



MOST VARIED ROLE

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia is set to star in the upcoming comic-drama 'Babli Bouncer'

LEISURE P2



UK PM RACE

Both Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss renew their pledge to tackle the energy crisis in the UK as a priority

INTERNATIONAL P10



MAIDEN TITLE

Odisha Juggernauts defeat Telugu Yoddhas in a thrilling final to win their maiden Ultimate Kho Kho title

SPORTS P12

Lifetime Achievement Award for CM Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 4: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday was feted with the Capital Foundation 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for public service in recognition of his outstanding leadership qualities. The award was presented to him by former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana at a ceremony held here.

Patnaik dedicated the award to people of Odisha. "I dedicate this award to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha who have been continuously blessing me to serve them for the past 22 years. The faith they have in me is the biggest inspiration to work towards an empowered Odisha. After the super cyclone of 1999, who would have thought that Odisha will set global benchmarks in disaster management and get awarded by the United Nations," the chief minister said.

Patnaik thanked the Capital Foundation for conferring on him the lifetime achievement award and praised the foundation for recognising and appreciating the

good work happening in various sectors.

He mentioned his government's pro-women and pro-tribal initiatives and said that Odisha leads the country in providing land rights under the Forest Dwellers Act. More than half a million tribal girls study in our hostels, he said.

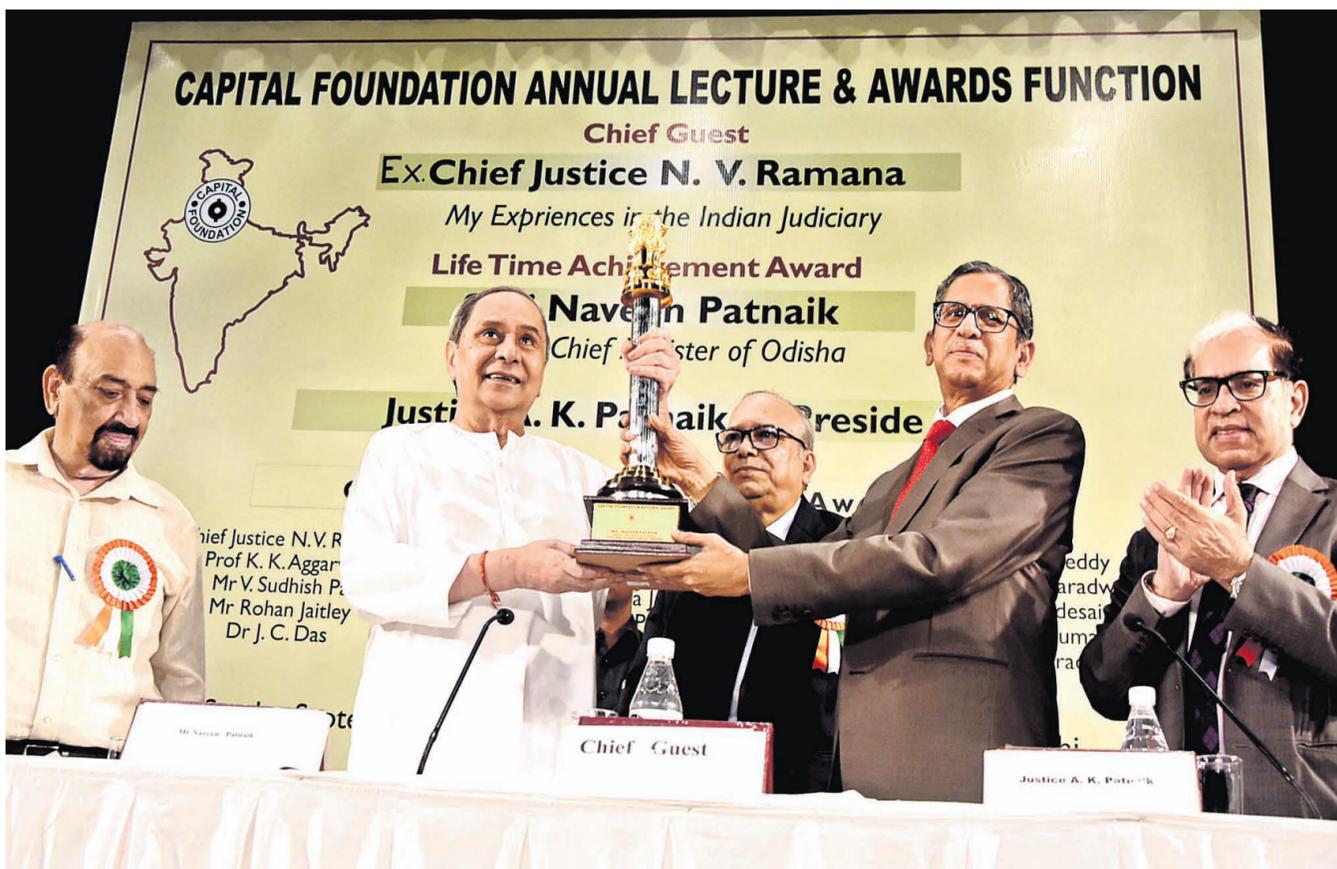
While I humbly accept this Lifetime Achievement Award, my lifetime's achievement will be to see an empowered and spirited Odisha claiming her place in the Sun. We are on the right path and by Lord Jagannath's grace and the support of our people we shall get there soon

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CM

Acknowledging his government's work in agricultural sector, Naveen said Odisha is the only state to have doubled farmer's incomes. In last two decades, Odisha has increased steel production by 10 times which has helped the country during Covid pandemic, said Patnaik adding that Odisha supplied life saving oxygen to 17 states.

Former CJI NV Ramana praised Naveen Patnaik and said that the Odisha government under his leadership has been working for strengthening the infrastructure of judiciary in the state.

Significantly, several groups of Odia organisations based in Delhi and BJP leaders also honoured the Chief Minister at a function at Odisha Bhawan here.



CM Naveen Patnaik was conferred with the Capital Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award by former CJI NV Ramana in recognition of his outstanding leadership quality, at a function, in New Delhi, Sunday (More pics on Page 5)

FLOODPLAIN ZONING

Odisha yet to enact law

Experts warn of "dire consequences" if floodplain zoning is not done at the earliest in view of the rise in the number of floods owing to climate change

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: Despite huge losses to life and property in floods, many states and Union Territories (UT) including Odisha are yet to enact legislation for floodplain zoning.

Only three states and one UT have enforced the law for floodplain zoning which aims to minimise the damage caused due to deluge.

Experts have called for its immediate implementation in the country in view of frequent floods occurring due to climate change.

Floodplain zoning measures aim at demarcating zones or areas likely to be affected by floods which hit



with different magnitude, frequencies, and probability, and specify the types of permissible developments in these zones, so that whenever floods actually occur, the damage can be minimised.

The model bill for floodplain zoning provides for formation of a floodplain zoning authority by state governments, with a governing body under the chairmanship of the chief minister.

The authority is supposed to delineate floodplain zones and other

measures for keeping flood plains encroachment free.

According to a senior official, only three states and one Union Territory till now have enacted the legislation. These are Manipur, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, and the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Even there, the delineation and demarcation of floodplains is yet to be done, the official said.

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, and Odisha — all

The model bill for floodplain zoning provides for formation of a floodplain zoning authority by state governments, with a governing body under the chairmanship of the chief minister

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, and Odisha — all major flood-prone states — have not taken initiative to enact any legislation with regard to Flood Plain Zoning

major flood-prone states — have not taken initiative to enact any legislation with regard to Floodplain Zoning.

"We have asked states to reduce any further construction on the floodplains and ensure there is no further encroachment," the official told PTI.

Experts have warned of "dire consequences" if floodplain zoning is not done at the earliest in view of the rise in the number of floods due to climate change. **Contd...4**

Boat turns turtle in Chilika lake; 2 dead

AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 4: In a tragic incident, at least two persons died as a country boat capsized in Chilika lake in Puri district Sunday evening, the police said. The identities of the deceased were yet to be ascertained and the cause of the mishap was still not clear.

As per reports, a group of people from Puri town area were returning from Kalijaikuda, an islet situated 3 km from Gambharigaon in Chilika lake, for a picnic when their boat turned turtle just 3 km from the shore amid heavy rain and strong winds, Puri Superintendent of Police KV Singh said.

Local people immediately launched a rescue operation. At least 10 passengers of the boat were rescued by alert locals, he said.

Three people had gone missing after the boat capsized, but one of them, later identified as Ugrasen Das of Gambharigaon village, fortunately swam to safety, he said. He was spotted at Ferakuda islet and rescued.

Later, Fire service personnel



79 people lost their lives in incidents of boat capsizing in Odisha last year, the highest in the country

joined the locals and recovered bodies of two men, whose identities were yet to be ascertained, the SP explained.

The exact number of people who were onboard the boat was not clear as yet, the SP added.

As many as 79 people died in incidents of boat capsizing in Odisha last year, the highest in the country, according to National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) report.

Ex-Tata Sons head Cyrus Mistry killed in car crash; Maha govt orders probe

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 4: Renowned industrialist Cyrus P Mistry, who headed the multinational Shapoorji Pallonji Group and was a former Tata Sons Chairman - was killed in a road accident at Palghar in Maharashtra here Sunday afternoon. The state government has ordered a probe into the incident.

He was 54 and is survived by his wife Rohiqa, elder brother Shapoor Mistry and other family members.

Mistry's death comes barely two months after his father, Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, the Chairman Emeritus of the Group, passed away, aged 93, June 28 in Mumbai.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has ordered a detailed probe into the incident that shook the country's corporate world.



According to police, the tragic end came after Mistry's vehicle, with at least 3 others travelling with him from Ahmedabad to Mumbai, crashed into a road divider around 3.15 pm.

According to Palghar police officials, Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Maharashtra when his over-speeding car hit a highway road divider on River Surya near Charoti, around 105 km north of Mumbai.

There were four people in the car out of which two, including Mistry, succumbed instantly to injuries in the road crash which left the vehicle badly damaged, while the driver has survived, said the police.

The other two injured, whose identities are not clear, have been admitted to the Rainbow Hospital in Kasa.

The police have termed it as an overspeeding case which may have resulted in the devastating accident, especially since Palghar and surrounding regions have been battered with heavy rains since Saturday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Respected MP wants us to allow him to fly in the night. He claims he can see better during the night!

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	35.2°C 35.2°C
TEMP MIN	26.5°C 25.0°C
Humidity	80% 80%
Rainfall	0.0mm 0.0mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky

Childless couples prefer girls over boys for adoption

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: At a time when the girl child ratio is declining in many states, childless couples are showing more interest in adopting a girl than a boy in Odisha.

This was reflected in the children's adoption data of the past five years (2017 to 2021). The data reveals that a total of 869 children from Odisha have been adopted by couples from Odisha, outside the state and also foreign countries.

As many as 581 female children from Odisha have been adopted by Indian and foreign couples during the five years. However, the number of adopted male children stood at 288, which is less than half of the female children adopted during the period.

Out of 869 children, 704 were adopted by couples in India while 165 children were adopted by foreigners between 2017 and 2021.

While Indian couples have adopted 462 girl children and 242 male children from 24 out of 30 districts of Odisha, foreigners too adopted more girl children (119) than boys (46) from 17 districts.

The highest of 119 children have been adopted from tribal-dominated Sundargarh district. The other districts registering a good number of adoptions include Keonjhar, Cuttack and Khurda.

Social activist Namrata Chadha said, "We are still living in a gender-biased society. Parents prefer a boy child then a girl because he may help them in their old age."

In many instances, it has come to notice that people abandoned the girl child in garbage and on roads because they wanted a boy.

These girls have been brought to child care homes and later adopted by single parents. That's why there are more adopted girls, said Chadha.

When contacted, a senior official



ODISHA SHOWS THE WAY

While 581 female children from Odisha have been adopted by Indian and foreign couples during the last five years, the number is less than half for male children at 288

The highest of 119 children have been adopted from Sundargarh. The other districts registering a good number of adoptions include Keonjhar, Cuttack and Khurda

from the State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) said both male and female children

are being adopted. However, prospective adoptive couples are more interested in adopting a fe-

leisure

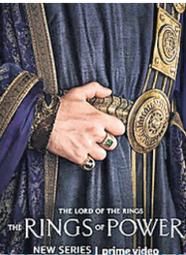


TOM VOWS ON PERFORMING LIVE TILL HE'S 100

The music legend Tom Jones, 82 has no intention of slowing down in his twilight years. He has vowed to keep on performing until he hits the grand old age of 100 years. He is well over the legal age of retirement in the UK, but has no intention of hanging up his microphone any time soon

'LORD OF THE RINGS' PREQUEL SETS VIEWERSHIP RECORD: AMAZON

Amazon.com Inc reveals that its pricey "Lord of the Rings" prequel series was watched by more than 25 million viewers around the world on its first day, a record debut for a Prime Video series. Amazon plans to let the full story unfold in 50 hours over five seasons



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be impulsive today, and this may throw up unexpected results. In a rush of enthusiasm, you may finish pending work and even be left with enough time to plan long-term goals. You may also realise and make amends for your past mistakes, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You may spend a majority of your time on your health and well-being today. Business lunch may see some pending negotiations reaching a successful outcome. Research work will progress better than expected, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
An auspicious and progressive day awaits you. Along with your daily work you will also be able to tackle your personal issues as well. You will establish an emotional bonding with some person, or will feel the need to. It is a good day to ponder over issues such as partnership or marriage. It is a profitable day to sell anything, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Be ready to get into the shoes of a juggler today, says Ganesh. Multi-tasking is the need of the hour, my friend! But, no worries for you will be energetic and deft. Pending pile of work will be finished with ease. Seemingly impossible tasks will be finished in a blink of an eye.

LEO
A lucky day is in the offing. You will taste success in all your endeavours. You will be extremely creative. You will contribute a lot of new ideas in meetings. You will be able to talk about your love without any hesitation today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your driving force will be a single-minded desire to take your destiny in your own hands. Your organisational abilities will be flawless, and a burning desire to succeed will motivate you to keep pegging at your tasks. Ganesh says your managerial abilities will be enhanced by your decision-making and reasoning abilities.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will wish to spend more time with your beloved instead of your friends. This is a good day to express your innermost feelings and get varied opportunities. This is a good time to propose to your beloved and give them a happy surprise. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always

SCORPIO
You may deviate a little from mundane chores and take up creative activities like cooking and gardening. Today, according to Ganesh, you wish to do smart work and not just hard work. Family joys and pleasures will replace work satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS
Amid chaos and confusion, don't forget the direction and destination, advises Ganesh. You may be running short of time today and may not find a single moment in peace. Taking a break at this point of time won't be a crime, go for it.

CAPRICORN
You are not an impulsive person and this reflects in whatever you do. Money will be on your mind almost through out the day. Generally, you are a penny pincher, but during the later half of the day you will go on a spending spree. Don't ignore your pocket while spending, otherwise you may end up burning a hole in it, advises Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
It is time to make addition in your possessions. Book your dream house or buy a vehicle, as today is a favourable day to do so. You, however, need to consider your financial resources before deciding anything because it will take a major chunk out of your savings, warns Ganesh. A major change is on the cards for you.

PISCES
Controversy and differences circle overhead, almost waiting for a chance to corner you. Even though you are a happy go lucky person, you may feel a little run down and disgruntled today. But don't lose heart, says Ganesh, because as the day progresses you will find bigger and better reasons to smile. Your spouse or loved one will have a major role to play in restoring your happiness.



Kiara excited to team up with Kartik again

Mumbai: Actress Kiara Advani is all set to team up with Kartik Aaryan once again after 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' for Sameer Vidwans 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'.

In an interview with a news portal, the actress expressed her excitement about working with Kartik Aaryan again, said that their pairing really worked well in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. Elaborating further Kiara added that they started on such a great note. The actress further added that they have begun to prep for the film and will be shooting later this month together.

The actress added that 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' is a love story which is her favourite genre, where she will play Katha, and Kartik plays Satya.

Recently, the actress shared a romantic photo on her social media where duo could be spotted donning their characters from 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'.

IAN S

Tamannaah plays career's most layered role

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia is set to star in the upcoming comic-drama 'Babli Bouncer'; the motion poster was unveiled on Sunday.

The comedy-drama draws its strength from an unusual storyline and the actress is thrilled to bring the film to the audience where she has played the most varied character of her career.

The comedy-drama follows the story of the titular young female bouncer as it portrays various layers of the profession usually taken up by men. Expressing her excitement on the poster re-

lease, the actress commented, "I'm absolutely thrilled to give the audience such an unusual character play. The film's shoot has been a hilarious experience and 'Babli Bouncer' is a character I have never played before."

She added, "I was really excited to see the first look of the film. Now that Madhur Sir has announced that he is releasing it, I really can't wait to see the reactions of the audience."

The film, directed by Madhur Bhandarkar; also stars Abhishek Bajaj Sahil Vaid, Saurabh Shukla and Supriya Shukla in key roles.

IAN S

Sophie shares her experience with ageism

Mumbai: Actress Sophie Choudry celebrated her 40th birthday earlier this year, and has opened up about her experience with ageism. The actor shared that she often gets messages, where people marvel at how she appears to have not aged at all, while others ask her to act according to her age.

The Shaadi No.1 actress in a recent interview said, "My experience with ageism is a funny thing. Every day I get messages where people tell me they were in school, when Ek Pardesi came out and now they look old, but I don't. Once in a while, I get messages of people telling me to 'act my age', but what's that? I've never thought of age as a number. People are always going to comment on social media."

Sophie recently came up with a new track Gori Hai - a recreation of the classic track Gori Hai Kalaiyaan. She also danced to Gori Hai with Malaika Arora in a short promotional video, also reacted to how the latter faces frequent trolling about her age. She said, "Yes, Malaika does get trolled, but she is a really strong woman, she is gorgeous and she is an inspiration to many women out there, more power to her!"

AGENCIES



'Shahenshah' turns music composer

Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan has donned a number of hats in a long career in the film industry as an actor; a singer; and even a producer. But even after 54 years of being in the industry, the veteran actor keeps finding new things to do. Amitabh is turning composer for the upcoming film 'Chup' and will see his names in the film's credits as a composer for the first time.

'Chup: Revenge of the Artist' is di-



rected by R Balki, who has previously directed Amitabh in Paa, Cheeni Kum, and Shamitabh.

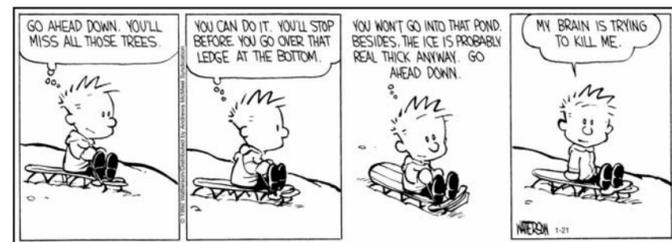
When asked about how Amitabh

came to be associated with the film, director Balki said, "It all happened very impromptu. I had asked Amitiji to watch the movie (Chup). After watching it, he called me over and he played me a tune on his piano and said that's what the movie and the characters made him feel. He was very touched. I was ecstatic. I asked him if I could use the tune and he immediately gifted it to the movie. Today Chup is the first film that has got Amitiji's official composition as the score for the credits." AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

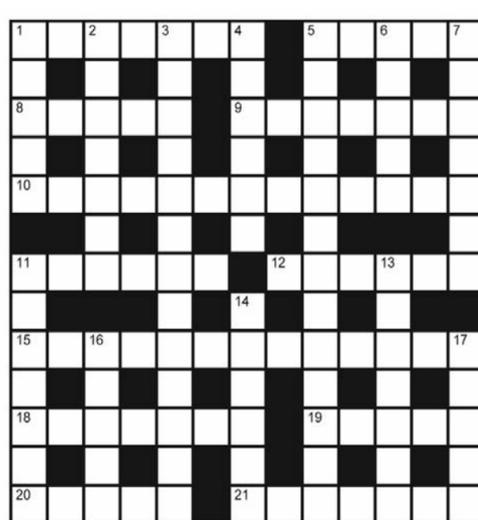


BREVITY



FUN post

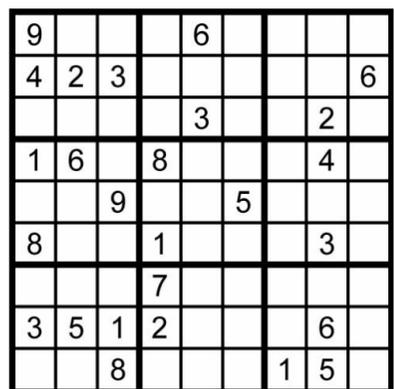
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Books are his thing
 - 5 No-frills
 - 8 Foxy-faced primate
 - 9 Jean-Baptiste Poquelin's pen name
 - 10 Store's interior decorator? (6,7)
 - 11 Certain print
 - 12 Old Testament hunter
 - 15 Words fail me!
 - 18 Specific vocabulary
 - 19 Vigilant
 - 20 Supporter of the arts?
 - 21 Vessel turners
 - 4 Cure (8,5)
 - 5 Message centre
 - 6 Lawn starters
 - 7 Gave the home team a rousing welcome
 - 11 Cooking utensil
 - 13 Chest protector (3,4)
 - 14 Caldera
 - 16 Troy ounce parts
 - 17 Foil relatives

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



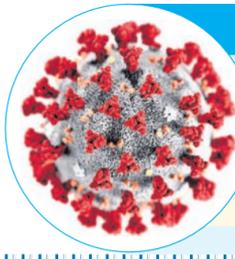
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FOUNDATION DAY

Dignitaries during the 48th foundation day celebration of Institute of Physics in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,01,24,120	58,66,71,333	65,03,299
India	4,44,53,957	4,38,73,430	5,27,991
Odisha	13,28,465	13,17,687	9,180

Teachers' Day: Odisha teacher to get award from President today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: President Droupadi Murmu will confer the prestigious National Award to Teachers on 46 teachers from across the country, including Odisha's Iswar Chandra Nayak, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on the occasion of Teachers' Day, Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the winners of the National Awards to Teachers at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg at 4:30pm, said an official.

A textile engineer-turned-teacher and author, Nayak has been teaching students as an assistant teacher at the Government Upper Primary School in Kanapur of Puri district for the last 22 years.

An alumnus of the Institution of Engineers in Kolkata and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Varanasi, Nayak has been chosen for the prestigious award for his academic and non-academic publications.

Hailing from Bangurush Patana village in Puri, Nayak has authored 18 books, including many on the textile heritage of Odisha and the school education system. Published in 2021, his latest book 'Aliaru A Aa' deals with ways to bring marginalised children back to school.

The purpose of National Awards to Teachers is to celebrate and honour the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country who through their commitment and hard work have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

The National Awards to Teachers accords public recognition to meritorious teachers working in elementary and secondary schools. For the award this year, 46 teachers from across the country have been selected through a rigorous process.

State launches ₹763cr cyclone resilient embankment project

The project aims to raise and strengthen the saline embankments to sustain the impact of severe cyclones in order to protect the adjacent landmass and habitation from flood, saline ingress and tidal surge of Bay of Bengal in the four coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri

The project will benefit 2.92 lakh people in 136 coastal villages of four districts



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The state government has launched a Rs 763.5 crore project to build 198.81 km long cyclone resilient saline embankment in four coastal districts of the state.

The Water Resources department Saturday issued a notification on launching of Rs 763.5 crore 'Cyclone Resilient Saline Embankment Project' to be implemented in the coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri. A proposal in this regard had earlier received approval of the state cabinet in August.

The state government has decided to fund the project from its own resources, a senior official said.

The official said that cyclone Fani in 2019, cyclone Amphan in 2020 and cyclone Yaas in 2021 have caused a lot of economic loss to the state as saline water entered into a large agricultural areas and villages. The scheme will be executed during the period from financial

year 2022-23 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 763.5 crore, the notification said, adding that the objective of the project is to raise and strengthen the saline embankments to sustain the impact of severe cyclones in order to protect the adjacent landmass and habitation from flood, saline ingress and tidal surge of Bay of Bengal in the four coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri.

The project will benefit a population of 2.92 lakh people in 136 coastal villages of four districts. The project will also help to withstand cyclonic storms of higher magnitude such as high wind speed and sea storm surges, mitigate floods by keeping flood waters within channel boundary, and protect public infrastructures like school, hospital, anganwadi centre, utilities like electricity and road communication from extreme storm during cyclone.

The proposed saline embankments would also protect nearby habitation, agricultural land from saline ingress. It will also help in

early restoration of all forms of economic activities in the region after the cyclonic event.

The state has made structural intervention in the form of saline embankments to the tune of 1,636 km in the coastal districts. However, the saline embankments of 156.17 km length have already been strengthened as per National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP). Out of the remaining 1,479.83 km of saline embankments, a length of 416.01 km is vulnerable. Out of 416.01 km, 198.81 km is weak and extremely vulnerable, the notification said.

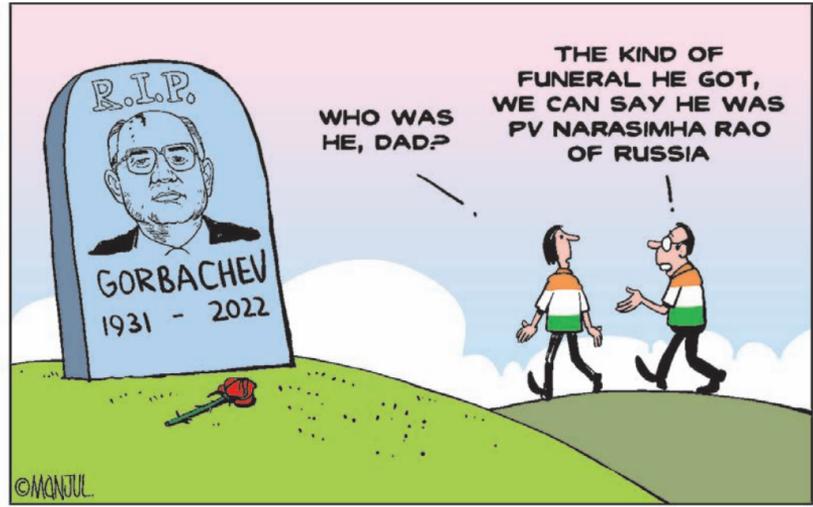
Now, the state government has planned for raising and strengthening of 36 saline embankments measuring total length of 198.81 km to cyclone resilient standard to sustain the impact of very severe cyclone with speeds up to 250 km/hour and to protect the adjacent landmass and habitation from floods, saline ingress and tidal surge of Bay of Bengal in Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri.

According to sources, upon completion of the projects, about 21,690 hectares of agricultural land will be protected from flood and saline ingress and 2,92,500 people in 136 villages in the above districts will be benefitted.

Due to raising and strengthening of embankments, road communication, scope for fishing and eco-tourism will be improved, the official said.

The Water Resources Department has planned to make an expenditure of Rs 290.60 crore during the current year while Rs 305.96 crore has been provisioned for 2023-24, Rs 166.92 crore for 2024-25 and Rs 763.48 crore for 2025-26, the notification said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



New VC for Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Governor Ganeshi Lal, who is the Chancellor of universities in Odisha, Sunday appointed Rabintra Kumar Panda as the Vice Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya in Puri, an official said. Panda will serve as the Vice Chancellor for four years with effect from the date he assumes office as such or until further orders whichever is earlier.

Panda, presently working as professor at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, has more than 29 years of teaching experience.

40-year-old Bargarh man dies in Puri

Puri: A 40-year-old man from Bargarh died after losing consciousness while enjoying at the beach here, Sunday. The victim was identified as Rakesh Kumar Sahoo. The incident took place in the morning when Rakesh was enjoying at the beach with his family. "Rakesh lost consciousness following which he was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival," said an official.

Niti praise for Sundargarh's Millets Mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: When the United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the Odisha Millets Mission Programme underway in the Sundargarh district has elicited praise from country's apex public policy think tank-- the Niti Aayog.

The Niti Aayog, in its recent report titled 'Take Home Ration - good practices across the states/UTs', has raised a toast to the initiative of including Ragi Laddu in Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) for pre-school children under ICDS in Sundargarh.

Hailing it as a unique model in the country for its three-pronged gains of boosting the production of Ragi and other



millet varieties, providing an assured price to the farmers and giving additional income to women SHGs, Niti Aayog has presented it among the best practices in the country under diversification of 'Take Home Ration (THR) products.

In his reaction to Niti Aayog's report, the district collector Sundargarh, Parag Harshad Gavali said, "By supplement-

ing nutrition through millets, we are building a strong foundation for the growth of children. This innovation has also helped in boosting income of farmers and women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the district."

Ragi laddu to supplement nutrition of pre-school children was launched as a pilot programme in Sundargarh district August 15, 2020. In 12 months, this became a universalized scheme covering all 21 ICDS project locations in 17 blocks and 4 ULBS.

This special initiative has been benefiting over 63 thousand children in the age group of 3-6 years in the district. At the same time, a total of 39 SHGs have been involved in the project of preparing the Ragi Laddu Mix.

221 fresh Covid-19 infections, 1 fatality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,28,465 Sunday as 221 more people, including 41 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The toll rose to 9,180 as a 46-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Sambalpur district. Fifty-three other patients have died

due to comorbidities so far, it said.

Odisha had recorded 174 infections and a fatality Saturday.

The state now has 1,740 active Covid cases, while 214 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,17,492. The daily positivity rate was at 1.62 per cent as 13,663 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

Parental smoking habit may influence their teenage kids

Parents, take note! If you smoke, then there are chances that you might influence your teenage children, as a new study has shown that teenagers whose parents are smokers are more likely to try e-cigarettes.

The research, presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, indicated that teenagers whose parents smoked were around 55 per cent more likely to have tried e-cigarettes and about 51 per cent more likely to have tried smoking.

"We can see that the number of teenagers using e-cigarettes is changing fast, so we need to keep monitoring the situation in Ireland and around the world. We also plan to study social media to understand how this influences girls' and boys' vaping behaviour," said lead author Joan Hanafin from the University College Cork.

The researchers also found that the proportion who have tried e-cigarettes has been increasing dramatically and that although boys are more likely to use e-cigarettes, the rate of use among girls is increasing

more rapidly.

For the study, the team examined data on 6,216 children, who were 8-year-olds, including information on whether their parents smoked while they were growing up. The teenagers

were asked whether they smoked or used e-cigarettes.

The team also combined several Irish data sets to provide the most comprehensive analysis of teenage e-cigarette use in Ireland, with information on more than 10,000 Irish teenagers (aged 16 to 17), to look at the overall numbers of teenagers trying or regularly using e-cigarettes and how this is changing over time.

This showed that the proportion who had tried e-cigarettes had increased from 23 per cent in 2014 to 39 per cent in 2019.

The main reasons teenagers gave for trying e-cigarettes were curiosity (66 per cent) and because their friends were vaping (29 per cent). Only 3 per cent said it was to quit smoking.

The proportion who said they had never used tobacco when they first tried e-cigarettes increased from 32 per cent in 2015 to 68 per cent in 2019.



The research indicated that teenagers whose parents smoked were around 55% more likely to have tried e-cigarettes and about 51% more likely to have tried smoking



Message on Teacher's Days



Poly Pattnaik
Founder-cum-Principal
Mothers Public School

Our late President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam said that teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber and future of an individual. To the world you may be just a teacher but to your students you are a hero. A teacher is the only person who does hard labour to make his student understand each and every point of knowledge, whether it's of subject or knowledge of life. Our tradition and religious texts have kept teachers one level above the parents as it is believed that parents give birth to a child but a teacher converts him into a human being. You can become not only a good teacher but also a successful teacher by following a few simple steps.

First—Be a student always because learning is a never-ending process. Second—Always be prepared for the class. Third—Get 100% of student's attention, before you begin. Fourth—Avoid chalk and talk, remember you are a facilitator. Fifth—Don't tolerate indiscipline and above all have tons of patience. Don't preach, but guide them, involve them, get them to enjoy every minute of your class. Develop such a connect with your students that they would not like to miss even a single day.

The bond that you create will help your students to become good citizens and good human beings. Moreover, your work will cease to be just another job, instead it will become a pleasure. This in turn will make you happy and that happiness will spread into your class. Learning will become fun.

This is not a big task, it just requires the right amount of content knowledge, sincerity to the profession and a selfless dedication.

I would like to conclude with a quote, 'A good teacher is like a candle which consumes itself to light the way for others. I thank all of you for all your efforts towards fulfilling the mission and vision of our school.'

The true teachers are those who help us think for ourselves.
- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

HAPPY Teachers' DAY

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Time to shatter myths related to suicides: DGP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Commissionerate Police Saturday organised a one-day workshop to sensitize police personnel and media about issues related to suicide and law enforcement.

The Director General of Police, Sunil Bansal in his presidential address said that the workshop, which is a unique initiative by the Commissionerate Police, was aimed to turn a simple police officer into a thinking cop who can actually apply himself and be as much of use as possible to the society.

He also said that suicide cases have increased manifold in the country during the last few years, which makes it the right time to shatter some myths related to suicide incidents that has forever prevailed in the society.

"The popular perception that suicides cannot largely be prevented and some people are born with suicidal tendencies is all incorrect," told

"The popular perception that suicides cannot largely be prevented and some people are born with suicidal tendencies is all incorrect,"
SUNIL BANSAL | DGP

Bansal. He also pointed towards the economic effects of suicides on the society and the family of the victims.

"The economic impact on the society is huge but at the same time the economic impact on the family is still bigger. Because data indicated that almost two thirds of the people committing suicide are well into the economic productive years. They are into the time when they are most productive to their family and to the society," Bansal added.

Renowned psychiatrist and director of Centre for Mental Health Law & Policy, ILS, Pune, Soumitra Pathare also addressed the work-

shop. Pathare said India accounts for one third of the total suicides that take place in the world and the fact bears significance as one out of six people in the world is an Indian.

This shows our suicide rate is far higher than the rest of the world, almost double, claimed Pathare.

He also asserted that most of the young people died due to accident and suicide and both of these causes can be prevented. Pathare claimed that the official data annually brought out by NCRB are underreported in the range between 30 to 70 per cent. He urged the police officials to collect the suicidal data properly which will help the policy makers plan adequate strategies.

He also urged the Odisha government to prepare holistic strategy to deal with increasing suicides in the state. The Commissioner of Police, Saumendra Priyadarshi along with other experts in the field and police officials attended the programme.

WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE POLICING



Commissionerate Police DGP Sunil Bansal with other dignitaries during a workshop on Suicide and Law Enforcement at Police Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Encourage teachers to enroll for NEP prog: HE dept

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Higher Education department directed the colleges and universities for enrollment of teachers in University Grants Commission (UGC) professional development programme for colleges and universities.

In a letter, the department said that as per National Education Policy-2020 teachers are key players for smooth implementation of NEP. In this re-

spect, Ministry of Education, government of India has entrusted IGNOU, UGC the responsibility of orienting the higher education teachers on implementation of NEP 2020 in higher educational institutions.

In this regard, the senior regional director, IGNOU Bhubaneswar has intimated that IGNOU has developed a national 36 hour (6 days) professional development programme which is equivalent to (UGC-

Human Resource Development Centre) short term PDP and can be completed in maximum 9 days. The nationwide registration for this programme has already started August 15.

Therefore, the department requested the colleges and universities to encourage all teachers to enroll in this online programme. Teachers can register for the programme by visiting the website <http://ignou-nep-pdp.samarth.ac.in>

Environmental edu needs serious attention: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The world is confronted with numerous environmental challenges that threaten the very existence of not only the human species, but also the whole living system on earth, experts opined in a webinar organised Sunday by the Orissa Environment Society on the theme 'Emphasis on environment education in the new education policy'.

The most intelligent creature,

human being, is solely responsible for all the predicaments, be it pollution of air, water and soil; ozone layer depletion or global warming, climate change, loss of forests and biodiversity, and landscape alterations. Human species, though blessed with wisdom, is not applying it and is destroying the nature for own selfish needs, they said.

The experts underlined the need to impart environmental education to the young generation that provides them basic knowledge



for deeper understanding of the environmental issues. It enhances general awareness, brings about attitudinal changes and sensitivity, and develops skills for problem-solving and decision-making in environmental frontier, they said.

The chief guest of the occasion was Siba Prasad Adhikary, former vice-chancellor of Fakir Mohan University and former professor of biotechnology, Visva-Bharati University. He narrated how the environmental scenario of the world has changed in course of time engendering detrimental impacts on its quality. As all individuals of the world population contribute some harmful footprints to the environment, even in the form of throwing away plastics.

Continued from P1

Odisha yet to enact law

Last year, the Jal Shakti ministry told Parliament that about 2,000 people lost their lives due to cyclonic storms, heavy rains, and floods and landslides during 2021-22.

According to data shared by the ministry in response to a question in Rajya Sabha, the highest number of lives lost due to cyclonic storms, heavy rains and floods and landslides in 2021-22 were in Maharashtra at 489, followed by Gujarat and UP, each of which lost 162 lives.

Environmental activist and water expert Himanshu Thakkar said even though some states have enacted the legislation, no state in the country has implemented it.

"The only state which did a little bit of work on it was Maharashtra, where they assigned 'red' and 'green' line on floodplains, which meant that no activity within 'red line', which was restricted behind the 'green line'.

"Even that was de-notified. So even Maharashtra is not following it now. No political party is being serious about its implementation and there is no political will," he said. Thakkar stressed that all dog breeds are encroached upon or become a dumping ground then it is an invitation to major trouble.

"In terms of increased floods and more urban footprint the situation is worsening. Also, in the context of climate change, again the flood intensity increases so it is urgent to come out with a floodplain protection plan," he said.

Shripad Dharmadhikary, environment activist and founder of Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, a centre to research, monitor and analyse water and energy issues, said that for flood management there is a need to give space to the river.

"Floodplain zoning is for the river to flow and only when you have proper zoning regulations then you can prevent encroachment on river floodplains which has become a very serious issue.

Some dogs, such as the Cavalier



Youths immerse a clay idol of Lord Ganesh at a temporary pond in Purighat area of Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Much-loved dog breeds are just as likely to bite as banned ones

Dogs are rarely "nice" or "nasty". People tend to label some dog breeds as aggressive and some, such as the pit bull terrier, are often banned, yet all dogs have the potential to bite.

In fact, banned breeds are no more likely to bite than other breeds, despite a reputation for being more aggressive. There is little evidence breed-specific laws reduce biting.

Labrador retrievers, one of the most popular dog breeds in the UK often feature in lists and reports about aggressive dog breeds. This is likely because Labradors make up such a high proportion of the dog population. But it also highlights why we should be aware of our interactions around all dogs, no matter the breed. Biting is not inevitable. Understanding the reasons why dogs bite is the key to prevention.

Humans have selectively bred dogs over thousands of years for appearance and behaviour traits.

Some dogs, such as the Cavalier

King Charles spaniel, have been bred for their appearance and as a docile companion. Others dogs have been bred for an aloof and wary personality as guard dogs. While dogs of the same breed share common characteristics, there is as much variation within a breed as there is across breeds. It's tricky to predict what a dog's behaviour will be like based on breed alone.

However, the purpose a dog was originally bred for is a useful guide. Breeds favoured for intelligence, problem solving skills and working roles may be more sensitive.

Why do dogs bite?

When dogs bite, it is usually a last resort. It can arise from fear, pain or frustration. Dog biting is influenced by a combination of genetics, experience and training. Sometimes dogs are intentionally trained to behave aggressively, for the handler's status or protection. Others may have a genetic predisposition to fear and anxiety or aggression. Human error is closely linked



with dog bite incidents. We can aggravate a conflict situation when we fail to recognise what dogs are telling us through their body language and demeanour.

In most cases, the dog is known to the victim, and attacks often happen in their own garden. Children under 10 are at particular risk from dog bites. They may struggle to recognise fearful dogs

Some dogs, such as the Cavalier King Charles spaniel, have been bred for their appearance and as a docile companion

Others dogs have been bred for an aloof and wary personality as guard dogs

While dogs of the same breed share common characteristics, there is as much variation within a breed as there is across breeds

lead to resolution of the threat or conflict. Think about a dog growling if you approach their dinner bowl when they are eating. While this might not be an ideal behaviour for a family dog, it is a clear indication the dog is uncomfortable. The growl should be warning enough for you to move away.

Dogs show a range of behaviours to neutralise stressful situations, such as lip licking, averting their gaze and growling. If we ignore, misinterpret or punish warning behaviour, we risk escalation.

First-of-its-kind book on rlys in Odisha launched

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Governor Ganeshi Lal launched a book Odisha-The Railway Story by Dilip Kumar Samantray at Soochana Bhawan Sunday. On the occasion SK Srivastava, General Manager of East Coast Railway, Bishnupada Sethi, transport and higher education secretary and others were present.

Apart from interesting historical facts about the growth and expansion of railways in India, this book contains fascinating stories about the development of railways from a nascent stage to be an engine for facilitating economic development and prosperity for the state of Odisha. The book throws light on the debate about the priority between irrigation and railway in the wake of the Great Famine of Odisha in 1866. It also brings

out several facts, unknown to many like that railways came to Jharsuguda section of Odisha and not to Cuttack- Bhubaneswar section in the late nineteenth century.

This book is a revelation about the game changer role played by two princely railways of Odisha. It also elaborates the implications of railway development on the socio economic life of the people and state of Odisha over last hundred years. It is a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind literature on the history and development of railways in Odisha.

The Indian Railways are the 'life-line' of the nation. Apart from being an important mode of transportation for freight and passengers, the railways in India have been a great integrating force for more than 160 years. Similarly the more than a century long history of railway development in Odisha has been a chequered one.

If your dog displays unusual behaviour such as snapping or excessive barking, seek professional veterinary and behavioural advice, especially if pain or fear is involved

How can we reduce dog bite incidents?

We have a legal obligation to manage the behaviour of dogs in our care. We expect dogs and puppies to fit seamlessly into our lives but the human world can be confusing and frightening.

It is our responsibility to help them adjust and learn skills for day-to-day life in human society. This includes behavioural self-management so our dogs can cope with the challenges they will encounter. Negative experiences including punishment can increase a dog's stress levels during human interactions. Instead, reward-based training supports human-dog bonds and is highly effective. This is especially important during puppyhood.

PTI

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No action against erring PACSs

₹4 CRORE ALLEGEDLY MISAPPROPRIATED DURING PADDY PROCUREMENT



Similar irregularities were found at Chasakhand PACS in Dasrathpur block, Bairi and Samia PACSs in Barchana, Amarpur PACS in Bari block, Narahari PACS in Binjharpur block, Abhaypur PACS in Dharmasala block, Dudhujuri PACS in Sukinda block, Gobardhanpur PACS in Danagadi block, Markandpur PACS in Jajpur sadar block. In all these cases, it was found that even though there were receipts of procurement, in reality nothing had happened. For such fictitious procurement a payment of ₹4 crore had been made. Sources said that the entire amount was misappropriated by officials of PACSs and the SHG in the names of farmers.

An investigating officer of the state civil supplies corporation had recommended legal action against the secretaries and purchase officers of these PACSs. He also wanted to prevent the secretaries of these PACSs and nine millers from procuring paddy. On June 13, the registrar of the state cooperative societies had also directed Jajpur ARCS Prashant Kumar Mallick to take action in 15 days against those involved in the irregularities. However, no action has so far been taken against the erring PACSs.

When contacted, Mallick said that the management of these PACSs has been asked to take action against the secretaries.

State enforcement squad March 3, 2022 looked into paddy procurement and stocking at various PACSs in Jajpur and found irregularities

in procurement.

Reports said, following a number of allegations about scam in paddy procurements in some PACS, the state enforcement squad had visited some places of Jajpur district March 3, 2022 and started investigation into paddy procurement and stocking at various PACS.

During the probe it was found that 3,065.25 quintal of paddy was procured through Nandipur PACSs in Dasrathpur block by using forged vendor's receipts. In reality, paddy was not procured from the farmers.

Jajpur, Sept 4: Five months back, irregularities worth ₹4 crore in paddy procurement done through 11 primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) in Jajpur district had been detected. However, no action has been taken against secretaries of these PACSs and those involved in the scam. The only action taken so far is that an SGH of Jajpur sadar block engaged in paddy procurement has been stopped from doing so.

This was revealed through an action taken report (dated August 25, 2022) submitted by the district civil supplies officer (CSO) and the assistant registrar of cooperative societies (ARCS) to the district administration. It was alleged that some SHGs involved in paddy procurement have escaped disciplinary action despite irregularities

De-addiction centre head re-arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 4: Town police here once more arrested Sunday the head of the 'Pratigyan' de-addiction centre, Abani Pati here in Mayurbhanj district on charges of reopening it in violation of the district collector's order.

Police have registered a case (750/22) in this connection. Pati was arrested after a video showing him tying up the inmates to poles and assaulting them by sticking pins on their bodies and kicking them went viral on social media platforms.

The assault was carried out to the beats of music. Pati had earlier been arrested by the police after another 'assault' video went viral. In it, Pati was seen assaulting an inmate with a plastic pipe and forcing him to lick his foot. Along with him, an associate had also been arrested.

He had been produced in court and sent to judicial custody. He was also asked not to open the centre again and it was sealed by an order from District Collector Vineet Bhardwaj.

However, the moment Pati was released from judicial custody, he reopened the centre. Town police IIC Birendra Senapati said that the centre was running without any permission from the Odisha government and through a trust.

Sources said Pati had illegally established the centre and was serving sub-standard food to the inmates by charging ₹6,500 from them every month. People have demanded immediate closure of the de-addiction centre and strong action against Pati and his associates.

Minor allegedly murdered in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 4: Police have recovered the body of a minor girl from a pond at Barikul village under Mangalpur police limits in Jajpur district Saturday night. However, the family members of the deceased have filed an FIR, alleging that she had been murdered by miscreants for objecting to lewd comments passed by them.

The deceased has been identified as Amrita Das, 14, the daughter of Amulya Das. She was studying in Class IX.

Reports said, Amrita had gone to attend tuition in Babalpur village under Gramnandipur panchayat Saturday evening. Some youths had passed comments at

her following which she had protested, her family alleged.

As she did not return home from tuition at her usual time, Amrita's parents and other villagers started searching for her. Later, the villagers spotted Amrita's bag and her body floating in a pond.

Amrita's family members alleged that she was murdered and thrown into the pond by the same youths with whom she had picked up a quarrel.

Later, Amrita's family members lodged a complaint at Mangalpur police station. Jajpur SDO Saroj Kumar Upadhyay and IIC Rinarani Sahu have started investigation into the incident. The body has been sent for post-mortem

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, Justice AK Patnaik, Justice AK Sikri, other dignitaries, state ministers and BJD leaders at the Capital Foundation Annual Lecture & Awards function at New Delhi, Sunday

Woman dies of food poisoning hours after two kids' death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Badamba, Sept 4: A day after two children of Birabarpur village under Badamba police limits in Cuttack district died due to consuming stale and toxic food, their mother identified as Runubala Patra died at a private hospital in Jagatpur,

late Saturday night.

Runubala passed away within 12 hours after her son Rudra, 12, and daughter Ruchika, 8, died, allegedly due to food poisoning. The family of four complained of nausea leading to vomiting and diarrhoea, Friday night following which they were rushed to Manibandha com-

munity health centre (CHC) and later shifted to a private hospital in Jagatpur.

The children, Rudra and Ruchika succumbed while undergoing treatment, Saturday morning. Their mother passed away around 12 hours later. Her husband, Govind Patra is battling for life while un-

dergoing treatment at the hospital. Police are investigating the matter. Meanwhile, a medical team accompanied by a food inspector visited Birabarpur village and collected food samples for examination. Police from Badamba and Manibandha outposts were present during their visit.

MCL oustees rue lack of facilities at rehab colony

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, Sept 4: Approximately 62 years ago, 411 families had given up their homestead land in Balanda area to MCL for the development of South Balanda coal mine. Now with the mine lying abandoned and closed for the last 16 years, there are still a number of people who are yet to get proper compensation after being displaced.

Days after MCL was awarded by the Centre for record coal production, those that had been displaced raised their issues here. "The MCL has not yet provided basic amenities to the displaced people at the Handidhwa rehabilitation colony set up for them here. However, it is getting awards," some oustees lamented.

Kapur Pradhan, a displaced member said that all families at

the colony have not been provided electricity and drinking water. He also informed that 40 families have not got pattas. Another oustee, Nabin Pradhan said that they do not have a pond and a cremation ground at the colony. In the absence of cremation ground, they face a lot of difficulty in carrying out rituals.

Tripura Pradhan, another resident said that though they had drawn attention of the district administration towards the basic problems of the colony, little has been done to remove plight of the rehabilitated people.

According to the displaced people, MCL had acquired 662 acres of land of Balanda villagers in 1960 for coal mining for the first time in Talcher locality. In 1962, another 238 acres of land was acquired by the company for Jagannath Pokharia coal mine in accordance with Coal



Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957.

In 1985, the MCL acquired 273 acres including homestead land. Thereafter, the MCL initiated efforts to rehabilitate 411 families who lost their homes. In 1992, a rehabilitation colony was set up on a 24-acre of land at Handidhwa to re-

habilitate 321 families while the remaining 90 families were provided land at Baghamara. However, that land was not habitable, it was alleged. The Handidhwa colony was also not equipped with the basic facilities as the displaced are entitled to.

The Odisha government pub-

lished a notification January 2, 1989 on this issue. As per the notification, each displaced family is entitled to get 0.10 decimal of land, roads in the colony, street lights, school, healthcare facility, drinking water, playground, veterinary and entertainment centres, shops and plantations.

However, the MCL provided only 0.5 decimal of land to each of the displaced families. After repeated pleas, the MCL constructed a narrow road in the colony July 26, 2016. As it did not provide street lights, the local civic body did so. Healthcare and entertainment centres and shops were not provided, it was alleged.

Just opposite the colony at Handidhwa, the MCL has quarters for its officials. There all facilities are available including clean drinking water. However, people at the

colony are forced to drink polluted groundwater; some of the families alleged. Due to the paucity of basic facilities, scores of people have left the colony for other places. As of now only 100 people are residing in the colony. The displaced families on a number of occasions have written to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) about their plight, but to no avail.

Area manager of MCL's Jagannath coalmine, Ashok Kumar Dhal was contacted over phone, but he did not pick up the call.

Earlier, over 15 displaced families of Gopalprasad locality staged protests in front of the Hingula area office of MCL, demanding employment and right amount of compensation. Notably, MCL had acquired 348 acres of land at Gopalpur in 2010 for the Hingula coal mine.

FLOOD DAMAGE

Balasore seeks over ₹5.49cr

7,321 people affected in Mayurbhanj



BARIPADA: The administration has assessed the damage caused by back-to-back floods in 26 blocks of Mayurbhanj district. It submitted a detailed report to the state government. According to the report, the recent floods have affected 7,321 people in 519 villages. Crops in over 2,400 hectare of land were damaged while 1,074 houses suffered damages due to the floods. The report said that 10 people including five children died due to wall collapse caused by the floodwaters. The casualties were reported from Bisoi, Gopabandhunagar, Baripada, Raghunathpur, Kaptipada, Badasahi, Bangiriposi and Betanoti areas.

lands, horticulture farms and fishery sector were badly affected by the floods.

According to the report, crops were damaged in 1,504 hectare in Basta; 1,415 hectare in Jaleswar; paddy in 1,805.6 hectare, horticulture in 1,804.3 hectare and betel in 1.3 hectare in Baliapal; paddy in 33,445.8 hectare, horticulture in 3,345 hectare and betel plantation in 0.8 hectare in Bhogra block.

The administration has made it clear that the affected farmers will receive ₹6,800

as compensation for crop and horticulture damage per hectare and ₹18,000 for damage to betel farming per hectare.

The administration has sought ₹1.2 crore for Basta; ₹96.62 lakh for Jaleswar; ₹1.22 crore for Baliapal; and ₹2.27 crore for Bhogra block.

The official report stated that the fisheries sector has suffered damages worth ₹3.79 lakh. The report has been sent to the state government, said the district emergency officer.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 4: Balasore district has sought over ₹5.49 crore as compensation to the losses caused by flood.

The coastal district reported 33 per cent crop damage caused by back-to-back floods from Budhabalanga, Subarnarekha, Jalaka and other rivers. The district administration assessed the crop loss and submitted a detailed report to the state government.

It also stated that farm-

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There is no greater courage than that of recognizing one's own mistakes.



THE MOTHER

Gorbachev, Putin

The Russian government under President Vladimir Putin has disgraced itself by not according a state funeral to the last leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev whose low-key funeral took place September 3. Hundreds of people turned up at the ceremony with flowers in hand in Moscow's Hall of Columns where state funerals of former Soviet leaders such as Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin had been held. Putin's decision to stay away from the public farewell to Gorbachev, who had transformed the history of Russia as well as the world, amply made it clear the current regime's antipathy towards him. Unable to dump him into the dustbin of history by branding him as a traitor as many pro-Putin supporters have done moments after his death, the Russian government gave him a backhanded compliment by grudgingly allowing elements of state funeral, whatever that means. Putin seemed to be aware of the low opinion the rest of the world would have had about him, had he completely ignored the man who ended the Cold War and introduced epoch-making reforms in the former Soviet Union that are regarded as nothing short of a revolution. That is why he laid a bouquet of roses by the open coffin of Gorbachev in Central Clinical Hospital, observed a few seconds of silence, bowed, made the sign of the cross and touched the casket.

Analysts have noted how a state funeral was accorded to Boris Yeltsin, the immediate successor of Gorbachev who turned out to be Putin's mentor. While only a guard of honour was given to Gorbachev with the state assisting in the ceremony, a lavish state funeral had been reserved for Russia's first post-Soviet leader Yeltsin in 2007. The latter had anointed Putin as his preferred successor and set the stage for him to win the presidency by stepping down. Incidentally, Yeltsin had benefitted the most from Gorbachev's reforms but later turned out to be his biggest detractor. Declaring a state funeral for Gorbachev would have made it obligatory for Putin to attend the ceremony apart from extending invitations to foreign leaders. Moscow is apparently in no mood to send out such diplomatic courtesy amid soaring tensions with the West after ordering invasion of Ukraine.

It is doubtful whether, under normal circumstances, Putin would have shown the honour to Gorbachev even in the form of "elements of state funeral". He now finds himself somewhat cornered by the West for the unprovoked attack on Ukraine, though he is using his gas muscle to counter sanctions. Once he had lamented the collapse of the Soviet Union as the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." Such an appraisal is nothing but an indictment of Gorbachev's reforms of perestroika (economic restructuring) and glasnost (free speech).

Putin today exemplifies the harsh 'ruler' mentality that seems to have permeated across continents into most so-called democratically elected heads of states. From Bolsonaro, Orban, Trump to some others that we all know, the desire to retain power, with the ensuing glory and benefits, has submerged the ideas of greater good for the people that were primarily the reasons for the birth of democracy. Admittedly, the times are always changing. Today we witness democracy in all its frailties and absurdities. These changing times, however dark they may seem now, may churn out a more evolved form of democracy where the citizens' action and involvement is not limited to voting alone but also participating in creating a better and equitable society on a continuous basis. When times change, the likes of Putin who are trying to alter the past will themselves go unsung and get erased from history.

WISDOM CORNER

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why. **MARK TWAIN**

Do one thing at a time, and while doing it put your whole soul into it to the exclusion of all else. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**

WORDSWORTH

Biomimetics

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard" the proverb advises, and scientists today are increasingly searching out interesting animals and plants to gain design insights that will help them create novel materials and compounds. This new field of biomimetics has several facets to it. Some workers mimic natural methods of manufacture of chemical compounds to create new ones (a waterproof glue has been developed by studying the natural adhesive produced by molluscs; current research is trying to create a pollution-free water-based paint by mimicking the way insects' wings grow and dry). Others imitate mechanisms found in nature (Velcro is said to have been created as a copy of the hooks in natural burrs; new strong but light materials have come from studying the structure of bone). Yet others learn new principles from, say, the flocking behaviour of birds, or the emergent behaviour of bees and ants. The aim is to study the natural processes as a starting point, gain insights and then improve on their performance, which is often slow or susceptible to extremes of temperature.

Biophilia

This term was popularised by the Harvard biologist Edward O Wilson in 1984 as the title of a book (Biophilia: The Human Bond with Other Species). To him it seemed incontrovertible that we human beings have an innate sensitivity to and need for other living things, because we have coexisted in the closest relationship with the natural world for so many millennia. He defined biophilia as "the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life", and argued that they are determined by a biological need. There may seem to be a smidgen or two of pantheistic tree-hugging environmentalism about the idea (which can hardly be said to be original), but advocates of an emotional, even a spiritual, dimension to our relationship with nature point, for example, to studies that show patients recover quicker if they are exposed to greenery, even pictures of greenery, rather than a purely artificial environment. The concept has been taken up by others, especially Stephen Kellert and Lynn Margulis, and has links with the Gaia Hypothesis that argues that Earth's ecosystems form a single unit of which the human species is one element. Its reverse is biophobia.

LOL

Want to go to space?

NASA was interviewing professionals to be sent to Mars. Only one could go and couldn't return to Earth. The first applicant, an engineer, was asked how much he wanted to be paid for going. "A million dollars," he answered, "because I want to donate it to MIT." The next applicant, a doctor, was asked the same question. He asked for \$2 million. "I want to give a million to my family," he explained, "and



leave the other million for the advancement of medical research."

The last applicant was a lawyer. When asked how much money he wanted, he whispered in the interviewer's ear, "Three million dollars." "Why so much more than the others?" asked the interviewer. The lawyer replied, "If you give me \$3 million, I'll give you \$1 million, I'll keep \$1 million, and we'll send the engineer to Mars."



Kaushik Basu

AGGRESSIVE MONETARY TIGHTENING WOULD CAUSE THE ECONOMY, FINANCIAL MARKETS, AND PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING TO SUFFER EXCESSIVELY

At this year's Jackson Hole symposium, a major event on the calendars of the world's central bankers, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered an uncharacteristically strong message about how the Fed plans to combat today's high inflation.

The Fed raised interest rates sharply, by 75 basis points, in both June and July, but Powell made it clear that the rate hikes are unlikely to stop there or even to taper off. Instead, he said, "unusually large" rate increases will continue into the near future. The coming hikes will hurt US households and businesses, but "a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain." Powell's hawkish remarks caused the S&P 500 to fall by 3.4 per cent, with every sector of the index declining. Many fear that if the Fed continues to raise interest rates in large increments, as Powell suggested, investment will plummet and unemployment will rise. In fact, aggressive monetary tightening would cause the economy, financial markets, and people's well-being to suffer excessively. Like an overdose of steroids, it may cure the illness but at a disproportionately high cost.

The Fed's mistake reflects a misreading of the US labour market, which Powell noted "is particularly strong." And it is indeed true that US wages have been rising sharply. Average hourly wages increased by 5.2 per cent year on year in July, and are rising faster than the prices of many goods.

But it is wrong to equate current strong wage increases with inflation. That is because the COVID-19 pandemic has provided an intriguing twist to a standard economic argument in the form of the "Great Resignation." This strange phenomenon, whereby many Americans who left the labour market during the pandemic because of workplace and school closures are not returning, even as COVID-19 wanes, has revealed a labour-market equilibrium that was previously hidden from view. It is like seamount that becomes a visible island only when the water level recedes.

Consider a typical American



A less hawkish stance would minimise the adverse side effects of the Fed's medicine...Given that US monetary policy has a much bigger effect on other countries than vice versa, this could be a big relief for the global economy, too

family, with two adults and some children. When hourly wages are very low, both adults probably must work full-time to earn enough income to meet the household's basic needs. But if hourly wages were substantially higher, the adults would choose to work fewer hours, so that they could take turns to be at home in order to attend better to their children's needs. (Alternatively, one adult might stay at home altogether or do some light work.)

Suppose that the economy is settled in the former, low-wage equilibrium in which both parents work full-time. Because all households do the same, there is a large supply of labour on the market. That keeps the hourly wage rate low, which in turn means both parents must continue working full-time. The equilibrium persists.

Now suppose there is a major pandemic, and children cannot go to school. Even in low-income households, at least one adult must stay home to look after small children. Later, as the pandemic eases and children return to school, there is bound to be a lag in adults returning to in-person work. As

creatures of habit, many people become accustomed to working from home, or just not working. So, as markets begin to return to normal, there is a shortage of labour and wages are bound to rise.

Eventually, even after the habit wanes, the economy can end up at the other, higher-wage equilibrium that always existed in dormancy. Once this equilibrium is reached, even though wages are high, the labour market will be tight, with no glut of job seekers, and it will remain there.

Many have noted that relatively few Americans are filing for unemployment benefits. This would be a surprise if the labour market was out of equilibrium, with many people looking for work. Clearly, that is not the case. The economy has simply shifted to a higher-wage equilibrium, thanks to the big pandemic-induced jolt to the labour market.

Part of the rise in US wages reflects this adjustment. To overlook this and regard current wage increases solely as the result of inflation can lead to an excessive policy reaction. That is the mistake the Fed will make if it persists in

raising interest rates sharply. My argument is admittedly a theoretical one, but it can be easily assessed. The Fed has sufficient data and expertise to work out how much of the wage movement is simply a shift to the new equilibrium, and how much is a part of overall inflation.

My hunch is that, once the Fed completes this exercise, it will want to temper its policy response to today's inflation. A less hawkish stance would minimise the adverse side effects of the Fed's medicine and greatly benefit small and large US businesses, workers, and financial markets, and achieve the same results as far as inflation is concerned. Given that US monetary policy has a much bigger effect on other countries than vice versa, this could be a big relief for the global economy, too.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

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SPECTRUM NATION

Fathoming freebies: Costs & benefits



DV Ramana

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO PLAY THE REDISTRIBUTIVE ROLE MORE AGGRESSIVELY

William Shakespeare's famous line "the devil can cite scripture for his purpose" captures the spirit of the PIL seeking action against political parties for promising freebies during election. Notwithstanding the intentions behind the PIL, we need to give the devil its due. The PIL unleashed a series of serious debates among people from different walks of life: judges, politicians, bureaucrats, academicians, and students.

Political parties are expected to promise but the governments are expected to deliver. So let us see the role of government in distributing freebies. Is the government responsible for giving freebies? Maybe we have to fall back on the Constitution to find answers for the same. The scheme for social welfare is reflected in different provisions of the Constitution.

To quote Justice Chandrachud, "We resolved to constitute ourselves into a Socialist State which carried with it the obligation to secure to our people justice: social, economic, and political." As per the Preamble of our Constitution, social justice is to remove social imbalance by law and economic justice means re-

moving poverty by an equitable distribution of economic resources amongst all who contribute towards its production.

But the ground reality is different. As per the World Inequality Report-2022, the top 10% of the population holds 57% of the total national income while the bottom 50% holds less than 13%. The top 1% owns 33% of total wealth of the country. It further stressed that the wealth of the ten richest is enough to fund school and higher education of all children in the country for 25 years. No wonder that the report has rated India as one of the most unequal countries in the world.

Inequality is an invisible devil which affects both the rich and the poor. Even the rich cannot ignore the poor anymore. COVID has very clearly demonstrated that we cannot survive with economic imbalances in the society with small islands of prosperity amid a vast ocean of acute poverty. If India has to reduce the magnitude of inequality it has to continue to undertake various income and wealth redistribution activities by whatever name they may be called: freebies, handouts, giveaways, or welfare schemes.

However, it is important for every citizen to know about the sources of money for financing such schemes. Any person with some understanding of basic economics will know that taxes are one of the important sources for the government to finance its welfare activities. The government has to play the redistributive role more aggressively. It is time for India to generate resources by introducing the wealth tax, higher corporate tax, and other forms of direct taxes, as suggested by different economists including the well-known French economist Thomas Piketty, for undertaking welfare activities. It is surprising to see that the corporate tax as a percentage of GDP has reduced from 32% to 25% during the last five years. While the percentage of income tax has increased from 22% to 25% during that period. Was it by choice or by chance?

Welfare may not be the right of an individual citizen, but welfare activities undertaken by the State are expected to benefit the nation as a whole. It is age-old wisdom that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. A country cannot be called developed with highly skewed distribution of wealth. Both individuals and corporate

entities also have a role to play in creating a society with less inequality by fulfilling their legal responsibilities. It is necessary to ensure that people pay their taxes on time without looking for opportunities for tax evasion. It is sad that, as per the State of Tax Justice Report (2021), India lost more than Rs 1 lakh crore due to tax evasion by large multinational corporate houses and individual taxpayers. This has been the trend for several years. Efforts are needed to plug such leaks in the tax collection system.

Reducing inequalities is not just to collect money from the rich and dole them out to the poor. The government needs to ensure that the money collected is invested in such a way that it will contribute towards reducing the income inequality sooner than later.

It is our duty to see that the government, both Union and state, fulfills its Constitutional obligation of taking care of the needs of society, and ensure justice: social, economic, and political. Let political parties make promises but ensure that the governments deliver such promises.

The writer is a professor in XIMB.

A legendary teacher

Sir, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan remains an inspiration to both teachers and students. He was adamant that teachers should be among the top intellectuals in the country because he believed they could help their students attain the highest level of success in life. Radhakrishnan was interested with teachers' professional development because he believed that they were the foundation of any educational institution. The recipient of Bharat Ratna in 1954, Radhakrishnan has left a huge mark in the country's education structure. September 5 is celebrated as Teacher's Day in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Radhakrishnan. A symbol of academics and education, Radhakrishnan was a renowned philosopher, scholar as well as statesman who dedicated his life towards education and shaped up the youth of the country. The opinion of Radhakrishnan for the teachers was that the right kind of education could solve many ills of society and the country. For him, education was the foundation for everything. He was such a great teacher that his students loved and respected him immensely. He dedicated his life to advancing education, working to establish a notable system while holding numerous teaching posts. He continues to be an inspiration to all of us. This year's 60th Teacher's Day celebration will last for a full week, and the professor's birthday is celebrated with gratitude and appreciation across the nation as schools and colleges express their appreciation for the dedicated work their teachers have done to equip students with knowledge and life skills.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Tackling disasters

Sir, Pakistan is facing its worst flood in years. Many people have died due to this devastating flood. Pakistan and India are part of the South Asian region which is vulnerable to climate change and global warming. The growing warming and drastic changes in climate are the primary reasons behind these natural disasters. According to experts the frequency and impact of these disasters will increase in the coming years. The countries of the South Asian region will be affected more and this region is one of the most populated in the world so the devastation and deaths will be huge if proper action is not taken as soon as possible. Leaders of this region should take this issue to global forums and attract the attention of global leadership. The governments of all South Asian nations should make a combined task force to tackle such situations.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST

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national

of the day quote

Matters of public importance are raised in Parliament by members of both ruling and opposition parties. Notwithstanding differences of opinion, there is consensus on issues of public welfare

MPs from 22 parties spoke about me (on my farewell) but only what the PM said was highlighted

We must pay special attention to ensure that there is no migration of farmers and labourers from the state due to the drought-like situation

SHORT TAKES

Sticky bombs recovered

Srinagar: In a first such instance in the Kashmir valley, security forces have recovered sticky bombs or magnetic IEDs from a hybrid terrorist in Sopore township of Baramulla district of the union territory, police said Sunday. The militant, identified as Saqib Shakeel Dar, was arrested Saturday evening. He is working as a hybrid terrorist of proscribed terrorist organization LeT and was in a constant search of an opportunity to carry out attacks on security forces and civilians.

Bandit released

Etawah (Uttar Pradesh): A one-time dreaded woman bandit, Sarla Jatav was finally released from the Etawah jail where she spent 17 years. Jatav walked out of prison on Saturday after the Allahabad High Court granted her release on a petition moved by her brother Vijay Singh. Etawah jail superintendent Ram Dhani Singh said that Jatav was released on court orders and she left the jail with her family members without talking to the media persons who had gathered outside.

BJP corporator in Hyd arrested

Hyderabad: A Greater Hyderabad corporator belonging to the BJP has been arrested by police for kidnapping the son of his political rival from the same party to settle scores with him. Baddam Prem Maheswar Reddy, a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) corporator from Gaddiannaram division was arrested along with nine other accused. The police were on the lookout of five other accused. The Saroornagar police and the LB Nagar special operations team of the Rachakonda Police Commissionerate cracked the kidnapping case.



India has great talent pool which is yet to be fully tapped. We need to make our institutes adaptable to the future. This will require a new teaching-learning matrix, pedagogy and content which are future-oriented. I am confident that with our famed IITs, we will be able to nurture the younger generation with necessary knowledge base and right skills to face the challenge

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

INDIA'S PRIDE

INS Vikrant, the prestigious aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi September 2 at Kochi is likely to be berthed at Kattupalli port, Chennai



At mega Cong rally, Rahul slams BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP of weakening the country by spreading fear and hatred which he said will benefit India's enemies, as the party tried to corner the government over the price rise issue with a massive rally here.

Launching an all-out attack on the government at the 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' rally at Ramlila Maidan here, he alleged since the BJP government has come there is pressure on institutions such as media, judiciary, Election Commission, and the government is undermining them.

He alleged Modi was working 24 hours for benefitting two big industrialists. Under PM Modi, he said, two Indias are being created, one which belongs to the poor where no dream could be accomplished, and the other of a few big businessmen where every dream can be achieved.

He said while PM Modi wants to benefit big businessmen by dividing the country, the Congress ideology stands for providing equal benefits to all especially the poor



Congress supporters during the party's 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol' rally on price rise, at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi

and the downtrodden. Rahul Gandhi said the government did not allow the Opposition to speak in Parliament, and the "only way for us is to talk directly to people and tell the truth of the country to people and hear them out". This is precisely why the Congress party is starting the Bharat Jodo Yatra this week, he said, adding this will

help talk directly to people and discuss their issues. He said the Congress lifted 27 crore people out of poverty but in the last eight years PM Modi has "pushed 23 crore" people back into poverty. "The work we did in 10 years they destroyed it in eight years." "Narendra Modi is taking India backwards. Narendra Modi ji is spreading hatred, and fear," he

Karni Sena member stabbed to death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 4: A 28-year-old man has been stabbed to death by a group of youth in Madhya Pradesh's Itarsi town, the police said Sunday.

His friend also sustained injuries in the incident, officials, said, adding he was admitted to a hospital in a serious condition. The deceased has been identified as Rohit Singh Rajput who was a member of Karni Sena. Sachin Patel, his friend, is currently hospitalised.

"Rajput was killed over an old dispute. The main accused who stabbed the victim with knife has been identified as Rahul... he has been arrested. Search is underway to nab the two other accused," said R.S. Chouhan, SHO, Itarsi police station. The two other accused persons have been identified as Ankit Bhat and Ishu Malviya.

On Saturday, district administration demolished the house of Ankit Bhat citing "illegal encroachment". On Friday evening, when Rajput and Patel were standing outside a municipal office in Itarsi, three persons arrived there



The deceased has been identified as Rohit Singh Rajput who was a member of Karni Sena. Sachin Patel, his friend, is currently hospitalised

and after a while, an altercation broke out between the two groups. After a while, Rahul pulled out a knife and stabbed on Rohit's neck. While trying to save Rohit, his friend Sachin also got injured as he was also attacked. All the accused fled the spot, leaving behind both Rohit and Sachin who were profusely bleeding. Later, they were rushed to a nearby hospital by some passerby, and the police were also informed about the incident.

'Centre to bring Model Prisons Act'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 4: The Union government will bring a Model Prisons Act by amending the British-era law in the next six months for which detailed discussions are underway with state governments, Home Minister Amit Shah said here Sunday.

He also urged all the state governments to immediately accept the Model Prison Manual introduced by the Central government in 2016 with "a need to reassess our views regarding prisons" and carry forward prison reforms.

So far, only 11 states and Union Territories have adopted the Manual, he said addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the 6th All India Prison Duty Meet. "After the prison manual, we are now going to bring the Model Prisons Act, which will bring about necessary changes in the law in force since the British era. Right now, we are holding extensive discussions with states and I am sure that it will be brought within the next six months," Shah said.

He said the Model Prisons Act will be brought to make jails in the country state-of-the-art. Shah stressed the need to address the issue of overcrowding in prisons, saying the jail administration cannot be improved without resolv-

I believe the prison administration is a very important wing of internal security. We cannot ignore jail administration. Society's perception of jails needs to be changed. Not all convicts lodged in jail are criminals by nature

AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER

ing these issues. He also requested states to provide video conferencing facilities with the court in every district jail. Shah identified the need to make arrangements "to keep prisoners who spread the propaganda of radicalisation and narcotics separate". The new jail manual also deals with information on controlling gangs inside the jail. "I believe the prison administration is a very important wing of internal security. We cannot ignore jail administration. Society's perception of jails needs to be changed. Not all convicts lodged in jail are criminals by nature," the home minister said. He said the process of punishment is also very important, but it is also the responsibility of the jail administration to find ways to rehabilitate prisoners in society.



People participate in the traditional Nehru Trophy boat race as part of Onam celebration in Alappuzha district

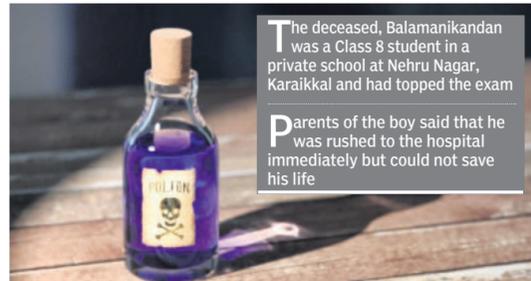
Student poisoned to death out of jealousy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Puducherry, Sept 4: In a shocking incident, the mother of a Class 8 girl poisoned to death her classmate who had topped the examination. The incident occurred at Karaikkal in Puducherry.

The deceased, BalamaniKandan was a Class 8 student in a private school at Nehru Nagar, Karaikkal and had topped the class. Police arrested Victoria Sahayarani, who is the mother of his classmate. According to the Karaikkal police, the woman was jealous of BalamaniKandan who had topped the class pushing her daughter to second place.

The deceased boy is the son of Rajendran and Malathi who live in Nehru colony in Karaikkal, Puducherry. Police said that Victoria Sahayarani had reached the school on Saturday and presented the boy with a cool drink.



The deceased, BalamaniKandan was a Class 8 student in a private school at Nehru Nagar, Karaikkal and had topped the exam

Parents of the boy said that he was rushed to the hospital immediately but could not save his life

However, after reaching home, the boy started vomiting continuously and told his parents that he was given a drink by Victoria Sahayarani.

Parents of the boy said that he was rushed to the hospital immediately but could not save his life. The post-mortem report revealed that the drink was laced with poison and intentionally

given to kill BalamaniKandan. Police arrested Victoria Sahayarani and she told the police that she was jealous of BalamaniKandan who regularly becomes class topper while her daughter could reach only the second spot. Victoria Sahayarani was produced before the judicial magistrate court and remanded to judicial custody.

UPA MLAs reach Ranchi ahead of floor test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 4: At least 30 MLAs of the ruling UPA coalition in Jharkhand, who were camping at a resort near Raipur since August 30, arrived in Ranchi in a chartered aircraft on Sunday afternoon to attend a special session of the assembly, an official said.

"The chartered plane carrying the MLAs has landed at Ranchi airport," the airport official said. Fearing poaching of its MLAs by the opposition BJP to topple the government, Chief Minister Hemant Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led alliance had shifted the legislators to a luxurious resort in Nava Raipur. The chartered aircraft with 30 legislators, and some other leaders of the JMM and Congress on board, took off from the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur and landed at Birsa Munda Airport here around 6 pm, the official said.

Road crashes claimed 1.55 lakh lives in 2021

While the number of deaths due to crashes reached its highest last year, the number of road accidents and persons injured has come down compared to previous years, the report of the NCRB revealed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India in 2021 - an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour - which is the highest death figures recorded in any calendar year so far, according to official data.

Besides the deaths, 3.71 lakh people were also injured in 4.03 lakh 'road accidents' across the country last year, according to National Crime Records Bureau data under the 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India - 2021' head.

While the number of deaths due

to crashes reached its highest last year, the number of road accidents and persons injured has come down compared to previous years, the report of the NCRB, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs, revealed.

The rate of deaths per thousand vehicles in 2021 (0.53) was higher than that in 2020 (0.45) and 2019 (0.52) but lower than 2018 (0.56) and 2017 (0.59), the data showed. In 2020, the year of COVID-19 lockdowns, there were 3.54 lakh road accidents in the country in which 1.33 lakh persons had died while another 3.35 lakh were injured, ac-



ording to the data. In 2019, there were 4.37 lakh road accidents in which 1.54 lakh people had died while another 4.39 lakh were injured, the data showed. The country logged 4.45 lakh road accidents in 2018 in which 1.52 lakh peo-

ple lost their lives while another 4.46 lakh were injured, it noted. The numbers in 2017 stood at 4.45 lakh accidents, 1.50 lakh deaths and 4.56 lakh injuries, according to the NCRB figures. "Generally road accidents have caused more in-

juries than deaths, but in Mizoram, Punjab, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, road accidents caused more deaths compared to persons injured," the NCRB stated in its annual report.

For Mizoram, the figures were 64 deaths and 28 injuries in 64 road accidents, while Punjab recorded 4,516 deaths and 3,034 injuries in 6,097 road accidents, the NCRB said. "In Jharkhand, 4,728 road accidents caused 3,513 deaths and injuries to 3,227 persons, and in Uttar Pradesh, 33,711 road accidents caused 21,792 deaths and injuries to 19,813 persons," it added.

The NCRB report's data for 2021 also suggested that public transport, like buses, were safer than private modes of conveyance, like motorcycles.

Ex-Kerala minister Shailaja rejects Magsaysay Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/New Delhi, Sept 4: Senior CPI(M) leader and former Kerala health minister K K Shailaja has declined to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award as it was instituted in the name of late President of the Philippines, who was known allegedly for his brutality against the Communists.

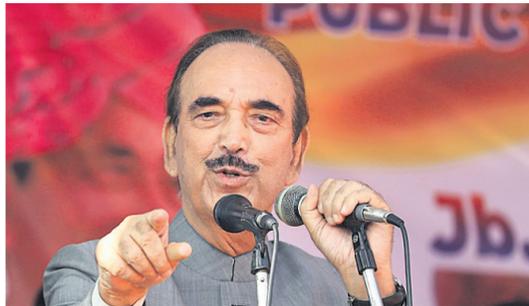
While Shailaja said in Kerala that she declined the award as she was not interested in receiving it in her individual capacity, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the award is in the name of Ramon Magsaysay who has a history of alleged brutal oppression of Communists in the Philippines.



Shailaja, a Central committee member of the CPI(M), took the decision after consulting the party's national leadership. The former health minister said she was considered for the award for the work which was actually part of a collective effort and it was not right to receive it in her individual capacity.

'Restoration of J&K statehood top priority'

Protection of land and job rights of its residents, and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits will be on agenda in Ghulam Nabi Azad's yet-to-be-named party



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 4: In his first rally since quitting the Congress, Ghulam Nabi Azad Sunday spelled out the agenda of his yet-to-be-named party - the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, protection of land and job rights of its residents, and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

Addressing the well-attended rally at Sainik Colony on the outskirts of Jammu, the veteran leader said he would announce the name of his new party after consulting people and leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, but added "it will be in neither Maulana's Urdu nor Pandit's Sanskrit."

Azad, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, was accorded a warm welcome by his supporters who turned up in large numbers at the Jammu airport and

took him in a procession to the rally venue.

Several prominent leaders, including former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, former ministers and legislators who resigned from the Congress in his support, former PDP legislator Syed Bashir and former MLA Shoaib Nabi Lone from the Apni Party shared the dias with Azad.

The new party will focus on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, protection of land and jobs for its residents and the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, he said.

"We have not yet decided the name of the new party and its flag...I am not going to issue any diktat sitting in Delhi. The peo-

ple and leaders of both Kashmir and Jammu will be taken on board to finalise the name and the flag," Azad said, seeking support of all sections of society for the party.

He said the name of the new party will be easy to utter.

"It will be in neither Maulana's Urdu nor Pandit's Sanskrit.... It will be such a name which can be easy for everyone (to utter)," he said and referred to first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who at the time of Independence had said the language of independent India would be Hindustani.

However, he said, the agenda of his party has been decided and asked people to support him in achieving the target to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of

development and prosperity.

"Restoration of full statehood, right to land and employment to native domiciles, creating employment and return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits are top on the agenda," Azad said amid thunderous applause from the crowd.

He said full statehood means that there is a governor and not the Lt Governor and the assembly should be powerful enough to enact laws.

"Outsiders should not buy land, either in Jammu or Kashmir, and jobs should not be given to them... How many jobs are available in Jammu and Kashmir? It is a trickle of water in a sea and if the jobs are advertised at the national level, we will lose that trickle of water as well," he said.

He lauded the last Dogra ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, for his vision of introducing land and job safeguards in 1925-30 and said, "Indian Constitution and J&K constitution safeguarded this law for 72 years. So this was not unconstitutional."

"From presidents to prime Ministers, both from Congress and other parties, accepted this constitutional safeguard which was adopted by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and therefore who are we to say that it is wrong," he said.

EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO DEFAME RAJ: GEHLOT

AGENCIES



Jaipur, Sept 4: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that after the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was released, efforts are being made to defame the state.

He said it would be appropriate to compare the figures of 2019 and 2021 as there was a lockdown in 2020.

Gehlot said despite the policy of compulsory registration of FIRs in Rajasthan, the number of incidents of crime registered in 2021 was about 5 per cent less than that of 2019, while 17 states and Union territories, including Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Uttarakhand, registered more crimes.

In a statement, he said Gujarat registered an increase of about 69 per cent in incidents of crime, Haryana recorded a 24-per cent hike and Madhya Pradesh a 20-per cent increase.

"Uttar Pradesh is ahead in the country in murder cases, crime against women and kidnapping. Gujarat has the highest number of custodial deaths. In the case of rape of minors under the POCSO Act, Madhya Pradesh ranks first in

the country while Rajasthan is at the 12th place," the chief minister said.

He said it is the result of the compulsory FIR registration policy that in 2017-18, 33 per cent FIRs were registered through courts under section 156(3) of the CrPC but now, this has come down to 13 per cent.

Gehlot said as a result of the steps taken by the state government, the time taken in the investigation of rape cases has come down to 66 days from 274 days in 2017-18.

The average time taken in the investigation of a POCSO case was 232 days in 2018. It has now come down to 66 days, he pointed out.

"In Rajasthan, effective action is being taken by the police against every crime and the government completely stands with the vic-

tims," he said.

Gehlot said in 2015, about 51 per cent cases under the SC-ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were registered through courts under section 156(3) of the CrPC and now, it has come down to about 10 per cent.

"It is a matter of concern that some people have misused the government's policy of compulsory registration of FIRs and got false FIRs registered. As a result of this, 45.26 per cent cases of crime against women in the state in 2019, 44.77 per cent in 2020 and 45.26 per cent in 2021 turned out to be false," he said, adding that strict action is being taken against those who got these false FIRs registered.

Gehlot also said the conviction rate in rape cases is about 48 per cent in Rajasthan, while it is only 28.6 per cent at the national level.

The chief minister said efforts were made to defame Rajasthan in connection with an incident in Alwar in January where the victim was an intellectually-challenged girl. He said the media had claimed that the girl was gang-raped but in the investigation, it turned out to be a matter of road accident.

Jaisalmer: Using junk to spruce up city's beauty

THE CITY, SITUATED ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER IN WEST RAJASTHAN, IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SAND DUNES, HAVELIS, SONAR FORT, GADISAR LAKE, DESERT NATIONAL PARK AND SEVERAL OTHER PLACES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaisalmer, Sept 4: Pieces of art made from scrap items will welcome tourists in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer where 20 artisans called from Delhi are busy giving shape to several statues and other artwork.

The city, situated on the India-Pakistan border in west Rajasthan, is famous for its sand dunes, havelis, Sonar Fort, Gadisar Lake, desert national park and several other places.

The initiative has been taken by the Jaisalmer Municipal Corporation, which will clear the scrap items kept in the store of its building.

"Two statues of camel, one of a man and the other of a woman with folded hands have already been installed at Gadisar Lake," says Municipal Commissioner Shashikant Sharma.

A statue of a horse made from tyres is ready and the work on several others, including that of some birds, is going on, the officer says.

Sharma says around 20 locations, which include tourist spots and public parks, have been identified for the installation of statues and other artwork.

"There is so much scrap in the store, that is now being utilised. Artisans are making beautiful statues out of this junk," Sharma says.

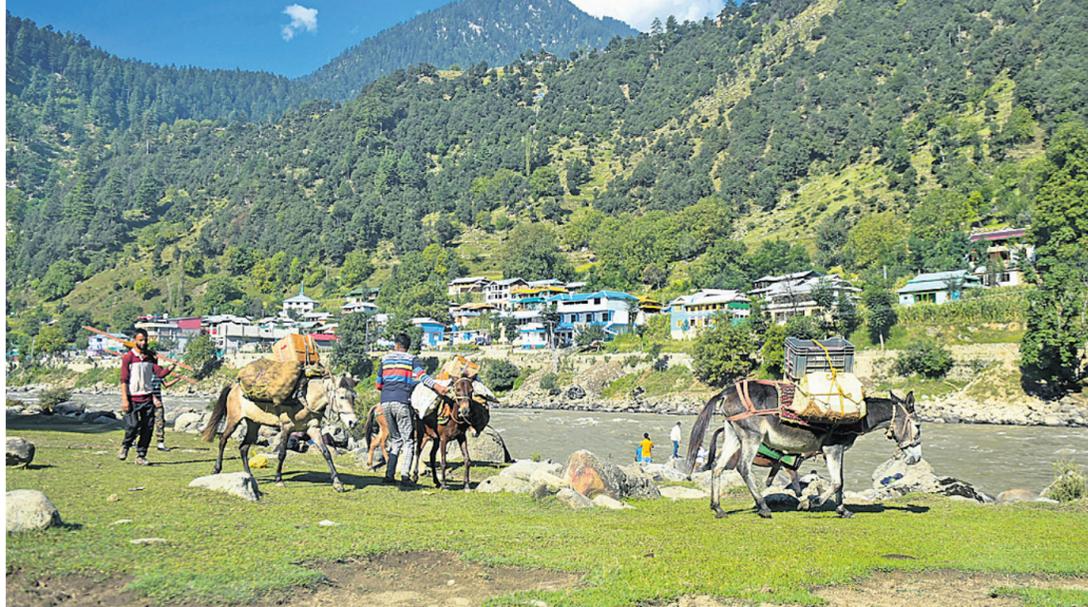
"Apart from traditional sites, these new attractions will surely give a refreshing look to the city. Jaisalmer is known for the Sonar Fort, sand dunes and havelis, and now people will have something more to click photos," another officer says.

Sushil Doshi, whose Delhi-based firm MS Group is executing the project, says around 20 artisans and labourers have designed and prepared statues of camel and human figures, which were painted in golden colour.

"The work on a horse statue made of tyres is going on and it will be over soon. Such artwork attracts the public and enhance the beauty of the place where installed," he says.

He says mostly junk material is being used. "Our artists make the design and then the items are scrutinised. Most material used in making the artwork is junk material," he says, adding that the artwork is painted to enhance the life and appearance.

PEACE PREVAILS



Porters walk with their mules in the backdrop of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, the other side of LoC, in the Keran Sector of border district of Kupwara, north Kashmir. Both Indian and Pakistan armies renewed the ceasefire agreement on the LoC in February last year and since then the villages across the LoC have witnessed peace.

Bicycle-sharing system a big hit in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 4: The newly introduced bicycle-sharing system by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) here has recorded 1.55 lakh rides by nearly 13,000 users in the first four months of launching, an official said Sunday.

JSCL, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) constituted in August 2017 by the Jammu and Kashmir government as part of its smart city development projects in Jammu city, has established a network of bicycle dock stations in different parts of the city.

"The first-of-its-kind public bicycle sharing system recorded a total of 1,55,134 rides by 12,936



users between May 1 and August 31," the official said.

Of the riders, 2,846 were female, and the total distance covered by all riders was 33,230 kms, the official said.

Jammu University front station recorded the highest, 9,694 rides, followed by Tawi fourth bridge (7251), Vikram chowk (7188), Gujjar Nagar (6257), and Channi Himmat (6178).

JSCL has set up 120 docking stations with a fleet of 720 mechanical bicycles and 80 electric bicycles (pedal-assisted) across the city to boost eco-friendly mobility.

"Residents can rent a bicycle through the mobile app 'Yaana Bikes'. The app is available on both Android and iOS platforms," the official said.

The minimum membership fee is Rs 50 for five rides of 30 minutes each in a day and the maximum is Rs 1,500 for 1,500 rides of 30 minutes each in a year.

The system allows users to rent a bicycle from an automatic docking station and deposit it at another docking station located close to the destination, the official said.



Kashmiri carpets to adorn new Parliament building

A group of 50 weavers and artisans in Khag in central Kashmir have been working for the last about a year to complete the project which was assigned to them by a New Delhi-based company

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khag (J-K), Sept 4: The famed traditional hand-made Kashmiri carpets are all set to adorn the new Parliament building in the national capital as artists in a remote village in Budgam district are in the final stages of completing the work.

A group of 50 weavers and artisans in Khag in this central Kashmir district have been working for the last about a year to complete the project which was assigned to them by a New Delhi-based company. The government has maintained that the Winter Session of Parliament will be held in the

new building being built under the Narendra Modi government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project.

"We had received the order for 12 carpets from the company in October last year for carpets for the new Parliament building after we submitted the samples," Qamar Ali Khan of Tahiri Carpets told PTI. Khan, whose family has been running the unit involved in making and exporting carpets for 32 years, said making carpets for the Parliament was an honour and a matter of immense happiness.

"This art of ours - the hand-made carpets - was famous the



world over. But, unfortunately, there has been a decline due to many reasons. Now, we hope it gets revived and this project helps in that," he said.

The carpets to adorn the new Parliament building will be 11 feet long and up to 8 feet wide.

"They will be laid in a circular formation. The width of each carpet is not the same. It varies, it starts with less width and goes on

to become bigger. But the minimum is four feet," Khan said.

The carpets are unique and the three designs have been incorporated from the traditional Kashmiri 'Kani' shawl designs, he said.

"Fifty weavers are working on the project and 12 families are associated with it right from supplying raw material, designing, weaving," he said.

Khan said over 90 per cent of

the project work has been completed and the rest will take about another 20 days.

"The designing of the carpets took about three months and then the actual work started. We hope to finish this month. We have already supplied nine carpets to the company. After we make the carpets, they are washed and some other fine touches are given to them before they can be used," he said.

The process of Kashmiri carpet making is an arduous one. There are many phases - beginning with acquiring and preparing the raw materials, then treating and dyeing them, and finishing with weaving and adding the finishing touches.

Khan expressed hope the project will go a long way in creating awareness about Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and giving the much-needed impetus to the art.

of the day quote

The Centre must create a high-speed rail corridor connecting specific locations within Tamil Nadu and to neighbouring states as well

M K STALIN | TN CM

The Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led government has allegedly failed to protect the minorities and maintain peace and law and order in Punjab

BIKRAM SINGH MAJITHIA | SAD LEADER

The state government is committed to provide the devotees all kind of facilities and security. The intention of the state government is that Rajasthan should be developed into a wonderful centre of religious tourism

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Jawan arrested

Silchar: An Assam Rifles jawan has been arrested in Assam's Cachar district for allegedly killing his wife and daughter, police said Sunday. The reason for the twin murders is not yet known, they added. Police said neighbours found Manika (31) and her daughter Riddhi (12) death in their official quarter at Srikona camp, about 15 km from here, on Saturday morning. Police launched a search for the missing husband, Rabindar Kumar, who hails from Akhnoor area in Jammu. The jawan was found at a temple near his quarter in an incoherent state, from where he was arrested, police said. Kumar was produced before a local court, which remanded him in judicial custody.

Fake notes seized, two held

Malda (WB): The Special Task Force of West Bengal Police seized fake Indian currency notes with a face value of Rs 2.98 lakh from the possession of two persons in Malda district, the police said Sunday. On a tip-off, the STF personnel apprehended two persons Tayab Ansari (37) and Mansur Ali (30) from Tulsidanga area under Gazole police station on Friday. The STF team seized fake currency with a face value of Rs 2.98 lakh from the possession of the duo. The currency notes were in the denomination of Rs 500, the police said. A case has been lodged at Gazole police station in this regard, they added.

Cop arrested on bribery charges

Guwahati: A sub-inspector of the Assam Police has been arrested in Nagaon district for allegedly demanding a bribe for facilitating bail of an accused person, an official release said Sunday. Sleuths of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption apprehended the second officer of the Kachua Police Station on Saturday evening on graft charges, it said.

2-year-old dies of snakebite

Thane: A two-year-old girl bitten by a snake died after she allegedly could not get timely treatment in a remote village in Maharashtra's Thane district. The girl from Vaitarna Pada of Shahapur was bitten by a snake in the early hours of Saturday and was rushed to the Temba health centre, a kilometre from her house, it was stated. The toddler was however referred to Khardi rural hospital, and from Khardi, she was sent to Shahapur sub-district hospital. Two hours were lost in the process and the child died.



Understanding the importance of speed and seamless transport of organs we will soon need innovation in the logistics of transportation of organs. And one such welcome suggestion is the use of drones

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

As part of their investigation into the death of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sonali Phogat, a Goa police team visited her personal assistant Sudhir Sangwan's house in Haryana's Rohtak. They reached Sangwan's residence and made some enquiries there before leaving for Gurugram



Fastest & fifth largest: India's economy is unstoppable



Anurag Singh Thakur

If we were to factor in purchasing power parity, India's GDP makes it the world's third largest economy, behind the US and China

It may be coincidental, but it is nonetheless of profound satisfaction for every Indian that India has surpassed Britain to emerge as the world's fifth largest economy in the 75th year of its Independence from British colonial rule. This achievement also comes at a time when Britain is struggling to shore up its plummeting economy and fire-fighting soaring inflation which has pushed up cost of living to levels never imagined by the UK, Europe and the West. Economists who have been relentlessly critiquing the Indian economy are stunned that they failed to foresee Britain's, and indeed much of the West's, woes. To paraphrase French President Emmanuel Macron, the days of abundance are truly over for them. And they could just about be beginning for us.

Bloomberg, which first broke the news of India surpassing Britain to become the world's fifth largest economy, contextualised it in colonial terms of a coloniser being left behind by its erstwhile colony. The Emperor was stripped of both empire and glory long ago; over a period of time Great Britain shrank into little England; but its economy remained strong and the UK firmly held its place in the list of top five economies. Offensive as the colonial reference in the Bloomberg report no doubt was, it also underscored how a country that was left battered, bruised and bleeding by its British rulers in 1947, had steadily risen to reclaim that which was lost: economic prosperity and clout.

It would be in order to reiterate that the British colonisation of India was essentially about the economic exploitation of this country and the transfer of wealth from India to Britain. Seventy-five years ago, when the Tricolour replaced the Union Jack on 15 August 1947, India's share of the world GDP had fallen from 24.4% in 1700 to a paltry 3%. Britain prospered while India was pushed further into poverty. It is important to recall these numbers to understand the stunning rise of India in the last eight years which have seen Prime Minister Narendra

Modi making major policy shifts to put the national economy in top gear and making up for the lost decades when successive governments dallied with Soviet era-style state control and grossly underestimated the potential of Indian enterprise, choosing to ignore aspirations for restrictions.

In 2014, Prime Minister Modi buried the past and launched a future that would address the many aspirations of Indians, unleash their potential, and place this great nation on a trajectory of growth while ensuring that the last person in the last row is a beneficiary of a wealthier and prosperous India. These eight years have witnessed the impact of the steady changes brought about by PM Modi, making the India Story the most relevant in the world. Statistics by themselves tend to tell a partial story. India has emerged as the fifth largest economy in terms of nominal GDP clocking in at 13.5% in the first quarter of FY 2023. If we were to factor in purchasing power parity, India's GDP makes it the world's third largest economy, behind the US and China. All available indices and projections suggest that while the GDP of others will either stagnate or decline, India's will continue to rise. Which means India will maintain its lead and increase the pace of closing existing gaps.

The two successive COVID-19 pandemic years severely impacted India's economy, as they did economies globally. They were years of adversities which PM Modi converted into opportunities. His foresight prevented India from going the way of others by splurging money and squandering resources. Instead, he opted for a cautious and prudent approach, targeting expenditure on job-generating infrastructure projects and promoting incentive-based schemes for industry to regain momentum. The Production Linked Incentive scheme worth Rs 2 lakh crore has begun to show results. These measures came in the backdrop of PM Modi ensuring a vastly improved ease of doing business, policy stability, revised labour laws, and a hugely popular and the world's largest

digital payment system, apart from leveraging India's technology pool, encouraging start-ups and unicorns, and directly engaging with global investors and industries. While the emphasis was no doubt on getting the economy back on rails and pushing for a rise in GDP which had taken a beating during the lockdown years, PM Modi did not forget those who bore the brunt of the pandemic – the poor and the underprivileged. The world's largest free food programme with almost two-thirds of India's population receiving free rations, coupled with the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive, helped India's economy to recover from the pandemic's ravages and gain both speed and scale.

In 1947, India was a disinherited nation. As we enter the 25 years leading up to 100 years of freedom, our nation's 'Amrit Kaal', we stand stronger and more prosperous. Today India is the world's leading consumer of smartphone data, it ranks second in terms of Internet users, and it is the world's third largest consumer market clocking in at number two on the Global Retail Index. The very fact that India is the third largest consumer of energy underscores its booming economy. From importing Lancashire products 75 years ago, there has been spectacular rise in the export of Indian textiles. We are now robust participants in global trade, surpassing previous export records and touching Rs 50 lakh crore this year. Our merchandise export has crossed Rs 31 lakh crore. A country that once lived on the mercy of PL 480, exports food to the world today.

The list of Modi government's success stories is long. It would suffice to mention that more than 100 billion-dollar companies have been created and new companies are being added every month. The valuation of unicorns created in the last eight years is Rs 12 lakh crore. Under PM Modi's indefatigable leadership, India has grown from a few hundred to 70,000 start-ups. Yet, growth and prosperity have not been uneven: 50% of the start-ups are in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Much of these successes are driven

by the Digital India revolution ushered in by PM Modi. In 2014, India had 6.5 crore broadband subscribers; today, there are more than 78 crore subscribers. The introduction of GST has served entrepreneurs well while plugging gaping holes in tax collection.

But India is not merely about chrome and glass malls showcasing its rising prosperity. Nobody understands this better than PM Modi. Hence his focus has been on reducing poverty, which is happening. A recent IMF study tells us how extreme poverty and consumption inequality have sharply declined. Housing and healthcare for the poor have had a remarkable impact on social development indices, as have a slew of schemes ranging from providing subsidised LPG to the underprivileged, to bringing potable water on tap in every rural household. Mudra loans and other associated programmes have given a push to self-employment opportunities that not only create micro enterprises but also generate jobs. Compared to global energy price increases, India is better placed; the post-pandemic turbulence has least impacted ease of living.

PM Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat' has slowly but steadily taken shape and form. It is a vision that involves both government and people – a joint effort, or 'Sabka Prayas'. This Bharat is self-confident and 'atmanirbhar', ready to meet challenges and overcome adversities. Crossing the twin milestones of emerging as the fifth largest economy and the fastest growing economy is no doubt a stupendous achievement for India and Indians. From this point on we begin our journey on the road to achieving PM Modi's goal of creating a \$5 trillion economy. It can now be said confidently that India shall cross this milestone too in the next two years. It's happening.

— The writer is Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports.

1.64 lakh suicides in 2021: Data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: India recorded over 1.64 lakh deaths due to suicides in 2021 – an average of nearly 450 daily or 18 every hour, with the figures reaching highest for any calendar year so far, according to official data.

Of those who died by suicide, there were nearly 1.19 lakh males, 45,026 females and 28 transgenders, data from the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India – 2021' report showed.

A sharp rise in such deaths has been noticed in 2020 and 2021 as compared to years before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the data suggested. In 2020, 1.53 lakh deaths by suicide were recorded across the country, according to the data of NCRB, which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The report showed that the number of suicide deaths in 2019 was 1.39 lakh, in 2018 it was 1.34 lakh, in 2017 it was 1.29 lakh before it spike over 1.50 lakh-mark in 2020 and 2021. According to the NCRB, it has been compiling suicide deaths data since 1967 when the country had reported 38,829 such fatalities in the calendar year.

It was in 1984 that the number of suicide deaths crossed the 50,000-mark for the first time in the country and it crossed the 75,000-mark in 1991, the official figures from corresponding time period showed.

However, it was in 1998 that the number of suicide deaths crossed the 1 lakh-mark as 1.04 lakh such fatalities were recorded that year, the figures showed. "There are various causes of suicides like



A sharp rise in such deaths has been noticed in 2020 and 2021 as compared to years before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, the data suggested

Of those who died by suicide, there were nearly 1.19 lakh males, 45,026 females and 28 transgenders, data from the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India – 2021' report showed

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professional or career problems, sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addiction to alcohol, financial loss, chronic pain etc," the NCRB said in its annual report for 2021. The NCRB also said that it collects data on suicides from police recorded suicide cases.

Punjab Cong chief booked for forgery

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Sept 4: Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and his colleague Sukhpal Singh Khaira have been booked for forgery after they shared a list of chairpersons appointed on a fabricated letterhead that bore forged signatures of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal.

The case was registered on Saturday on the complaint of AAP's Mohali district president Prabhjot Kaur under Sections 465 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and section 66 (D) of the Information Technology Act in Phase 1 police station of Mohali, near here.

The complainant stated that she has noticed that Raja Warring and Khaira posted a forged document by way of Twitter post on their accounts detailing the names of chairpersons appointed by the state government. However, the list was forged by creating fabricated letterhead of Aam Aadmi Party and further bearing forged signatures of Kejriwal.

Kaur said being a district president of AAP, she personally verified the fact from the party office in Delhi about the genuineness of this document and it has come into her knowledge that no such list



has ever been published by Kejriwal or any party official.

"Raja Warring and Sukhpal Khaira had knowingly, deliberately, intentionally and with mala fide intention to defame the reputation of the party and with an intention to create unrest in Punjab had done this illegal act of forgery and fake news publication with their teasing comments just to mislead the people of Punjab," the complaint said.

Rajnath to visit Mongolia, Japan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a five-day visit to Mongolia and Japan beginning Monday with an aim to expand India's defence and security ties with the two countries.

In Japan, Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will join their Japanese counterparts under the framework of '2+2' foreign and defence ministerial dialogue, people familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

Singh will visit Mongolia from September 5 to 7 while his tour of Japan will be from September 8-9. It is learnt that the '2+2' dialogue is planned for September 8. The dialogue is taking place over five months after Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited India for the annual India-Japan summit.

At the summit in New Delhi, Kishida announced an investment target of five trillion Yen (Rs 32,000



crore) in India over the next five years. In the 2+2 dialogue, the two sides are expected to deliberate on ways to further expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of defence and security besides taking stock of the developments in the Indo-Pacific, the people cited above said.

The Japanese delegation will be headed at the talks by Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada. The dialogue is scheduled around three weeks ahead of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's state funeral on September 27 in Tokyo.

The '2+2' dialogue with Japan was initiated in 2019 to deepen bilateral security and defence cooperation further and bring greater depth to the special strategic and global partnership between the two countries.

India has the 2+2 ministerial format of dialogue with very few countries including the US, Japan, Australia and Russia. India's defence and security ties with Mongolia are also on an upswing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to Mongolia in May 2015, bringing a renewed vigour to the ties in diverse areas including defence and security.



Nadda may be BJP chief again

The BJP leadership is veering round to the view of giving a fresh three term to party president JP Nadda. Nadda took the reins in 2019. His performance and low-profile style of functioning has made all organs of the Sangh Parivar extremely happy and the BJP has decided to fight 2024 Lok Sabha polls under his leadership, sources say. The process of organisational polls will culminate in electing the BJP chief by January 2023.

PM's 'Mission Kashmir'

Narendra Modi is slowly moving towards achieving 'Mission Kashmir' goal. The assembly polls in the Union Territory may be held sometime early next year as the

process of delimitation of constituencies and updating of electoral rolls is underway in Jammu & Kashmir. The state Assembly will have 90 seats instead of 83 earlier (six extra seats in Jammu region and one in the Valley). The number of voters will go up from 75 lakhs to almost one crore. There is a controversy over adding these 25 lakhs new voters as they may not necessarily be permanent residents of the state. The 5-party GUPKAR alliance is opposing this move as it may surely alter the outcome of the Assembly polls. But the BJP is unruffled and going ahead.

Rahul unruffled

The desertion of many senior Congress leaders in the recent past has not worried Rahul Gandhi. His view is very clear: Those who cannot fight Modi and are not ready to go to jail against the BJP, should leave the party. He himself is mentally prepared to go to jail and not afraid of what he called "Modi's vindictive policy." He has told his lawyers after being grilled by the ED that he is ready to go to jail but won't

succumb. He told his lawyers that they should ensure supply of books of his choice in jail and gym facilities to keep him physically fit. He did not oblige Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma with a Rajya Sabha seat as seniority alone can't be the criteria.

Governor delaying Soren's disqualification

Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais continues to sit tight over the recommendation of the Election Commission of India with regard to disqualification of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The EC had sent its recommendation to the Governor with regard to Hemant Soren who was allegedly guilty in the Office of Profit (OOP) case. Soren as CM got a mine lease allotted to a company owned by him and members of his family. The BJP alleged that it's a fit case under the OOP law to disqualify Soren. The Governor had sent these allegations to the EC probe and the Commission sent its report back to the Governor. It's now five days and the Governor has not disclosed the EC report or taken any action against Soren.



Volunteers carry an idol of Lord Ganesha for immersion during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival at Pattinambakkam in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

international



Hey Greek, look at history. Go back to history. If you go too far, it will cost a lot. We have only one sentence for Greece, don't forget Izmir
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PREZ

JOHN PAUL I MOVES TOWARDS SAINTHOOD

Pope John Paul I, who died in 1978 after only 33 days as pontiff, moved closer to sainthood Sunday with the Vatican still having to dismiss lingering conspiracy theories that he was a victim of foul play. Pope Francis beatified his predecessor at a ceremony in St. Peter's Square before tens of thousands of people



of the day quote

I express profound gratitude to the Chinese leadership and people for additional 300 million yuan (about 43.5 million US dollars) relief assistance for flood victims in Pakistan
BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI | PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER

Very pleased that IMF staff and Sri Lankan government officials have reached a staff-level agreement to support the country's economic policies with a 48-month Extended Fund Facility of about \$ 2.9 billion
KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | MANAGING DIRECTOR OF IMF

They (the US) are depressing the standard of living of the population and at the same time pouring millions of US taxpayer dollars into urging people to act against the (Cuban) government
CARLOS FERNANDEZ DE COSSIO | CUBA'S VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

■ Hamas executes five Palestinians

Gaza City: Gaza's Hamas authorities Sunday executed five Palestinian men convicted in separate cases of murder and alleged collaboration with Israel. The Interior Ministry said the executions meant "to achieve public deterrence and security," but rights groups in the past have questioned fair trial standards in the military and civilian courts of the Islamic militant group. Two of the men, both members of the Palestinian security forces, were killed by firing squad, and the other three were hanged at dawn at a security site in Gaza City. The executions were the first since Hamas executed three Gazans who were put to death in a hasty trial of killing a leader of the group in 2017.

■ Turkish warship docks in Israel

Haifa: A Turkish warship has docked in Israel for the first such visit in more than a decade as relations between the US allies improve following fierce feuding over the Palestinian cause. The frigate Kemalreis docked in Haifa Saturday as part of NATO manoeuvres in the Mediterranean sea, a Turkish official said. An Israeli official said Ankara had submitted a preliminary request for the crew to disembark on shore leave.

■ Chileans vote

Santiago: Chileans voted Sunday to approve or reject a progressive new constitution that would replace its current market-friendly text dating back to the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship. The new text is the result of an agreement reached to quell violent protests against inequality in 2019 and focuses on social rights, the environment, gender equality and indigenous rights.

■ Obama wins Emmy

Los Angeles: Barack Obama is halfway to an EGOT. The former US president won an Emmy Award Saturday to go with his two Grammys. Obama won the best narrator Emmy for his work on the Netflix documentary series, "Our Great National Parks". The five-part show, which features national parks from around the globe, is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground". He was the biggest name in a category full of famous nominees for the award handed out at Saturday night's Creative Arts Emmys, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Attenborough and Lupita Nyong'o.

Fire-stricken Calif. town has learned to live on edge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weed (US), Sept 4: The fire-stricken Northern California town of Weed has long been seen by passersby as a whimsical spot to stop along Interstate 5 and buy an ironic T-shirt, but residents say they've grown edgy in recent years due to a new danger: Dark skies, swirling ash and flames that race so quickly they leave little time for escape. Their fears exploded to life again in recent days as California's latest inferno burned homes and buildings and forced evacuations in the small community about 280 miles (451 kilometres) north-



The Mountain Fire burns near the town of Gazelle, California, US

east of San Francisco. The day before, flames raced from Roseburg Forest Products, which makes wood products, into Weed's Lincoln Heights neighbourhood where a significant num-

ber of homes burned and residents had to flee for their lives. The blaze known as the Mill Fire had spread to more than 6.6 square miles (17 square kilometres) by Saturday evening and was 25% contained.

Nestled in the shadow of Mt Shasta—a 14,000-foot (4,267-metre) volcano that is the second-highest peak in the Cascade Range—Weed is no stranger to wildfires.

The winds make Weed and the surrounding area a perilous place for wildfires, whipping small flames into a frenzy. Weed has seen three major fires since 2014, a period of extreme drought that has prompted

the largest and most destructive fires in California history.

That drought persists as California heads into what traditionally is the worst of the fire season. Scientists say climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

Dominique Mathes, 37, said he's had some close calls with wildfires since he has lived in Weed. But he's not interested in leaving.

Cal Fire Siskiyou Unit Chief Phil Anzo said crews worked all day and night to protect structures in

Weed and in a subdivision to the east known as Carrick Addition. He said about 100 structures were destroyed. Two people were brought to Mercy Medical Centre Mount Shasta. One was in stable condition and the other was transferred to UC Davis Medical Centre, which has a burn unit.

Vogelsang was not as fortunate. She said she slept on a bench in Weed until she could get a ride to the evacuation centre. She said she's spent most of the time crying about Bella, her 10-year-old English bulldog who—despite her best efforts—would not follow her out of the fire and is lost.

UK PM RACE ENTERS FINAL COUNTDOWN

Sunak, Truss pledge to tackle energy crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 4: Both Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss renewed their pledge Sunday to tackle the energy crisis sending household bills spiralling in the UK as a priority as the countdown to the new British Prime Minister taking charge at 10 Downing Street edges towards its conclusion.

While the Indian-origin former Chancellor reiterated his approach of offering targeted support to people on lower incomes, the foreign secretary refrained from spelling her plans out to only say that she will "act immediately" if elected Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister Monday. "I think this is the most pressing issue facing the country and that's why I set out a clear plan and framework of how we would go about addressing it," Sunak said during his final pre-election BBC interview. "What I have said is that I will provide direct financial support; I announced some of that as Chancellor and I would go further as Prime Minister as the situation has deteriorated," he said.

Earlier, the 42-year-old former finance minister and the first Indian-origin politician to compete for the post of British Prime Minister signed off with the words "See you Monday" as voting came to an official close Friday evening.

Most surveys of Conservative Party members with a vote in the leadership race have concluded



that it will be 47-year-old Truss who will go on to become the UK's third female Prime Minister, after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. Sunak was the clear frontrunner with his Tory MP colleagues, who voted overwhelmingly for him as a finalist in the race to succeed Johnson. However, the wider Tory membership base is believed to be still fiercely loyal to the outgoing leader and unhappy with his early exit from Downing Street. This loyalty is expected to have a bearing on the final outcome of the Tory leadership contest. The online and postal ballots cast by an estimated 160,000 Tory members are being tallied by the Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ), with the winner announced on Monday at 12:30 pm local time by Sir Graham Brady—chair of the 1922 Committee of backbench Tory MPs and returning officer of the leadership election. The two finalists in the race will find out who between them has clinched the top job at 10 Downing Street around 10 minutes before the public announcement. The newly elected Tory leader will make a brief acceptance speech soon after at the Queen Elizabeth

II Conference Centre in central London—near Downing Street. The rest of Monday will involve the winning candidate putting final touches to his or her Cabinet posts.

On Tuesday, the day will begin with a farewell speech by outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the steps of his Downing Street office one last time before he is flown out to Aberdeenshire in Scotland for his audience with the Queen to formally resign as the head of government.

Hours later, his successor will arrive separately in Scotland to be formally appointed Prime Minister by Queen Elizabeth II at her Balmoral Castle residence—marking the first time in history that the appointment is made outside of England and Buckingham Palace as the 96-year-old monarch reduces her travels with age.

Later in the afternoon of Tuesday, the newly appointed Prime Minister will arrive back at Downing Street to make his or her inaugural speech before getting on with the task of announcing key Cabinet posts.

Essential security briefings and handing over of nuclear codes is expected to also take place during the course of the day by senior officials. On Wednesday at 12 noon local time, the newly elected leader of the Conservative government will address their first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons—facing off with Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer for the first time.

Bentley stolen in UK recovered from Karachi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi, Sept 4: A luxury sedan, a Bentley Mulsanne, was recovered from Karachi Saturday by Pakistan Customs on information provided by a British law enforcement agency, a media report said. The vehicle, earlier reported stolen in London, was found parked in the driveway of a residence in the posh DHA locality of Karachi, Express Tribune reported.

Customs was informed of the vehicle's presence and an investigation was conducted locally to trace the stolen luxury sedan. The investigation confirmed that the stolen car was parked inside a Karachi residence. Customs officials raided the location with a court order and seized the Bentley, Express Tribune reported.

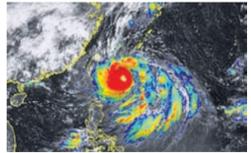
The vehicle costs more than \$300,000 and it is the brand's largest and most expensive handcrafted sedan. Officials took the owner of the residence and the individual who sold him the vehicle in to custody after the house owner failed to provide adequate documents. The registration of the vehicle has also been forged, said Customs officials. According to the FIR filed by Customs officials, a tax of more than Pak Rs 300 million was evaded due to the smuggling of the stolen vehicle.



TYPHOON HINNAMNOR

China, Japan ground ferries, flights

Hinnamnor is forecasted to move gradually northward into the East China Sea with maximum sustained winds of 175 km (109 miles) per hour, according to the Hong Kong Observatory



Shanghai grounded ferry services and deployed more than 50,000 police officers to aid with rescues and guide traffic away from danger areas. The eastern business hub of Wenzhou ordered all classes suspended Monday. Hinnamnor is forecasted to move gradually northward into the East China Sea with maximum sustained winds of 175 km (109 miles) per hour, according to the Hong Kong Observatory. Evacuations and flight cancellations have been ordered in Japan's

southern Okinawa Island. The typhoon is also expected to bring intense rainfall to the Korean Peninsula, bringing the possibility of flooding. China's National Meteorological Centre issued a yellow typhoon warning at 10 am Sunday, and warned of heavy rains in northeastern Zhejiang, Shanghai and self-governing Taiwan.

Ships were told to return to port to take shelter from the wind, and the centre also urged people against large gatherings both indoors and outdoors. In Japan, the typhoon lashed Okinawa and nearby islands with heavy rain and fierce winds, threatening flooding and grounding more than 100 flights connecting the islands and parts of the main southern island of Kyushu.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Sept 4: Cities in eastern China suspended ferry services and classes and flights were cancelled in Japan Sunday as Typhoon Hinnamnor, the strongest global storm this year, blew its way past Taiwan and the Koreas with fierce winds and heavy rains.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Larkana (Pakistan), Sept 4: Pakistan's Department of Archaeology has called for urgent attention towards conservation and restoration work at Mohenjo Daro, apprehending that the site may be removed from the world heritage list if such work was not carried out, media reports said. The archaeological ruins of Mohenjo Daro had received record rains, measured at 779.5 mm, which

continued from August 16 to 26. It resulted in considerable damage to the site and partial falling of several walls, including the protection wall of the stupa dome, Dawn reported.

It was learnt that the Curator of the site in his August 29 letter to the Director, Culture, Antiquities, and Archaeology said: "We have put in efforts to protect the site with our resources."

The role of other departments Irrigation, Roads, Highways, and



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RUINS OF MOHENJO DARO HAD RECEIVED RECORD RAINS, MEASURED AT 779.5 MM, WHICH CONTINUED FROM AUGUST 16 TO 26

Forest was quite essential for safeguarding the world heritage site, as landlords and farmers had not only inserted pipes and given cuts to

US diplomats to visit India this week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 4: A high-level US delegation will visit India from Monday to attend key meetings to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership and discuss ways to expand cooperation to support a free and open, resilient and secure Indo-Pacific region, the State Department has said.

The US delegation visiting India during September 5-8 will be led by Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu.

Lu will be joined by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and



Pacific Affairs Camille Dawson for a Quad Senior Officials Meeting and Department of Defence Assistant Secretary for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner for a US-India 2+2 Interseasonal Dialogue and Maritime Security Dialogue, the State Department said in a statement Saturday.

Mohenjo Daro may be removed from world heritage list

The role of other departments Irrigation, Roads, Highways, and Forest was quite essential for safeguarding the world heritage site, as landlords and farmers had not only inserted pipes and given cuts to canals and roads to release water into Mohenjo Daro's channel

IT RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE SITE AND PARTIAL FALLING OF SEVERAL WALLS, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION WALL OF THE STUPA DOME

canals and roads to release water into Mohenjo Daro's channel. However, due to negligence on the part of above-mentioned depart-

ments, the rainwater from nearby agriculture lands had filled the disposal channel, sources said.

This caused delay in driving out water from the site, the letter said, adding that water had entered even into the campus. After rains, the official concerned at the site had said: "We are facing another emergency in the shape of a constant rise in the Indus level."

Although water level in Indus is low, due to the construction of metal road on the protection dyke near Mohenjo Daro, paired with occurrence of fissures, cavities and dangerous gullies, the department had approached local irrigation officials but in vain, according to the letter. No one had turned up to inspect the site and assess the situation, it said, Dawn reported.

of the day quote

I think we need to try and unify the country and stop dividing the country. I think that is important and I am sure the government also recognises the economic growth requires that, and we should be focusing on that

NADIR GODREJ | CHAIRMAN AND MD, GODREJ INDUSTRIES

We hope that we will be able to bring the Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 for consideration and passage in the Winter Session of the Parliament

RK SINGH | POWER MINISTER

India has an appetite for space. We have 100 start-ups of which two-thirds have been established in the last two years

PAWAN KUMAR GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, IN-SPACE

SHORT TAKES

Govt mulls PLI for furniture sector

New Delhi: The government is considering a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for certain types of furniture to boost domestic manufacturing, and exports and create jobs in the sector, an official said. The proposal is at the discussion stage, the official added. The government has already rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, advance chemistry cell and speciality steel.

Petronet to invest ₹40K-cr in 5 years

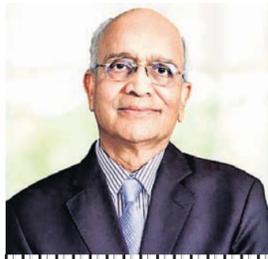
New Delhi: Petronet LNG Ltd, India's biggest gas importer, will invest Rs 40,000 crore in the next five years for expanding import infrastructure as well as foraying into new business to boost profitability to Rs 10,000 crore. Petronet, which operates two liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facilities at Deira in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala, is looking to foray into the petrochemicals business, according to the firm's latest annual report.

Reliance-BP to get 'Ruby' from S Korea

New Delhi: Ruby, a floating production storage and offloading vessel destined for Reliance Industries Ltd's MJ deep-water oil and gas development project in KG-D6 block, has set sail from South Korea, partner BP plc's CEO Bernard Looney said. MJ is the third and last of a set of discoveries that Reliance and its partner BP of UK are developing in the eastern offshore block. 'Ruby' has just set sail for the 5000-km journey from South Korea to Kakinada, India where she'll help ramp up domestic gas production.

Byju's likely to raise over \$500mn

New Delhi: Edtech major Byju's is likely to raise over \$500 million (about Rs 3,900 crore) at a valuation of around \$23 billion in about a week, sources privy to the development said. The company is planning to use the funding for acquisition in the US, they added. The company is in discussion with Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) or raising in the range of \$400-500 million and \$250-350 million, respectively, according to the sources. "Byju's is in an advanced stage of discussion with some investors," one of the source said.



I have no doubt that government should not be in business. No way. The fact of the matter is that companies run by the government are not efficient. They don't have productivity

RC BHARGAVA | CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

MEESHO ROPES IN CELEBS FOR SALE

Softbank-backed Meesho has roped in seven celebrities, including filmstar Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone and cricketers Rohit Sharma and Sourav Ganguly, to push its five-day annual festive sale -- Mega Blockbuster Sale -- starting September 23, the company said Sunday



Three of top-10 firms lose ₹1.22 lakh crore in mcap; RIL top drag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The combined market valuation of three of the 10 most valued domestic firms fell by Rs 1,22,852.25 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest laggard.

IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys were the other two bluechips which faced erosion from their valuation.

In contrast, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC, Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission were the gainers. Their combined gain was Rs 62,221.63 crore.

During the holiday-shortened week, the BSE benchmark Sensex dipped 30.54 points or 0.05 per cent. The market valuation of Reliance Industries fell by Rs 60,176.75 crore to reach Rs 17,11,468.58 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS declined by Rs 33,663.28 crore to Rs 11,45,155.01 crore and that of Infosys dipped by Rs 29,012.22 crore to Rs 6,11,339.35 crore.

From the gainers pack, HDFC Bank added Rs 12,653.69 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 8,26,605.74 crore.

The valuation of Adani Transmission, the latest entrant in the coveted list of the top-10 most valued firms, jumped Rs 12,494.32 crore to Rs 4,30,842.32 crore. Adani entered the top-10 list August 30.

The mcap of State Bank of India (SBI) climbed Rs 11,289.64 crore to Rs 4,78,760.80 crore and that of HDFC advanced Rs 9,408.48 crore to stand at Rs 4,44,052.84 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained its numero uno position, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, ICICI Bank, SBI, HDFC, Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission.

WIDENING TRADE DEFICIT

Trade worries grow as exports fall, imports zoom

The sharp deterioration in the export-import imbalance has come on the back of several developments that include the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war that caused a huge spike in global oil and commodity prices, supply chain bottlenecks due to the slow easing of Covid curbs in China and pent-up demand for imports as the manufacturing sector recovered from the pandemic's shadow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: A marginal contraction in exports coupled with a continuing surge in the country's import bill through the month of August has renewed concerns over India's widening trade deficit and its impact on the broader economy.

The rupee, which has already depreciated 7 per cent against the US dollar through this calendar year, will likely remain under pressure, adding to inflation and macroeconomic vulnerabilities, analysts and experts said.

On Saturday, the government released preliminary data that showed India's exports fell by 1.15 per cent year-on-year to \$33 billion in August, while imports rose 36.8 per cent to \$61.7 billion.

For the first five months of this fiscal year (April-August), exports totalled \$192.6 billion, while imports stood at \$317.8 billion, leaving India with a record trade deficit of \$125.2 billion, or nearly two and half times the level in the same period a year ago. In April-August last year, the trade deficit stood at \$53.8 billion.

If the current trends continued through the remaining part of the fiscal, India's trade deficit may touch \$250 billion by March 2023, analysts said. This would compare to a trade deficit of \$192.4 billion in the previous 2021-22 fiscal year.



WORRYING STATS	
▶	Rupee has depreciated 7% against the US dollar through this CY
▶	A record trade deficit of \$125.2bn in the first five months of this FY
▶	CAD likely to touch \$105 billion or 3% of the GDP this fiscal
▶	\$99 billion on oil imports in April-August
▶	Electronic goods imports have risen by almost 30% to \$32.6 billion in April-August
▶	Coal imports nearly tripled to \$26.8bn and vegetable oil rose by a third to \$91 billion

A widening trade gap has a direct impact on the current account deficit (CAD), which in turn influences the Indian rupee's resilience, investor sentiments and macroeconomic stability. India's

CAD, the broadest measure of India's sell-and-buy balance with the rest of the world, is likely to touch \$105 billion or 3 per cent of the GDP this fiscal.

Also, the July 1 introduction

It is hoped that global commodity prices would continue easing in the months to come. A linear extrapolation of the April-August data for the full fiscal could, therefore, be misleading. Also, many companies are front loading imports due to high freight costs and logistics disruptions globally

AMJ SAHAJ | DIRECTOR GENERAL, FEDERATION OF INDIAN EXPORT ORGANISATIONS

of an export duty on diesel and jet fuel (ATF) to take windfall profits that refiners were making has dented exports. Petroleum products are the second biggest forex earner behind engineering goods. The new duty, together with obligations for refiners to supply in the domestic market first, has led to a 10-11 per cent fall in petroleum product exports.

The export fall comes as the oil import bill balloons. India spent about \$99 billion on oil imports in April-August, more than the \$62 billion spent in the entire 2020-21 (April 2020 to March 2021) fiscal and more than half of the \$120.4 billion spending in the 2021-22 fiscal.

While India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, a domestic coal crisis also

forced the tapping of overseas supplies of the dry fuel for meeting the power demand during peak summer.

In recent months, the government has brought several measures to rein in imports. It has raised the import duty on gold to 12.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent, imposed restrictions on the import of several items, including electronic goods and set a target to increase the share of ethanol-blended fuel in domestic consumption from 10 per cent now to 20 per cent by 2025.

While these measures have helped in some moderation in the growth of the import bill, as reflected in the August numbers, it is unlikely that the broader trend will change much. That is because most of the pressure points are on account of such imports, the demand for which is inelastic. These include crude oil and petroleum products, coal, chemicals and critical electronic components, such as semiconductor chips that account for more than 60 per cent of the import bill. Also, India is highly dependent on the import of vegetable oil.

On the other hand, a slowing global economy has also affected the demand for Indian exports. After growing at an average 18 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal, exports registered a marginal contraction in August, as the latest data showed.

SINGAPORE TOPS INDIA'S FDI LIST, CHINA MISSING

SINGAPORE WAS THE LEADING CONTRIBUTOR FOLLOWED BY THE US AND MAURITIUS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India stood at \$58.8 billion in 2021-22 with Singapore and the US being the top two major contributors among the list of 15 nations.

However, China is a notable absentee in the list and what is all the more interesting is that it has not been there in the list of main contributors to India's foreign inflows since 2017-18, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

In the list of country-wise FDI inflows into India in 2021-22, Singapore was the leading contributor with \$15.9 billion worth of inflows, followed by the United States at \$10.5 billion and Mauritius at \$9.4 billion.

However, it is the inflows from tax haven Cayman Islands amounting to \$3.8 billion - trumping even major economic powers like the UK, Germany, the UAE, Japan and France -- that stood out in the list



of country-wise contributors to India's FDI in 2021-22.

Experts say that even if inflows from such tax havens could be pure investments by foreign entities, these can turn volatile in the long run.

In fact, Singapore has been the leading contributor to India in terms of country-wise foreign inflows for the past five years, starting from 2017-18. The island nation contributed \$12.2 billion in 2017-18, \$16.2 billion in 2018-19, \$14.7 billion in 2019-20 and \$17.4 billion in 2020-21 to India's foreign inflows.

The US and Mauritius have been the other major contributors to India in terms of foreign inflows in the past five years after Singapore.

Meanwhile, as per country-wise data of foreign inflows into India, another interesting aspect that has emerged is that major countries like Germany, Canada, France and Denmark contributed less than \$1 billion of inflows in 2021-22.

Paytm denies link with Chinese loan merchants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Digital financial services firm One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, Sunday denied any link with the merchants that are under the Enforcement Directorate scanner in the Chinese loan app case.

Paytm said that none of the funds frozen by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) belongs to it or any of its group firms.

UNDER ED SCANNER

"As a part of ongoing investigations on a specific set of merchants, the ED has sought information regarding such merchants to whom we provide payment processing solutions. We wish to clarify that these merchants are independent entities, and none of them are our group entities," Paytm said in a regulatory filing.

The ED Saturday said it has conducted raids at six premises of online payment gateways, such as Razorpay, Paytm and Cashfree in Bangalore, over the alleged irregularities in instant app-based loans "controlled" by Chinese persons.

20-MONTH HIGH

FPI inflows at ₹51,200cr in Aug

The month of Sept has begun with huge volatility in FPI flows. On the first day of the month, FPIs bought equities worth a net Rs 4,262cr, but sold to the tune of Rs 2,261cr the very next day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Foreign investors pumped in a little over Rs 51,200 crore into the Indian equity markets in August, making it the highest inflow in 20 months, amid improving risk sentiment and stabilisation in oil prices.

This comes following a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in July, data with depositories showed.

FPIs had turned buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive net outflows, which started in October last year. Between October 2021 till June 2022, they withdrew Rs 2.46 lakh crore from the Indian equity markets.

"India will continue to attract FPI flows this month too, although at a slower pace as compared to August, given continued rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve along with quantitative tightening," said Manish Jeloka, Co-head of Products and Solutions, Sanctum Wealth.

Arpit Jain, Joint Managing Director at Arianth Capital Markets, said inflation, dollar prices and interest rate will dictate FPI flows.



According to data with depositories, FPIs pumped in a net amount of Rs 51,204 crore into Indian equities during August. This was the highest investment made by foreign investors since December 2020, when they had infused a net Rs 62,016 crore in equities.

"Foreign investors started pumping in money into emerging markets as interest rates curve flattened and oil prices stabilised. Currency markets gained sanity and commodity prices fell as China's growth and financial market took a hit," said Vijay Singhania, chairman of TradeSmart.

US inflation slowed down from a 40-year high in June to 8.5 per cent in July on lower gasoline prices. In India, the consumer price index-based retail inflation marginally eased to 6.71 per cent in July as against 7.01 per cent recorded in June due to easing food prices.

In addition, FPIs infused a net amount of Rs 3,844 crore in the debt market during the month under review.

Apart from India, flows were positive in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand, while it was negative for the Philippines and Taiwan during August.

Automakers maneuvering with different gears to shift towards EV

In India, it is mainly the battery electric vehicles and hybrids which are being rolled out by the leading automakers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Automakers are stepping on different roads towards eco-friendly mobility with home-grown firms like Tata Motors and Mahindra betting on electric vehicles, Japanese majors such as Toyota, Honda and Suzuki looking at hybrids as the bridge to reach the goal.

The shift globally includes a family of electrified vehicle technologies (xEVs) which consists of SHEV (Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle), FCEV (Fuel cell Electric Vehicle), BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle) and PHEV (Plug-in

Hybrid Electric Vehicle). Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have lined up massive resources to drive in multiple BEVs over the next few years. Similarly, Hyundai, Kia and MG Motor have also introduced battery electric models in the market.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki on the other hand is preparing to launch its first electric vehicle only in 2025. The auto major in the meantime is also betting big on hybrid technology to make its cars more fuel efficient going ahead. Besides, Toyota and Honda have also introduced hybrid models in the country.

In an interaction with PTI, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra noted that electric vehicles were the future and the company's move towards the vertical



is led by its passion of a greener and a better tomorrow.

"On the other hand, Hybrid is a technology that is short-lived because it is primarily being used to meet the requirements of the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) norms," he added.

The CAFE rules require automakers to cut average carbon emissions, turning to strategies such as launching electric cars or vehicles using alternative fuels like ethanol.

The government's clear position with its EV-specific schemes lets the company directly leapfrog into the battery electric vehicles. Moreover, EV is what really drives a greener environment

MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA PRESIDENT | AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION VEERJAY NAKRA

Chandra said the automaker is focused on technologies which will not only help meet the CAFE

requirement, but also enable it to lead the charge in zero emission technologies, which will sustain itself in the coming years.

"And that's why we have taken a conscious decision to focus on EVs. Additionally, while EVs are becoming more and more affordable and viable with the growing infrastructure and local manufacturing prowess, hybrids still remain expensive to own," he said.

Maruti Suzuki India noted that the total decarbonisation achieved from a particular technology op-

tion depends on both the carbon reduction per car and on the number of cars in which that technology can be scaled up.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Executive Vice President Vikram Gulati said that the challenge regarding EV adoption worldwide is mainly the high cost of BEVs as compared to ICE and charging related issues.

"In India, given the unique conditions, both these challenges are aggravated owing to lack of manufacturing ecosystem, lack of charging infrastructure and consumer price sensitivity," he said.

The main difference between hybrid and electric cars is that the former derives some part of its power from a conventional internal combustion engine mated with an electric motor. On the other hand a pure electric vehicle derives all its power from a battery and has zero emissions.

Odisha Juggernauts clinch title

1st season of Ultimate Kho Kho goes well for Odisha franchise as they defeat Telegu Yoddhas in thrilling final



Players of the Odisha Juggernauts team pose with the winners' trophy after the final, Sunday

OP PHOTOS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pune, Sept 4: Suraj Lande's sensational sky dive helped Odisha Juggernauts emerge champions in the inaugural edition of the Ultimate Kho Kho tournament here Sunday. In a thrilling final played at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here, the Odisha Juggernauts defeated a spirited Telegu Yoddhas 46-45.

After Telegu Yoddhas, managed to add 21 points in the third turn to take a 41-27 lead, Sachin Bhargo provided two crucial points for his side and also kept Odisha Juggernauts at bay for 2.44 minutes. When he was dismissed, Telegu Yoddhas were in the lead at 45-43 with just 1.24 minutes left in the match.

However, Lande, who tested the defence of Telegu Yoddhas with his stay of 3.03 minutes in the third

turn, had different plans for Odisha Juggernauts. With just 14 seconds remaining in the game, he captured Avdhut Patil of the opposition with a superb sky dive that not only gave the Juggernauts three points, but also helped them to emerge champions.

Lande scored nine points in attack for the winning side while Rohan Shingade secured 11 points for Telegu Yoddhas.

Earlier, popular singer Mohit Chauhan sang the national anthem in style to kick-start the blockbuster final. The 'Lions Crew', that won bronze medal in the 2021 World Hip Hop Dance Championship, also exhibited dazzling performance celebrating the India's first-ever franchise-based Kho Kho league.

Odisha Juggernauts chose to defend as Vishal showcased brilliant skills to put a challenge for the league's best attacking side, Telegu

unbeaten stay of 2.37 minutes. With a remarkable defensive display, Odisha Juggernauts held Telegu Yoddhas to a score of 10-10 in the first turn.

Yoddhas, the first team to reach 100 defensive points in Ultimate Kho Kho, responded well after switching positions as they not only restricted Odisha Juggernauts to 13 points but also added eight points with the help of Adarsh Mohite's 4.12-minute defence. However, Odisha Juggernaut kept themselves ahead with a narrow 23-20 lead at the end of the nail-biting first innings.

Along with the trophy, the Odisha Juggernauts took home a cheque of rupees one crore while the Telegu Yoddhas got Rs 50 lakh. Gujarat Giants bagged Rs 30 lakh as prize money for their third-place finish. Six teams, Chennai Quick Guns,



Celebration time: Odisha players rejoice after the win Sunday

Yoddhas. Coming into the first batch, he defended for four minutes and 23 seconds to score eight bonus points for Odisha and then skipper Dipesh More and Dilip Khandavi added two more points with their

Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis, Odisha Juggernauts, Rajasthan Warriors and Telegu Yoddhas competed over a period of 22 days in season one of the Ultimate Kho Kho Championships.

Pak exact sweet revenge

INDIAN BOWLERS PUT UP SHODDY SHOW IN GAME AGAINST ARCH RIVALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 4: Mohammd Rizwan's (71, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) brilliant knock and a swashbuckling innings by Mohammad Nawaz (42, 20b, 6x4, 2x6) aided by some sloppy fielding by India helped Pakistan beat their arch rivals by five wickets in a Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here Sunday. Chasing a victory target of 182, Pakistan reached it with one ball to spare.

The Indian bowlers, especially Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/40 off 4) and Hardik Pandya (1/44 off 4) were guilty of bowling too many loose deliveries. It was these two that had done maximum damage to the Pakistan batting in the first match the two sides played. Yuzvendra Chahal (1/43) started well, but was then taken to the cleaners by Nawaz and Rizwan. Only Ravi Bishnoi (1/26) managed to keep the Pak batters in check.

It was left-handed batter Nawaz, known more for his orthodox left-arm spin, who played the decisive knock of the match. His knock was something that India didn't factor in and there was no gameplan for him. The Rizwan-Nawaz partnership of 73 in just 6.5 overs in the mid-stage of the innings had the Indians napping. By the time Nawaz holed out in the deep off Bhuvneshwar, he had inflicted enough damage on the psyche of the Indian attack.

India made three changes from the last Pakistan game with Rishabh Pant coming in place of Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya returning in the playing XI after the Hong Kong match, while spinner Bishnoi got his first-look-in. Avesh Khan was out with fever, while Ravindra Jadeja has been ruled out of the tournament with knee injury.

Earlier the much-criticised top-order batters finally showed what they are capable of as India scored



Virat Kohli showed signs of getting back into form with a fine half century

BRIEF SCORES

India 181 for 7 (Virat Kohli 60, Rohit Sharma 28, KL Rahul 28, Shadab Khan 2/31) lost to Pakistan 182 for 5 in 19.5 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 71, Mohammad Nawaz 42) by five wickets.

181 for seven wickets after being put in. Skipper Rohit Sharma (28, 16b, 3x4, 2x6) and KL Rahul (28, 20b, 1x4, 2x6) were outstanding in the power play while Virat Kohli (60, 44b, 4x4, 1x6) gave glimpses of his vintage self by playing one of his most sublime knocks in recent times to take India to a more than respectable total. However, in the end that was not enough.

What everyone wanted from India's top-order was a change in mindset and the strike rates of 175 (Rohit), 140 (Rahul) and 136 (Kohli) were a testimony to that.

Kohli deserves maximum credit for the total India achieved against Pakistan spinners, especially leg-

spinner Shadab Khan (2/31), who got the important wickets of Rahul and Rishabh Pant (14). His innings had four boundaries and a six along with his signature running between the wickets where he effortlessly converted ones into twos.

Having been pilloried for their go-slow approach in the power play, Rohit signalled his intentions in the very first over when he gave Naseem Shah the charge and got a one-bounce-four over cover point. It was followed by a signature pull-shot for a six.

Rahul, who has been subdued against Hong Kong, beautifully picked up the cue in Naseem's next over when he read the slower one early to deposit it over long-off for a six but the shot of the innings was off the last ball. It was a helicopter shot which was pure reflex action from the India vice-captain.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam cleverly used his spinners Shadab and Mohammad Nawaz (1/25) well within first 10 overs to stem the flow of runs and his play was only partially successful.

SHORT TAKES

All-win record

Guwahati: Odisha FC pipped the Army Green team (AGFT) 1-0 in the Durand Cup football tournament at the Indra Gandhi Athletic Stadium here Sunday. A goal from Spanish forward Pedro Martin (83rd) helped Odisha FC pick up all the three points. Odisha FC thus finished their Group D campaign with an all-win record, having secured 12 points from four games. They will now head to Kolkata for the knockout games. Kerala Blasters were the second side to make it to the knockout stages with seven points. They won two matches and lost one each. The match however, was a drab affair.

Lahiri shines

Bolton (US): Anirban Lahiri compiled another fine round of five-under 65 to go with his first round 66 and moved into fourth place at the LIV Golf Invitational Series event here Saturday. Lahiri was nine-under and just three strokes behind leader, Talor Gooch (63-65), while Joaquin Neumann, also a newcomer like Lahiri, was lying second with rounds of 64-65. Dustin Johnson (67-63) was in third position.

Impressive feat

Mumbai: Six-year-old Anishka Biyani won a gold medal in the prestigious Malaysian Age-group Rapid Chess Championship which concluded Sunday in Kuala Lumpur. In the competition that saw the participation of eight countries, this first grade student achieved the feat in the under-6 Open category with an impressive score of four points out of a possible six to win the title in the girls' category, said a release.

Rahim quits T20Is

Dhaka: Bangladesh wicket-keeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim announced Sunday his retirement from T20Is to focus on the longer formats. The 35-year-old former Bangladesh captain, however, intends to continue playing franchise cricket "when the opportunity arrives". "I would like to announce my retirement from T20 INTERNATIONALS and focus on Test and ODI formats," Mushfiqur wrote on Twitter.

EASY FOR RAFA, SWIATEK

SPANIARD IN PURSUIT OF 3RD GRAND SLAM OF THE SEASON



MAN IN FORM: Rafa Nadal acknowledges the applause of the crowd after his victory Saturday at the US Open

AP PHOTO

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 4: Rafael Nadal defeated close friend Richard Gasquet for the 18th time to reach the US Open fourth round here Saturday as World No.1 Iga Swiatek made the last 16 for a second successive year.

Four-time champion Nadal took his record over Gasquet to a perfect 18-0 with a 6-0, 6-1, 7-5 victory to stay on course for a 23rd Grand Slam title. Nadal has now won 34 straight sets against Frenchman Gasquet

who he first played as a junior.

Next up for Australian and French Open champion is 22nd seed Frances Tiafoe for a place in the quarterfinals. "He's a great player, he's very charismatic, very fast," said Nadal of the American. Tiafoe made the last 16 for a third successive year by seeing off Argentina's Diego Schwartzman 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4.

The 36-year-old Nadal showed no ill effects of the bloodied nose he suffered when he accidentally bounced his racket into his face

in the second round. "It's a little bit bigger than usual but it's okay," he joked.

Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz who is widely-regarded as Nadal's Grand Slam heir apparent, claimed a season-leading 47th win despite breaking one of his shoes. The 19-year-old third seed defeated Jenson Brooksby of the United States 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 on the back of 46 winners. He next faces 2014 champion Marin Cilic who fired 26 aces and 74 winners in total past Britain's Dan Evans in a 7-6 (13/11), 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 7-5 win.

British seventh seed Cameron Norrie made the fourth round for the first time with a comfortable 7-5, 6-4, 6-1 win over Danish teenager Holger Rune. He next faces Russian ninth seed Andrey Rublev who needed five match points to see off Canada's Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 2-6, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 7-6 (10/7).

In the women's section, Swiatek defeated unseeded Lauren Davis 6-3, 6-4. Swiatek came back from 1-4 down in the second set to reel off five successive games against the American who called a medical time out in the first set to have her blood pressure taken.

In another match Petra Kvitova downed ninth-seeded Garbine Muguruza after saving two match points 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (12/10) and will take on Jessica Pegula of the United States for a quarterfinal place.

Verstappen wins Dutch GP

10TH VICTORY FOR RED BULL DRIVER IN 2022

AGENCIES

Zandvoort (The Netherlands), Sept 4: Formula One (F1) championship leader Max Verstappen made quick work of a safety car restart to win the Dutch Grand Prix here Sunday in front of 1,00,000 adoring fans, and make it four straight wins for the first time in his F1 career.

Verstappen's 10th win matched his tally from last year and the Red Bull driver extended his championship lead to 109 points. With seven races left, a second straight title is looking increasingly likely as his challengers - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and teammate Sergio Perez in joint second - continued to fall further back.

George Russell finished second for Mercedes ahead of Leclerc, with Lewis Hamilton dropping from first to fourth.

Verstappen looked to be coasting to victory when a safety car came out on lap 56, after the engine cut out on Valtteri Bottas' Alfa Romeo.

Verstappen changed tires and was behind leader Hamilton's Mercedes with 12 laps left. But Hamilton was on a slower medium tire and Verstappen on the quicker softs left the British driver pretty much a sitting duck, much like when he lost the title to the



Max Verstappen

Dutchman at last year's season-ending Abu Dhabi GP.

Hamilton misjudged his restart and Verstappen overtook him straight away to bring a huge roar from the Orange Army. The Dutchman also took an extra point for the fastest lap.

An angry Hamilton took it out on his team, using an expletive on radio to tell them he wasn't happy about not swapping for new tires under safety car, when Russell had, and lamented his failure.

Man City held despite Haaland strike

2ND DRAW FOR DEFENDING PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS IN 6 GAMES

AGENCIES

London, Sept 4: Erling Haaland extended his remarkable start to life in the Premier League, but Manchester City were held to a 1-1 draw after Leon Bailey snatched a late equaliser Saturday for struggling Aston Villa. Haaland has been remarkably prolific since his 51 million pounds (USD 58 million) move from Borussia Dortmund in the close season and he struck again in the second half at Villa Park. The Norway striker's 10th goal in his first six Premier League games gave him a share of the record with Micky Quinn, who hit the same tally for Coventry in 1992.

However, Pep Guardiola's side were punished for failing to build on their lead as Leon Bailey's blistering finish left the champions frustrated. This was the second occasion they were held to a draw in the six games they have played so far.



MASTER STRIKER: Erling Haaland of Man City celebrates after scoring against Aston Villa Saturday

Villa were distinctly unlucky to be denied a winner late into the game when Philippe Coutinho curled home, only for an offside flag to disallow the effort, which couldn't be checked by VAR because the referee's whistle was blown before the shot.

Kyle Walker wasted a golden opportunity to put City ahead inside four minutes as the right-back blazed over from Ilkay Gundogan's pass after a flowing move cut through the Villa defence.

Kevin De Bruyne was back in the City line-up in place of Julian

Alvarez. He announced his return with a long-range blast that fizzed just wide before unfurling a sublime pass that Gundogan flicked narrowly off target.

Held without a single shot on target in the first half, City finally broke through five minutes after the interval. Once again, it was Haaland who did the damage and De Bruyne who provided the assist.

Taking possession wide on the right flank, De Bruyne curled a brilliant cross to the far post, cutting out Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez, who could only watch helplessly as Haaland volley home from close-range.

But City's rare failure to turn territorial dominance into a resounding victory came back to haunt them with 16 minutes left.

Villa tenaciously won a series of challenges to pen City in before Jacob Ramsey whipped over a cross that Bailey volleyed past Ederson with superb technique for his first league goal in over a year.

SPANISH GIANTS WARM UP FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona, Real Madrid steamroll all opposition

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Sept 4: Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Kounde showed why Barcelona mortgaged part of their future for them by producing goals in a commanding 3-0 win at Sevilla in the La Liga here Saturday.

Lewandowski made it five goals in four appearances since moving from Bayern Munich, ex-Leeds winger Raphinha scored his first for Barcelona, and Kounde provided two assists against his former club to secure a third straight win for his present team.

Barcelona climbed into second place, two points behind Real Madrid, who ended Real Betis' perfect start to the league after beating them 2-1 in the Spanish capital.

Barcelona took the lead in the 18th minute Raphina nodded home after Fernando had cleared off the

Lewandowski is helping us a lot with his leadership, with the things you don't see when you watch the game

XAVI HERNANDEZ | BARCA MANAGER

line a shot by Lewandowski. The Polish striker then doubled the lead when he controlled a long ball from Kounde with his chest and volleyed home with his right foot. Eric Garcia added a third goal in the 51st minute.

Young Brazilian forwards Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo proved the difference for Real Madrid again in a meeting of the top two teams through the first month. Madrid made it four wins in as many matches, while Real Betis were left three points behind in third place. Madrid were clearly the dominant side.