

Taste of Odisha at BRICS: Koraput Coffee given to global delegates

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha's Koraput Coffee was given to delegates and journalists at the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, putting the tribal farmers-grown Arabica brand in international spotlight, officials said on Saturday.

Tiger Bright, a brand of Koraput Coffee, was included in the kits distributed to media personnel and delegates at the summit by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), they said.

A 250-gram packet of the coffee was distributed as part of the kits, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi welcomed the recognition for the state's home-grown coffee and said it provided a platform to showcase Odisha's local produce.

"Over the past few days, I have been speaking about #Odisha on global platforms, inviting the world to see the opportunities, strength and potential of our state. Today, it is especially heartening to see Koraput Coffee telling another side of Odisha's story at the BRICS India 2026 Summit," Majhi said in a post on X.

He said the initiative reflected the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' promoted by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"For me, it is a moment of immense pride to see the hard work of our people and the richness of our land being recognised beyond the state. This is the Odisha I want the world to know, rooted in its soil, proud of its identity and confident in sharing its story with the world," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida also described the inclusion of Koraput Coffee at the summit as a proud moment for Odisha.

The Odisha government said the presence of the coffee at the BRICS Summit highlighted the work of tribal farming families and the potential of products originating in rural and tribal areas to access wider markets.

Koraput Coffee is cultivated mainly in the Nandapur and Machhkund areas of Koraput district, at elevations of around 920-

950 metres. The coffee is predominantly 100 per cent Arabica and is grown under the shade of trees such as mango, jackfruit and citrus, officials said.

The coffee cherries are handpicked at peak ripeness and processed before being procured, dried, graded, processed and marketed with support from the Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCCOL).

The 'Koraput Coffee' brand was launched on September 11, 2019, with the aim of creating a structured market for coffee produced by tribal farmers and strengthening the value chain, officials said.

Bihar flood situation remains grim, over 48 lakh affected

PATNA: The flood situation in Bihar deteriorated on Saturday, with the number of affected people increasing to nearly 48.22 lakh across 15 districts, while several rivers, including the Ganga, were flowing above the danger levels.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) cautioned against sudden and rapid riverbank erosion, and directed its officials to maintain close vigil at vulnerable locations.

Due to the rise in water levels of several rivers, approximately 48.22 lakh people in 574 gram panchayats across 87 blocks in 15 districts have been affected by the floods, the Disaster Management Department said in a statement issued on Saturday.

The flood-hit districts are Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Buxar, Samastipur, Munger, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Khagaria, Purnia, Madhepura and Araria.

The count of flood-affected people was 47.33 lakh on Friday evening. The government also instructed officials to ensure prompt reporting of any erosion incident and to keep adequate resources readily available at vul-



nerable locations.

Incessant rain in Bihar, coupled with downpours in catchment areas of Nepal, has caused several rivers and streams to swell, officials said.

The state has recorded 108.8 mm of rainfall in September so far, about 20 per cent above normal, they said. The Disaster Management Department said the Ganga was flowing at 36.48 metres at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur at 6 am on Saturday, 1.98 metres above the

danger level, though the water level was receding.

The water levels of the Gandak at Dumariaghat, the Kosi at Baltara and Kursela, the Burhi Gandak at Khagaria, the Ganga at Digha, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon and Munger, the Punpun at Sripalpur, the Bagmati at Benibad, and the Ghaghra at Darauli and Gangpur Siswan were flowing above the danger marks, the Water Resources Department

said.

It stated that a sudden reduction in water levels could increase the risk of bank erosion, posing a threat to vulnerable stretches of riverbanks and embankments.

The department officials have been directed to immediately inspect any location showing signs of sudden erosion, bank collapse, or rapid movement of the river current towards the bank, and to initiate necessary preventive and protective measures without delay.

A total of 1,248 community kitchens are being operated in various districts for flood-affected people. In addition, 13 relief camps remain functional. In these facilities, arrangements for accommodation, food, medical care and other essential items have been made for 12,260 flood-affected people, the Disaster Management Department said. So far, approximately 3.53 lakh polythene sheets, 59,500 dryration packets and 1,400 food packets have been distributed among flood-hit people.

A total of 1,794 boats are being operated to facilitate evacuation and transportation, it said, adding that so far, 11,424 quintals of animal fodder have been distributed.

TMC factions fighting over control of party funds: BJP state president

KOLKATA: Amid the EC's hearing of rival claims over the name and symbol of the TMC, West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Saturday claimed that the fight between the factions led by ex-CM Mamata Banerjee and LoP Ritabrata Banerjee was over the control of bank accounts containing crores of rupees.

Bhattacharya, while addressing an event organised by a news channel here, also claimed there was "no opposition left" in West Bengal as the Trinamool Congress was "steadily losing its political relevance" and the Congress "could not automatically fill in the space left by it".

"The Trinamool Congress has become 'nirmool' (eradicated). The two factions of the party are fighting among themselves. What is the reason for this fight? The fight is over a bank account in which crores of rupees are deposited," Bhattacharya said.

Sources said Rs 400 crore is locked in an account of a private bank, while another Rs 1,000 crore is allegedly lying in 12 accounts frozen by the police.



The EC sought more documents from the Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction over the rival claims, as the Mamata Banerjee-led group also appeared before the poll panel.

Bhattacharya said a democracy requires a strong and responsible opposition.

"There is no opposition left (in West Bengal)... The TMC is steadily losing its political relevance, and the Congress cannot automatically fill in the space left by it," Bhattacharya said.

He also criticised the Congress for allegedly acting as a "parasite" on regional parties,

saying a national opposition should have a clear political identity and take principled positions on matters of national interest. Bhattacharya said political parties should maintain consensus on issues such as national security and foreign policy, recalling the tradition of cooperation between leaders of different political parties in the previous decades.

On the state's employment situation, he said West Bengal had a long history of student movements, but many young people had left the state because of a lack of job opportunities.

Sangrur suicide: Congress leader Pilot to lead protest march in Chandigarh on Sep 15

CHANDIGARH: AICC general secretary in charge of Punjab, Sachin Pilot, will lead a protest organised by the state unit on September 15 in Chandigarh against the AAP government over the suicide of a Sangrur villager who allegedly questioned state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema about the supply of drugs.

Pilot, along with Punjab Congress leaders, will march to Cheema's residence to demand an independent investigation and his dismissal from the ministry.

The villager, Gulzar Singh from Dirba in Sangrur, died on Monday after allegedly consuming poison. His family claims he was subjected to harassment and casteist slurs after asking Cheema about the drug situation during an event the day before his death.

"The Punjab Congress leaders and I will be taking out a march to the residence of AAP Minister, Harpal Cheema, on 15 September in Chandigarh, demanding justice for the family of Late Shri Gulzar Singh ji, who committed suicide by consuming poison after facing pressure and mental harassment because he dared to question the Minister about the uncontrollable

drug menace in Punjab," Pilot said.

"His last video recording before his death clearly names the minister. The victim's family also alleged that they were denied dignity and respect while conducting his final rites," the Congress leader said in a post on X. He asserted that this is a serious matter which warrants an independent investigation.

"The Congress party demands nothing less than the TERMINATION of the minister and an immediate, time-bound, independent inquiry into all aspects of the matter," he further said.

This will mark Pilot's first visit to Punjab since he was appointed general secretary in charge amidst ongoing factionalism within the party's state unit. A political row erupted after Gulzar's suicide, with his family claiming that he was asked to apologise and subjected to casteist slurs for questioning Cheema over the "unabated" supply of 'chitta' in his area at an event on September 6. A purported video of Gulzar's last moments surfaced in which he spoke about questioning the finance minister, prompting opposition parties to demand the resignations of Cheema and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

4 dairies raided, 7500 kg alleged adulterated paneer seized in Nuh

GURUGRAM: The Nuh administration seized around 7,500 kg of allegedly adulterated paneer from four dairies during a crackdown on illegal paneer-making units in the district, an official said on Saturday.

The crackdown caused panic among dairy operators in the area, with several shutting their units fearing similar action, he said. The government had last month issued an order banning the production of paneer for one year. However, more than three dozen illegal paneer-making units are operating in Nuh district, officials said.

A joint team comprising Food Safety Officer Vikas Jaglan, SDM Amit Kumar, Sadar police station SHO Naresh Kumar, Tehsildar Sanjeev Nagar and officials from the Pollution Department conducted a raid on Thursday night. The team inspected Yusuf Dairy, Khalid-Israel Dairy, Pandit Dairy and Saddam Dairy and seized a large quantity of prepared paneer, officials said.

Paneer produced at certain dairies in the Punhana area is allegedly supplied to major nearby cities including Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Noida and Mathura, the official said. "Due to suspicions of adulteration, the administration inspected the paneer being produced at these dairies as well as the ingredients used in its manufacture," he said.

Bihar Assembly speaker to participate in Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

PATNA: Bihar Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar will participate in the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in South Africa's Cape Town from September 13 to 18, an official statement said.

He, accompanied by Bihar Assembly in-charge secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh, will go to Delhi from Patna, and then depart for Cape Town on Sunday.

The release issued by the Bihar Assembly Secretariat said that Kumar is scheduled to speak on the role of parliamentary leadership, particularly on enhancing flexibility at the parliamentary level, towards climate change and disasters. He will also interact with presiding officers and parliamentary delegates from various countries and exchange experiences, the statement said. After the Cape Town conference, Kumar will undertake official visits to Sydney in Australia from September 20 to 24, Auckland in New Zealand from September 24 to 27 and the Maldives from September 28 to October 1, it said. He is expected to visit the respective Parliaments in those countries and hold interactions with the Indian community. Kumar's tour aims to facilitate an exchange of experiences on parliamentary democracy and legislative functioning, strengthen inter-parliamentary ties and enhance understanding of the role of parliamentary institutions in addressing global challenges, the statement added.

BJP workers must highlight Modi govt's development work: CM Bhajanlal Sharma

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Saturday asked BJP workers to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25-year political journey and his commitment to the nation to the people.

Addressing a workshop at the BJP office here on the party's 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan-Jan Seva Hi Prabhu Seva', Sharma said it was the responsibility of party workers to make people aware of the development and welfare works carried out under Modi's leadership.

He said India had undergone a transformation after 2014, while before that it was grappling with problems such as corruption, appeasement and terrorism.

"We are fortunate to have such leadership which considers politics a means of service and works for the welfare of the people, poor, youth, women and farmers, while enhancing India's stature in the country and the world," Sharma said.

The chief minister said the BJP worked beyond dynastic politics with the

spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas".

The campaign, beginning September 17, will see BJP workers take the prime minister's schemes and achievements to the people through various programmes, he said.

"We have to present the real picture of the country's development not only before the common people but also those who are unable to accept the country's progress," Sharma said, according to a party statement.

TGCSB urges people to remain cautious while following '1980s retro photo editing' trend

HYDERABAD: The TGCSB on Saturday cautioned people against fraudsters scamming people by taking advantage of the viral "1980s retro photo editing" trend.

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau, which issued a public advisory, said cyber fraudsters are using attractive advertisements promising to transform ordinary photographs into 1980s-style retro photographs.

Users are being lured into clicking suspicious links and downloading APK (Android Package) files

from unverified sources, it said.

Explaining how the fraud was carried out, TGCSB Director Shikha Goel in a release said fraudsters circulate advertisements or messages offering free or unlimited access to retro photo-editing applications.

On clicking the link, victims may be directed to download and install a malicious APK file outside the official app stores, she said.

Once installed, such malicious applications may seek excessive permissions

and potentially gain access to sensitive information, including: SMS messages and OTPs, contacts and other personal information, banking and financial information, notifications and device data and other sensitive information stored on the device, she said.

The stolen information may subsequently be misused to facilitate financial fraud, unauthorised transactions, identity theft and other cybercrimes, Goel said. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau further urged people to remain vigilant.

BJP MLA Gopakumar alleges attempt to sabotage CMRL case, seeks details of Satheesan-Balan meet

KOTTAYAM: BJP MLA BB Gopakumar on Saturday alleged that CPI(M) leader A K Balan's meeting with Chief Minister VD Satheesan was part of an attempt to sabotage the CMRL case involving Leader of Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan and demanded that the details of the meeting be made public.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recently sent a letter to State Police Chief Ravada A Chandrasekhar seeking registration of an FIR against former chief minister Vijayan, his daughter Veena T and others based on evidence gathered during its probe and searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The agency has alleged that Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) made fraudulent payments of Rs 2.78 crore to Exalogic Solutions, the now-defunct



company of Veena, under the guise of IT consultancy services.

Gopakumar, one of the three BJP MLAs in the Kerala Assembly, in a press conference here, said the meeting took place at a time when the CMRL case had reached a "decisive juncture" and sought clarity from Satheesan on the government's stand on the matter.

"What was discussed during the meeting with A K Balan? What decision is going to be taken in the CMRL case," Gopakumar asked.

He alleged that Balan, a close confidant of Vijayan, might have met Satheesan as the former chief minister's "envoy".

Gopakumar alleged that the LDF and UDF had a history of cooperating with each other in corruption-related cases.

He alleged that attempts were now being made to sabotage the CMRL case despite the ED having submitted a report to the state police with evidence.

He said the ED report warranted an investigation into allegations involving Vijayan, Veena, and her

husband MLA PA Muhammed Riyas and others.

Gopakumar also referred to Satheesan's statements when he was Leader of the Opposition, alleging that he had repeatedly raised the CMRL issue in the Assembly and outside and described it as one of the biggest corruption cases in Kerala.

He said Satheesan was now obligated to act on the allegations he had raised when in the Opposition.

"When the ED submitted its report, the chief minister stated that he was examining its legal aspects. Why should one seek legal advice or examine legal aspects just to initiate an investigation," Gopakumar asked.

He alleged that Satheesan was reluctant to order a Vigilance probe despite the ED report and asked whom such a decision was intended to protect.

Kolkata law college vice-principal says students forced her to quit, vows to resume duties on Sep 14

KOLKATA: Vice-principal of Surendranath Law College Mohammad Tarannum, who resigned after being gheraoed by a section of students over attendance requirements for semester exams, on Saturday claimed that she was forced to step down and assured to resume her duties on September 14.

Tarannum resigned on Friday afternoon after being surrounded by students for around 23 hours outside her office. The students were protesting against the attendance criteria for appearing in semester exams.

Tarannum claimed that she was forced to submit her resignation around noon on September 11 and had sent both a letter and an email to Calcutta University vice-chancellor and the higher education department.

"I will come to the college as usual on Monday



and enter my room to discharge my responsibilities. I was forced to write the resignation letter and send an email by those students who were barred from appearing in the semester exams for not meeting the attendance criteria," she told reporters.

Tarannum alleged that she was denied basic amenities, including water, electricity and food, during the 23-hour gherao on September 10-11.

The students were protesting against the college's decision to enforce a minimum attendance

requirement for exams, she said. "I would rather die than bow to their diktat," Tarannum said.

She also alleged that governing council chairman Kaustav Bagchi was not acting in the academic interest of students or supporting efforts to maintain discipline on the attendance issue.

"I believe in transparency in the exam system and education in law college. I have no link with the earlier TMC as alleged by a section. Yes, I may have been associated with Left politics in the past. But I had never

actively worked to serve anyone's interest," she said.

The dispute began after the college issued a notice stating that students would not be allowed to appear for exams unless they had at least 75 per cent attendance.

The issue subsequently escalated during the filling up of exam forms.

According to the agitating students, Bagchi, a BJP MLA and lawyer, intervened in the matter and said students with attendance below 75 per cent could be allowed to appear for the exams after submitting a self-declaration.

However, during the form-filling process, the attendance criterion remained contentious, and it was subsequently decided that students would require at least 40 per cent attendance, they said.

Bagchi on Friday accused Tarannum of precipitating the issue.