of the committee.

national



Our efforts also include protecting natural resources and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices. We recognise that environmental stewardship is essential for long-term prosperity and quality of life

KEJRIWAL'S JUDICIAL CUSTODY EXTENDED

A local court Tuesday extended the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal till September 3 in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. Chief Minister Kejriwal was produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court through video conferencing from Tihar Jail upon the expiry of his previously granted custody



of the day quote

For the benefit of the employees of Rajasthan (government), and the security of their future, our government implemented the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in 2022. Now, the Government of India has brought the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), after which there is confusion among the employees of the state

Not a single case of rape is acceptable. Still, if population increase is taken into consideration along with the number of rape cases in recent years, the crime rate has come down

Whereas, it has come to light that ... Standing Counsel (Services), who is not the Standing Counsel (Civil), while appearing for GNCTD ... before the High Court July 1, has given false and untruthful statements and has submitted wrong information in the affidavit filed before the Hon'ble Court Atishi

Modi speaks to Putin on his Ukraine visit

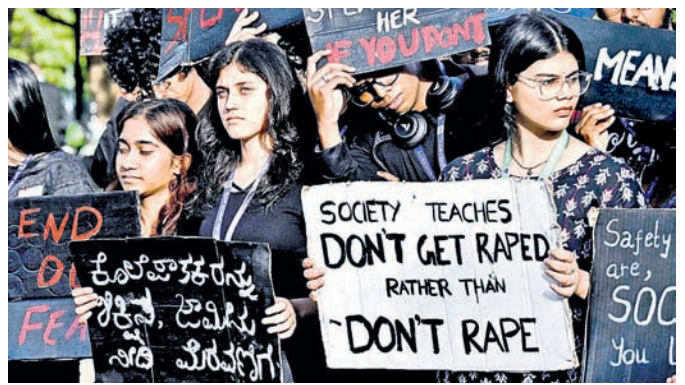
New Delhi, August 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as he shared his "insights" from his recent visit to Ukraine and reiterated India's firm commitment to supporting an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict with Ukraine. In a post on X, Modi said the two leaders also discussed measures to further strengthen special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. He said, "Exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and my insights from the recent visit to Ukraine. Reiterated India's firm commitment to support an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict."



The prime minister had Monday briefed US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine and conveyed India's full support for early return of peace to the region through dialogue and diplomacy. The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement later said Modi during his telephone conversation with Putin recalled his "successful visit to Russia" last month to participate in the 22nd India-Russia Bilateral Summit. "The two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Prime Minister shared insights from his recent visit to Ukraine. He underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as well as sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to achieve an abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict," the MEA said. The two leaders "reviewed progress" on a number of bilateral issues and discussed measures to further strengthen the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia, it said.

KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE, MURDER

CBI will seek AIIMS help on DNA, forensic proof



THE CBI HAS FILED AN APPLICATION BEFORE A KOLKATA COURT SEEKING PERMISSION FOR POLYGRAPH TEST OF KOLKATA POLICE ASI ANUP DUTTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: The CBI will consult experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on the DNA and forensic reports related to the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, officials said Tuesday. In order to build a watertight case, the CBI will send the reports to AIIMS to seek their opinion in the case, they said. The reports will also help the agency to ascertain if Sanjay Roy was the only accused who committed the crime or there were others involved, they said. The CBI has filed an application before a Kolkata court seeking permission for polygraph test of Kolkata Police ASI Anup Dutta. The agency is investigating if Dutta knew Roy and extended any help to the accused after the crime, the officials said. The CBI had already questioned Dutta in connection with the case, they said. So far the agency is working on the leads that Roy was the only accused in

the crime but involvement of others will only be ruled out after receiving the opinion of AIIMS experts, the officials said. The polygraph test on former principal of the medical college Sandip Ghosh continued for the second day Tuesday. He underwent layered voice test Saturday which was followed by polygraph test Monday. The test Monday could not be completed and resumed Tuesday. Layered voice analysis is a new deception detection test (DDT) in forensic arsenal used to detect the speaker's reaction to a lie. It does not identify a lie. The technology identified stress, cognitive processes, and emotional cues in different properties of the voice. A polygraph test, also a DDT, can help in assessing inaccuracies in statements of suspects and witnesses. By monitoring their psychological responses - heart rate, breathing patterns, sweating and blood pressure - investigators can determine if there are discrepancies in their response. However, these are not admissible evidence during the trial and can only be used to get further leads in a case. The alleged rape and killing of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the hospital has sparked widespread protests. The medic's body with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department in the morning of August 9 by a doctor who

Sexual violence: Women's rights groups seek justice

New Delhi: As a series of rape cases shock the nation, women's rights groups from across the country es and gender-based violence. The All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), All India Mahila Samskritik Sanghatan (AIMSS), All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA), Act Now for Harmony and Democracy (ANHAD), All India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA), All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) are among the 35 organisations who have made the appeal.

was on round. Kolkata Police arrested Roy August 10 based on CCTV footage in which he was seen entering the seminar hall at 4.03 AM August 9 when the crime was allegedly committed. Based on CCTV footage, Roy was put through extensive interrogation and the police had also noticed "recent injuries" on his left cheek, abrasion in left hand between his left and ring finger, abrasion over the back of left thigh among others showing signs of struggle. His biological samples like urethral swab and smear, semen, hair, nail clippings and nail scraping were collected during the medico-legal examination, they said. The Calcutta High Court August 13 ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation August 14. The CBI took over all the forensic evidence from Kolkata Police and also subjected Roy, Ghosh, four doctors who were on duty with the victim, and a civic volunteer to polygraph tests to get further leads about the crime. The initial reports from CFSL are being analysed and corroborated with evidence to get further direction to the probe, the officials said.



Govindas form a human pyramid to break an earthen pot (handi) filled with curd and other delicacies during the celebration of Janmashtami festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra

HP Assembly adopts resolution to condemn Kangana's remarks

Shimla/ Chandigarh, August 27: The Opposition Tuesday stepped up attack on BJP MP Kangana Ranaut over her remarks on farmers protest with a Congress-backed resolution in Himachal Pradesh Assembly condemning her comments and AAP holding protests at several places in Haryana. The MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh had posted a clip of her interview with Hindi daily Dainik Bhaskar in which she suggested that a "Bangladesh-like situation" could have erupted in India but for the country's strong leadership. She then alleged that bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place during the farmers' protest against the now-repealed three farm laws. She alleged the involvement of China and the US in the "conspiracy". Kangana's remarks triggered heated exchanges in the assembly of her Congress-ruled home state with the House adopting a resolution condemning the remarks. With Haryana going to polls October 1, the Opposition targeted the ruling BJP over the issue.

X POST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING Farmers to hold a nationwide protest on August 31st against BJP Farmers also demanded strictest action against #KanganaRanaut "Kangana must apologise & BJP should teach her some lessons" End of the political career for Kangana RunOut?

SHORT TAKES

106 hurt during Dahi Handi celebrations

Mumbai: At least 106 'Govindas', youngsters involved in the formation of multi-storied human pyramids as part of the 'Dahi Handi' celebrations, were injured in Mumbai Tuesday, officials said. These injured Govindas were admitted to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run and private hospitals in the city for treatment, a civic official said. The Dahi Handi, part of the Janmashtami festival that marks the birth of Lord Krishna, is seeing enthusiastic participation by the revellers.

Goods train collides with locomotive

Rae Bareilly (UP): A goods train belonging to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) hit a stationary locomotive on the NTPC premises at Unchahar here, officials said Tuesday. Nobody was hurt in the collision Monday night, an NTPC spokesperson said. She also said the train and the locomotive belonged to the NTPC, which also maintains the track where the incident took place.

Truck runs over pedestrian

Mumbai: A 31-year-old truck driver has been arrested for allegedly running over a pedestrian and killing him in the western suburbs here, police said Tuesday. The accused, Rajdeep Dhadal, who hails from neighbouring Gujarat, attempted to flee the spot after the accident near a toll naka in Dahisar Monday but was subsequently caught by the police, an official said.

Mayawati unanimously re-elected BSP president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, August 27: The Bahujan Samaj Party is "not disappointed" after the recent electoral reverses and will continue to work for the oppressed, Mayawati said here Tuesday after her re-election as the party president. She was elected again to the top post unanimously at a special meeting of the BSP Central Executive Committee (CEC) and office bearers from all over the country, a statement said. The party had failed to win a single seat in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections. "Despite electoral reverses, the BSP is not disappointed. It is stoutly pursuing the goal and welfare principle of 'Bahujan Hitaye and Bahujan Sukhaye' (progress and prosperity of bahu-



jans) on the strength of the bahujan samaj," she said. "Like anti-Congressism in the past, the politics of the country has now become entangled in anti-BJPism whereas both these parties and their alliances are neither true well-wishers of bahujans, Dalits, adivasis, OBCs, Muslims and other religious minorities nor can they ever be so because their thinking about bahujans... is narrow, casteist, and communal," she alleged.

Chief, finance secys of 18 states appear in SC

SNJPC PROPOSALS CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: In a rare sight, chief secretaries and finance secretaries of 18 states and union territories (UT) personally appeared before the Supreme Court Tuesday to apprise it of whether they have complied with the Second National Judicial Pay Commission's (SNJPC) recommendations on payment of salary, pension arrears and retirement benefits to judicial officers. The top bureaucrats also sought exemption from personal appearance in future which was granted. The apex court was hearing a plea of the All India Judges Association (AIJA) on implementation of welfare and other measures for former judges

and judicial officers. "We have no pleasure in calling the chief and finance secretaries of the states, but consistently the counsels of states have been absent during the hearings," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said when senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for West Bengal, spoke about the state's compliance with the SC judgement and directions. In a spectacle of sorts, the chief secretaries and finance secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Bihar, Goa, Haryana and Odisha appeared in the CJ's courtroom and were seen assisting their lawyers. Some chief secretaries



tried until as late as August 22 to avoid personal appearance by rushing to the court through their lawyers, saying they have substantially complied with the directions and pleading to be allowed to appear virtually. The bench, however, did not relent and said it cannot make exception for a few bureaucrats. On Tuesday, the bench was satisfied with the compliance of

its January 4 judgement and earlier directions by the 18 states and UTs and closed the proceedings. It said the top bureaucrats need not appear physically anymore. In case of some states, the court said their respective finance department authorities will have to settle within four weeks the arrear claims pertaining to pay, pension and allowances raised by judicial officers. At the outset, senior advocate K Parmeswar, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae in the matter, said some states like Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi have complied with the directions. Closing this aspect, the bench said individual grievances of judicial officers can now be looked into by the committee of high court judges set up for this purpose.

Air pollution raises death risk across age groups: Study

In many Indian districts, air pollution exceeding national standards is leading to increase in death risk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 27: In Indian districts, air pollution exceeding national standards have been shown to increase death risk across all age groups - by 86 per cent in newborns, 100-120 per cent in children under five years of age and 13 per cent in adults, according to a study. A team of researchers, including those at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, looked at fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution levels across over 700 districts. Data for analysis was taken from the National Family and Health Survey (fifth round) and the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

In households not having a separate kitchen, the study found higher chances of deaths among newborns and adults. Among newborns and children aged under five, the chances "appeared to be almost two-fold and more than two-fold higher, respectively, in the districts of India where the PM2.5 concentration is up to the NAAQS level," the authors said in the study published in the journal *GeoHealth*. Analysing the interaction between PM2.5 exceeding NAAQS (of 40 micrograms per cubic metre) and household air pollution, the team found that it substantially increased deaths among newborns by 19 per cent, children by 17 per cent and adults



by 13 per cent. "The results demonstrate that PM2.5 exhibits a stronger association with mortality across various life stages. Notably, when (household air pollution) is considered in conjunction with ambient pollution, this association is further heightened," the authors wrote. They said PM2.5 levels are generally high across the Indo-Gangetic Plain, spanning across the northern Indian subconti-

Explain steps to curb stubble burning, pollution: Top court

Calling the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR "ineffective" due to staff shortage, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the body responsible for air quality management in the national capital and adjoining areas to explain how it proposes to tackle pollution and stubble burning which would spike with the onset of winter. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih directed the Chairperson of the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas to remain present virtually during the hearing of the matter. ment, owing to multiple reasons, including agricultural practices involving the burning of crop residues and emissions from industrial centres and manufacturing hubs. Further, use of clean fuel and separate kitchens in households are very low in the middle and lower regions of the plain and in districts of central India. Forest-rich areas like Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and other northeastern states offer abundant firewood as an easily accessible unclean fuel option, along with crop residue and animal dung, the authors said.

international

of the day quote

Defenders of life should have no restrictions on weapons, as long as Russia uses all kinds of its own weapons

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

The goal of this visit (to China) is not reaching new breakthroughs or progress but to continue the stable momentum of China-US relations in the past year through strategic communication

JAKE SULLIVAN | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, US

There is a Budget coming in October and it is going to be painful. We have no other choice given the situation that we are in

KEIR STARMER | PM, UK



I would like to emphasise here that China has no intention of intruding into the territorial airspace of any country

LIN JIAN | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, JAPAN

SEDITION CHARGE AGAINST FORMER MALAYSIAN PM

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king



Namibia to cull 723 wild animals

THE MEAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

REUTERS

Windhoek, August 27: Namibia plans to cull 723 wild animals, including 83 elephants, and to distribute the meat to people struggling to feed themselves because of a severe drought across southern Africa, the environment ministry said.

The cull will take place in parks and communal areas where authorities believe animal numbers exceed available grazing land and water supplies, it said in a statement issued Monday.

Southern Africa is facing its worst drought in decades, with Namibia having exhausted 84% of its food reserves last month, according to the United Nations. Nearly half of Namibia's population is expected to experience



high levels of food insecurity in the coming months.

With such a severe drought, human-wildlife conflicts are expected to increase if the authorities do not intervene, the environment ministry said.

"To this effect, 83 elephants from identified conflict areas will be culled, (and) meat will be allocated to the drought relief programme," it said.

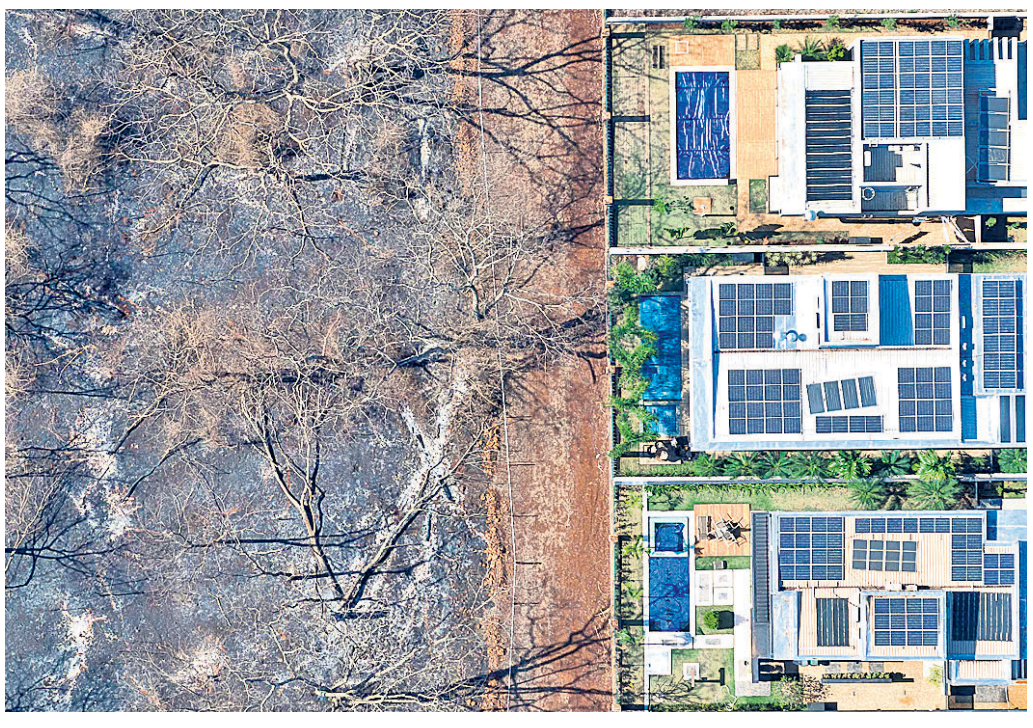
The country also plans to cull

30 hippos and 60 buffalo, as well as 50 impala, 100 blue wildebeest, 300 zebra and 100 eland.

One hundred and fifty-seven animals have already been hunted by professional hunters and companies contracted by the government, yielding more than 56,800 kilograms of meat.

"This exercise is necessary and is in line with our constitutional mandate where our natural resources are used for the benefit of Namibian citizens," the environment ministry said.

More than 200,000 elephants are estimated to live in a conservation area spread over five southern African countries, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Angola and Namibia, making the region home to one of the largest elephant populations worldwide.



A drone view shows burnt vegetation next to a luxury condominium after a series of fires in plantations in Ribeirao Preto, Sao Paulo state, Brazil

Russia warns West of WWII

SERGEI LAVROV, WHO HAS SERVED AS PUTIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, SAYS THAT THE WEST IS SEEKING TO ESCALATE THE UKRAINE WAR

REUTERS

Moscow, August 27: Russia said the West was playing with fire by considering allowing Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with Western missiles and cautioned the United States Tuesday that World War Three would not be confined to Europe.

Ukraine attacked Russia's western Kursk region August 6 and has carved out a slice of territory in the biggest foreign attack on Russia since World War Two. President Vladimir Putin said there would be a worthy response from Russia to the attack.

Sergei Lavrov, who has served as Putin's foreign minister for more than 20 years, said that the West was seeking to escalate the Ukraine war and was "asking for trouble" by considering Ukrainian requests to



Lavrov says the West is playing with fire over Ukraine

Russia is clarifying its nuclear doctrine: Lavrov

loosen curbs on using foreign-supplied weapons.

Since invading Ukraine in 2022, Putin has repeatedly warned of the risk of a much broader war involving the world's biggest nuclear powers, though he has said Russia does not want a conflict with the US-led NATO alliance.

"We are now confirming once again that playing with fire and they are like small children playing with matches is a very dangerous thing for grown-up uncles and aunts who are entrusted with nuclear weapons in one or

another Western country," Lavrov told reporters in Moscow.

"Americans unequivocally associate conversations about Third World War as something that, God forbid, if it happens, will affect Europe exclusively," Lavrov said.

Lavrov added that Russia was "clarifying" its nuclear doctrine.

Russia's 2020 nuclear doctrine sets out when its President would consider using a nuclear weapon: broadly as a response to an attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons "when the very existence of the state is put under threat".

RUSSIA'S RESPONSE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this month that the assault

Indian students under fear of deportation



AGENCIES

New Delhi, August 27: Hundreds of Indian student graduates have staged protests against a new federal policy in Canada that puts them at risk of getting deported from the country.

Many international students, particularly those from India, dream of moving to the North American country in hopes of building a better life, but the announced immigration policy changes have left the future of more than 70,000 student graduates in uncertainty.

Indian students have camped in front of the legislative assembly in Canada's Prince Edward Island province, protesting the sudden policy change for more than three months. Similar demonstrations were also seen in the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The new policies are aimed at reducing the number of permanent residency nominations by 25 per cent as well as limiting study permits.

The change comes as Canada saw rapid population growth over the last few years. Around 97 per cent of last year's population increase in Canada was driven by immigration, according to Federal data.

Representatives from student advocacy group Naujawan Support Network warned the graduates are at risk of being deported when their work permits expire at the end of this year.

"I spent the most crucial six years of my life taking many risks to come to Canada," says Mehakdeep Singh, a former international student who is facing

deportation.

"For the past six years, I studied, I worked, I paid taxes, I earned enough CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) points but the government has just taken advantage of us," Mr Singh said. Like many international students, Mr Singh had spent his family's life savings on college tuition fees in the hopes of eventually gaining permanent residency.

Amid a local housing and jobs crisis, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is under pressure to reduce the number of temporary residents, which has seen a staggering growth in recent years. Mr Trudeau has been trailing in polls ahead of an election expected next year.

The Canadian government is also reducing the number of temporary foreign workers it brings in, reversing its decision to expand the programme in 2022. The programme allows immigrants to work in the country on a short-term basis, meant to fill labour shortages.

According to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), 183,820 temporary foreign worker permits were granted in 2023, a steep 88 per cent increase from 2019. The ESDC Monday criticised employers for using the programme to "circumvent hiring talented workers in Canada".

Under the new changes, work permits will be denied in regions where the unemployment rate is at or above 6 per cent. The changes will exempt sectors like agriculture, food processing, construction and healthcare.

Iran's leader opens door to N-talks with US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, August 27: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy".

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that Washington



wasn't to be trusted.

But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how much

room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Middle East over the Israel-Hamas war and as the US prepares for a presidential election in November.

"We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to engage the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier."

Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned

Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy."

Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with Washington after then President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the deal in 2018.

The US State Department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment over Khamenei's remarks. There have been indirect talks between Iran and the US in recent years mediated by Oman and Qatar; two of the United States' Middle East interlocutors when it comes to Iran.

Korea's birth rate drive struggles to sway 'YOLO' generation

Financial hardship is by far the biggest reason South Koreans cited for not having children, according to a survey by research firm PMI Co

REUTERS

Seoul, August 27: As South Korea scrambles to halt the sharp decline in its birth rate, policymakers are having a hard time convincing many in their 20s and 30s that parenthood is a better investment than stylish clothes or fancy restaurants.

Asia's fourth-largest economy plans to launch a new government ministry dedicated to demographic challenges after years of incentives failed to ease the baby crisis.

But for Park Yeon, a 28-year-old fashion Instagrammer and

aspiring singer, spending choices are guided mostly by her appetites for clothing and travel, leaving little budget for marriage and babies.

"I'm all about YOLO (you only live once)," said Park as she sells her Supreme T-shirts at a thrift fashion festival in Seoul's high-fashion enclave of Seongsu-dong.

"There isn't enough left to save each month after I do things to reward myself. Getting married might happen at some point but being happy right now, that's more important, right?"

South Korea continues to break its own record for having the world's lowest birth rate, which hit a fresh low last year.

Sociologists say the lifestyle priorities of Koreans in their 20s and 30s, considered Generations Y and Z, mean they spend more and save less on average than the wider population or their peers in other countries,



neither of which are conducive to nest building.

"They are status hunting. Their high spending habits show young people are working on their own emblems of success online rather than focusing on the impossible goals of settling down and have children," said Jung Jae-hoon, a sociology professor at Seoul Women's University.

Not even South Korea's aggressive interest rate hikes over the past three years have been able to rein in youthful spending.

The savings rate for those in their 30s declined to 28.5% in the first quarter from 29.4% five years ago, while that for all other age groups increased in the same period, central bank

data shows.

At the same time, people in their 20s and 30s make up the biggest spenders at department stores and top-tier hotels while their travel spending rose to 40.1% from 33.3% in the past three years. The proportion of spending by those in their 20s at high-end department stores has almost doubled to 12% in the three years to May, data from Hyundai Card shows, while that for all other age groups declined.

Last year alone, revenue at pricey buffet restaurants jumped 30.3%, versus a gain of 10.5% at fast food restaurants and 9% for the entire dining industry, according to market research firm

Euromonitor. Koreans' fancy tastes have made them the world's biggest per-capita spenders on luxury brands, Morgan Stanley's research showed last year, and a hot destination for the biggest luxury brands.

To be sure, financial hardship is by far the biggest reason South Koreans cited for not having children, according to a survey by research firm PMI Co in May.

About 46% of 1,800 respondents blamed either job uncertainty or education costs for this decision. That's worsened by annual incomes only rising 2.0% for those in their 20s and 30s last year, slower than the 4.5% increase for all households, according to Statistics Korea.

But Jung added a youth focus on more immediate pleasures also explains why young people don't respond to the government's subsidy-based baby boosting policies.

South Korea continues to break its own record for having the world's lowest birth rate, which hit a fresh low last year

