

Govt reaches out to PVTGs

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR
An outreach programme for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) is underway in Chhattisgarh to ensure that the benefits of state and Central government schemes reach them. A government official on Tuesday said that IEC (Information, Education and Communication) camps are underway in 18 tribal-dominated districts in the state for PVTGs from August 23. This would end on September 10. These camps aim to achieve 100 per cent saturation of immediate activities in all PVTG settlements, including the issuance of Aadhar cards, Jan Dhan accounts, Ayushman



cards, forest rights certificates, ration cards, caste certificates, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Kisan Credit Cards, Sickie Cell testing and basic health facilities. The beneficiary saturation camps are intensively conducted in all the PVTG settlements and districts. The primary focus of these camps are on UIDAI enrollment and Aadhar card issuance, opening bank accounts under PM Jan Dhan, issuing Ayushman Bharat cards to all eligible

The beneficiary saturation camps are intensively conducted in all the PVTG settlements and districts.

beneficiaries, issuing community certificates to all PVTGs, and conducting Sickie Cell testing in PVTG settlements.

MLA's judicial remand extended



STAFF REPORTER n BALODABAZAR
A court here on Tuesday extended the judicial remand of Congress legislator Devendra Yadav till September 3 in the arson case in Balodabazar city in Chhattisgarh.

Second Civil Judge Class-I Manju Lata Sinha passed the order via video conferencing. Bhilai MLA Yadav was presented before the judge after the expiry of his judicial custody for a second time. He was arrested on August 17. Yadav was booked for promoting enmity between

Yadav was booked for promoting enmity between different groups, criminal conspiracy, rioting, obstructing public servants from performing duty and assault.

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Cong condemns cane-charge on party workers at Bhilai-3

STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR
The Congress in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday condemned the cane-charge on its party workers at Bhilai-3 on Tuesday. It said they were politely raising slogans when they came under attack. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel criticized the "police brutality" and warned the Durg Superintendent of Police not to be biased at the government's behest. PCC chief Deepak Baij said in a statement that everyone has a right to peacefully protest in democracy and it was not fair that the BJP resorts to anti-democratic steps to crush such opposition. According to Baij, some



youths were beaten brutally while marching towards the SP's office to submit a memorandum on the obstruction of Baghel's convoy by Bajrang Dal activists. Baghel and Baij warned of strong agitation by the

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Congress against the "oppressive policies" of the BJP.

Retired Justice Uboweja sworn-in as Chief Lokayukta



STAFF REPORTER n RAIPUR
Chhattisgarh Governor Ramen Deka on Tuesday administered the oath of office and secrecy to retired Justice Inder Singh Uboweja as the Chief Lokayukta of Lok Ayog at a function in Raj Bhavan. Additional Chief Secretary

Renu Pillay presided over the oath-taking ceremony. Following the oath, Governor Deka and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated Uboweja. The ceremony was also attended by Speaker Raman Singh, MP Brijmohan Agrawal and former Chief Lokayukta TP Sharma besides the family members of Uboweja.

Authorities to crack down on tobacco sellers near schools, hospitals



STAFF REPORTER n BILASPUR
A head of the Nutrition Month, authorities in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur are taking steps to crack down on vendors selling tobacco within 100 metres of schools and hospitals. Collector Awanish Sharan issued directions to remove such stalls on Tuesday.

Authorities have also been imposing fines and taking other disciplinary action against vendors violating the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). Nutrition Month will be observed from September 1 to 30. Camps will be held to educate people about nutrition and conduct health checkups of women and children.

Modern techniques financially empowers farmers in C'garh



STAFF REPORTER n BALRAMPUR
Farmers in Chhattisgarh are achieving financial success thanks to the modern agriculture training and aid provided through the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) Scheme, an official statement said on Tuesday. Amlu of Balrampur district was facing repeated losses due to lack of advanced technical knowledge and natural disasters. Through the NHM

scheme, Amlu learnt about the intercropping method and was provided chilli seeds and a grant. Intercropping is a technique that involves growing multiple crops in the same field. The goal is to increase the yield without affecting the main crop. It can also reduce the negative effects of pollution. He said that he was able to cultivate 100 quintals of chilli, whose market value is Rs 2.3 lakh, and made a profit of Rs 1.5 lakh.

Man held for cheating Rs 25L over railway job



STAFF REPORTER n MAHASAMUND
Chhattisgarh Police on Tuesday arrested a man for cheating an unemployed youth of Rs 25 lakh by promising him a job in the Indian Railways in 2022. Jitendra Kumar Pandit of

Mahasamund town has been taken into custody, Mahasamund Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Singh said. The accused told the police that he took money from Pushpasagar Tandhi between April 2022 and July 2022. A court sent him to prison.



A tribal woman of Kamar tribe in Baldakachhar village in Balodabazar in Chhattisgarh earns well from bamboo craft. Financial assistance for pursuing the craft is provided to her under the Mahtari Vandan scheme of the state government.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HASDEO BARRAGE W/M DIVISION, RAMPUR/KORBA (C.G.)

PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE -
Procurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(FIRST CALL)

NIT No.: 01/SAC/2024-25 Dated: 23-08-2024
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 13-09-2024 at 17.30 Hour

System Tender No NIT. No Date	Name Of Work	Amount
System No-157782 Grup No-1	Renovation Work of Septic Tank, Sewerage Line and Culvert of Irrigation Colony Rampur / Korba.	Rs. 168.27 Lakhs Tender Invited As Per SOR of August 2022
System No-157783 Grup No-2	Renovation Work of Septic Tank, Sewerage Line and Culvert of Irrigation Colony Darri/Korba.	Rs. 181.03 Lakhs Tender Invited As Per SOR of August 2022

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 30-08-2024, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.
NOTE: All eligible interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Hasdeo Barrage W/M Division,
Rampur/Korba (C.G.)

G-242502036/4

Urban noise pollution has a negative impact on heart health

AGENCIES n
Noise pollution in urban areas has significant, negative impacts on heart health according to studies published on Tuesday. The studies conducted in France and Germany, respectively, show that people already suffering from heart as well as cardiovascular problems are among the vulnerable groups and will be subjected to debilitating effects on their health owing to this menace. In Germany's Bremen, 430 consecutive patients with acute myocardial infarctions (MI) who were admitted to a nearby heart centre and were 50 years of age or younger were enrolled in the trial. The researchers found that residential noise exposure levels were higher than those of the general population in the same region when they calculated levels of noise exposure. Individuals who had MI and a low Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) score (greater or smaller than 2.5 per cent) suggests they had less traditional risk factors like diabetes or smoking, showed



considerably higher noise exposure than patients with a high CVD score. This is important because cardiovascular risk in young people who are otherwise deemed low risk may be underestimated by traditional risk assessment techniques.

An independent French study evaluated the effect of noise exposure on the prognosis following a first MI, "we found a strong association between urban noise exposure, particularly at night, and worse prognosis at 1 year after a first MI" in the

ENVI-MI research", said investigator Professor Marianne Zeller of the University of Burgundy and Hospital of Dijon. Data for 864 patients who were hospitalised for an acute MI and survived for at least 28 days following the MI were gathered from the French Observatory Database (RICO). A major adverse cardiovascular event (MACE), cardiac mortality, rehospitalisation for heart failure, recurrent MI, emergency revascularisation, stroke, angina and/or unstable angina) was reported by 19 per cent of the participants at the 1-year follow-up. The average noise level in A-weighted decibels [dB(A)] for each patient's home address was measured every day. It was found to be 56.0

during the day and 49.0 at night. These levels of noise exposure were deemed to be moderate and typical for a significant portion of the European population. Notably, regardless of air pollution or socioeconomic status, there was a 25 per cent greater risk of MACE for every 10 dB(A) increase in noise during the night (hazard ratio 1.25; 95 per cent, confidence interval 1.09-1.43). "These data provide some of the first insights that noise exposure can affect prognosis. If confirmed by larger prospective studies, our analysis could help to identify new opportunities for environment-based secondary-prevention strategies, including noise barriers for high-risk MI patients," Prof Zeller said.

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Seven killed in rain-related incidents in Gujarat, more than 6,000 relocated

At least seven persons have died in rain-related incidents in different parts of Gujarat, and heavy showers continued to pound the state for the third consecutive day on Tuesday...



were relocated in Vadodra, 1,200 in Navsari, and 800 in Valsad, among other areas, officials said. As per data shared by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), the state has received nearly 100 per cent of its average annual rainfall so far...

district received 347 mm of rainfall in 24 hours ending at 6 am on Tuesday, the highest in the state, followed by Morva Hadaf in Panchmahal (346 mm), Nadiad in Kheda (327 mm), Borsad in Anand (318 mm), Vadodara taluka (316 mm) and Anand taluka (314 mm).

Central team to visit Tripura to assess flood damage : CM

PTI n AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the Centre will send a team to the state to assess the damage caused by the floods. At least 26 people died as the floods devastated the state. A total of 17 lakh people were estimated to have been affected, and of them, 1.37 lakh were rendered homeless, officials said.



Madhya Pradesh government also donated Rs 20 crore for restoration works. The Centre will certainly assist Tripura during these difficult times but it is praise-worthy the way other states are also lending a helping hand, he said.

Decision on shifting Darshan to another prison likely soon: Min

PTI n BENGALURU



Karnataka Home Minister K.G. Parameashwara on Tuesday said a decision is expected to be taken by authorities in a couple of days on shifting Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Central jail here in the Renukaswamy murder case, to another prison.

Government doesn't decide it. There are certain norms as they (Darshana and co-accused) are undertrial, based on which authorities will decide, Parameashwara told reporters in response to a question. Asked as to when the authorities would decide, he said: "They will decide in a couple of days."

MP police arrest main accused in attack on Chhatarpur police station

PTI n BHOPAL

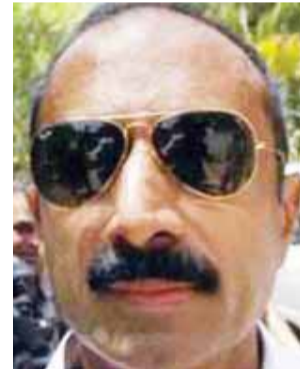
The Madhya Pradesh police on Tuesday arrested Haji Shahzad Ali, the main accused in the stone-pelting incident at a police station during a protest against a Hindu seer in Chhatarpur city, an official said.

accused of the August 21 incident, was arrested from Chhatarpur during the day, and further legal steps will be taken after presenting him in the court. Jain said the police had formed 10 teams to apprehend the accused. Ali has a criminal record and has six cases, including murder and offences under the Arms Act to his name, since 1988, the SP said, adding that the administration is also investigating complaints of illegal encroachment lodged against Ali.

SC notice to Gujarat Govt on Sanjiv Bhatt's plea in custodial death case

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Gujarat government's response on former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt's plea against his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. "Issue notice returnable in four weeks," a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale said. The court also tagged the appeal with other matters related to the case.



trial court while convicting the concerned accused persons for offences punishable under section 302 of the IPC, the division bench said while reading out the order. "From the evidence based on record, we are of the opinion that the trial court has rightly convicted (five) accused...For offences punishable under Sections 323, the judges had said.

Prabhudas Vaishnani, one of the detained persons, died in hospital after his release. Vaishnani's brother accused Bhatt and six other police officials of torturing him in custody and causing his death. Bhatt was arrested on September 5, 2018, in another case where he is accused of falsely implicating a man for drug possession. He is also accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat director general of police R B Sreekumar.

Over 50 lakh vehicles used Atal Setu in seven months



PTI n MUMBAI

More than 50 lakh vehicles have used the Atal Setu, the country's longest sea bridge connecting Mumbai with its satellite city Navi Mumbai, since it was opened for traffic over seven months ago, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has said.

daily average of 22,000 vehicles (over 227 days). "The vehicles comprise 47.40 lakh cars, 50,020 mini buses and light motor vehicles, 59,799 double-axle vehicles, 73,074 three-axle vehicles, 80,277 four-six axle vehicles and 503 oversized vehicles," a spokesperson said. The sea bridge - Mumbai Trans Harbour link (MTHL) - officially named Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu linking Sewri in Mumbai and Nhava Sheva in Navi Mumbai, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 12, while it was thrown open to the public the next day.

Effective governance key to achieving our developmental goals: Siddaramaiah

PTI n BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that effective governance is key to achieving the state's developmental goals and that the government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the administrative processes.



agricultural practices. We recognise that environmental stewardship is essential for long-term prosperity and quality of life," he said. The chief minister said the state government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in administrative processes.

Siddaramaiah further said that by adopting e-governance tools and fostering a culture of responsiveness, the government aims to improve service delivery and citizen engagement. "Our partnership with NITI Aayog has been instrumental in shaping our development strategies. We appreciate the guidance and support provided and are keen to continue collaborating on various Initiatives. We believe that through shared knowledge, resources, and expertise, we can address the challenges we face and unlock new opportunities for growth," he said.

Goa Govt mulls hike in fine up to `1 crore for illegal hill-cutting: Min

PTI n PANAJI

The Goa government did not grant permission to anyone for hill cutting in the state in the last six months and it plans to amend regulations to raise up to Rs 1 crore the amount of fine for illegal hill cutting and other such activities, a minister has said. Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane issued the statement on Monday amid apprehensions that his department was allowing rampant cutting of hills in the eco-sensitive areas like slopes.

press conference, local officials, like deputy collector, mamlatdar and talathis must take action against such illegal activities, Rane said. The Goa government has pulled up its sleeves in the wake of devastating landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district. In the future, new guidelines will be formulated, including requirement for soil stabilization reports from engineers, he added. While the TCP department has not granted any fresh permission for hill cutting, it is also the responsibility of other departments to act for prevention of illegal hill cutting. The minister, who recently drew flak after a real estate giant constructed buildings on a slope of a hill in Reis Magos village near Panaji, claimed that permission for that was not granted by him.

Court convicts man for outraging woman's modesty by winking at her

PTI n IMPHAL



A 22-year-old man for outraging the modesty of a woman by winking at her and holding her hand but refused to impose any sentence on him considering his age and the fact that he has no criminal antecedents. Magistrate Aarti Kulkarni observed that while the offence committed by the accused, Mohammed Kaif Fakir, deserves a sentence not less than life imprisonment, considering his age and the fact that he has no criminal antecedents, he should be given the benefit of probation. The order was passed on August 22. The court said it couldn't ignore the mental agony and harassment the woman underwent, but imposing a sentence on the accused would affect his future and his image in society. The court convicted Fakir under section 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court ordered that Fakir be released after furnishing a bond of Rs 15,000 and directed him to appear before the probation officer as and when called. As per the complaint lodged at Byculla police station in south Mumbai in April 2022, the woman had ordered groceries from a local shop, and the accused, who worked at the establishment, came to her house to deliver the same. The accused asked the woman for a glass of water, and when she was handing it over, he allegedly touched her hand inappropriately and winked at her. He touched her hand the second time while handing over the bag of groceries and

again winked at her, she alleged. When the woman raised an alarm, the accused ran away. The woman then told her husband about the incident, and they lodged a police complaint. The accused claimed that he had touched the woman's hand by mistake and had no intention to outrage her modesty. The court held that although only the victim and the accused were present at the time of the incident, the evidence and the woman's statement were strong enough to prove the accused's complicity.



FIRST COLUMN

LIVE IN THE PRESENT

MOMENT, IT MATTERS MOST

One needs to inculcate habits of equanimity, and remaining calm, whatever the circumstance



RAVI VALLURI

The romance was in the air as India attained freedom from the British yoke. The period was the 1950s as India embarked upon the socialistic pattern to revive the country, which had inherited an impecunious economy. Two bright students from coastal Andhra landed in rain-washed Delhi University to pursue their dreams. To remain connected with their past, they made recurrent trips to the New Delhi Railway Station to receive students arriving in droves from their state and revive those nostalgic moments. When it is repetitively said, "Those good old days!", in one stroke we send a signal to our Universe that the present is not congenial. As Buddha says, "The mind is everything. What you think you become." If we live in the past, we keep fretting and fuming about the missed opportunities and those past impressions create roadblocks in our physical and metaphysical advancement.

On completion of their studies, the more aspiring students stayed back and the less enterprising ones returned home. The person in Delhi aspired to be a civil servant like his more illustrious siblings and their children. But destiny had carved out its plan. His friends and acquaintances qualified for the coveted job, a sinecure that eluded him. So, the mind became envious of his siblings, their children and friends and started implanting his failed mission upon his children, much to their discomfiture. How does one reach that state of 'present moment'? Before dwelling on some techniques, it will be useful to read a fasci-



inating Buddhist parable. One afternoon a Buddhist monk was carrying a bucket filled with water in a dense forest. Suddenly he heard a rustle. It was a tiger, smacking its lips and intently looking at the potential prey. The monk ran for his life, with the tiger in pursuit. The monk reached a precipice and had a choice to make, either be devoured by the ferocious tiger or jump off the cliff. Death stared in his face. The monk jumped and fortuitously clung onto a branch of a strawberry tree. He ate the strawberry—considering it to be his last meal—and thoroughly relished it. The monk had never had such a meal, as was absolutely in the present moment. A simple yet profound technique of sadhana is to be a witness to all the actions and activities that take place. The actor in us becomes the spectator too. This is what is espoused in the esoteric philosophy of Ashtavakra Gita (a classic dialogue between King Janaka—who himself was a Raj Rishi—and the sage Ashtavakra).

Any individual, householder or seeker needs to inculcate habits of equanimity, equilibrium, and equipoise to remain calm, whatever the circumstance or situation, to be contented and remain in the present moment. The protagonist who stayed back in Delhi could fulfil his dreams only partially. His son did qualify for the civil services, but could not join the service of his choice; this was due to excessive pressure applied by family members already in the elite services. Eventually, the son turned into an alcoholic. Perhaps it was because both father and son were not grateful to the Universe and did not adhere to the Law of Gratefulness.

Thus, lives were ruined. Meanwhile, the friend who returned home did not lose his way in the sands of time. He became a trade union leader and politician, living in the present. "Life is one big road with lots of signs. So, when you are riding through the ruts, do not complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief, and jealousy," sang Bob Marley.

(The writer is a faculty at Art of Living, views expressed are personal)

Catalyst for cinematic evolution and excellence



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

The 70th National Film Awards once again celebrated the rich tapestry of Indian cinema, where diverse languages and cultures converged to showcase the best talent

The National Film Awards: A Platform for The Great Leap Forward At the 70th National Film Awards, India's cinematic excellence once again took centre stage, showcasing vibrant and diverse storytelling from across the nation's many languages. Southern cinema emerged as a dominant force this year, with films and artists from the region sweeping some of the most prestigious honours. The Malayalam film 'Aattam' captured the Swarna Kamal for Best Feature Film, while the Kannada blockbuster 'Kantara' clinched the title of Best Popular Film.

Rishab Shetty, the driving force behind Kantara, took home the Best Actor award, sharing the limelight with Nithya Menon and Manasi Parekh, who shared Best Actresses for the Tamil film 'Thiruchitrabalam' and Gujarati film 'Kutch Express' respectively. Meanwhile, the Haryanvi film 'Fouja' gathered acclaim, earning Pramod Kumar the award for Best Debut Director, while Pavan Raj Malhotra secured Best Supporting Actor. The epic Tamil drama 'Ponniyin Selvan: I' also made its mark, with AR Rahman's power-packed music earning him the Best Music Director (Background Music) award, alongside wins for Best Sound Design by Anand Krishnamoorthi and Best Cinematography by Ravi Varman. In the Hindi cinema category, 'Gulmohar' emerged as the Best Hindi Film, adding another feather to Sharmila Tagore's illustrious cap with her third National Film Award.

This year's awards not only celebrated individual excellence but also highlighted the ever-evolving and dynamic landscape of Indian cinema. The lifeline and longevity of any artist and any film is fuelled by the adrenaline of 4A's "Acknowledgment, Awards, Appreciation, and Applause". Globally, awards are given for excellence in the celluloid space which has opened a new phase of creativity, innovation perspective perspective-building through storytelling and film narration. Since its inception in 1954, the National Film Awards for Excellence in Cinema have symbolised the journey of excellence and creativity. The awards have offered an equal platform to cinemas of various languages, cultures, diversities, themes, and perspectives, where all the creative energies of India converge to speak the unified language of artistic excellence. These awards in the last seventy-odd years have showcased the gold standard of filmmaking across different verticals reinventing and shaping the diverse landscape of cinema in this country.

Each edition of the National Film Awards has strengthened inclusivity and converged the diversity of celluloid space seamlessly. The National Film Awards are unique in terms of their magnitude, canvas, and spectrum. Every award ceremony has been an opportunity to witness the emergence of different forms and categories of cinema that reflect continuity and legacy. The landscape of the National Film Awards is deep and insightful, promoting diversity, storytelling, and narration.

It has truly elevated parallel, regional, and experimental cinema; voiced social concerns; and embraced and adapted to contemporary standards, content, and style



THIS YEAR'S AWARDS NOT ONLY CELEBRATED INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE EVER-EVOLVING AND DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE OF INDIAN CINEMA

of presentation. Over the years, Indian cinema has witnessed a remarkable evolution, with regional films gaining recognition for their artistic brilliance. It all began in 1954, as the film "Mirza Ghalib" made history as the first recipient of the Best Feature Film award.

This milestone paved the way for a treasure trove of cinematic gems from various regions. Bengali cinema, in particular, has been a shining beacon, with timeless classics like Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali", "Apur Sansar", and "Charulata" earning the prestigious Swarna Kamal. The legendary Soumitra Chatterjee a revered Bengali actor has been lauded for his performances in classics like "Apur Sansar" and "Charulata," earning him National Film Awards for his works.

The spotlight has also turned to Southern cinema, which has produced its own set of trailblazers. In 1965, the Malayalam masterpiece "Chemmeen" captivated audiences and critics alike, winning the Best Feature Film award. Kannada cinema made a powerful statement with "Chomana Dudi" in 1976, sweeping the National Awards for Best Feature Film, Best Actor, and Best Story. Tamil cinema joined this illustrious list in 1990 when Marrupakkam became the first Tamil film to clinch the Best Feature Film award.

The northeastern region of India has also produced its share of winners at the National Film Awards, bringing regional tales to the national stage. "Halodhia Chorai Baodhan Khai", the first Assamese film to win the Swarna Kamal for the Best Feature Film in 1987. Rima Das, a director has been recognized for her movies "Village Rockstars" and "Bulbul Can Sing," which capture the essence of life in Assam by portraying simplicity and resilience. At the 60th National Film Awards, Jahnua Barua's Assamese film "Baandhon" won

the Best Feature Film in the category while "Ko;Yad", a Missing film won the Best Feature Film in the non-Eighth Schedule language category. At the 62nd National Film Awards the movie "Phum Shang", from Manipur was honoured with the Best Investigative Film award showcasing the contributions of filmmakers from North East India.

Such examples also prove that the National Film Awards serve as a crucible for bringing together a convergence of ideas, creativity, and talent. They offer hope that creativity knows no barriers in India, allowing unknown filmmakers and names to become stars. One of the most coveted awards of the National Film Awards is the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema honouring the artists' lifetime achievement. Named after Shri Dadasaheb Phalke, the visionary often hailed as the father of Indian cinema, this award is a tribute to those whose contributions have indelibly shaped the landscape of Indian filmmaking.

This award was introduced in 1969 and was presented to Devika Rani. Since then this distinguished honour has been awarded to Waheeda Rehman, Satyajit Ray, B.N. Reddy, L.V. Prasad, Bhupen Hazarika, Sivaji Ganesan, B.R. Chopra, Soumitra Chatterjee, Lata Mangeshkar, Raj Kapoor, Shyam Benegal, Amitabh Bachchan and Rajnikant are some of the renowned names who have been recognized for their lasting impact and their outstanding contribution to cinema. The National Film Awards also spotlight the significance of non-feature films by inspiring emerging directors to experiment and push boundaries.

This platform has nurtured talent, with acclaimed works like "Ek Tha Gaon" and "An engineered Dream", the Marathi film "Girni" and the Bengali film "Aamaar Katha: Story of Binodini" winners at the 52nd and the 62nd

National Film Awards. These awards bring attention to themes and innovative storytelling approaches demonstrating that Indian cinema thrives on creativity and embraces diversity beyond commercial considerations. The non-feature segment of awards over the years has acted as a catalyst for young film-makers who have unleashed their creativity across diverse subjects and narratives. This segment has showcased a unique simplicity, aesthetics and deep understanding of filmmaking and creativity. The recent changes to the regulations for the 70th National Film Awards demonstrate an evident wave of evolution. Changes like renaming awards and merging categories reflect an approach to acknowledging excellence in filmmaking.

The National Film Awards of India have witnessed several historic moments that have not only enhanced the country's cinematic excellence but also served as a stepping stone to celluloid success and international acclaim. One such landmark was the recognition of Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali" in 1956, which won the Best Feature Film award and subsequently brought Indian cinema to global attention. Another significant milestone was Aamir Khan's "Lagaan" in 2001, which not only won the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment but also earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. The National Film Awards have played an instrumental role in shaping the course of Indian cinema. By celebrating a variety of perspectives and pushing boundaries the awards not only recognize exceptional achievements but also inspire upcoming filmmakers and artists.

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; views are personal. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan)

How personalised and adaptive technologies are shaping the future of education

The future of education is personal, adaptive, and brimming with possibilities for individual success. It's time to embrace this change

The education system is witnessing a revolutionary shift, one that promises to reshape how we learn, grow, and succeed. At the core of this transformation lies advanced personalized and adaptive learning - a groundbreaking approach set to redefine the educational landscape.

With the global adaptive learning market projected to reach \$5.3 billion by 2025 and the personalized learning market expected to soar to \$19.86 billion by 2030, it's clear that these technologies are more than just a passing trend.

Unpacking Personalized and Adaptive Learning Personalized learning crafts educational experiences that resonate with each student's



VEDANT HAMIRWASIA

unique needs, skills, and interests. It's about creating learning journeys that allow individuals to flourish in their way. Adaptive learning takes this concept further, using AI to adjust content difficulty and style in real time based on student performance.

It's like having a high-tech tutor that ensures learning is always challenging but never overwhelming.

The Power of Data-Driven Insights: One of the most exciting aspects of these systems is their ability to harness data for good. Through sophisticated learning analytics, educators gain unprecedented insights into each student's progress. This foresight allows for timely interventions, ensuring no student falls behind. Predictive analytics even allows these systems to anticipate which students might struggle, enabling proactive support measures.

Customized Learning Paths: Gone are the days of one-size-fits-all education. Advanced personalized learning creates individual learning plans that adapt to each student's unique learning style.

Whether you're a visual learner who thrives on interactive simulations or prefer diving deep into text-based explanations, these systems have you covered. The flexibility extends to pacing as well, allowing students to linger on challenging concepts or race ahead in areas they excel.

Engagement, the Secret Sauce of Success: Engagement is crucial for effective learning, and these technologies serve it up in spades. Interactive content, gamification elements, and multimedia experiences make learning feel less like a chore and more like an adventure.

By catering to diverse learning preferences, these systems ensure that every stu-



dent finds their groove and stays motivated.

Levelling the Playing Field: Perhaps one of the most profound impacts of these technologies is their poten-

tial to promote equity in education.

Assistive features embedded within these systems support students with disabilities, offering tools like

text-to-speech and customized interfaces. This push for inclusivity ensures that quality, personalized education is accessible to all, regardless of individual challenges.

The Benefits and Challenges Ahead: The benefits of advanced personalized and adaptive learning are clear and compelling. Studies consistently show improved learning outcomes, increased student engagement, and the potential to bridge achievement gaps.

However, it's important to acknowledge the challenges that come with this educational revolution. Privacy concerns surrounding student data and the persistent digital divide are hurdles

that must be addressed thoughtfully. Embracing the Future of Education The educational landscape is evolving rapidly, propelled by the transformative potential of advanced personalized and adaptive learning.

By embracing these technologies thoughtfully and addressing the challenges head-on, we can create an educational landscape where every student has the opportunity to thrive, learn, and reach their full potential. The future of education is personal, adaptive, and brimming with possibilities for individual success. It's time to embrace this change and unlock the potential of every learner.

(The author is director, ODA Class; views are personal)

Khamenei open to America over nuclear talks

AP n DUBAI

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."



"We have long said that we ultimately view diplomacy as the best way to achieve an effective, sustainable solution with regard to Iran's nuclear program," it said. "However, we are far away from anything like that right now given Iran's escalations across the board, including its nuclear escalations and its failure to cooperate" with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations nuclear watchdog.

'US, China aim to avoid conflict in Beijing talks'

AP n BEIJING

The United States and China are working to ensure the competition between them does not veer into conflict, a top White House official said Tuesday as the two sides started talks on a relationship that has been severely tested during President Joe Biden's term in office.

Office, noted that the China-US relationship has gone through twists and turns in past few years. "The key," he said, "is to keep to the overall direction of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and win-win cooperation."

According to Da Wei, a US and international relations expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing, it's important for the two countries to avoid any crisis in the remaining months of the Biden administration, as it could set the tone for US-China ties under the next one.

US relations in the past year through strategic communication, and to avoid new crises in the next few months," he said. The Biden administration has taken a tough line on China, viewing it as a strategic competitor, restricting the access of its companies to advanced technology and confronting the rising power as it seeks to exert influence over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

drifted across the US before being shot down by the US military. Sullivan has been Biden's point person for often unannounced talks with Wang, who is the foreign minister as well as the ruling Communist Party's top foreign policy official.

than, they have met two more times in a third country, Malta and Thailand. This week will mark their first talks in Beijing.

'Hasina's ouster watershed for student activism'

PTI n DHAKA

The recent student movement in Bangladesh, culminating in the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, marks a watershed moment in the nation's political landscape, fuelled by a 70-year legacy of student activism from the 1952 Language Movement to the Liberation War and beyond.

5 more murder cases filed against B'desh ousted PM

Dhaka (PTI): Five more murder cases have been filed against Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina taking the total number of cases filed against the Awami League leader to 71, a media report said on Tuesday.



Hossain. Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, former Awami League lawmakers Shamim Osman and Ramesh Chandra are among the accused.

Basila of Mohammadpur on July 19. In the third case, Hasina and 91 others were sued for the death of one Miraz Hossain at Sanarpar in the city's Demra area on August 5.

Ex-minister held

Dhaka (PTI): Bangladesh police on Tuesday arrested former junior minister for information and broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat, an accused in several cases, including one filed over the killing of a student during the anti-government protests.

accounts of Arafat and his wife. Arafat was arrested a day after left-leaning Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JASOD) president Hasanul Haque Inu was detained from a relative's house in Dhaka while police sought a court order for him to be placed under a 10-day remand for questioning in a murder charge.

Starmer warns of 'painful' budget ahead in speech

PTI n LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday gave the first indication of some tough tax measures in store in the October budget in the first keynote address of his premiership since taking charge at 10 Downing Street last month.

"I promised that this government would serve people like you - apprentices, teachers, nurses, small business owners, firefighters, those serving our community and our country every day," he said, with reference to the Downing Street gathering.

violent clashes didn't just "betray the sickness" left in the wake of the former government's "cynical conflict of populism" but also revealed that the cure was to be found in "coming together of a country."

Israeli military rescues hostage abducted in October Hamas attack

Jerusalem (AP): The Israeli military said Tuesday that it has rescued one of the scores of people abducted in Hamas' October 7 attack, which ignited the ongoing war in Gaza.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not say how many were fighters. It has displaced 90 per cent of Gaza's 2.3 million people from their homes and caused heavy destruction across the besieged territory.

French judge extends police custody for Telegram CEO

Paris (AP): A French investigative judge extended police custody for the CEO of the popular messaging app Telegram, Pavel Durov, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Turkish-backed authorities arrest Syrian journalist

Idlib (AP): A local journalist in rebel-held northwestern Syria who works with international news agencies was arrested by Turkish-backed authorities, his wife and rights groups said Tuesday.

Turkey. Local military police held Taha for two hours before she was released following protests from journalists and residents, she said in a video. Taha said Qassim was taken to another location and his current circumstances were unknown.

WH pressured FB over some COVID-19 content during pandemic: Zuckerberg

Washington (AP): Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg says senior Biden administration officials pressured Facebook to "censor" some COVID-19 content during the pandemic and vowed that the social media giant would push back if it faced such demands again.



ken about it," Zuckerberg wrote in the letter dated August 26 and posted on the committee's Facebook page and to its account on X.

ticularly as allegations have emerged that some posts were deleted or restricted wrongly. "I also think we made some choices that, with the benefit of hindsight and new information, we wouldn't make today," he said, without elaborating.

mation they present." Experts warn this year's US election could be swamped by misinformation on social media with the proliferation of artificial intelligence and other tools to produce false news stories and content that could mislead voters.

Dam collapse in Sudan kills at least 30

Cairo (AP): The collapse of the Arbaat Dam in Sudan's eastern Red Sea state over the weekend flooded nearby homes and killed at least 30 people following heavy rains, a UN agency said.

US judge pauses Biden's plan on spousal legal status

Houston (PTI): A Texas court has put a temporary pause on President Biden's ambitious plan to fast-track permanent residency for illegal migrants married to American citizens, a move that could hamper the hopes of approximately half a million such spouses, including several thousands Indian-Americans.

order, which followed a lawsuit filed by 16 Republican-led states arguing that the programme would "incentivise illegal immigration and will irreparably harm" the states, the New York Post reported.

The lawsuit, filed on Friday, further contended that the "Biden-Harris Administration - dissatisfied with the system Congress created, and for blatant political purposes - has yet again attempted to create its own immigration system."

Ukraine troops control nearly 500 sq miles of Kursk region

AP n KYIV

The chief of Ukraine's army said ON Tuesday that the country's troops control nearly 1,300 square kilometres (500 square miles) of Russia's Kursk region since their surprise incursion three weeks ago.

5 people killed in missiles and drones strike across Ukraine

AP n KYIV

Nighttime Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least five people on Tuesday, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country.



Minister Denys Shmyhal said "the energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists" and urged Ukraine's allies to provide it with long-range weapons and permission to use them on targets inside Russia.

based weapons and strike drones against critical energy infrastructure facilities that support the operation of Ukraine's military-industrial complex. All designated targets were hit."

The Kursk operation, the largest incursion into Russia since World War II, forced some 130,000 residents to evacuate their homes. Russia has sent reinforcements into the region, but it was not clear to what extent these movements might be weakening Russia's position in eastern Ukraine.

scores of armoured vehicles. Those figures could not be independently confirmed. In the Kyiv region, which had struggled with blackouts after Monday's onslaught that targeted energy facilities throughout the country, five air alerts were called during the night.

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Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) awarded to top Chinese general

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China General Li Qiaoming was on Tuesday conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of the top honours in Pakistan, for his "unwavering commitment" in promoting close cooperation between the militaries of the two all-weather friends.

Malaysian ex-leader charged with sedition for mocking former king

AP n KUALA LUMPUR

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, Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state.

didn't invite him to be prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers.

al and that he had handed in sworn oath of support by 115 lawmakers in the 222-member parliament.

Japan protests after Chinese plane violates its airspace

AP n TOKYO

Japan's top government spokesperson said on Tuesday a Chinese military aircraft had briefly entered Japanese airspace the day before, calling the incident an "absolutely unacceptable" territorial violation and safety threat.

Philippine defence chief says China is 'the biggest disruptor of peace'

AP n MANILA

The Philippine defense chief said Tuesday that China is "the biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a Coast Guard ship at the Sabina Shoal.

enough." "The antidote is a stronger collective multilateral action against China," Teodoro said, adding that diplomats and defense officials should determine those stronger steps.

other, as well as China's and Taiwan's. "ASEAN, to remain relevant and credible, cannot continue to ignore what China is doing in the South China Sea," Teodoro said.

China calls for more support for Ukraine peace plan with Brazil

AP n BANGKOK

China called on Tuesday for more countries to endorse its peace plan for Ukraine, after a round of diplomacy with Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa to support its plan.

and no expansion of the battlefield. China and Russia were absent from a peace summit hosted in Switzerland in June. Russia was not invited while China chose not to attend.

made clear Russia was also vulnerable. Zelenskyy has said the aim was to create a buffer zone to protect Ukraine from attacks.

PM Sharif reiterates 'resolve' to root out terrorism from Pakistan

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the restive Balochistan province as he reiterated the unwavering resolve of his government to root out terrorism from the country.

against terrorism will not go waste. "The entire nation is committed for complete elimination of terrorism from the country," he said.

aimed at creating anarchy and disturbance in Pakistan and to disrupt the steps being taken by the government for development of the country.

Balochistan on Tuesday to support the provincial government in its efforts to tackle militancy. "My aim to visit is to let you all and the people of Balochistan know that the federal interior minister is standing behind the Balochistan chief minister."

If anything happens to me, Army chief & DG ISI responsible: Imran Khan

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday reiterated that the Army and the ISI are responsible for his condition and expressed fear for his life.

former prime minister's trial in cases concerning the violence on May 9 last year might go to the military courts.

Wazirabad, and the night before the attack in Islamabad, the ISI had taken control of the area where it happened, he claimed.

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