

Lok Sabha adjourned for the day amid Oppn uproar over 'misuse' of ED

NEW DELHI(KCN): Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day on Thursday amid sloganeering by Congress members against the alleged misuse of the Enforcement Directorate by the government.

Earlier in the day, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm as soon as Congress members displayed placards to protest against the actions of the Enforcement Directorate and price rise.



As soon as the House met at 2 pm, papers were laid on the table and two resolutions adopted amid continued sloganeering by Congress members.

Kirit Solanki, who was in the chair, requested the protesting members to go back to their seats and allow the House to function after which he adjourned the proceedings for the day.

Amid the sloganeering by Opposition members, the Question Hour went on till around 11:30 am and five questions as well as their related supplementaries were taken up.

Congress and other Opposition members protested against the ED action, GST on essential items and

price rise. However, at around 11:30 am, as soon as some Congress members displayed placards standing in the Well of the House, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was the first to display the placards and other members then brought placards to the House. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

12 TRS MLAs to join BJP soon: Bandi Sanjay



HYDERABAD(KCN): The BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Thursday made a sensational claim that 12 MLAs from the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi are ready to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state. "There will be a series of byelections in Telangana soon, just

as one that will be held in Munugode constituency," Sanjay said. "The TRS MLAs were coming forward to join the BJP as they have realized there was a groundswell of opposition to the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his family. These

MLAs are convinced that they have no future in the ruling party and will quit the TRS after people from their constituencies prepare the ground for their departure from TRS by bringing pressure on the MLAs to quit," Sanjay said. "If elections were to be held today in Telangana, the BJP

will win 62 seats with a vote share between 47 and 53%. The days to come will see opposition to the TRS among people increase and this will further consolidate the projected vote share for the BJP," Sanjay said. The Telangana BJP president was speaking with reporters near Bhongir on day three of the Praja Sangrama Yatra.

Fee tussle at Odisha's Madhusudan Law University

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Madhusudan Law degree from Rs are being demanded from students de-



University is witnessing a rift between its students and administration over the fees for the 3-year LLB (Bachelor of Legislative Law) programme. While students have submitted a memorandum to the Governor and Chancellor of Universities Prof Ganeshi Lal alleging that the university is charging excess fees for the course as compared to other public universities offering degrees in law, the University authorities said the fee structure has been rationally framed.

The new university offers LLB and Integrated 5-year LLB degrees. After the Madhusudan Law college got the university tag last year, its syndicate decided to fix the fees for LLB degree at Rs 9,072 per year (Rs 756 per month) and reduce the fees of

45,000 to Rs 20,000 per year. The integrated course runs in self-financing mode. In the memorandum, the students alleged that at a time when the university does not have the adequate infrastructure to meet the education demands of the students, fees of Rs 9,000 is a financial burden on them.

"The university is charging us for infrastructures like moot courtrooms, computer labs and internet connections which are still not ready on the campus. Besides, other charges for magazines and workshops

India among "our closest partners" Blinken tells Jaishankar ahead of ASEAN meeting

CAMBODIA(KCN): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Cambodia ahead of the ASEAN ministerial meeting on Thursday, said that New Delhi is among Washington's "closest partners".

Both Blinken and Jaishankar are in Cambodia to attend the ASEAN **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

spite us not availing these facilities," they said.

However, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Kamal Jeet Singh said the syndicate in August last year fixed the LLB fees at Rs 9,072 and the fee structure will not be changed till 2030. "The fees come to Rs 756 per month which is very reasonable for a new university. Besides, the old infrastructure of the college has been refurbished after it got the university tag. Old classrooms have been converted into AC classrooms and a new library has come up," he said

August 4 CUET-UG exam rescheduled due to technical glitches

NEW DELHI(KCN): The first day of the phase two CUET-UG exam was a total washout, with thousands of anxious students sent back home without taking the crucial exam due to technical glitches at most of the examination centres across India.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) later declared that the examination in both the first slot (in the morning) and the second slot (in the afternoon) were cancelled and announced new dates for the Central University Entrance Test undergraduate (CUET-UG) exams, a gateway to undergraduate courses in 90 universities.

The technical glitches were, however, reported from all 489 examination centres in the afternoon shift, forcing NTA to cancel the exam across India. The reason was that the general test paper was uploaded late. Instead of 3 pm, the exam paper was uploaded after 5 pm. The exam gets over at 6 pm.

While the postponed exam of the first shift will be conducted on August 12, that of the second shift has now been slotted from August 12-14. The news of the cancellation began early in the morning when the testing agency announced that exams

in Kerala have been cancelled due to rains. The exam scheduled for August 4, 5 and 6 has been postponed and fresh dates will be announced later on NTA website. Soon after, several centres in the morning announced that the exam had been cancelled due to server issues. Students flooded social media complaining that they couldn't complete their ex-

evening announced cancellation of the exam.

In a public notice, the testing agency said, "Due to various administrative and technical reasons, the CUET (UG) - 2022 examination scheduled for August 4 August 2022 (first shift) has been postponed to 12 August 2022 for a few examination centres." The exam was cancelled in 29 examination centres in 17

Uttar Pradesh (Noida and Varanasi). It was cancelled in Delhi too.

The NTA added that further, because of technical reasons, the question paper for the second shift of the examination could only be uploaded at 5 pm and the download at 489 centres could start at 5:25 pm, while the exam was scheduled to begin from 3 pm. "Reports were asked from the observers /

have been postponed. It also said that in case the August 12-14 dates are not suitable, the candidates can send an e-mail to datechange@nta.ac.in mentioning their desired date and roll number.

Meanwhile, the candidates are also advised to be in touch with the NTA website (s) www.nta.ac.in and https://cuet.samarth.ac.in/ for the latest updates



ams due to technical glitches and would have to take the exam again.

Many students also shared that they were not informed beforehand and only got to know when they reached the examination centres in the morning that their exam had been postponed.

As more and more centres in the day reported technical glitches, NTA in the

states and union territory.

In Tamil Nadu the exam was cancelled in five centres - Coimbatore, Dindigul, Tiruvarur, Viluppuram, Virudhunagar - while in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, exams in four cities each were called off. Exams were also postponed in two cities each in Arunachal Pradesh (Namsari and Pasighat) and

city coordinators on ground. Based on their recommendations, the second shift scheduled for 04 August 2022 (shift 2) (from 3pm to 6 pm) is cancelled and the same will now be conducted between 12 to 14 August 2022," the NTA announced.

It added that the same admit card will be valid for the concerned candidates whose examinations

regarding the examination.

NTA is conducting the debut CUET UG - 2022 exams from July 15 2022 to August 20 at 489 examination centres located in approximately 259 cities across India and nine cities outside India. Around 6,80,000 candidates are appearing in the second phase.

Elephants roam at Barbil city ,cause and prevention - an analysis

Barbil(KCN): A herd of wild elephants was seen roaming near Baitarani Gosala of Ward No 12 of Barbil city in Keonjhar district of Odisha at night. The elephants entering

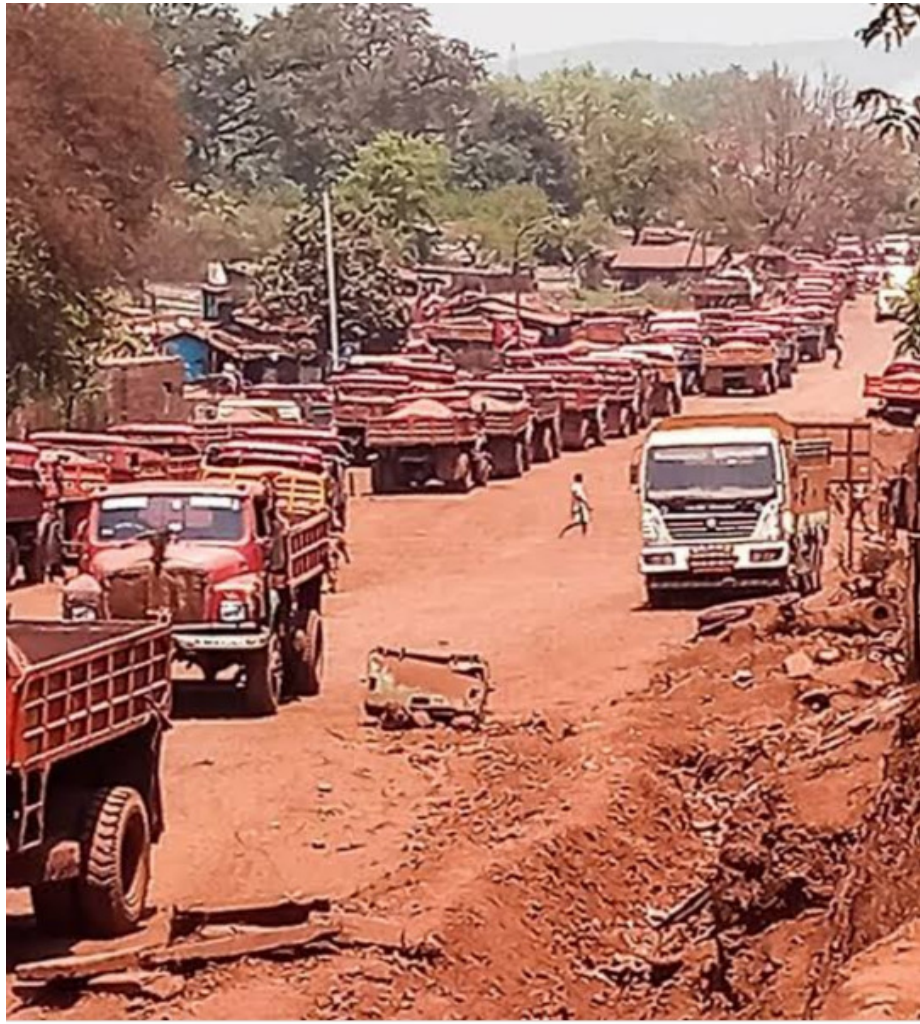


residential areas triggered panic among the public .Barbil is a city surrounded by large forest area .Elephants are also losing their habitats and ancient migratory routes due to expanding human settlements into their habitat, agricultural development, and the



construction of infrastructure such as roads, canals, and fences that fragment their habitat.

As a result, human-elephant conflict is rising as more and more elephants come into close contact with humans. This often leads to elephants destroying crops and property, as well as occasional human casualties. .Elephants need extensive land areas to survive and meet their ecological needs, which includes food, water, and space. On average, an elephant can feed up to 18 hours and consume hundreds of pounds of plant matter in a single day. As a result, as they lose habitat, they often come into conflict with people in competition for resources. At a large



the movement of Elephant in Barbil and Champua range in Keonjhar district has been very often .Keonjhar Forest Division is one of the important Forest Division of the state situated in Keonjhar district of the State of Odisha. The geographical area of this division is 6273.40 Sqkm out of which the forest area is 1830.485 sqkm amounting to 29.17 % of the total geographical area of the Division. There are 7 Ranges, 25 Sections and 105 Beats in this division. The Ranges are namely Barbil, Champua, Keonjhar, BJP, Telkoi, Patna and Ghatgaon covering 9 C.D. Blocks of the district. There are 77 Nos Reserve Forest over 118116.2553 ha, 24 Nos PRF over 15286.8573 ha, 456 nos VFs over 2679.1240 ha, 60 Nos DPF over 22133.3670 ha, 31 Nos PFs u/s 33 over 1939.4096 ha, DLC area over 22871.5052 ha and 22.005 ha un-classed forest. This Division besides having very good Sal forest is also one of the richest Iron and Manganese ore bearing areas. As many as 120 numbers of mining leases are granted within the jurisdiction of this Division, out of which 45 numbers Iron mines; 49 numbers Iron and Manganese mines; 16 numbers Manganese mines; 01 number Iron and Dolomite mine and 9 numbers Pyrophyllite & Quartzite mines are there. These mining areas are the economic backbone of the State and the Forest Department has a vital role in diverting the forest area and controlling the mining activities in the said areas. The geospatial effect on the extraction operation in Joda and Barbil mining areas of Keonjhar district, Odisha, India. The normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), and Surface air

Temperature (SAT) of Barbil area for 2003, 2007, 2017 and 2018 have been estimated. Comparison of the results have shown that,



there is increase in built up, and mining areas whereas the agricultural land and vegetation cover are down scaled. There is constant average SAT rise of 1-2°C in all the land cover classification between 2007 and 2018. The NDVI values show conversion of sparse from dense vegetation in the area. Poor operational strategies in mines operation, like corruption, illegal mining, lack of accountability, overburden wastes/ trailing disposal, ecologic degradation, waterlogging in mine pits, and human rights violations are the root causes of environmental deterioration in the area. It is pertinent to implement strictly, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, India, 2021, regular GIS application to assess the mines

volume of extraction, strict vigilance and fixation of accountability for losses of existing mines values, and afforestation/ reforestation of degraded/lost forests in Barbil area. However this has become a utmost responsibility of the department and state government as well to analyse the matter and initiate action plan to resolve the issue .The conflict between human and wild animal like elephant should be avoided .At a large this precious species should be prevented from extinction says expert.

Giving your kitchen showstopper-esque vibe

Kolkata (KCN): A kitchen is the most intense and hardest working room in the house. Spending more time at home during the pandemic has allowed consumers to become more creative with their cooking and boosted their confidence in the kitchen. Kitchen is also one of our most used living spaces and it's not just restricted to cooking alone. It plays a crucial role in helping us unwind after work, entertain family and friends, or catch up with our loved ones over a nice evening meal. While you may not think about it, your kitchen is a great place to add decorative yet functional elements like modern tools and accessories that bring in style, aesthetics and innovation while being mindful and responsible. thinKitchen.in, an omnichannel retailer offering global, premium kitchen and homeware brands shares few quick ways to give the kitchen a facelift: Clutter-Free Kitchen spaces: If you have a Pinterest board of your favourite kitchens or when you browse through social media, you'll see that most great-looking kitchens seem like they are barely used. The counters are totally clear and you see no trace of appliances like toasters. The secret to a clutter-free kitchen is a space roller and pull-down shutters – they help you help conceal everything you would like to keep out of sight.

Bite of stray dogs trigger fear in Barbil city



Barbil(KCN): Dog menace in the Barbil city of Keonjhar district in Odisha has increased to an alarming proportion. Daily, on an average, ,number of dog bite cases are being reported in the locality. It is not only an ugly sight to confront dogs roaming in every small and big arteries, at hospitals, bus stand, railway station, shops, markets and near residential areas, one doesn't feel safe walking across the city also. It is very dangerous to let children play outside as stray dogs may attack them," said senior one citizen . Senior citizens are the worst sufferers of dog menace during morning and evening walk," he added .There is no stock of anti-rabies vaccine to take care of dog bite cases at Batbil CHC. Besides, city

residents to go Champua sub divisional hospital which is 50kms away and this stands expensive for a common man.No sterilisation facilities for stray dogs are available in the area, resulting alaruming increase in stray dog population. There is a programme called ABC of Odisha state government to deal such empathy under which government provides Rs 500 for each dog, which includes the cost of food, sterilisation, post-operative treatment and staff salary. Under the ABC programme, the animals undergoing sterilisation are being provided food till their stay in kennels. Barbil Municipality should launch the programme for the interest of people ,one intellectual comment.

Amplified thump sends bullets to 'lock-up'



Barbil .(KCN): It was the muffled thud — a majestic sound — that lured bullet lovers to choose the royal Enfield over other motorbikes. However, many riders decided to change the manufacturer-given muffler for a more louder, noisier silencer. A case has witnessed to an

incident in Barbil .As per report On dt.03.08.2022 one Mantu Singh of Ward No-04 under Barbil police station complained that some under age youths were racing with their Bullet Bikes at Cinema Hall to High School road and making lot of noise. Kuldeep Singh, his brother

Kitchen tools as design elements -Maximise utilitarian purchases by investing in tools that serve a function and an aesthetic. Get a big chopping block that's colourful and edgy or a knife set that looks appealing and leave them in a corner of the counter



as decor elements. Options like Richardson Sheffield's knife sets are made from carefully selected materials, with on-trend designs can give your counter top Insta-worthy vibrance. You could also get water tumblers in bold metallic tones like the once from Zoku to spruce up the water filter

area. A vase can be the answer—Unpopular opinion, but there are always nooks in the kitchen we don't know what to do with. Consider adding drama to these corners with a bold vase like the one's from Dartington with some decorative barley stem propped in. This gives you a healthy confluence of bold and chic while sticking to the kitchen theme. Add in some cool storage jars: There is always that see through glass cabinet in the kitchen that gives away the secrets of your ways. Use this space to add colour and drama by filling up your staples in clear glass storage jars. See through Brabantia jars gives the space a neater look and the way you arrange them can be no less than a clever installation.

Clever lighting: Accents of light always gives a space a glammed-up look and feel. Install some LED strips inside cabinets or over countertops to eliminate shadows and immediately make your kitchen look like it's gone through an upgrade. Add some great looking serve ware: Invest in some cool serve ware to give a luxe feel to the kitchen or the dining area. A colourful salad bowl, like KitchenCraft bowl can make a world of difference to how you feel about cooking and eating.

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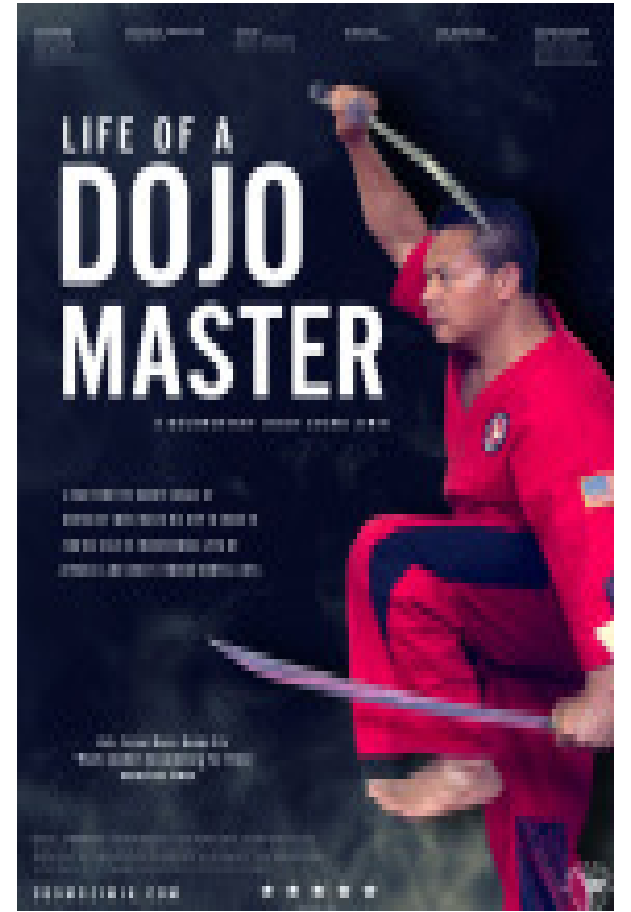
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A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the US on August 8 and release a documentary film in Mumbai

Mumbai (India) on all digital platforming and training others. He currently - Global Sports Fed- 2022' USA, and



(KCN, Sanjay forms. It's based on ers. He currently - Global Sports Fed-



Sharma Raj): A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the USA on August 8, 2022 and release the documentary film 'Life of A Dojo Master' with Chitah Yajnes Shetty in Mumbai, which will be sent to several film festivals and will be released

Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari
MUMBAI (KCN): Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gagroo and

the life of Master Cosmo Zimik, a man born in the remote region of Northwest India, who made his way to the USA over twenty years ago. Master Cosmo Zimik started his martial arts career in Manipur, Northeast India, and has traveled the world teaching

sides in Idaho, USA where his dojo, Empty Hand Combat, teaches Burmese Thaing Bando to at-risk youth, youth, and young adults to become martial artists. He trains them to become warriors and helps the community. Chitah Yajnes Shetty, founder of

eration, also conferred an 8th-degree black belt to Master Cosmo Zimik. Master Cosmo Zimik has trained over 5000 kids and over 2000 have been under privileged kids and 'At Risk Youth' in Nampa, Idaho USA. The youth come from various backgrounds

Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?
It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

kids are homeless, staying in a homeless shelter with their moms. Their father is gone from their lives. Some kids have parents who are drug addicts and have left them to be raised by grandparents. Some are orphans who are looking for hope in life. He trains them in martial arts and gives them Free Uniforms, Boxing Gloves, and basic needs including shoes and clothing. He also helps them overcome life's hardship and their real-life struggles (including anxiety and depression), by counseling and pointing them in the right direction through Martial Arts. Master Cosmo Zimik also received an award from the Mayor of Nampa City for 'Making a Difference', from the Elk Lodge for 'Citizen of the Year

for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and

Idaho Channel 7 (NBC) Heroes for outstanding work in the community. He is the founder of Martial Arts Sports ministry, Athletes in Action (India) in 1995, Chief Instructor and Owner of Empty Hand Combat International LLC, Co-founder of Hong Kong Gospel Martial Arts 1999, 1st place in Power breaking at the 2003 Battle of LA (National Martial arts championship), Khru (Instructor) Muay Thai – Muay Thai Mission since 2009, 6th Degree Black Belt in Burmese Thaing Bando Martial Arts, 7th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, International Technical Advisor – Chitah Jeet Kun Do, International Advisor Board Member – World Martial Arts School Federations.

ing web series directed by Raj and DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor. Sriram Raghavan's last film was



Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communications, the

Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19. Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi

Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming

Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu remake with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

International Friendship Day - 7 August 2022

Friendship A Bouquet full of Happiness in Life

International Friendship Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of August in many countries of the world. The spirit behind it is the same everywhere - friendship and respect for friendship. The philosophy of friendship is very vast; it is the most important part of human's life. One who establishes friendship without any insistence and selfishness, he aspires for the welfare of

all sees him in the emergence of all and new dimensions of development keep opening in his life. Life seems beautiful. In this, there is no distinction between one's own alien, there is no competition and there is no boundary line between big and small. Despite being such an ideal situation and its importance, the question arises why there is so much lack of friendship between human beings today? Why is there so much mutual animosity? Why is there ideological animosity? Why is publicity sparring with differences? Even after being wise, prudent, sensible, why does man fight every day? Why does the tense stand entangled in the midst of controversies? He neither sees with the eye of reason, nor listens with neutrality and balance, nor thinks and decides with relativity. This is the reason why individual creativity is dying out. The feelings of family co-operation and participation are breaking down. Social disintegration is coming to the fore. Religious beliefs are starting to weaken. Man has been counting the links of the chains of selfishness in the captivity of words, holding the accepted concepts. In such times, the bond of friendship infuses new energy in relationships.

Well-known American author Dale Carnegie has written many books on the art of making friends and they sell in millions. He has written in a book - 'Take all my wealth and give me a true friend.' Giving the example of American Richie Henry Ford, he has written that - he was once asked by journalists - you have immense wealth, pleasures are available, what do you miss in life when you have all this? Friends were found a lot, but that friendship was only about eating, drinking and having fun. I have not found a single friend who truly wants me and I want him. This is a huge gap in my life. International Friendship Day has more relevance today, this festival started in South American countries on July 20 in Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, on July 30 in Paraguay, while in other countries of the world including India, Malaysia, and Bangladesh etc. South Asian countries. It is celebrated on the

Letter to Editor

Identify & stop fake medications quickly

Apropos to latest reports nothing is right with the nation's medical system. About 20% of medicines which are produced from Pharmaceuticals throughout the nation in the previous three years were not of acceptable quality according to media reports. The fact is that all of these medications are produced by businesses that had previously been accused of producing fraudulent pharmaceutical medicines with the help of corrupt politicians. There is doubt that strong & powerful hands who are having the network with number of government hospitals & connections with many of the physicians are involved in distribution of fake medicines to patients according to the media investigation reports. One can imagine how much large amount of fake & substandard medications might have been provided to poor & innocent patients in all these years & how many of them might have suffered & died. The state agencies are legally empowered to act for violating the terms and can revoke the license under the drugs & cosmetics Act of 1940 & the rule of 1945. It is unclear how many such counterfeit medicines have been discovered across the country & how many people have been arrested over this matter. One can imagine easily that fake medicine culprits are doing good business in each & every state by taking benefit of the slackness of the officials involved. Therefore every state authorities concerned to this should become proactive and cease this fake medicines before it gets deep routed and kills patients.

Yours
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

first Sunday of the month of August. Friendship is a relationship that you decide for yourself, whereas all other relationships are made by you. Just imagine how restless you get if you don't meet your friends one day and try to know their well being as soon as you get a chance. You can understand how special this relationship is.

The technological age we live in today has brought people very close to each other. But at the same time this technology has taken away from us that time of relaxation which we can share amongst ourselves. Today we have imprisoned the whole world in our fist, but with this we have become so engrossed in ourselves that in a way we are cut off from the whole world. Celebrating International Friends Day is a worthwhile undertaking to give new energy to such human sensibilities in a new civilization and new culture.

Friendship is such a relationship that in the present environment, when the ground of human sensibilities and mutual relationships is drying up, in such a time, staying connected to each other is a powerful medium to make life happy and to awaken magical feelings in the heart. Friendship based on momentary and selfishness is not really friendship, it is only an identity, such friends sometimes become very dangerous too. For whom a thinker has written - "Earlier we used to say, O Lord! We have to be saved from enemies but now we have to say, "O God, save us from friends." Friends are more dangerous than enemies. Friendship day is an undertaking to make friendship a blessing, not a curse. This day provides a rare opportunity to develop the attitude of sharing happiness and sharing posi-

Lalit Garg

tive thoughts to others, keeping personal interests aside. The basic heart of celebrating this day is that even though there may be differences of opposition or thoughts between friends, there should not be any differences of their feelings because difference of opinion brings revolution whereas difference of feelings brings rebellion. Revolution is the knock of construction; rebellion is a sign of destruction.

The feeling of friendship is the protective shield of our self-development. Acharya Shri Tulsi directed seven sutras for this. Friendship requires trust, self-sacrifice, non-attachment, tolerance, forgiveness, fearlessness, coordination. This Saptapadi Sadhana is the background of the meaning and success of life. It is an indicator of development. This Day of Friendship is inviting us, with outstretched arms, to run away and hold on to the trail of friendship without hesitation. Life is colorful, it is white and it is also black. Sometimes this gamut of friendship dissolves in the ears as a rage of life, and then somewhere the noise of doubt arises. Makes friendship strong, our resolve, our life expectancy, our compassion, but it requires dedication and warmth of belonging. It teaches to live, gives life a colorful look. Inspires to live in such a way that you go beyond yourself. If you can do this then every feeling, every step and every moment will be beautiful and life will become beautiful together.

We need a companion of loneliness, a ruler of happiness, and someone who reprimands us with love for mistakes. If all these qualities are found in any one person, then surely he will be your friend. The same friend, in whose relationship there is no self-

ishness or deceit, but for your interest, your development, your happiness, in which there will always be a passion and intimacy. Although there is a rich tradition of festivals in Indian culture and history, now in our country it has increased due to the increasing attraction and trend towards International Days. Now every day there is some festival or day. We have made many new or imported festivals and days like Friendship Day a part of our culture and lifestyle. Friendship Day means forgetting all the grievances and strengthening the relationship of friendship with the strings of trust, affinity and harmony. In fact, only those friends are called friends, in whom there is a passion for affection, instead of selfishness, there is a feeling of selfishness, such friends are confined in the flute of breath, such friends are very rare in the world. The friendship of Shri Krishna and Sudama, Vibhishana and Shri Ram is an invaluable heritage of history. Joseph Fort Newton said that "people are lonely because they build up walls of enmity instead of building bridges of friendship." Friendship day is an undertaking to make friendship a blessing, not a curse. We have to create new values-standards of friendship, establish friendship in a meaningful way in life. Friendship should be synonymous with compassion; not love. Because in love there is selfishness, there are rites of attachment and aversion, whereas compassion becomes synonymous with charity.

Writer, Journalist, Columnist, E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment, 25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92, Email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com

Interview

Falter not, if you know your way to credible local news!

Ritwik Mukherjee

Digital content creation had been steadily rising even before the pandemic and is continuing to grow exponentially during and projected to continue.



And this digital news content platform, founded by Raju Vanapala in 2016, claims to be India's largest hyperlocal news app, covering news from 400 districts and generating more than 4 billion screen views every month from across the world. Unlike many other existing social media and news syndication platforms, this hyperlocal app claims to have cracked the code not to falter to find reliable local news. In fact it promises to enable users to find credible news from small towns and villages while ensuring depth of coverage. The fledgling start-up has recently raised nearly Rs 130 crore to upgrade the platform to the next level- technologically and otherwise.

Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively, Venkat Aditya Gunturu, Co-founder and Head, Hyperlocal News and Video at Way2News, decodes the digital news content market and charts out the next growth path for Way2News.

Excerpts:

RM: How big is the overall digital news content market? At what rate is it growing?

Gunturu: Let me try to give you some response on the basis of some studies.

The Global Digital Content Creation Market size is expected to reach \$38.2 billion by 2030 at a CAGR of 12 per cent during 2020 and 2030, according to a report from InsightSLICE.

Another study suggests that Revenue in the Digital Newspapers & Magazines segment is projected to reach US\$35.92bn in 2022. Revenue is expected to show an annual growth rate (CAGR 2022-2027) of 3.71 per cent, resulting in a projected market volume of \$43.10bn by 2027.

In the Digital News space / segment, the number of users is expected to amount to 1,881.9m users by 2027.

User penetration will be 20.3 per cent in 2022 and is expected to hit 23.7 per cent by 2027.

The average revenue per user (ARPU) is expected to amount to \$23.29.

In 2021, India's digital media market was valued at over Rs 300 billion with estimates projecting it to spike to Rs 537 billion by 2024. Overall, the digital media industry in the country was poised for a strong growth in the stated time frame.

Going by a recent KPMG study, robust digital infrastructure, strong content library and greater user engagement online supported a 24 per cent growth in Digital advertising. Digital subscription grew at 47 per cent though there was some resistance with OTT video players raising package prices and the income effects of a slowing economy.

Our growth rates have been encouraging pre and post-covid. We have seen 70-80 per cent growth YOY in terms of users consuming news on our App. Covid was a phase where digital news grew substantially, where Way2News gained 40% audience coming from traditional media, while newspapers lost 45% of the audience. We feel that this lost audience moved to digital entities like Way2News for news-based content for various reasons.

Generally, we at Way2News are also growing very fast. All we can say at this point is that we already have 5 crore app downloaded so far. We have a monthly active users (MAU) and daily average users (DAU) ratio of over 50 per cent.

RM: What would be the break-up of English & vernacular news in the overall digital news content space?

Gunturu: English news content should not be more than one per cent at this point. And this is not growing that fast either. Vernacular space where the growth would come from.

If you look at any study or statistics that has information about projected growth for digital sophisticates vs Digital Enthusiasts. Digital Sophisticates are the ones who are wealthy, urban, and tech-savvy, who have English language preferences over linguistics. They contribute to a mere .5% of overall devices., while people with linguistic preferences contribute over 50 %, these stats are not just for news but also content consumption. It would be difficult to compile numbers just for news, as our understanding is that news, in particular, isn't necessarily a matter of language, but rather of how quickly it is available, and the trusted source it comes from.

RM: What is the break-up of written and video contents? Which segment is growing faster? (Both in case of industry & way2news?)

Gunturu: Very difficult to answer this! Content formats and choices differ from user to user. Some users like consuming content in text, some like audio, and others like to info in video. The choices also differ because of variables like internet bandwidth and literacy rate. Way2News is focused more on content packaging, and we do a good mix of all content. Text, however, is still dominant, as it can be produced faster than the other two. Being short-format news champions, we take seconds to disseminate content. Video, audio, and long-form text content focuses on infotainment for people who crave a rich media experience. Text content offers quickness, while other formats add to the visual and glamour quotient.

RM: So, currently, how many languages are you functional in?

Gunturu: At present, we are present in eight languages- all three south Indian languages, Bengali, Hindi, Marathi and Gujrati.

RM:....And in terms of geography?

Gunturu: We had been focussing mostly on Hyderabad and Telengana and operating mostly out of these places. But recently, we have started aggressively moving into Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. For instance, we already have 1800 on ground reporters across Tamil Nadu and moves are afoot to take this number to 30,000 at the earliest. We will then go on replicating the Telengana and Tamil Nadu model in other places.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

Cong leaders change display pics on social media accounts to Nehru holding tricolour

New Delhi: The Congress and a host of its top leaders on Wednesday changed their display pictures on social media accounts to an image of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru holding the national flag, evoking a "dynastic" jibe from the BJP.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several BJP leaders made the 'tiranga' their profile picture on social media platforms, Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and the party's official handle on Twitter and other social media platforms posted a photograph of Nehru with the tricolour as their display pictures.

in this context.

During the press conference, the BJP spokesperson asked all parties, including those in the opposition, to join the government's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme, saying programmes like this are beyond politics. Congress' media department head Pawan Khera as well as some other party leaders shared screenshots of the Twitter handles of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and its chief Mohan Bhagwat and pointed out that they had not changed their profile pictures to reflect the Tricolour.

"People of the Sangh, at least now adopt the tricolour," Khera tweeted.



The BJP took a dig at the Congress over it, saying Rahul Gandhi should look outside his family and allow party members to use their photos with the Tricolour.

"Our tiranga is the pride of our country, the tiranga is in the heart of every Indian," former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet as he changed the display picture of his social media accounts.

His colleague Jairam Ramesh took a dig at the prime minister, asking if the organisation that did not hoist the national flag at its headquarters in Nagpur for 52 years will comply with his message to make the 'tiranga' the profile picture of social media accounts.

"In the Lahore session of 1929, while hoisting the flag on the banks of river Ravi, Pandit Nehru said, 'Once again you have to remember that this flag has now been hoisted. As long as there is a single Indian man, woman, child alive, the prestige of this tricolour should not be lowered,'" Ramesh tweeted in Hindi.

"We are putting the DP of our leader Nehru with the tricolour in hand. But it seems that the message of the Prime Minister did not reach his own family. Those who did not hoist the flag in their headquarters in Nagpur for 52 years, will they follow the Prime Minister's message?" Ramesh said in an obvious reference to the RSS. He used the hashtag 'MyTirangaMyPride'.

In a jibe at the BJP over the change in flag code to allow for polyester flags, Ramesh tagged a tweet with Nehru's picture holding the flag and said, "and that is in Khadi".

Asked about the Congress leaders' changing their social media display pictures, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "I believe there should not be dynastic politics in every issue... They have displayed the picture of their leader who was the country's first prime minister. The tricolour belongs to the poorest of the poor and to 135 crore Indians."

"Anyone can hold the tricolour and put it in their DP (display picture)... His (Gandhi's) family has been in politics from the beginning. I feel Rahul Gandhi should give others a chance. It will be very good if his party workers display their picture with the tricolour," Patra said.

He, however, added, "At least the tricolour is coming up".

The country is honoured when an ordinary person, the last person in the queue, holds the national flag high and lauds the nation, he said.

Patra also cited the election of Droupadi Murmu as the country's first tribal President

Among the other party leaders who changed their DPs in the run-up to Independence Day were Sachin Pilot, Shashi Tharoor, Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinete.

The official Twitter handle of the party as well as that of the Congress Seva Dal and other party-related organisations also changed their profile pictures on various social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

"The tricolour is in our hearts, it is in our veins as blood... Let us all make this tricolour which gives the message of unity, our identity. Jai Hind," the Congress said on Twitter. On Tuesday, Modi changed his display picture on social media accounts to the national flag and urged people to do the same as part of a collective movement to celebrate the tricolour.

Other senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers and chief ministers, followed suit. Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari and chief ministers Yogi Adityanath and Shivraj Singh Chouhan were among a large number of party members who switched their profile pictures on Twitter to the national flag. In his Mann ki Baat radio broadcast on Sunday, Modi said the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is turning into a mass movement and urged people to put the 'tiranga' as the profile picture of their social media accounts between August 2 and 15.

Centre takes back Bill on personal data, plans a new law

New Delhi: Government on Wednesday withdrew the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2021 from the Lok Sabha after a joint parliamentary committee suggested 81 changes to it. Government will now bring in a new comprehensive bill.

The Bill sought to establish a Data Protection Authority in the country for the protection of digital privacy of individuals.

Union electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw moved the motion for the withdrawal of the bill in Lok Sabha. He said, "The Data Protection Bill 2021 as reported by the Joint Committee may be withdrawn." The House adopted the motion.

The minister later said that the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was deliberated in great detail by the joint committee of Parliament (JCP) and 81 amend-

China begins major Taiwan military drills after Pelosi visit

PINGTAN, China: China's largest-ever military exercises encircling Taiwan kicked off Thursday, in a show of force straddling vital international shipping lanes after a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi left Taiwan Wednesday after a trip that defied a series of stark threats from Beijing, which views the self-ruled island as its territory.

Second in line to the presidency, Pelosi was the highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

She said her presence made it "unequivocally clear" that the United States would "not abandon" a democratic ally like Taiwan.

It sparked a furious reaction from Beijing, which vowed "punishment" and announced military

drills in the seas around Taiwan -- some of the world's busiest waterways.

The exercises, which began around 12 pm (0400 GMT), involve "live-firing", according to state media.

"Six major areas around the island have been selected for this actual combat exercise and during this period, relevant ships and aircraft should not enter the relevant waters and airspaces," state broadcaster CCTV reported. The exercises will take place in multiple zones around Taiwan -- at some points within just 20 kilometres (12 miles) of the island's shore -- and will conclude at midday on Sunday.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it was closely watching the drills and that the island was prepared for conflict, but would not seek it.

"The Ministry of National Defence stresses that it will uphold the principle of preparing for war without seeking war, and with an attitude of not escalating conflict and causing disputes," it said in a statement.

Beijing's nationalist state-run tabloid Global Times said, citing military analysts, that the exercises were "unprecedented" and that missiles would fly over Taiwan for the first time. "This is the first time the PLA will launch live long-range artillery across" the Taiwan Strait, the newspaper said using the Chinese military's formal name, the People's Liberation Army.

Taiwan has described the exercises as "an irrational move to challenge the international order".

The Group of Seven industrialised nations also condemned the drills, saying in a statement there was "no justification to use a visit as pretext for aggressive military activity in the Taiwan Strait".

'Preparation for actual combat' Taiwan's Maritime and Port Bureau issued warnings on Wednesday to ships to avoid the areas being used for the Chinese drills.

The Taiwanese cabinet said the drills would disrupt 18 international routes passing

through its flight information region (FIR). Beijing has defended its military operations as "necessary and just", pinning the blame for the escalation on the United States and its allies.

"In the current struggle surrounding Pelosi's Taiwan visit, the United States are the provocateurs, China is the victim," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing Wednesday.



A Chinese military source also told AFP the exercises would be staged "in preparation for actual combat".

"If the Taiwanese forces come into contact with the PLA on purpose and accidentally fire a gun, the PLA will take stern countermeasures, and all the consequences will be borne by the Taiwanese side," the source said.

'Some limits'

Taiwan's 23 million people have long lived with the possibility of an invasion, but that threat has intensified under President Xi Jinping, China's most assertive ruler in a generation.

Just 130 km wide at its narrowest point, the Taiwan Strait is a major international shipping channel and all that lies between democratic Taiwan and its giant authoritarian neighbour.

It is now a flashpoint between the United States, Taiwan and a Chinese leadership keen to project strength ahead of a crucial ruling party meeting this autumn at which Xi is expected to be given an unprecedented third term.

"China's announced military exercises represent a clear escalation from the existing baseline of Chinese military activities around Taiwan and from the last Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1995-1996," said Amanda Hsiao, senior analyst for China at the International Crisis Group.

"Beijing is signalling that it rejects Taiwan's sovereignty."

Nevertheless, analysts have told AFP that China is not aiming to escalate the situation beyond its control -- at least for now.

"Clearly they recognise that there are some limits to what they are willing to do," Chong Ja Ian, an associate professor at the National University of Singapore, told AFP.

And Titus Chen, an associate professor of political science at the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan, said: "The last thing Xi wants is an accidental war."

ments were proposed and 12 recommendations were made towards a comprehensive legal framework on the digital ecosystem.

"Considering the report of the JCP, a comprehensive legal framework is being worked upon. Hence, in the circumstances, it is proposed to withdraw The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 and present a new bill that fits into the comprehensive legal framework," he said.

"JCP report on Personal Data protection bill had identified many issues that were relevant but beyond the scope of a modern Digital Privacy law," tweeted minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar. He said that the bill will be soon replaced by a comprehensive framework of global standard laws, including digital privacy laws for contemporary and future challenges.

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 11, 2019 by then Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. However, it had faced stiff resistance from the Opposition parties who alleged that the bill violated fundamental rights of citizens and gave government powers to access personal data of individuals.

The Bill was then referred to the joint committee of the Houses for examination and report. The report of the joint committee was presented to the Lok Sabha in December last year.

The Bill sought to create a framework for organisational and technical measures in the processing of data, to lay down norms for social media platforms, cross-border transfer, accountability of entities processing data, remedies for unauthorised and harmful processing and to ensure the interest and security of the state.

Tripathy visits Sundargarh

Sundargarh: Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Chairman and Principal Advisor to Chief Minister, Asit Tripathy, who is making intense field visits to various western districts, visited Sundargarh district on Thursday.

He visited the Heavy Motor Vehicle Driving Training Center at Jhirdapali in Sundargarh district, which is in completion stage. Na-



tional Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) is executing the project with an estimated cost of Rs.55 crore out of DMF fund on skill development sector. The project is likely to be completed in the next three months, officials said.

Mr. Tripathy visited Government Girls' High School at Baidapali of Bonai Block in the district. The school has been covered under the 5T High School Transformation programme.

He also interacted with the students and the teachers in the Smart Class Rooms, Science Laboratory, Library, Computer Lab of the school. Students expressed their happiness in the overall transformation in their studies.

The WODC Chairman also made into Government High School at Khutugaon of Lahunipada Block. This school has also been included under the 5T High School Transformation programme. Mr. Tripathy interacted with the students and the teachers in the Smart Class Rooms, Science Laboratory, Library, Computer Lab of the school.

26/11 terror attacks: Youngest survivor and key eyewitness moves HC seeking house from government

MUMBAI: Devika Rotawan, the youngest survivor and an eyewitness to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, has moved the Bombay High Court seeking allotment of residential premises after the Maharashtra government rejected her plea for it.

This is the second time that Rotawan, now 23 years old, has approached the court.

In 2020, she had filed a similar petition.

In October 2020, the high court had directed the Maharashtra government to consider her plea and pass appropriate orders.

In her fresh plea filed last month, Rotawan said the government had rejected her representation, following which she was constrained to file a second petition in the high court.

On Thursday, when the petition came up for hearing before a division bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and M

S Karnik, additional government pleader Jyoti Chavan, who appeared for the Maharashtra government, said that pursuant to the October 2020 order, a compensation of Rs 13.26 lakh was handed



over to Rotawan on compassionate grounds.

Advocate R Bubna, appearing for the Union government, said Rotawan was given compensation of Rs 10 lakh after the attacks as per government policy.

He said she (Rotawan) cannot be demanding more as a matter of right. Since no lawyer was present for Rotawan on Thursday, the bench adjourned hearing in the plea till October 12.

Rotawan, who was nine years old at the time of the terror at-

He made online interaction with the Science Teacher at Bhubaneswar regarding the modalities of clarification of doubts. Students have expressed their happiness in the overall transformation by use of technology in teaching mechanisms.

Further, Mr. Tripathy visited the mega piped water supply projects site at Lalei of Lahunipada Block. It will supply water to the mining affected villages of Sundargarh district. The project is being implemented by Nagarjun Construction company at an estimated cost of Rs 275 crore out of OMBADC fund. The work was started in 2018.

The water treatment plant has been completed. Presently, 62 out of 119 villages are being provided potable pipe water supply. About 90 percent work has been completed and the project is likely to be completed by 2023.

Later, the Chairman also made into Government Girls' High School at Baidapali of Bonai Block and interacted with the students and the teachers.

Mr. Tripathy visited the skill development training center being jointly operated by National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) & ORAMAS for different types of skill development training under DDU-GKY at Bonaigarh. The WODC Chairman interacted with the Tailoring, Nursing, Computer Repairing trainees and took note of the prospects of their placements.

He visited the construction site of synthetic turf hockey training center at Bonai and discussed with the divisional head regarding the quality of work. State-run IDCO is executing the project with an estimated cost of Rs.10 crore, which is expected to be completed by October 2022.

tacks at multiple locations in the city, was at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station along with her father and brother, when two of the ten Pakistani terrorists opened fire.

government officials had visited her house and assured to provide accommodation to them under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota. The officials, she claimed in her petition, also assured to make adequate arrangements for her education and monetary assistance for her and her family's medical treatment. But she did not receive any help, it said.

On November 26, 2008, 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists from Pakistan arrived by sea route and opened fire, killing 166 people, including 18 security personnel, and injuring several others during the 60-hour siege in Mumbai.

Nine terrorists were later killed by the security forces, including the NSG, the country's elite commando force. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive.

He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012.

CM Patnaik unveils ITIs at Kuchinda, Patnagarh



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government on Wednesday announced two Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for Balangir and Sambalpur districts. Making the announcement Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said one ITI will be set up at Patnagarh of Balangir district while the other will

be established at Kuchinda in Sambalpur district. The two ITIs will immensely benefit the youths especially tribal students of Kuchinda, Bamra and Jamankira blocks of Sambalpur district and Patnagarh and nearby blocks of Balangir district. "With several industries coming up in Sambalpur and its

periphery, the proposed institute will create ample opportunities for employment and self-employment," the Chief Minister said. Similarly, the proposed ITI at Patnagarh will be a great enabler for skill development of the local youth and will open up opportunities for self-employment. Each of the ITI

will have an intake capacity for 240 and there will be four trades. Of the 314 blocks in the State, presently 241 blocks have government/private ITIs. Similarly, out of 58 sub-divisions, 48 have ITIs. The number of sub-divisions will increase to 50 after the establishment of ITIs at Patnagarh and Kuchinda.




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Telecom Dept hasn't reviewed spectrum pricing mechanism for captive users: CAG report

NEW DELHI: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the telecom department for not finalising policy on spectrum assignment for captive uses and flagged the absence of spectrum price review for captive users administratively.

In its report titled 'Management of spectrum assigned on the administrative basis to government departments/agencies', the CAG asked the Department of Telecom (DoT) to review the spectrum pricing mechanism for captive users to incentivise ministries, departments and agencies, and for maintaining spectrum management discipline.

"They may consider differential pricing, depending on the features and usage of various spectrum bands," the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament on Monday.

It noted that despite

receiving a legal opinion (July 2021) on its own reference, regarding the method for allotment of spectrum for captive uses, including government departments, the department had not finalised the policy for allotment and assignment of spectrum for captive uses/other commercial services with the approval of the Digital Communications Commission. The DCC is the apex body for telecom policy formulation.

"DoT had also not reviewed the pricing of spectrum assigned for captive users administratively, on formulae basis since 2012, though a Committee had recommended for a periodical review of the pricing policy in 2013," the CAG report said.

There was no differential pricing for spectrum, depending on features and usage of various spectrum bands assigned to users, it observed. 'Buy from trusted

sources only': Ahead of 5G rollout, Centre bars Chinese telecom equipment

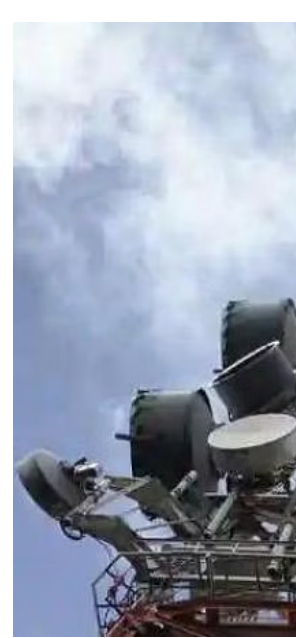
"DoT may devise a policy on allotment and assignment of spectrum for captive users/other commercial usages in alignment with statements made in NDCP 2018 (National Digital Communication Policy) and end adhocism in allotment of spectrum to government departments/agencies," the report said.

It suggested that the DoT should establish a permanent set-up comprising all stakeholders for a periodical review of spectrum planning, availability, allotments, assignments and pricing.

This would expedite decisions for efficient management and optimal utilisation of spectrum in India.

"They may also ensure that an MIS (management information system) is put in place in DoT to get details of actual

spectrum utilised by government user departments and agencies," the CAG suggested.



Government user departments and agencies," the CAG suggested.

The DoT in consultation with all the departments should take proactive measures for the finalisation of recommendations of working groups and decisions of the Committee of Secretaries for reassignment, re-allotment and re-farming of the spectrum.

"In pursuance of NDCP 2018, DoT

may coordinate with the completion of

space in future

Government users to provide spectrum in substitute bands for users in 1427-1500 MHz and 2300-2400 MHz bands, harmonisation exercise in 2100 MHz, sharing of spectrum in 700 MHz band as these had been identified for IMT (International Mobile Telecommunications) use and have scope for commercial utilisation of spectrum," it said.

The DoT and Railways should monitor

LTE (Long-Term Evolution) based network project in the 700 MHz band so that Railways vacate the spectrum in the 900 MHz band being used by them, and it is made available for commercial utilisation.

"DoT in consultation with TRAI may take early action for the auction/utilisation of IMT spectrum lying idle with them," the report said.

READ HERE | Adani may enter telecom

The Department of Space (DOS) and DoT should work together to identify a suitable technology solution in a manner that both services can co-exist in important frequency bands.

"DoS needs to engage with client Departments and other potential users at an early stage before planning and launching the satellite capacity so as to minimise non-utilisation of spectrum resources," the

CAG report said. The DoS, it felt, needs to establish a mechanism for assessing and reviewing the utilisation of spectrum in all bands, particularly in IMT bands and satellite bandwidth for ensuring optimal and efficient utilisation of assigned radiowaves.

"DoS may consolidate spectrum-related information and make it available at a common platform for easy access and assessment of spectrum at Corporate Infocom level," said the report.

The Ministry of Home Affairs should devise a policy for spectrum management among central armed police forces, it added.

Besides, the DoT can ensure that public sector undertakings, such as ONGC and GAIL, use the assigned spectrum optimally and efficiently and surrender unutilised frequencies

Reliance Jio submits earnest money deposit of Rs 14,000 crore ahead of 5G auction



NEW DELHI: India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio Infocomm has submitted an earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs 14,000 crore ahead of its participation in the 5G auction, while Bharti Airtel has put in Rs 5,500 crore.

According to the list of pre-qualified bidders posted on the telecom department's website, the EMD (Earnest money de-

posit) amount of Adani Data Networks stands at Rs 100 crore. Typically, EMD amounts give a broad indication of players' appetite, strategy and plan for picking up spectrum in an auction.

It also determines the eligibility points, through which telcos target a specific amount of spectrum in a given circle. Vodafone Idea has put in an EMD of

Rs 2,200 crore. With its EMD at Rs 14,000 crore, the eligibility points assigned to Jio for the auction stand at 1,59,830, the highest in the list of four bidders.

The eligibility points allocated to Airtel are 66,330, while that of Vodafone Idea are 29,370. Adani Data Networks received eligibility points of 1,650, based on its deposit.

The 5G spectrum

efficiencies for players, as chunks of radio-wave holdings in one band are brought together or consolidated with the consensus of all players. "The promise we made that we will allocate spectrum by August 12...we are on time," Vaishnav said.

A telecom department official, explaining the concept of spectrum harmonisation, drew a parallel with distributed land holdings with gaps being brought together into contiguous holding. India's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum that concluded on August 1 (Monday) received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with an Rs 88,078 crore bid. Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group, whose entry in the auction was billed by some as another flash point in the rivalry with Ambani, paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, in a band that is not used for offering public telephony services.

auction is scheduled to start on July 26. Total of 72 GHz (gigahertz) of spectrum worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore will be put on the block during the auction.

The auction will be held for radiowaves in various low-frequency bands (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 megahertz) and high-frequency bands (26GHz).

CCPA imposes Rs 1 lakh fine on Amazon for selling sub-standard pressure cookers

NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on e-commerce major Amazon for selling pressure cookers that did not meet quality standards. The CCPA also directed Amazon to notify the consumers of all these 2,265 pressure cookers sold through its platform, recall the products and reimburse the prices to buyers, the Department of Consumer Affairs said in a statement.

The authority, headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, recently passed an order against Amazon for allowing sale of domestic pressure cookers, in violation of mandatory standards, on its e-commerce platform.

The CCPA had initiated suo-moto action against e-commerce platforms for sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation of compulsory standards.

India among "our closest partners" Blinken tells Jaishankar ahead of ASEAN meeting

Continued from page-1 ministerial meeting.

In a statement issued by the Department of State, Blinken said that it is an opportunity for both the leaders to compare notes on various mutual interest areas including the free and open Indo-Pacific and Sri Lanka crisis.

"Taking part in the ASEAN meetings is the opportunity for us to get together and compare notes with our closest partners, starting with my longtime friend, Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar," Blinken said in the statement.

"This is an opportunity for us to compare notes as we head into these very important ASEAN meetings. We're both strong proponents of ASEAN centrality. We have a shared vision together for a free and open Indo-Pacific that we work on in so many different ways every single day," the US Secretary of State said further.

He also noted several challenges in Sri Lanka and Burma.

"We have some immediate challenges that we're both concerned with including the situation in Sri Lanka, Burma and a number of other hotspots. So I very much look forward to once again being able to go through a number of these issues with my friend, and then we'll both head over to the meetings," he said in the statement.

ALSO READ | Jaishankar, Blinken discuss pressing global issues
Meanwhile, Jaishankar told Blinken: "Always good to meet. There's a lot we need to talk about and it is actually been a very busy year, we had a very good Quad and since then I think a number of developments all over the world..."

The authority had issued notices to major e-commerce platforms, including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm Mall, ShopClues and Snapdeal as well as the sellers registered on these platforms.

"After examination of the response submitted by the company, it was observed that total 2,265 pressure cookers not conforming to mandatory standards were sold through Amazon after notification of the QCO (Quality Control Order).

Lok Sabha adjourned for the day amid Oppn uproar over 'misuse' of ED

Continued from page-1

Earlier this week, when Birla had revoked the suspension of four Opposition members, he had also made it clear that they should not display placards inside the House.

As soon as the proceedings began on Thursday, Opposition members sought to raise various issues and shouted slogans. With the Speaker not allowing them to raise the issues, Congress members trooped into the Well of the House while those from the DMK, NCP and CPI-M, among others, protested by standing at their seats.

Earlier, Birla asked the Congress members, who were protesting in the Well, to go back to their seats. The Speaker also warned that he would have to take action if they continued to stand in the Well.

The lines 'Save Constitution, Save Democracy' and 'GST hurting common people' were written on the placards. Besides, the members also protested against price rise.

While the protests were continuing, DMK member S R Parthiban (DMK Salem) asked a supplementary question and at that time, Birla and DMK leader T R Baalu were seen smiling at each other since the Southern party was also protesting.

During the Question Hour, the Speaker also told Power, New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh that as a minister he should be knowing the rules and that documents have to be tabled in the House and not directly given to the members. The remark came after Singh replied to a supplementary question related to renewable energy.

On Wednesday, the ED temporarily sealed the office of Young Indian (YI) company housed in the premises of Congress-owned newspaper National Herald here as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation.

Later on Wednesday, the road to AICC headquarters was blocked by the Delhi police with the Congress saying policemen were deployed there and claimed the party was "under siege" by the Modi government.

CWG 2022: Kidambi Srikanth advances to men's singles round of 16

BIRMINGHAM: Indian ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth defeated Daniel Wanagaliya of Uganda to start off his men's singles campaign and reached the round of 16 stage at the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Thursday.

game was better for the Maldives player, but Sindhu was even better as she took the second game by 21-11.

Notably, Sindhu and Srikanth were the part of Indian mixed Badminton team that clinched the silver medal at CWG 2022.



In his round of 32 match, Srikanth won his match by 21-9, 21-9. The Indian was extremely dominant in the match and barely gave a chance to Wanagaliya to take advantage. As a result, he sealed the match within two straight games.

Srikanth, who is also a silver medalist in CWG 2018, will play his round of 16 match on Friday.

Earlier, ace Indian shuttler and Olympic medalist PV Sindhu defeated Fathimath Nabaaha of Maldives in her round of 32 match to cruise into the next round of the women's singles competition at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham on Thursday.

Sindhu was on fire as she swung her racquet on her way to victory within just two games. She captured the match 21-4, 21-11. The first match was extremely one-sided and Sindhu won it without breaking a sweat. The second

Indian badminton team claimed the silver medal in the mixed group match of the Commonwealth Games 2022 on Tuesday.

Indian badminton mixed team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Malaysia and had to settle for silver. Only Sindhu managed to earn a win in the summit clash against Malaysia in the women's singles match.

Later today, the mixed duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa will be in action against England.

Later at 10:00 PM, Aakarshi Kashyap will be in action against Pakistan's Mahoor Shahzad in the women's singles round of 32 match.

Finally at 11:30 AM, star shuttler Lakshya Sen will be playing his men's singles round of 32 match against Vernon Smeed of Saint Helena. The Commonwealth Games started in Birmingham from July 28 and will go on till August 8.

Haaland embracing life out his 'comfort zone' in Premier League

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland has warned the contenders to Manchester City's title that he will only improve in the competitive environment of English

Guardiola was behind his reason for choosing City.

"As a young player, playing for Pep Guardiola, playing for the best club in England, I have to

is something I've been doing and something I like because then you develop more as a human being as well," he added.

"I'm a player that's

make his first Premier League appearance this weekend.

"You are a kind of entertainer. You get judged every single week for what you do on the pitch and you



football as the Norwegian prepares for his Premier League debut away to West Ham on Sunday.

Haaland is the marquee arrival to the Premier League from over £1 billion (USD 1.2 billion) spent by the 20 top-flight English clubs so far this summer.

The 22-year-old had his pick of top clubs after scoring 86 goals in 89 games for Borussia Dortmund,

but said the demands of playing under Pep

keep developing and get better at a lot of things," Haaland told Sky Sports.

"That's what I like a lot about football, you can always develop, you can always get better at the game."

The English champions are already Haaland's fifth club after spells at Bryne, Molde and Red Bull Salzburg before joining Dortmund.

"Part of the game is to get out of your comfort zone which

hungry for goals, that gives 100 per cent, that wants to win every single game. They are simple things but also really important things."

After the hype around his arrival, Haaland had a debut to forget, missing a glorious chance towards the end of City's 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Community Shield on Saturday.

However, he said he will not let that affect him as he prepares to

have to deliver and do your best," he said.

"For me as a striker, this is something I cannot stress about because if you think too much, you might end up doing things you don't want to do."

"It's going to be tough and this is the charming thing about the Premier League. It's a beautiful, hard competition, that's why it's the most popular league in the world."

Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka wins at San Jose in first match since May

SAN JOSE: Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka won the first match she's

Osaka had not played anywhere since a first-round loss to Amanda Anisimova at

2020. Next up for Osaka is Coco Gauff, who won her match 6-0,

ner Bianca Andreescu, lost Tuesday in San Jose, beaten 6-4, 6-2 by



played since May, beating Zheng Qinwen 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 at the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic. Osaka hit 11 aces and saved 7 of 8 break points in the hard-court tournament that serves as a tuneup for the U.S. Open.

the French Open on May 23.

The former No.1-ranked player was bothered by her left Achilles tendon during that defeat, then cited that lingering injury when she pulled out of Wimbledon in June. Osaka won the U.S. Open in 2018 and

6-1 over Anhelina Kalinina.

Osaka leads their head-to-head series 2-1, including a victory over Gauff at the 2019 U.S. Open.

Gauff was the runner-up at this year's French Open.

Another past champion at Flushing Meadows, 2019 win-

Shelby Rogers.

In other first-round action, qualifier Elizabeth Mandlik won her WTA debut, defeating Alison Riske-Amritraj 6-3, 6-3, and No.9 seed Veronika Kudermetova beat Camila Giorgi 7-6 (2), 4-6, 7-5.

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