



DOWN TO EARTH

Actor Rashmika Mandanna says the tag of being the 'national crush' hasn't got into her head

LEISURE P2



RUSSIA WIDENS STRIKES

Russia widens its strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure in past week following setbacks on the battlefield

INTERNATIONAL P10



TIRKEY TO CONTEST

Renowned hockey player Dilip Tirkey files nomination to contest for the post of Hockey India president

SPORTS P12

Cheetahs at Kuno: Villagers fear land acquisition, conflict



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheopur (MP), Sept 18: Amid the excitement over the arrival of Cheetahs in the Kuno National Park, villagers in surrounding areas of Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district have a variety of concerns including the fear of land acquisition and the fear of the big cat itself.

Some people are, however, optimistic that once the Kuno National Park (KNP) becomes famous for its new entrants, increased tourist footfall will create jobs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia into a quarantine enclosure at the KNP as part of a project to revive the population of the animal which became extinct in India in 1952.

"What will happen to my small food outlet when remaining four-five villages are shifted for the park? We are already affected financially because of the relocation of 25 villages for the Kuno Park over the last 15 years," said Radheshyam Yadav, a vendor selling snacks and tea on Sheopur-Shivpuri road, speaking to PTI.

Ramkumar Gurjar, a farmer, has apprehension that the people of Sesaipura will lose their livelihood due to a nearby dam project.

Asked about the hope that the cheetahs will bring more tourists, he claimed the hospitality business will be run by "rich outsiders" and local residents will only get menial jobs in hotels and restaurants.

Dharmendra Kumar Ojha, who runs a clothes shop, apprehended that cheetahs may enter the villages.

"What will the local people get from this project? Outsiders are buying land for hotels and restaurants. The relocation of villages will further affect the business. But the project will bring infrastructural development," Ojha said. **Contd...4**

CWC clearance for 600 MW power storage project in Kalahandi dist



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Central Water Commission (CWC) has cleared a proposal of the state government for installation of the Upper Indravati Pump Storage Project under the Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), official sources said.

The state government had earlier sought to operate three such power storage projects namely, 600 MW Upper Indravati PSP in the district of Kalahandi, 500 MW Balimela PSP in Malkangiri district and 300 MW Upper Kolab PSP in Koraput district.

Pump storage (hydropower) project is a type of hydroelectric energy storage. It is a configuration of two water reservoirs at different elevations that can generate power as water moves down from one to the other (discharge), passing through a turbine. The system also requires power as it pumps water back into the upper reservoir (recharge). **Contd...4**



MOUNTAIN LIFE: A nomadic woman attends to her Himalayan goats in a remote area in Ladakh.

PTI PHOTO

Fall in Kharif output to keep rice prices high

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: A 6-7 million tonne shortfall in rice production due to a fall in paddy sowing area is likely to keep rice prices at elevated levels, adding to the inflationary pressure that the slowing economy is already grappling with.

Elevated food prices, including that of cereals, had led to retail inflation reversing a three-month declining trend, to touch 7 per cent in August.

Similarly, the wholesale price index of cereals, which declined to 11-month low, also showed price pressures from cereals resulting from wheat output being impacted by severe heatwaves in some parts of the country.

In addition to this, expectation of a lower paddy output - conservative by government estimates and higher if outside experts are to be believed - will keep inflationary expectations higher, experts and analysts believe.

Erratic June-September rainfall and delayed withdrawal of the South-West monsoon rains have added to concerns over the paddy crop.

India's rice production during the 2021-22 crop year, ended June, stood at record 130.29 million tonne (MT) as against 124.37 MT in the previous year. Food ministry has projected a fall of 6-7 MT in rice production during this year's Kharif season, which accounts for 85 per cent of the country's total rice output. **Contd...4**

13 crib deaths in 18 days

Health Minister seeks report from Keonjhar district administration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Health and Family Welfare Minister NK Das Sunday sought a report from the Keonjhar district administration on the death of 13 children in a span of 18 days due to alleged negligence at the paediatric ward of a state run hospital in the mineral rich district.

The minister's action came after a large number of people at the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital staged an agitation demanding action against doctors whose alleged negligence led to the death of children.

"This is an unfortunate incident. We must ascertain cause of the children's death. I have asked the Keonjhar district authorities to find out the reason behind the incident," the minister told reporters.

Tension prevailed at the



Keonjhar district headquarters hospital Sunday following the death of six newborns in 24 hours. Thirteen newborns have died in the last 18 days at the hospital's special newborn care unit (SNCU), the district health department said.

Irate people gheraoed the doctors and sought an explanation on the deaths. They relented after Town police intervened and provided security to the doctors.

District Collector Ashish Thakare visited the hospital and directed a probe into the incident. The district health department, however, said that four newborns died in the last 24 hours. It is alleged that doctors in the hospital here often

do not attend to patients and spend their times in private clinics and hospitals. They even refer the patients to private hospitals with the help of middlemen.

Dipesh Nayak alleged that his son died due to negligence by the doctor and nurses. A relative of another deceased child also blamed the absence of doctors and the lackadaisical attitude of the authorities for the tragic incident.

Priyanka Muduli said that when her nephew was admitted to the hospital in the night doctors were not present, while they were not allowed to enter the hall in which their child was admitted. "The doctor came around 12 in the mid-

Fact File

Odisha has reported the highest point decline in infant mortality rate (IMR) in the country, as per the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS)-2020 released in May this year

The IMR has dropped to 36 (per 1000 live births) from 40 in 2018 and with a 39 point decline between 2005 and 2020, the reduction has been the highest among all states

Despite this decline in IMR, Odisha ranks fourth after Madhya Pradesh (43), Uttar Pradesh (38) and Chhattisgarh (38)

Earlier this month, the body of a newborn child was allegedly abandoned to decompose for three days after his death at the Pandit Raghunath Murmu Government Medical College and Hospital in Baripada

night and told us that the child is no more," she said.

ADMO Dr Kishore Charan Prusty ruled out the death of six babies in 24 hours and said four babies died during the last 24 hours. He further said that 13 babies have died in the last 18 days.

State a safe haven for narcotics mafia

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: It seems that Odisha has become a safe haven for ganja and brown sugar cartels as the state is witnessing the seizure of such NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) material almost every second day.

According to data shared by the Odisha directorate of excise, officials have conducted several raids and seized ganja and brown sugar worth Rs 83 crore from April to August this fiscal. There is a growth of 110 per cent in the seizure of NDPS till August against the seizure of such substances in the same period of 2021-22. During April to August 2021, NDPS material worth Rs 39.49 crore was seized.

The seizure of ganja and brown sugar has increased by 132 per cent and 191 per cent, respectively. While 9874 grams of brown sugar were seized this year against 3392 grams last year till August, the state has seized 21,690 kg of ganja till August this year against the seizure of 9,339 kg last year.

The registration of NDPS cases



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

has increased from 243 till August '21 to 739 till August this year, registering a growth of 204 per cent.

While 295 persons were arrested in these NDPS cases till August of 2021-22, the number of arrests also increased to 865 in such cases till last month this fiscal.

Meanwhile, taking a cue from the Uttar Pradesh police, the Odisha police have started demolishing illegal structures/homes of the drug mafia.

The Commissionerate Police Saturday demolished the house of Ranju Nayak, a drug trader and an accused in a murder case. **Contd...4**

World's ocean forests cover area twice that of India

THESE SEAWEED FORESTS FACE THREATS FROM MARINE HEATWAVES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AGENCIES

London, Sept 18: Amazon, Borneo, Congo, Daintree. We know the names of many of the world's largest or most famous rainforests. And many of us know about the world's largest span of forests, the boreal forests stretching from Russia to Canada.

But how many of us could name an underwater forest? Hidden underwater are huge kelp and seaweed forests, stretching much further than we previously realised. Few are even named. But their lush canopies are home to huge numbers of marine species.

Off the coastline of southern Africa lies the Great African Seaforest, while Australia boasts the Great Southern Reef around its southern reaches. There are many more vast but unnamed under-

water forests all over the world. New research published in The Conversation has discovered just how extensive and productive they are. The world's ocean forests, the research found, cover an area twice the size of India.

These seaweed forests face threats from marine heatwaves and climate change. But they may also hold part of the answer, with their ability to grow quickly and sequester carbon.

What are ocean forests?

Underwater forests are formed by seaweeds, which are types of algae. Like other plants, seaweeds grow by capturing the Sun's energy and carbon dioxide through photosynthesis. The largest species grow tens of metres high, forming forest canopies that sway in a never-ending dance as swells move



through. To swim through one is to see dappled light and shadow and a sense of constant movement.

Just like trees on land, these seaweeds offer habitat, food and shelter to a wide variety of marine organisms. Large species such as sea-bamboo and giant kelp have

gas-filled structures that work like little balloons and help them create vast floating canopies. Other species relies on strong stems to stay upright and support their photosynthetic blades. Others again, like golden kelp on Australia's Great Southern Reef, drape over

seafloor.

Seaweeds have long been known to be among the fastest growing plants on the planet. But to date, it's been very challenging to estimate how large an area their forests cover.

On land, you can now easily measure forests by satellite. Underwater, it's much more complicated. Most satellites cannot take measurements at the depths where underwater forests are found.

To overcome this challenge, the researchers relied on millions of underwater records from scientific literature, online repositories, local herbaria and citizen science initiatives.

With this information, the researchers modelled the global distribution of ocean forests, finding they cover between 6 million and 7.2 million square kilometres. **Contd...4**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The country needs a strong opposition. If there's no opposition who would we ask questions to?

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	32.5°C	34.4°C
	MIN	25.1°C	25.6°C
	Humidity	98%	04%
	Rainfall	14mm	6.8mm
	Forecast	Light rain likely	

leisure



WOODY ALLEN SAYS HE'LL RETIRE AFTER 50TH FILM

Director Woody Allen has announced his retirement from filmmaking. In Europe to work on his 50th film, the maestro told Spanish newspaper *La Vanguardia* that he intended to retire from making movies and to dedicate more time to writing during his twilight years, reports *Variety*.

MELANIE C REGRETS NOT BEING MORE OUTSPOKEN

English singer Melanie C has opened up about her regrets over not being more outspoken and speaking up for herself. The 48-year-old, however, is glad to see her 13-year-old daughter Scarlet's generation speaking out on issues affecting them and wishes she'd done the same.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be difference of opinions with friends over trivial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day, says Ganesh!

TAURUS

Today, you may have something at the back of your mind that will grip you with its complexity, says Ganesh. Speak freely as your words are capable of making a great impact on others. You may not be willing to confront unpleasant situations today. Don't worry, the stars seem in your favour, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI

You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competition is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting better. You won't have it any other way as you despise mediocrity. You will find yourself in the company of like-minded people who will inspire you to study new subjects.

CANCER

Today is a good day for you. However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation. But if you think the atmosphere at your workplace is good, wait till you reach home.

LEO

The Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, says Ganesh. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously. So, always carry a pen and paper with you, you may need them to note down ideas that you generate over the course of the day.

VIRGO

Ganesh says today you will be highly motivated. Your creative talents and abilities set you apart as an excellent artist. Words will flow if you give vent to your creativity, and if you choose to sing or dance, you will be the focus of attention. Ganesh advises you to pursue the performing arts or writing as hobbies.

LIBRA

Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesh.

SCORPIO

You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesh. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work. Do not let the ghosts of your past haunt you because some things are best left behind while making a new beginning, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Look before you leap, says Ganesh. Cupid has struck his bow and aimed an arrow at you. Love's labour will easily aid you to woo a young, tender heart. But don't be swept away by easy prospects and guard your reputation at all costs.

CAPRICORN

You can't bear the weight of the heavy work load any more. Very cleverly, you will complete your tasks and slowly but steadily you take the load off your shoulders, predicts Ganesh. Attentive and observant, you meticulously plan your actions and minimise the chances of errors.

AQUARIUS

You are talented, hard working, confident and down to earth. These four characteristics are the pillars of success. Now, it is time to build the building. Your curiosity and desire to achieve your goals will help you with it, feels Ganesh.

PISCES

A reckless attitude is the root cause of any downfall. Ensure responsible behavior and actions at every step at your workplace, today, suggests Ganesh. Be alert and focused and you will be able to dodge any incoming trouble.

Rashmika

on being called national crush

New Delhi: Rashmika Mandanna, who was recently in the city for a song launch of her upcoming film, spoke about being called the national crush.

"It is something that has not gotten into my head. I was like what does national crush really mean? But of course, it's the love of people that I'm happier about which gives me immense responsibility now to deliver a good performance so people can enjoy and appreciate."

The actress, who looks forward to the release of *Goodbye* starring Amitabh Bachchan, said it was her second time in Delhi, adding that she would make more trips to the national capital in the future.

Talking about her working experience with Amitabh Bachchan, she said, "Bachchan sir is absolutely amazing because me as an actor before *Goodbye* and me as an actor after *Goodbye* are entirely different. *Bachchan* sir has played a huge part in it. I am glad that I got to do my first Hindi film with him because he is the greatest teacher of them all."

When she was asked about her thoughts on the north versus south debate, the *Pushpa* actress said that it is up to the audience to decide. She said, "I'm too small to comment on that. Sometime back my film *Sita Ramam* released and got immense love from everywhere not just in the south but in the Hindi belt too."

AGENCIES



TALK ON 'ARTS AND THE LAW' BY BAKUL FOUNDATION

It's important to create safer spaces for artistes: Arshiya Sethi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Whether it is British Raj or an Independent India, artistes - actors, painters, litterateurs - have always been at the receiving end. Therefore, it is high time they learnt about arts and the law, said Arshiya Sethi, one of the most eminent arts activists and scholars of India.

She said this while delivering a talk on 'Arts and the Law' here at Bakul Library organised by Bakul Foundation, Sunday.

Sethi explained that the arts-cinema, literature, painting, music or dance - have always intrigued people, adding, questions are often raised on the difference between inspiration and plagiarism and on offensive content versus censorship.

She continued: "The condition worsened in post-pandemic period as one can find several instances when artistes have suf-



Arshiya Sethi during her talk at Bakul Library, Bhubaneswar, Sunday

fered either for being on the other side of the power corridor or due to systemic patriarchy and

disregard for ethics by people who matter. The ignorance of legal frameworks hasn't helped the cause."

During her talk, she spoke about how several colonial laws like The Dramatic Performance Act 1876, Indian Press Act 1910 and others were used against arts before 1947.

Though the Indian Constitution ensures equality for both artistes and non-artistes, this has been violated on many occasions in the recent past. Therefore, it is important to create safer spaces for the artistes, quipped Sethi.

About Odisha, she said that the state is home to many artistes of international reputation.

Several dignitaries including Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi President Aruna Mohanty, Odissi danseuse Ileana Citaristi and Bakul Foundation founder Sujit Mohapatra were present at the talk.



Ex-Miss World Bulgaria to make Indian debut

Mumbai: Former Miss World Bulgaria Margo Cooper is all set to make her debut in India. She will appear in new music video *Aasman* along with Vatsal Seth. Margo, who has been living in India for quite some time now, is super excited about it.

Speaking about the music video she said: "The team is very professional and all of them are good human beings - a factor very important to me."

The music video was shot in Alibaug. Saying further about the first music video she asserted: "There is nothing better in life to do what you like and I am very lucky to have my first experience with such an amazing team. Though the language is Hindi it was not a challenge because I knew the script and love story of this song. I must say Vatsal is an experienced actor and a professional one. It was very easy and comfortable to work with him."

Giving details about the music video, she explained: "I think it's all about feelings, it should touch someone's soul which can bring out some genuine emotions. I'm definitely

keen on more music videos and it makes me happy."

IANS



Yami bats for dad's movie

Chennai: Yami Gautam, who has acted in Tamil and Telugu films as well, has urged audiences to go watch *Baghi Di Dhee*, a Punjabi film directed by her father Mukesh Gautam, saying it was one of the best films she had watched recently.

Taking to Instagram, Yami Gautam penned a lengthy post on the film and her thoughts on it. She said: "In times where we are all hustling to find good content for our audience, I got the chance to experience something really wonderful and special - *Baghi Di Dhee*."

The *Dasvi* actress went on to add, "I know personally the incredible amount of hard work that has gone in, literally through high fever and sickness in nail-biting winters. The passion & sincerity with which the film has been directed is truly inspirational. Words are not enough to express how proud I felt as a daughter as I watched the final result of this labour of love directed by my father Mukesh Gautam. It's one of the best films that I have watched recently and feel even more proud that it's a Punjabi film."

IANS

FUN post

PEANUTS



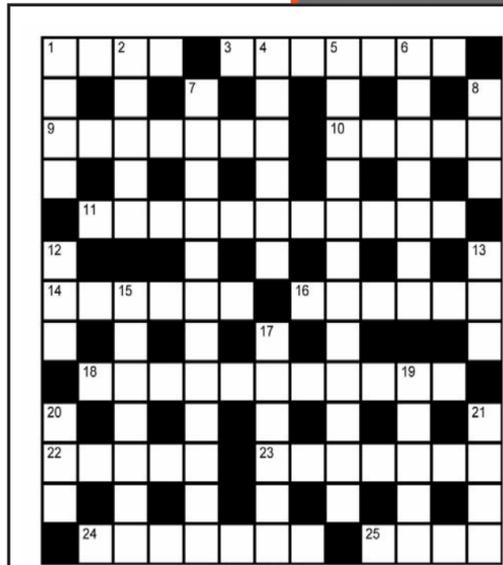
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



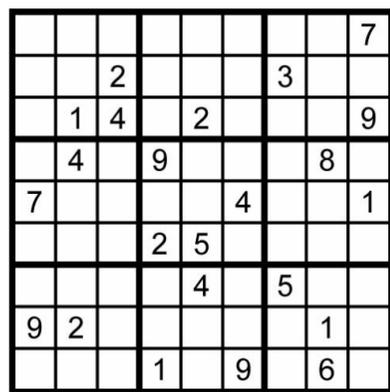
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Be fond of
 - 3 Loot
 - 9 Adult
 - 10 Search blindly
 - 11 Art museum project
 - 14 Stone
 - 16 Square away (4,2)
 - 18 Criminal law negotiation (4-7)
 - 22 Excuse
 - 23 Adult male chicken
 - 24 Anonymously
 - 25 Snob
 - Down**
 - 1 Danish toy company
 - 2 Danish monetary unit
 - 4 Contribute
 - 5 Metallic conductor (9,3)
 - 6 Earth science
 - 7 Military facility
 - 8 Agitate
 - 12 Mole
 - 13 Pertinent
 - 15 Ingot
 - 17 Core
 - 19 Bury
 - 20 Delivery truck
 - 21 Tailless stout-bodied amphibian

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.

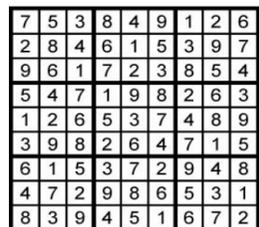


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NO CHILD'S PLAY

Girls sell inflatable toys at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,70,94,009	59,66,08,716	65,30,581
India	4,45,34,188	4,39,57,929	5,28,337
Odisha	13,31,793	13,21,126	9,186

Heavy rain to lash state for 3 days

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Met office warned Sunday of very heavy rain in Odisha over the next three days due to a low pressure that will form soon.

A cyclonic circulation, which took shape Saturday, lies over the north and central Bay of Bengal. Under its influence, the low pressure will form over the northwest part of the sea around Tuesday.

It issued an orange warning of very heavy rain at a few places for Monday. Heavy showers of 65-115 mm can occur in Khurda, Cuttack, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Rayagada, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Koraput and Kendrapara. It forecasted a very heavy downpour of 116-204 mm in many districts Tuesday and Wednesday.

Another student kills self

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: A student of a private engineering college allegedly committed suicide at his rented accommodation under Lingaraj police limits here, an official said Sunday.

The deceased identified as Sidhanta Kumar Nayak, who hails from Tirtol area in Jagatsinghpur district, had been residing with one of his friends in Poonama Gate area under Lingaraj police limits here, said the official.

According to police sources, Sidhanta's friend was the first to spot his body.

Sidhanta's friend, who works in a private company, had gone to attend a feast on Vishwakarma Puja Saturday night. After returning, he found the room locked from inside.



"Several knocks on the door went unanswered. With no way out, he broke open the door only to find Sidhanta hanging from the ceiling of the room," said a police official, quoting Sidhanta's friend. He informed police and Sidhanta's family members. Police reached the spot and sent the body to Capital Hospital for post-mortem. Later, Sidhanta's body was handed over to his family after autopsy. On the basis of a complaint lodged by Sidhanta's family, a

case (33/22) of unnatural death was registered.

Police and family were yet to ascertain as to what forced Sidhanta to take the extreme step.

Sources said with this, the Capital city has witnessed at least seven students ending their lives in the month so far.

On September 13, a Plus II student, Surya Prakash Palai, allegedly committed suicide in Gothapatna area under Info Valley police limits of the City.

Ashok Kumar Pradhan, another student, reportedly died by suicide in Bhimatangi area under Airfield police limits September 8.

A nursing student, aged around 19, was found hanging from the ceiling of her room in a private hostel at Jamukoli in Airfield Police Station area September 4.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



5T Secy reviews Baramunda ISBT work



5T Secretary VK Pandian reviews the ISBT work in presence of BDA Vice-Chairman Sanjay Kumar Singh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baramunda here.

The 5T Secretary, who was accompanied by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Vice-Chairman Sanjay Kumar Singh, directed the officials to complete the

ISBT work by March 2023.

According to the CMO, every day, hundreds of buses ply from here to different parts of the state and beyond.

Keeping in view the convenience, safety and needs of the passengers, the work is going on as per the instructions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the development of this bus terminal under the 5T initiative.

The project is being implemented by BDA over 15.5 acre of land at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

The ISBT will have facilities like uninterrupted power supply, fire detection alarms, firefighting mechanism, information display board, passenger announcement system, CCTVs, entry and exit path, water treatment plant, solar power, proper air conditioning, sewage treatment plant, effluent treatment plant for bus wash and elevators.

IAF's aerobatics enthral Puri spectators

PNN & AGENCIES

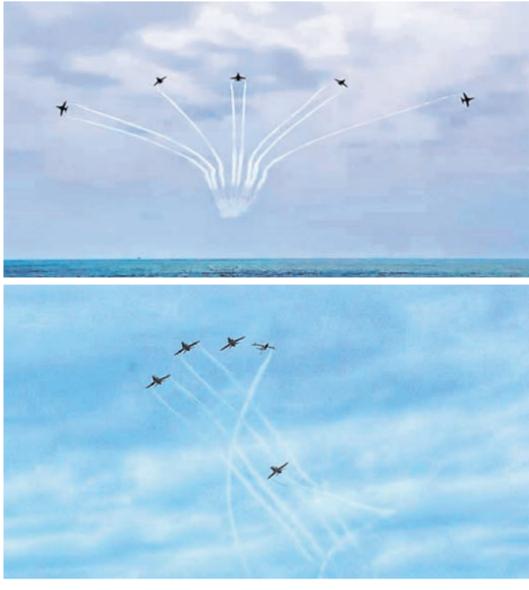
Puri, Sept 18: The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a scintillating display of aerobatics here over the Bay of Bengal Sunday to commemorate 75 years of the country's Independence.

Nine aircraft of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of the Eastern Air Command conducted the aerobatic display off the Blue Flag Beach here in the morning and was witnessed by thousands of enthralled tourists to the seaside pilgrim town.

Governor Ganeshi Lal attended the event, which drew loud cheers from the people.

The fleet of the Suryakiran aircraft made several flypasts and conducted manoeuvres like the arrow, rocket roll, diamond and synchro. In one of the moves, an aircraft even flew upside down and did spins as it returned.

In a thrilling display of crossovers, two Suryakiran aircraft came face to face from opposite directions at over 1,500 kmp/h and then flew apart to the left and right leaving the spectators spellbound. The aerobatic team could not,



Suryakiran Aerobatic Team conduct aerobatic display off the Blue Flag Beach in Puri, Sunday

however, perform some formations as there was limited visibility due to the presence of monsoon clouds. A team member said that during

- The fleet of the Suryakiran aircraft made several flypasts and conducted manoeuvres like the arrow, rocket roll, diamond and synchro
- In one of the moves, an aircraft even flew upside down and did spins as it returned
- In a thrilling display of crossovers, two Suryakiran aircraft came face to face from opposite directions at over 1,500 kmp/h and then flew apart to the left and right leaving the spectators spellbound

a similar exercise over the Kuakhai river bank in Bhubaneswar Friday it was not possible to drop to a lower height due to the buildings nearby.

"But in the sea off Puri, we were able to fly the aircraft at 100-300 feet," she told reporters after the show.

"The weather was bad in the morning, but we are so glad that we managed to hold the show," she added.

The IAF had held an air show in Cuttack in 2016 to mark the birth centenary of former chief minister Biju Patnaik.



PUJA AHEAD: An artisan shapes a clay idol of goddess Durga in Sheikh Bazar area of Cuttack, Sunday

Tribal women weave Tibetan carpet for living

PNN & AGENCIES

Parlakhemundi, Sept 18: The ancient hand-woven Tibetan rug is no longer a monopoly business among the community who are settled in Gajapati district.

Several women from the indigenous Saora community – a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) – have started the art of weaving rugs.

Two Tibetan women artisans had trained 17 tribals the art of weaving between March-June. After the skill development training, the Saora women started to weave the carpets on their own at Manikapur village of Mohana block, around 250 km southwest of Bhubaneswar.

The craft dates back hundreds of years ago and was practised by the nomad communities in Tibet. The technique of weaving the rug is different from the Persian or the Turkish methods. The hand-woven rug is traditionally made from the wool of sheep, but cot-

TWO TIBETAN WOMEN ARTISANS HAD TRAINED 17 TRIBALS THE ART OF WEAVING BETWEEN MARCH-JUNE

THE SAORA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, WHICH WORKS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PVTG, HAD FACILITATED THE TRAINING

est in Odisha, and they reside in Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput districts mainly. According to the 2011 census, their population is 5.35 lakh in the state.

"The main objective of the project is to provide livelihood and support to the tribal women," district Collector Lingraj Panda said. "At the same time, the traditional hand-woven carpet, which is a dying art form among the young Tibetans, will be kept alive through the tribal women."

Jamphel, a Tibetan settler in Chandragiri, was elated at the efforts to revive the art, in which the young generation is not keen to participate as it's quite labour intensive. Kumari Rait, one of the trained women of Kamalapur, said they procured the raw materials like wool and other silk yarns from Ludhiana, Punjab, initially to weave the carpet.

Now, they will procure these from an agency in Berhampur, the 20-year-old said, adding she took around 15 days to complete a carpet.

OAVS Foundation Day celebrated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash has congratulated the students, teachers and management of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS) on its Foundation Day.

At a foundation day function here Sunday Dash said, "On OAVS Foundation day, I congratulate all the students, teachers and management for completing another successful year in its journey of ensuring quality education of underprivileged children. May the mission continue to empower every child with power of education."

A brainchild of the CM, the OAVS imparts quality education to thousands of deserving students in all the blocks of the state. The aim is to make Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya a role model for the country in quality education, Dash said.

BJD in mock fight with BJP in Odisha: Jairam Ramesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh Sunday ridiculed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for BJD's political understanding with BJP and said the two parties work in tandem at the Centre but indulge in "mock fights" in the state.

The Congress therefore targets both BJD and BJP in Odisha and will agitate against the two parties when it launches its Odisha Parikrama Yatra in the state, Ramesh told reporters here. "The BJD and BJP are two sides of the same coin and there is no difference between them," Ramesh told reporters here.

"When the PM asks the CM to sit, he sits. His MPs also do what the PM says. The two parties work together at the Centre and indulge in

mock fights in Odisha," said the Congress leader, pillorying Patnaik, who is also the BJD chief, at the press conference in which senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh was also present.

Congress, he said, will launch a Odisha Parikrama Yatra from October 31 to usher in change in the state. Both Ramesh and Digvijay Singh will join the programme.

He said that such Parikrama Yatras are being organised in Odisha, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal, Nagaland and Bihar which do not fall in the route chalked out for Congress' Bharat Jodo programme.

The BJD's reaction is yet to be known.

Senior BJP leader and Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi said "The Congress is actually the B team of BJD.

90th Interpol meet to have Konark Temple's chariot-inspired logo

THE THREE-DAY EVENT BEGINNING OCTOBER 18 IS LIKELY TO BE ATTENDED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM 195 COUNTRIES

Motifs inspired by the chariot wheels of the 13th-century architectural marvel Konark Sun Temple will be the logo of the 90th Interpol General Assembly, officials said Sunday.

The event, beginning next month, is likely to be attended by law enforcement officers from 195 countries.

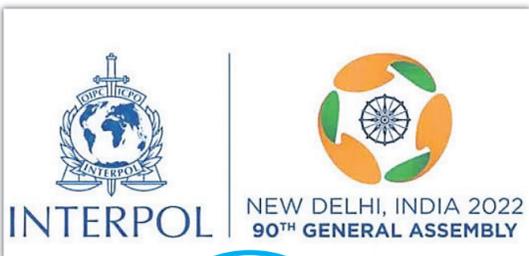
The logo unveiled recently by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), organising the General

Assembly, shows a motif with tri-coloured leaves arranged in a circular fashion with Konark wheel in the middle, they said.

The CBI, which is the national central bureau for India to liaison with the Interpol conceived the idea of the logo from the stone-carved Odisha temple in the form of a chariot of Sun God with 24 individual wheels and 16 spokes, they said.

"When deciphered in terms of Interpol's commitment and engagement, the 'Konark Wheel' in this logo serves to inspire the global body's 24x7 functioning, and is encircled by three 'leaved' spherical elements in colours of Indian flag," an official said.

The three encircling spherical elements signify the creation of international bonds through Interpol, steadfast commitment towards the preservation of security globally and the achievement of law en-



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The three encircling spherical elements signify the creation of international bonds through Interpol, steadfast commitment towards the preservation of security globally and the achievement of law enforcement goals

forcement goals, he said. An annual event, the General Assembly is organised by each member country on a rotation basis.

India organised the event in 1997. It got an out-of-turn chance to organise the General Assembly again because of the efforts of government that wanted it to be held in the country during the 75th anniversary year of its independence, they said.

The three-day event beginning October 18 will focus on corruption and cybercrimes, child sexual abuse material circulated on the internet, missing persons and terrorism besides new technologies and mechanisms to improve police to police cooperation in tracking fugitive criminals across the globe, they said.

Besides tracking and detaining fugitives using colour-coded notices like Red Notice, Interpol provides direct access to a wide range of criminal databases to its member countries carrying millions of records on fingerprints, DNA, stolen motor vehicles, firearms and stolen and lost travel documents among others.

State logs 207 fresh Cov cases

The state now has 1,609 active cases, while 13,20,945 patients have recovered from the disease to date, including 228 in the last 24 hours



AGENCIES

ported 5,664 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hrs, against 5,747 Covid cases reported on previous day, said the Union Health Ministry. In the same period, the country has recorded 35 more Covid related deaths, taking the national fatalities tally to 5,28,337 as per the report.

The active caseload of the country has marginally risen to 47,922 cases, accounting for 0.11 per cent of the country's total positive cases.

The recovery of 4,555 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,39,57,929. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.71 per cent.

Meanwhile, India's Daily Positivity Rate has been reported to be 1.96 per cent, while the Weekly Positivity Rate in the country currently also stands at 1.79 per cent.

Also in the same period, a total of 2,89,228 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 89.15 crore.

As of Sunday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 216.56 crore.

Over 4.08 crore adolescents have been administered the first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

Meanwhile, country Sunday re-



Members of Nikhila Odisha Besarakari Adhyapaka O Karmachari Sangha staging a mass protest seeking fulfillment of their 5-point charter of demands at PMG in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

KIIT's engineering programmes get ABET accreditation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The prestigious Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), USA has accredited KIIT Deemed to be University's six engineering programmes. ABET is the premier global accreditation organization of engineering and engineering technology programmes. Regarded as the 'Gold Standard' for engineering education, it assures that programmes meet the quality standards that produce graduates prepared to enter a global workforce. With this recognition, KIIT has become the only institution in the country to have accreditation from ABET (USA) in all six engineering programmes. Besides, KIIT Deemed to be University has also been accredited by all the statutory bodies of the Government of India. Six programmes of KIIT-DU have received the ABET (US) accreditation at a time due to its quality education and other aspects.

ABET's peer-review process is highly regarded worldwide because it adds critical value to academic programmes in technical disciplines, where quality, precision, and safety are paramount. Congratulating the students and faculty of KIIT, Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said that it is yet another recognition for the high-quality programmes of KIIT, which effectively prepares students for global careers. Getting ABET accreditation is very prestigious for any technical University, Samanta added.



Daan Utsav: It's time to celebrate the joy of giving

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Two weeks from now, in this season of festivals, the nation will be celebrating another festival, a festival that was first celebrated in 2009 but has turned out to be India's biggest giving festival, Daan Utsav formerly known as the "Joy of Giving Week". The millions, who have been celebrating it every year from October 2-8 have the aspiration to make this as one of the iconic festivals of India like Durga Puja, Ganesh Puja, Diwali and Eid.

Millions of people have been associated with the giving across the country including Odisha. From CEOs and celebrities to chapparis and cooks, from cities to villages, from individuals and families to communities and associations, NGOs to corporates, all have been involved in small and large scale initiatives in giving and promoting the idea of giving. This festival has

motivated millions of people to turn givers and most significantly give and mobilize giving in many innovative ways. The festival has been used to raise funds, mobilize service or even just a random act of kindness.

There have been celebrity auctions for Alia Bhatt's favourite personal outfits, lunch with Amitabh Bachchan and listen to his stories and cricket coaching camp by Tendulkar himself. All the money raised went to charities the celebrities were supporting.

In 2013, the biggest hotels in Bhubaneswar, Trident, Mayfair, Crown, Marriion, HHI and Swosti

came together to give a combined buffet serving the best food on offer at each of the hotels. Selected NGOs sold tickets worth Rs 2000 to their patrons, who then got to eat the lavish buffet. The hotels, however, gave their food and service free. All the money raised by the NGOs went for their work. Many NGOs have used the opportunity to mobilize material to give to the needy.

The first time Bakul Foundation joined hands with the national campaign of Goonj to collect books, clothes and toys, it collected over 20 mini-trucks of material from apartments, schools, colleges and public collection centres. Bakul has also done book collection drives such as the Inter

School Book Bucket Challenge and fundraisers through Wish Trees in which the requirements of a new library, have been broken down into small individual wishes ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 1000.

But it's not only the urban rich or middle class, which has been giving. The Auto Mahasangh in Bhubaneswar felt inspired and took 80 elderly and infirm people from the city slums to Puri for a darshan of Lord Jagannath in 2012. The tiny village of 100 families in Badbaarsingh in Badamba Tehsil of Cuttack has made it one of their most important festivals. It has been the largest community celebration in India for the last 7 years. Every villager is involved in giving and they organize a huge Seva Mahotsav in which there are separate stalls for shoes, clothes, children's stationery, snacks and refreshments, and medicines and everything is for free for the people from the nearby villages.



Continued from P1

Rising drug...

"We have launched an operation White Spider to check the drug menace in the capital city. Under the operation, almost every day we are seizing drugs and making arrests," said Manas Ranjan Garnaik, ACP (zone 1), Bhubaneswar.

As drug trader Ranju had constructed the house illegally and used it in the drug trade, the house was demolished, he said. Earlier, the police had bulldozed the grocery shop of a man who was peddling brown sugar in the Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar.

Besides, the police also seized the entire property of drug dealers. Following the request of the Odisha police, the competent authority under the NDPS Act has confiscated property worth Rs 6 crore, including gold jewellery worth Rs 4.5 crore, of notorious drug don Rajanikant Patnaik from Khallikote in Ganjam district.

Fall in Kharif ...

However, some believe there is no cause of panic yet and that the buffer stock India maintains is enough to meet demand for the public distribution system (PDS).

Also, the government intervention in the form of banning export of broken rice and slapping a 20 per cent duty on export of non-basmati and non-par boiled rice will help contain the situation.

These restrictions were imposed due to price rise in rice and animal feed in the last one year. As per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs ministry, the wholesale prices have risen by 10.7 per cent to Rs 3,357.2 per quintal as on September 14, from Rs 3,047.32 per quintal a year ago. The retail prices rose 9.47 per cent to Rs 38.15 per kg from Rs 34.85 per kg. An article published in RBI's latest bulletin said that there is "a resurgence of food price pressures, mainly stemming from cereals even as fuel and core components provided a modest measure of respite." Uneven spatial distribution of rain in September has set-off an upsurge in prices of key vegetables, in particular, tomatoes, it added.

CWC clearance for ...

The project acts similarly to a giant battery, because it can store power and then release it when needed, an official explained.

OHPC chairman BP Sethi said the agency has been engaged in investigation, planning, coordination and erection of three large scale Pump Storage Project (PSP) in the state. He said the 600 MW Upper Indravati Pump Storage Project achieved a major milestone by obtaining Inter-State clearance from the CWC under Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India September 13, 2022. The proposal for Upper Indravati Pump Storage Project will now be submitted before Central Electricity Authority (CEA) seeking Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) after which Detailed Project Report will be finalised and further progress on execution of the project will be diligently made, Sethi said.

This pump storage project located in the remote part of Kalahandi district has a total installed capacity of 600 MW. It has four specially designed turbine generating set of 150 MW each.

World's ocean...

That's larger than the Amazon. Next, they assessed how productive these ocean forests are - that is, how much they grow. Once again, there were no unified global records. The researchers had to go through hundreds of individual experimental studies from across the globe where seaweed growth rates had been measured by scuba divers.

They found ocean forests are even more productive than many intensely farmed crops such as wheat, rice and corn. Productivity was highest in temperate regions, which are usually bathed in cool, nutrient-rich water. Every year, on average, ocean forests in these regions produce 2 to 11 times more biomass per area than these crops.

Odia entrepreneur develops 5G technology for racing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: UK based Odia entrepreneur Arun Kar is making Odias proud with his revolutionary breakthroughs one after another. The tech entrepreneur who also is a military veteran and his business partner Chintan Panara has recently developed and industrialized a real time 5G Virtual Reality software for the spectators of world's biggest motor racing held at Silverstone Racing Circuit in the United Kingdom.

The 5G immersive experience provided through application software & activation area had let the spectators witness the races as if they are on the race circuit.



Silverstone Racing Circuit is a motor racing circuit in the United Kingdom where the legendary racing events like Formula 1 and MotoGP's British Grand Prix are held. Recently, in the month of August, Silverstone hosted world's biggest racing festival 'The Classic 2022' that featured the historic racing action from Formula One, Sports Cars, GT and Touring Car grids with over 20 races and demonstrations.

Akshardham theme to attract visitors at Rasulgarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, Durga puja celebrations in the Capital city have been low-key in the last two years. This year with the fear of disease slowly fading, the festive spirit will certainly go up a few notches as community Durga pujas will be conducted without any Covid-19 restrictions.

The city will have 178 Durga puja pandals this year, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das informed during a preparatory meeting at the civic body's office here, recently.

Getting the assurance that there will not be any restrictions, the various committees in the city are



preparing to celebrate Durga puja in a grand manner. The recently concluded Ganesh Puja festivities indicates that pandals will witness heavy footfalls during the Durga puja and the organisers and police are gearing up to meet the challenge. The organisers are also having regular brain-storming sessions to give a unique look to their pandals and to spring a surprise to the visitors.

In that race for novelty and grandiloquence, the Rasulgarh Durga puja committee has come up

with the idea of recreating the famous Delhi's Akshardham Temple as the theme for the pandal.

Rasulgarh Durga puja committee general secretary Pradeep Jena said that for the last two years people have not been able to celebrate the occasion with happiness and festivity due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, this year we are hoping to celebrate Durga puja festival in grand manner, Jena added.

Jena informed that artists from Kolkata have come to construct the pandal which will be 80 feet in height and 120 feet in width. Work has been going on for the last one month and the structure will be completed by September 28. The idol will have a height of 32 feet and is being currently built. We will also install 30 CCTV cameras for the security.

Look to acquaintances when searching for a job

Say you are looking for a new job. You head to LinkedIn to spruce up your profile and look around your social network.

But who should you reach out to for an introduction to a potential new employer? A new study of more than 20 million people, published in Science, shows that your close friends (on LinkedIn) are not your best bet: instead you should look to acquaintances you don't know well enough to share a personal connection with.

In 1973, the American sociologist Mark Granovetter coined the phrase "the strength of weak ties" in the context of social networks. He argued that the stronger the ties between two individuals, the more their friendship networks will overlap.

Simply put, you are most likely to know all the friends of a close friend, but few of the friends of an acquaintance.

So if you are searching for a job, you probably already know everything your immediate neighbour-



So if you are searching for a job, you probably already know everything your immediate neighbourhood has to offer. Intuitively, it is the weak ties - your acquaintances - that offer the most opportunities for new discoveries

hood has to offer. Intuitively, it is the weak ties - your acquaintances - that offer the most opportunities

but is it? A team of researchers from LinkedIn, Harvard Business School, Stanford and MIT set out to gather some empirical evidence on how weak ties affect job mobility.

Their research piggy-backed on the efforts of engineers at LinkedIn to test and improve the platform's "People You May Know" recommendation algorithm. LinkedIn regularly updates this algorithm, which recommends new people to add to your network.

One of these updates tested the effects of encouraging the formation of strong ties (recommending adding your close friends) versus weak ties (recommending acquaintances and friends of friends). The researchers then followed the users that participated in this "A/B testing" to see if the difference impacted their employment outcomes.

More than 20 million LinkedIn users worldwide were randomly assigned to well-defined treatment groups. Users in each group were shown slightly different new contact recommendations, which led users in some groups to form more strong ties and users in other groups to form more weak ties

shown slightly different new contact recommendations, which led users in some groups to form more strong ties and users in other groups to form more weak ties.

Next, the team measured how many jobs users in each group applied for, and how many "job transmissions" occurred. Job transmissions are of particular interest, as they are defined as getting a job in the same company as the new contact. A job transmission suggests the new contact helped land the job.

Moderately weak ties are best. The study uses causal analysis to go beyond simple correlations and connect link formation with employment. There are three important findings. First, the recommender engine significantly shapes link formation. Users who were recommended more weak links formed significantly more weak links, and users who were recommended more strong links formed more strong links.

More than 20 million LinkedIn users worldwide were randomly assigned to well-defined treatment groups. Users in each group were

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DESPITE CONTRIBUTING HIGHEST REVENUE

Keonjhar gets short shrift in railways development



Bhadrak and linking with Dhamra port in Bhadrak district. The rail connectivity will usher in economic and financial development in the area.

Residents have been demanding for double laning of Jakhapura-Banshapani-Jamshedpur rail route as well as its electrification. The Railway Ministry is also silent on connecting Keonjhar-Badampahad with rail network which can also be an alternative rail route to New Delhi. Demand for connecting seven km stretch of Barbil with Banshapani and 30 km stretch of Banshapani with Bimalagarh which can connect with Rourkela is also being ignored.

Similarly, connecting Hijili station in Kharagpur with Angul will open the rail connectivity in Keonjhar; Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal districts.

Plying of more trains to Puri-Keonjhar and Chakradharpur; daily train services between Keonjhar, Tatanagar, Nuamundi and Chainbasa, plying of more trains to Vishakhapatnam, plying of train between Bhubaneswar and New Delhi via Keonjhar; plying of proposed Jammu Tawi Express train service between Paradip and New Delhi via Keonjhar; Barbil and Tatanagar are among the several demands which are yet to be addressed.

Other demands are extension of Jan Shatabdi train service plying between Kolkata and Barbil upto Keonjhar; launching of night train service to Bhubaneswar and upgradation of all stations in the district residents. These demands are yet to be fulfilled.

The dist had witnessed first train service 60 years after independence during the tenure of UPA govt and when Ananta Nayak was the MP of Keonjhar. The first train plied between Puri and Keonjhar.

Demand for connecting Anandapur, Champua, and the Maa Tarini shrine at Ghatagaon with rail route is being made for last several years but the pleas are yet to be addressed. Connecting Anandapur with rail route is essential as it will connect Harichandanpur- Anandapur-

PROMOTING FITNESS



Students participated in a slow cycle race organised by a cultural outfit 'Tarun Prangya Bharati' on Narayani College premises in Jeypore, Sunday

DEMAND TO HIKE TRANSPORTATION FARE

Truckers go on indefinite strike in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Sept 18: Truckers and transporters affiliated to 'Sundargarh Milita Truck Malika Sangh' have started 'chakka jam' from Sunday for an indefinite period over their demand for hiking fare of coal transportation from the MCL mines in the district.

As a result, coal transportation from three MCL mines in Sundargarh to Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and neighbouring Chhattisgarh has been affected Sunday.



The truckers said that the government hiked prices of diesel, toll tax and spare parts of vehicles by several notches in the past. This has pushed the transporters into deep financial crisis while

Coal transportation from MCL mines affected

most of the truckers have been struggling to pay off their loan installments. Many of them have gone bankrupt too, they added. Due to strike, thousands of trucks engaged in the coal transportation were found lined up along roads in the district.

In the past, the truck owners and the management of various coal-buying companies had held two rounds of meetings through me-

diation of the district administration to discuss the demand of the truck owners to hike fare by ₹140 per tonne, but the meetings remained inconclusive. "As the meetings yielded no results, we were bound to start strike," said some truckers.

The truck owners held a meeting Sunday at Duduka. Sundargarh MP Jual Oram, former Speaker Kishore Patel, MLA Kusum Tete, Talasara MLA Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, sarpanchs from various panchayats and local people supported the truckers' strike.

3 Excise officials escorting ganja-laden truck detained

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 18: Police officials from Sunki outpost in Koraput Sunday detained three Excise officials for allegedly escorting a ganja-laden truck out of the state.

According to sources, the detained officials include two constables and one assistant sub-inspector (ASI). They are being interrogated about their role in

protecting the ganja smugglers. The police had received a tip about the Excise officials helping the smugglers transport the contraband to Andhra Pradesh.

The police subsequently intercepted the officials along with the ganja-laden truck on their way to the neighbouring state. A senior police officer said the three were interrogated and a probe will be launched into the matter soon.

11-KV wire falls off pole, 7 critical in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 18: At least seven people including three minors sustained critical burn injuries in Dhenkanal after an 11 KV transmission cable got snapped and fell off a pole, Sunday.

The mishap took place at Sainbiri-Nuasahi village under Sadar police limits. The injured persons were identified as Saroj Behera, his wife Sumitra Behera, daughters Sweetie Behera, Pinki Behera, son Suraj Behera apart from their neighbours Kuma Sahu and Abhas Sahu. The transmission line broke away all of a sudden, led to fire in a hay-stack and charged the domestic wires leading to critical injury of seven persons.

Embankment caves in; 2 die

Bolangir: Two persons -- a farmer and a labourer -- were killed in Bolangir Sunday after a part of the embankment of a pond collapsed on them. The mishap took place at Durguriguda village of Adabahal gram panchayat under Titagarh block as the two were digging a part of a pond to channelise water to dry farmlands. The deceased were identified as Ganesh Bagh (50) and Paresh Bhoi (25). Firefighters recovered the bodies. Police registered a case of unnatural death and started an investigation into the incident.

MEGA DRINKING WATER PROJECT IN BHOGRAI

Project to come up on 3 acre; yr-long stir ends

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 18: Days after the district administration of Balasore took stock of a mega drinking water project proposed at Abhaya Mahal village under Bhograi block, locals who had been protesting against the project in view of displacement for nearly a year have relented.

The agitation came to an end Saturday after the administration assured the people that the project will be confined to only three acre of land instead of proposed five acre. Notably, an estimated ₹212 crore has been allocated for the project.

The administration has also assured the people that no families will be displaced from the project area, betel vine would not be dismantled, more cashew saplings would be planted to compensate the loss in the area due to cashew tree felling by the company, four decimal of land would be provided to landless people, only three to four families would be provided land elsewhere and the scope of employment would be created for people through the project.

Local Congress leaders who were part of the agitation have warned

Villagers alleged local leaders, admin and construction agency had tried to scuttle public stir

of stepping up agitation if the administration fails to work on its promises within a month.

Villagers had earlier alleged that local leaders, the administration and the construction agency concerned have been trying hand in hand to scuttle the public movement against the project. "Before the panchayat elections, local leaders used to assure us that they would support our demands. Now, they have made a U-turn. They have backstabbed us. The administration has made it clear that the project would not be shifted elsewhere," said villagers Sanjay Jena, Rakhibala Jena, Nabakant Jena and Laxmipriya Jena.

Tehsildar Kamalakant Panda and staff of the construction agency visited the site some days ago and told the villagers that the project would be executed at the proposed site and asked some people to vacate their places for demolition of their houses.

Youth killed, 2 critical in accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 18: A biker was killed on the spot while two other bikers sustained critical injuries after their vehicles collided head on near Pattapala Square on Balasore-Chandipur Road, Sunday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Mahendra Duari, 35, a native of Hidigaon area in Balasore district. The injured bikers were identified as Nilakantha Barik, 30, and his father Kartik Barik, 50.

The mishap occurred when Mahendra was returning home from Chandipur while Nilakantha with his father on pillion was on his way to Mullanagar. Locals and



Chandipur police rescued the injured youth and his father and admitted them to Balasore district headquarters hospital. Police sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation.

Monsoon birds throng Bhitarkanika

THE ENUMERATORS COUNTED 1.16 LAKH BIRDS THIS YEAR INSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK IN COMPARISON TO 1.09 LAKH RECORDED IN 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Sept 18: The Bhitarkanika National Park played host to over one lakh migrant water birds this monsoon, a rise of seven per cent, as the sanctuary re-established itself as one of the most congenial breeding grounds in Odisha for the winged guests, officials said Sunday.

The arrival of these avian species at the wildlife sanctuary in Kendrapara district was delayed this time as the spell of rain was not uniform, he said.

"Still, we've spotted an impressive congregation of the monsoon birds along the mangrove covers of the park," the official said.

The enumerators counted 1.16 lakh birds this year in comparison to 1.09 lakh in 2021. Prominent among those arriving for nesting are herons, darters and egrets. Minimal human interference, ideal climatic conditions and the river system have led to the flocking of these delicate chirpy winged species, said the official of the Rajnagar mangrove division.

Authorities of Bhitarkanika had



launched a drive last week for the headcount of the seasonal monsoon birds. Two teams, comprising ten ornithologists and wildlife personnel, were on the job.

The enumerators covered all the major congregation zones, including the Bagagahana or the heronry near Surajpur creek. Besides the core area, peripheral wetland sites like Satabhaya and Barunei were also taken up for census, another official said. Noted ornithologist Salim Ali had made a chance-discovery of the

birds' habitat while on a casual visit to Bhitarkanika in 1981.

Spread over a vast area of 672 sq km, the sanctuary is a unique habitat of mangrove forests and has a network of creeks and canals. It is home to the largest congregation of the endangered saltwater crocodiles in the country.

There are ample food options for the birds as the place is crisscrossed by innumerable water inlets and is free of human interference, the official added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Sri Debasis Senapati, S/o- Nirmal Chandra Senapati resident of Baikuda, PO-Saudia, Dist- Jajpur has lost (1) Original ROR No. 772/3016 pertaining to Plot No. 2297/7498 area Ac.0.04 decimals in the name of Banani Mohanty, (2) Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 10431203017 dtd.06.07.2012 executed by Subhendu Das in favour of Banani Mohanty relating to Plot No.2297/6878 (gharabari) area Ac.0.040 decimal in Mauza Nimapur, PS- Jagatpur, District- Cuttack. Sri Debasis Senapati of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property documents. All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchased under the said documents, i.e. Original ROR No. 772/3016 and Original Regd. Sale Deed No. 10431203017 dtd.06.07.2012 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said document is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgagor and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice.

Sd/- (U.K. Mishra)
Cuttack Advocate, LIC Housing Finance Ltd.,
Dt.18.09.2022 Cuttack Area Office, Link Road,Cuttack

NOTICE

The property bearing Khata No. 70/683, Plot No. 279/1362 to an extent of Ac.0.04 (Four) cents, classified as House Site under Mouza Dasamantpur of Tahasil Dasamantpur of Mr. Nabin Khora, S/o: Late Balabhadra Khora of Village: Pojhar, PO. Murkar, PS: Dasamantpur, Sub-Registrar, Koraput in the Dist. of Koraput has lost the original Sale Deed bearing document No. 11191501299/2015 dated 23.09.2015 of SR, Koraput. He has not created any equitable mortgage or charge with any individual Bank or Financial Institute by depositing the title deed in original as security for any advance before creating mortgage in State Bank of India, Dasamantpur Branch, Dasamantpur.

If any individual, Bank or Financial Institute is holding the above said document in original as security for any advance/loan granted, they are requested to inform the Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Dasamantpur Branch, Dasamantpur within 30 days. Because Mr. Nabin Khora intends to avail loan by depositing the documents connected to the property including the certified copy of the Sale Deed. If the Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Dasamantpur Branch, Dasamantpur will not receive any objection from any corner, the State Bank of India, Dasamantpur Branch will release loan against the above property presuming that the above property is free from all charges.

Mr. Nabin Khora
S/o.: Late Balabhadra Khora
Village: Pojhar, PO/PS: Dasamantpur, Dist-Koraput

Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR
At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrarajpur, Sambalpur - 768003

APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
NUAPADA BRANCH / Borrower/Mortgagor: Sri Ganesh Sharma, S/o.: Sri Mulchand Sharma, At: Bazarpada, Ward No.4, PO.: Khariar Road, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN: 766104	₹21,47,493.48 as on 12.07.2022 + interest & cost thereon	13.07.2022 / 14.09.2022	All that piece and parcel of land and building recorded in the name of Sri Ganesh Sharma, S/o.: Sri Mulchand Sharma, bearing Khata No.: 167/35, Plot No.: 233, measuring Area: Ac.0.0470 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Khariar Road, Unit No.: 5, SRO: Nuapada, Tahasil: Nuapada, PS: Jonk, Dist.: Nuapada, Bounded by North: Plot of Sudha Sharma, South: Plot of Nanak Ram, East: Road, West: Plot of Nanda Kishore Soni.
NUAPADA BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Maa Samaleswari Poultry Farm, Prop.: Mrs. Baidehi Bilasini Rout (Borrower/Mortgagor), W/o.: Bharatlal Rout, At: Bhaismundi, PO.: Sarabong, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN-766105/ Guarantors: 1) Mr. Bharat Lal Rout, S/o.: Dukhalal Rout, At: Bhaismundi, PO.: Sarabong, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN-766105, 2) Mr. Bhanat Ram Rout, S/o.: Dukhalal Rout, At: Bhaismundi, PO.: Sarabong, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN-766105, 3) Mr. Tukeswar Yadav, S/o.: Bhagatram Yadav, At/PO.: Maulibhata, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN-766105,	₹20,98,158.31 as on 04.06.2022 + interest & cost thereon	06.06.2022 / 14.09.2022	All that piece and parcel of land and building recorded in the name of Smt. Baidehi Bilasini Rout, W/o.: Sri Bharat Lal Rout, bearing Khata No.: 126/82, Plot No.: 156 & 157, measuring Area: Ac.0.670 Dec., & Ac.1.340 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Total Area: Ac.2.010 Dec., Mouza: Ratapali, SRO: Nuapada, Tahasil: Nuapada, PS: Nuapada, Dist.: Nuapada, Bounded by North: Sulal Rout, South: Nala, East: Road, West: Nala

Place: Sambalpur
Date: 18.09.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank



The flame of the aspiration must be so straight and so ardent that no obstacle can dissolve it.

THE MOTHER

Far-Right Europe

Europe is dangerously tilting towards Far-right, hate-filled nationalist politics making the return of Fascist-Nazi rule in new forms a distinct possibility. After the recent stellar performance of Marine Le Pen's Right-wing outfit in France and the victory of Giorgia Meloni of Italy to be shortly sworn in as Prime Minister, it is now the turn of sober Sweden to embrace this brand of politics. Similar forces have already emerged to rule in Denmark and Finland. The Sweden Democrats (SD) is the biggest winner in elections held last week, overthrowing the rule of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and paving the way for the formation of a new alliance of Centre-right and Far-right parties in which it is poised to run the government through back-seat driving.

The SD began as a neo-Nazi group and won a single MP seat in the Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) only 12 years ago. But, now it has secured over 20 per cent of the votes which shows the meteoric rise of the Far-right anti-immigrant party. According to the arrangements, the Sweden Democrats are not likely to join the government of the Right-wing coalition which has a slim majority in the Swedish parliament, but they will certainly dictate terms to the new government in formulating its policies and programmes according to the basic tenets of its political ideology.

The people's mandate leaves no one in doubt about the rise of the Far-right thought represented by this party. The coalition of the Centre-right and Far-right parties won 176 seats against 173 bagged by the Centre-left and Greens. Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced that she was resigning, but would remain as leader of the Social Democratic Party, which got 30.3 per cent of the votes. Her words, after accepting defeat, clearly explain the predicament of Sweden: "Many Swedes are worried. I see it and I share their concern." She urged the conservatives, Christian Democrats and Liberals to "take a clear stand against all threats and attempts to incite violence."

The leader of the moderates Ulf Kristersson, billed to be the next Prime Minister, sought to assuage fears among the liberal segment of the population when he insisted that he wanted to establish "a government for all of Sweden and all of its citizens." His objective, as he stated during the election campaign, is to "bring together, not divide and respect differences of opinion." But, this is only rhetoric since the vote share and tally of seats of his party is far less than that of its ally, SD, which will be calling the shots. In fact, his hope to capture power making SD play the second fiddle has proved to be misplaced. For, though the Right-wing won the elections, his party came in third and only got 19.1 per cent of the votes or 68 seats. To form a government, he will have to work not only with the Christian Democrats and the Liberals but also with the Sweden Democrats.

The first words of the firebrand SD leader Jimmie Akesson after the party's victory are ominous enough, though he has tried to put the extremist elements in his party under a leash. After the win, he declared, "it is time to rebuild security, the welfare state and cohesion, to put Sweden first." This, as we all know, is the typical language of the Far-right nationalist.

There are also fears that the SD will begin culture wars and pick fights with public service broadcasters over alleged elite bias against it. The moderates among the Right were in a way responsible for the spectacular success of the SD because they tried to deny victory to the latter by appropriating its Far-right rhetoric campaigning in a nuanced way that immigrants do pose a threat to the country's development. The voters punished them by rallying behind the SD for its open exhortation against the immigrants. Polarisation, in a country admired for its consensual politics, now appears to be a certainty in Sweden.

WISDOM CORNER

Whoever doesn't know it must learn and find by experience that 'a quiet conscience makes one strong!'

ANNE FRANK

Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense.

CARL SAGAN

A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world.

OSCAR WILDE

WORDSWORTH

Bozo

The term first appears around 1916, initially meaning a person, fellow or man, but later taking on the senses of someone clumsy or foolish, or somebody oafishly rude or annoying, or a stupid or insignificant person, or "a muscular type with a meagre brain," as the Dictionary of American Slang describes it. More recently, it has shifted sense to that of a buffoon or fool, with associations of clownishness. From this computer types have derived bozotic — the online Jargon File defines it as "resembling or having the quality of a bozo; that is, clownish, ludicrously wrong, unintentionally humorous." This shift happened in the 1950s and is due to one particular bozo — Bozo the Clown. His first appearance was in a combined book and record, Bozo at the Circus, which was produced by the fledgling Capitol Records in 1946 and which featured the voice of Pinto Colvig, a former circus clown. The character became a huge success, with several performers being Bozo in various places and times, including a popular television series in the 1950s. As to where the older sense came from — pick your etymological dictionary and choose your origin. Might it be from the Spanish bozo, meaning "a light down on the upper lip, typical of adolescence," or from another Spanish word bozal, simple or stupid (a word said to have been used in the slave trade and after for someone who spoke Spanish badly, hence stupid; the modern word means a muzzle or halter). Or could it be an elaboration of the black English bo, a man, often a way of addressing someone, which is usually taken to be a contraction of hobo? You pays your money and you takes your choice. But it seems more than probable that it also came from the proper name. American works of the early 1900s often include references to it. For example, The Autobiography of a Journalist, by William James Stillman (1901), says: "Meanwhile the operations on the southern frontier, under the direction of the amiable and competent Bozo Petrovich, remained for my observation." Most examples of the personal name Bozo in newspapers of the time are attached to immigrants from central Europe, such as Dalmatia, Serbia, and Croatia; it seems plausible to suggest that bozo in its early days was a mildly derogatory immigrant stereotype, like Paddy or Polack.

Braggadocious

Victor Recchia is the man who designed, built, and still lives in the house that often features in The Sopranos television series about a Mafia boss. (One American newspaper described its style as "mob contemporary".) He was recently reported to be selling sets of architectural plans to people who want to live in one just like it. Let us pass over this desire for second-hand, reach-me-down celebrity, and concentrate on Mr Recchia's choice of words: "I don't want to seem braggadocious, but people keep telling me it's the most famous house in the country, after the White House". Braggadocious? That word hasn't yet entered any dictionary that I know of, though you can find many examples online and it sometimes turns up in American newspapers. As far back as 1987, presidential contender Jack Kemp was described in Time: "He is proud of his erudition, using French phrases like elan vital, but he sometimes tosses out strange neologisms, like 'braggadocious'". We can forgive the writer of this piece for not having come across the word before. It's a very Sopranos sort of word, in fact, because it's a derivative of the mock-Italian braggadocio, meaning an idle boaster. The Daily Telegraph obituary of John Gotti, the Mafia boss who died in June, described him as being "full of swaggering braggadocio and brimming with cocksure self-confidence". That's the idea in a nutshell.



Shivaji Sarkar

A WORKED UP GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT HOW LONG COAL INDIA LTD CAN HOLD ON TO THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD PRICES

The global energy crisis, soaring coal prices, and a darkening World Bank outlook for growth have posed typical challenges of increasing coal use across, pressuring India to delay its emission promises. Though the WB predicts severe recession in the West, it avers that Indian growth would be faster. However, that has pressured India like, most of Europe, to increase coal usage. Interestingly enough, Volkswagen is likely to have record profits from coal as energy prices zoom to a new height amid a troubled Russia-Ukraine situation being accentuated by Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan and Azerbaijan-Armenia wars. This would impact India in a different way. As power generation cost increases so would be per unit billing.

The Reserve Bank of India's efforts to keep inflation under check through monetary policy or rising interest rates may also turn commodities expensive. And Coal India Limited (CIL) is bound to raise prices after four years. This may almost be a situation like where the German Volkswagen is expected to rake in massive trading profits from early hedges on natural gas, says Bloomberg, as Europe's energy crisis has sent prices soaring while also forcing industry to rely on alternative sources. The auto giant is selling 2.6 terawatt-hours worth of natural gas contracts back into the German market for heating up about 2 lakh homes. The company began futuristic purchase of gas in 2020, when prices were about 30 euros per megawatt hour. This has since zoomed to about 200 euros since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Volkswagen originally planned to use the natural gas to power the company's two facilities in Wolfsburg plant. The worsening energy picture made it stick to coal and sell the gas, and use the profits from its gas hedges to offset costs. But the German market will pay higher costs and may face resultant inflation.

The uncertainties have caused OECD Economic Outlook to project real GDP loss by about 8% in the UK, Turkey and Argentina as severe inflation becomes the norm. Global manufacturing is touch-

FOCUS COAL

SINGED BY ENERGY WAR



Rampant inflation flatlined wages not only in India but also in the biggest OECD economies. In the UK alone, wages fell by 8%. The rising coal prices make India's imports and domestic goods expensive. The government is likely to face the heat and needs to look for ways to put it under check

ing new lows, joblessness is growing and the demand slowdown is likely to hit Indian exports. The WB says that as prices soar, inflation becomes entrenched and central banks will have to raise rates more assertively to slow demand.

The energy war exacerbates as Germany takes over three Russia-owned Rosneft subsidiaries, including three refineries. The move comes amid stoppage of gas flows by Russia to Nord Stream pipeline. Rosneft Oil reported that profits climbed 13% in the first half of 2022 to about 432 billion rubles, about \$7.2 billion. But this does not solve Europe's problem and its dependence on coal imports from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and South Africa increases. Power generation using coal has shot up over 20% in France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the UK together since last year.

In addition, climate change, supply logistic issues, geopolitical tensions, slow revival of the economy after COVID-induced lockdown, weak inter-ministerial coordination and poor functioning of power distribution companies have had a domino effect on the energy dynamics in India. The country is facing a daily power deficit

of 1%, according to the Union Power Ministry, in April-June period. The deficit is likely to widen, says Fitch Rating, as demand is swelling. The unexpected demand for energy has once again brought the country's coal shortage to the forefront. Last October, the coal shortage was blamed for low productions at CIL mines. This year, the CIL production increased by 23%, from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd by 34.2% and from captive mines by 40%, data from the Union Ministry of Coal revealed. The increase in power demand has led to a surge in prices of energy at the Indian exchange, soaring to Rs 12 per unit — the highest limit allowed by the electricity regulatory commission. The CIL not hiking its prices in the past four years remains a silver lining. It has been seeking to hike prices to mitigate high input costs of diesel, explosive prices and other inputs. Amid global pressure and international prices increasing it may not be possible to hold on. This is a great hedging by the public sector company. It is also having the problem of procuring coal from foreign sources at a much higher rate. The advantage of the CIL may not last for long. The

CIL was hopeful of reaching close to the H1 production target of 306 million tonnes by September. For FY23, the annual production target is 700 million tonnes and 900 million tonnes by 2025.

A higher coal price looms large. It would cause increase of power per unit cost and that may force the power regulator to raise the Rs 12 cap. In simple words, it would raise power production cost, selling price and higher GST. Overall, it would mean that the burden on domestic and industrial consumers would rise. This would disturb the consumer price basket. The effort at checking inflation by RBI too may be mere a cropper. Retail inflation has surged to 7% and wholesale 12 plus. The power shock can worsen this causing a booming inflation. A worked up government is looking at how long CIL can hold on to the four-year-old prices. Under world pressure it would not be prudent to do so for long. In all, it is bound to have a cascading effect on prices from food, fertilizer to every other commodity, a sharp trend observed since 2021 across the globe. The liftoff in fertilizer prices, along with other fallout from the war in Ukraine, has pushed prices for basic foods much higher. Since 2021, food prices have risen to their highest level since the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation began its index.

Prices today are considerably higher than in past surges in 2008 and 2011, which were precipitated by the turmoil of the global financial crisis. In the decade since, prices have moderated considerably. But these turned sharply higher in 2021, with supply chain snags, droughts, and other forces at work. And the war in Ukraine has lifted food prices to an entirely new level.

Rampant inflation flatlined wages not only in India but also in the biggest OECD economies. In the UK alone, wages fell by 8%. The rising coal prices make India's imports and domestic goods expensive. The government is likely to face the heat and needs to look for ways to put it under check, again a difficult task.

INFA

SPECTRUM CULTURE

Benaras through the eyes of Ghalib



Anwesh Satpathy

BUILDING ON THE IMAGERY OF BENARAS AS KAABA, GHALIB ADMITS THAT "EVEN DELHI COMES TO CIRCLE AROUND IT"

Mirza Ghalib occupies a central place in not only Indian Urdu literature but in the general Indian cultural landscape as well. A status that led to, and was further magnified by, film and television adaptations of his life (not to mention the beautiful compositions by the likes of Jagjit Singh). However, the general public remains largely unacquainted with his Persian oeuvre, even though he wrote more in Persian than Urdu. Part of the reason could be that the people of the subcontinent understand Urdu far better than Persian.

One of the most significant works of Ghalib in Persian is his ode to Benaras - Chiragh-e-Dair (Temple Lamp). Notwithstanding the unique nature of this poem, it remained largely inaccessible to the English-reading public until its recent translation by the poet and translator Prof. Maaz Bin Bilal.

For Ghalib, the "object of worship" lies beyond the reach of human perception. Religiosity in Ghalib's poetry was deeply influenced by the Sufi tradition. "Temple Lamp" is thus written in a tradition of continuity. The first hint of this continuity is reflected in Ghalib's preferred language for this poem. The confluence of Indian and

Persian culture is celebrated through the fourteenth century text Tutinama, which Akbar commissioned to be illustrated. As Bilal points out in the introduction, Ghalib refers to Benaras as the "Kaaba of Hindustan" in a likely homage to Mir Taqi Mir, who saw "sparkles of his (God's) beauty" in both Kaaba and the "lamp of Somnath."

Ghalib's visit to the city of Benaras is as a refuge from his home in Delhi. The poem starts in a mournful note, with a "broken heart like the city of Delhi." Ghalib condemns the apathy of his friends towards his sense of loss. He feels like he has "no country in the whole world." Ghalib's journey to Benaras has some resemblance to the seventeenth century poet Jagannatha "Panditiraja". A celebrated poet in Shah Jahan's court, Jagannatha was said to have been expelled due to his love affair with a Muslim girl. In Benaras, Jagannatha writes "Ganga Lahiri," pleading the river to give him salvation. Perhaps more than Ghalib, Jagannatha feels helpless, orphaned and fallen as he addresses the river. Similarly, in a letter to Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, Ghalib expresses a desire to give up his religion and paint a tilak on his forehead. He wants to

wear a "janeu" and sit at the banks of Ganga so that "all filth would have been washed off me and I would have joined the river like a drop."

Interestingly, another poet associated with Benaras is Kabir. Though Ghalib and Kabir are equally irreverent and unorthodox, their approach to Benaras has vast differences. For instance, Kabir mocks "endless pilgrimages" and bathing at the Ganga. Kabir says he has wasted his whole life in Benaras. It is partly due to his critique of organised religion that Kabir preferred to die in Maghar and not in Kashi.

Ghalib, on the other hand, is reverential towards the spiritual aspects of Benaras. "Each fleck of dirt" in Kashi is a "temple" for him. The city is "heavenly bliss," a paradise. Referring to the Dharmic concept of moksha, Ghalib writes "The garden becomes the wealth of their hopes (of moksha) the dead (from here) are eternally alive." The "gestures of bathing," for Ghalib, grant "good tidings of honour." The use of religious symbolism is plentiful in this poem. Building on the imagery of Benaras as Kaaba, Ghalib admits that "even Delhi comes to circle around it." Despaired by lies, deceit, vio-

lence, and blood thirst, Ghalib asks a dervish about the absence of doomsday despite such abundant signs. The dervish answers by stating that even God cannot bear to raze the colourful city of Kashi. This is, perhaps, the greatest compliment that a poet can give to a city. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Ghalib was intoxicated with Benaras and its people.

The relevance of "Temple Lamp" to our contemporary times cannot be ignored. Apart from making Ghalib's literary prowess accessible to a larger audience, the translation also helps us travel into a city, a past, a culture that is increasingly being forgotten. It reminds us of the beauty that poetry can achieve through the confluence of two cultures and a commitment to cosmopolitanism. At a time when our popular culture barrages us with a singular view of history as a conflict between two irreconcilable traditions, this poem serves as a saving grace. Thanks to the gracefully crafted translation of Prof. Bilal, the flickering temple lamp will now shine its light into the world.

The writer is an author, blogger and a student at Jindal School of International Affairs.

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
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Gujarat games

Sir, This refers to "Delhi excise policy: ED conducts raids," Orissa Post, September 17. The raids over liquor scam in Delhi have spread all over the country. But, the political slugfest between BJP and AAP can be seen more in Gujarat where Assembly elections are due this year-end. The state BJP has gone the whole hog to portray the AAP as a party run with cash from corrupt deals. The AAP claims its increasing popularity in Gujarat is why its ministers in Delhi are being raided and charge-sheeted. Kejriwal is drawing crowds in urban centres, especially in Surat and Ahmedabad. With the Congress holding its fort in rural Gujarat, and Kejriwal launching an onslaught on the BJP's urban citadel, the ruling party has its hands full trying to defend its stronghold. The ruling party's attack is focused more on the AAP than on the Congress. The fight between the two parties will get dirtier as the state election gets closer. Furthermore, Enforcement Directorate has already arrested Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain and it is only a matter of time before another minister, Manish Sisodia, is arrested. He is also the second most important person in the AAP as deputy CM in the Kejriwal government. With relentless raids on scores of locations, the ED is said to have gathered evidence against Sisodia. His arrest will be the BJP's big play in Gujarat elections.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Tribal outreach

Sir, The peace agreement signed between the government and several tribal groups in Assam is commendable. Tribals are one of the most neglected communities in any country and it is unfortunate that their proper inclusion in society has still not been attained. Although reservations are given for their adequate representation in government jobs, their inclusion in mainstream society cannot be achieved until the society itself is made aware of tribals' customs and lifestyles. People, especially those living in urban areas, should be encouraged to interact peacefully and gregariously with the members of different tribal groups to understand the beauty of diversity that exists within our own country. We can learn their customs and beliefs and share our own knowledge and lifestyle with them in order to develop a mutual understanding. The conflicts that arise from their side could be substantially reduced if they are given the opportunity to raise their problems and issues with the assurance of resolving them as far as practicable.
Shivanshu K. Srivastava, LUCKNOW

national

of the day quote

I am not aware of them (billboards in Telangana against 40% commission) as I have not been there, but if it's true, then it is systematic conspiracy

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

It has been ten days since the 'Bharat Jodo' started, and the spontaneous response we received showed that the initiative is turning out to be immensely successful. This has perplexed the BJP and its leadership. They now want to change the narrative and have been trying to look for diversionary tactics

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

The workers and labourers have reinforced the government's efforts in bringing about incomparable developmental change in the state

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Man arrested

Sant Kabir Nagar (Uttar Pradesh): A man has been arrested for setting ablaze a woman, Surati Devi, 65, and her 12-year-old granddaughter under Khalilabad police station limits in Sant Kabir Nagar district. The incident took place on Friday and both the victims succumbed to burn injuries at a Gorakhpur hospital. The accused suspected that his wife had eloped with Surati Devi's son, the police said. The police also said they arrested the accused Ravindra Gupta who, along with his wife Maya's brother Bindeshwari and his nephew Vicky, poured five litres of petrol on Surati Devi and her granddaughter when they were sleeping.

Pak drone spotted

Jammu: A suspected Pakistani drone was spotted Sunday in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district along the International Border, Police said. BSF sources said that suspicious drone activity was reported in Sarathi Kalan village near the International Border in the Samba district. "It is near the regal border outpost. At this place several attempts have been made in the past to drop weapons by drones from Pakistan." "Area is being searched by the BSF. Intensive search will start with the first light of the morning," sources added.

E-cigarette sticks seized

Bhuj (Gujarat): The DRI has seized around 2.04 lakh e-cigarettes from a container from the Mundra port. The international market value of the seizure was around ₹48 crore, making it the biggest seizure of e-cigarettes in recent days. E-cigarettes imports and exports are banned in India.

Punjab orders probe into varsity video row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 18: Protests rocked the campus of a private university in Punjab's Mohali over allegations that objectionable videos of several women students were recorded by a hosteller, following which Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday ordered a probe.

After a preliminary investigation, police arrested a woman student, while a youth, stated to be her boyfriend, was held in Himachal Pradesh. Punjab's Additional Director General of Police, Gurpreet Deo, who reached the Chandigarh University campus to take stock of the situation after the Saturday night protests, told reporters that the woman student appeared to have shared a video of herself with the youth and no objectionable video of any other student was found.

University authorities also rejected as "false and baseless" reports that claimed videos of several women students in the varsity hostel were made and leaked on social media and distraught students had attempted suicide after the episode.

However, a fresh protest was held on the university campus on Sunday evening by a large number of students, including males, with many accusing the university authorities of "suppressing facts" re-



Inspector General of Police Gurpreet Deo with senior police officers addresses a press conference after objectionable videos of several women students were allegedly posted on social media, at the Chandigarh University in Mohali, Sunday

Sad to hear about the unfortunate incident at Chandigarh University... Our daughters are our honour... A high-level inquiry has been ordered into the incident... Severe action will be taken against whoever is found guilty

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

lated to the alleged videos and "suicide attempt" by a student. Most of the protesters were dressed in black clothes and chanted "we want justice" in the presence of police.

Tension prevailed on the campus as protesting students confronted the university and police officials, questioning why the university had on Sunday evening declared September 19 and 20 as "non-teaching days" thus declaring a holiday for students "if nothing had happened on the campus".

Deputy Inspector General of Police G PS Bhullar told the protesters that a Special Investigation

Team headed by a senior woman IPS officer will be formed for an in-depth investigation. "It is our duty to clear every apprehension of the children," said Bhullar.

Dr Arvinder Singh Kang, Director, Students Welfare of the University, tried to pacify the protesters. A student was also brought before them and she claimed that she was fine and no one had attempted suicide. Mohali's SSP Vivek Sheel Soni faced the ire of agitated students after he told reporters that the protests occurred after "rumours" that videos of several women students had been made

Shopkeeper refuses to sell candies to SC kids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 18: The Tenkasi police has arrested Maheswaran, a shopkeeper for refusing to sell snacks and candies to Scheduled Caste children. The district administration sealed the shop and cancelled his license.

Police said that a group of Scheduled Caste children approached Maheswaran for buying snacks and candies on Saturday. He refused to sell them and told them that they won't get snacks and candies or for that matter anything from his shop. When the children asked him the reason, he told them that the village elders belonging to his community had decided that they wouldn't sell anything to the Scheduled Caste people. The video of Maheswaran refusing to sell snacks and candies went viral and Tenkasi district collector, P. Akash



intervened in the matter and ordered an investigation.

It was found that there was a clash between a group of Scheduled Caste youths with the youths of the intermediate caste during a marriage function and police had registered a case against youths of both sides. A youth belonging to the intermediate caste, K. Ramachandran was to attend an interview with a defence force, but was not able to attend as he was charged under SC/ST Atrocities Act. This infuriated the intermediate caste people and decided to ostracise the Scheduled Caste youth.

Ramachandran was arrested by the Karivalamvanthallur police in Tenkasi district.



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a pandal ahead of Navratri festival, at Lalbaug in Mumbai

Cong's Rahul dilemma continues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: With the notification of the Congress president polls just days away, Gandhi family loyalists and state units have stepped up efforts to mount pressure on Rahul Gandhi to take the party's reins amid indications that he was unlikely to change his earlier stance of not being AICC chief.

The Congress units in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the only two states where the party is in government on its own, have passed resolutions that Rahul Gandhi be made the party's president. This comes days after the party said the Pradesh Congress Committee delegates would pass resolutions authorising the incoming Congress president to appoint state chiefs and AICC delegates.

Sunday, while passing the reso-

lution authorising the incoming Congress president to appoint state chiefs and AICC delegates, the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (CPCC) also passed a resolution that Rahul Gandhi be made the party's president. The Rajasthan PCC passed both the resolutions Saturday.

Interestingly, while other party state units are also likely to pass such resolutions, the two states that have taken the lead in doing so - Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh - have Congress governments led by Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel respectively, who have repeatedly called on Gandhi to take on the mantle of party president.

Gehlot and Baghel both are also seen as facing pressure internally to their position with Sachin Pilot and T S Singhdeo, seen as aspirants to take on the job of chief ministership in Rajasthan and



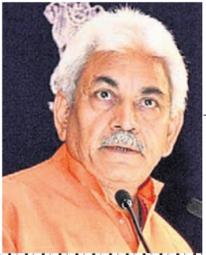
Chhattisgarh respectively.

While some political analysts see the passing of the resolutions as an initiative of Gehlot and Baghel to reaffirm their loyalty to the Gandhi family, others see it as a genuine attempt to convince Rahul Gandhi to take on the party reins.

Gehlot had also sought to play down reports about him being the front-runner to become the Congress president, and said efforts would be made till the last moment to persuade Rahul Gandhi

HISTORIC EVENT

Jammu and Kashmir's Lt Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated multipurpose cinema halls in Pulwama and Shopian districts Sunday. Students, youths and people from all walks of life gathered at the new multipurpose cinema halls at Drussu Pulwama and MC Shopian to witness the event



Gujarat challenge for Raghav Chadha



I thank @ArvindKejriwal ji for entrusting me with this big responsibility. I will put in my blood, sweat, tears and toil to meet the expectations of my party. Gujarat wants change, Gujarat wants good education-healthcare. Gujarat wants Kejriwal

RAGHAV CHADHA | RAJYA SABHA MEMBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 18: The Aam Aadmi Party Sunday appointed its Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha as the AAP's Gujarat co-incharge for the state Assembly elections due later this year.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP had earlier appointed Rajya Sabha member Sandeep Pathak at its Gujarat in-charge. Chadha had also held the responsibility of the party as Punjab affairs co-incharge, ahead of the Assembly elections in that state held earlier this year.

The AAP had won the Punjab polls. It has now positioned itself as the main rival of the BJP which has governed Gujarat for 27 years. "Congratulations and best wishes to Rajya Sabha member and youth leader Raghav Chanda on being appointed as the 'AAP' Gujarat sah-prabhar (co-incharge)," AAP Gujarat said in a tweet.

In a response to his appointment, Chadha said, "I thank @ArvindKejriwal ji for entrust-

ing me with this big responsibility. I will put in my blood, sweat, tears and toil to meet the expectations of my party. Gujarat wants change, Gujarat wants good education-healthcare. Gujarat wants Kejriwal."

Gujarat in-charge Sandeep Pathak and state party leader Isudan Gadhvi also congratulated Chadha. Chadha had last Friday hinted at the new responsibility. "Gujarat wants a change. I am ready for whatever responsibility the party gives, will fight strongly against the 27 years of mismanagement of the BJP," he had tweeted.

In response to his tweet, state party leadership had tweeted welcoming him to Gujarat. During his last visit to Gujarat on August 31 after Gujarat AAP's general secretary Manoj Sorathiya was attacked in Surat, Chadha had targeted the BJP and said the state Assembly elections will be a fight between the "fake Gujarat model" and the "real Kejriwal governance model."

Auto driver-cum-chef on cloud nine

Thiruvananthapuram: An auto-rickshaw driver, who was planning to go to Malaysia to work as a chef, Sunday won the ₹25 crore Onam bumper lottery in Kerala, just a day after his application for a loan of ₹3 lakh was approved. Even more interesting is that Anoop, hailing from Sreevaraham here, bought the winning ticket -- TJ 750605 -- on Saturday. But it was not his first choice, he told media persons who were present at the agency where he had bought the ticket. He did not like the first ticket he chose, so he opted for a different one which turned out to be a winner, he said. Regarding the loan and his Malaysia trip, an ecstatic Anoop said, "The bank called today regarding the loan and I said I don't need it anymore. I will not be going to Malaysia either." He has been buying lottery tickets for the last 22 years and has won amounts ranging from a few hundreds to a maximum of ₹5,000 in the past, Anoop said.

4 held for blast on school roof

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 18: Four persons were arrested in connection with a bomb blast in a school in Titagarh area in West Bengal's North 24-Parganas district, a senior police officer said Sunday.

The accused, aged between 18-19 years, were picked up from Kamarhati and Titagarh areas around midnight, the officer of Barrackpore Police Commissionerate said. "We are trying to explore all possible aspects by interrogating them. One of the arrested hails from Kamarhati while the rest are from Titagarh," he said.

The crude bomb exploded on the roof of the school building on Saturday when classes were in progress. There was no casualty in the incident, as students and teachers were in rooms located on the first two floors of the three-storeyed building, police had said.

The officer said preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had changed their initial plan to hurl a powerful crude bomb at the school gate, as the spot was crowded. They climbed onto the roof of an adjacent building to carry out the act, he said.

The officer said three of those arrested were former students of the school. Personal enmity between the accused and some other students of the school was believed to be the primary motive behind the incident. He added that 10 crude bombs were found during a search operation at the residence of one of the accused.

Meanwhile, the BJP demanded a NIA probe into the bomb explosion. "I will put forth the demand (for NIA probe) to the Union Home Ministry on Monday." Leader of Opposition in Bengal assembly Suwendu Adhikari said.

ITBP STRENGTHENS ANIMAL TRANSPORT WING

As part of the plan, a total of 64 personnel in the rank of head constable have been promoted to the designation of assistant sub inspector last week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has initiated a human resource strengthening plan for its vital animal transport wing that works as a logistics supply lifeline for its posts and troops deployed along the mountainous India-China LAC, officials said.

As part of the plan, a total of 64 personnel in the rank of head constable have been promoted to the designation of assistant sub inspector (ASD) last week.

The Union home ministry, under which the ITBP functions, notified the recruitment rules for these first-ever ASI posts in the animal transport (AT) wing of the border guarding force in July this year and a departmental promotion committee (DPC) processed these appointments and issued orders in less than two months, they said.

The AT wing of the mountain-warfare trained force comprises mules, ponies and Yaks and is engaged all along the 3,488 km long India-China Line of Actual Control



(LAC) for providing logistics, weapons, rations, fuel among other essentials to keep the 'axis of maintenance' alive.

The ITBP border posts and troops are located at some of the most arduous and remote locations at heights ranging more than 18,000 feet that face sub-zero temperature, heavy snow and blizzard from Ladakh to Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh on India's eastern flank.

The wing also runs the anti-sabotage and counter-terrorist K9 (canine) training centre that prepares patrol, assault and sniffer dogs for a variety of security duties including VIP protection and conducting anti-Naxal operations.

"All the 64 ASI posts in the AT cadre are newly created and this not only opens promotion avenues for the personnel but also will ensure

better supervision and running of the wing." "More such manpower strengthening will happen in the coming days including possible induction of fresh personnel in the entry-level of constables and the next rank of head constable," a senior ITBP officer said.

ITBP Deputy Inspector General (veterinary cadre) Sudhakar Natarajan commented on the move and said that "there was no greater happiness for an officer than getting a due promotion." "It was an honour for me to head this promotion exercise and being bestowed with the onerous responsibility to ensure selection and promotion of 64 personnel," he said.

CLIMATE CHANGE, SALINITY AND MENSTRUAL MALADIES

Sundarbans women battle triple whammy

CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS TRAP THAT MEANS SPENDING HOURS WAIST-DEEP IN THE VERY WATERS THAT NO LONGER NURTURE THEIR FIELDS, THE WOMEN FACE A BATTERY OF MENSTRUAL, URINARY TRACT AND OTHER INFECTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sundarbans (WB), Sept 18: Climate change has turned the waters saline, making agriculture unviable and forcing them to turn to fishing. For women in the marshlands of Sundarbans, this switch is not just about livelihoods but also coping with the debilitating health impact on their lives.

Caught in a vicious trap that means spending hours waist-deep in the very waters that no longer nurture their fields, the women face a battery of menstrual, urinary tract and other infections.

"With agriculture becoming unviable due to the increase in salinity of the water because of sea level rise, more and more women are becoming dependent on fishing. This means their exposure to saline water is also increasing," Nihar Ranjan Raptan, director of the NGO Goranbose Gram Bikash Kendra (GGBK) who works in the Sundarbans, told PTI.

Irregular menstrual cycles, vaginal infections, recurring UTI and miscarriages are common amongst the women in the Sundarbans, he said.

The ecologically fragile Sundarbans region which holds a vast mangrove forest falls in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas region and is said to be one of the worst affected regions in India due to climate change. The area has been battered by frequent cyclones, more than any other place in the country.

According to Revati Mondal, who has been working in the Sundarbans' Goran Bose village for more than two decades, the salinity of the water has been increasing steadily - and the health of the women deteriorating.

With frequent storms over the years, the salinity of water of most of the rivers and ponds has in-



creased in almost all areas of the Sundarbans, the ASHA worker said.

"I visit about 25 homes every day and most of these homes have women who have one or the other problems related to menstruation," Mondal told PTI.

The husbands of most of these women are migrant workers and based somewhere else. The women meet their day-to-day expenses by selling prawns and fish they catch in the river for which they have to remain in waist-deep water for four-six hours per day, which is the main cause of the health hazard they are facing."

Soma from Hogalduri village in South 24 Parganas, is living through the misery. The 31-year-old has got urinary tract infection at least four times in the last one year, and said she goes everyday to fish and makes her living selling prawns and small fish she manages to catch.

This means standing in waist-deep water every day for about four to six hours.

"I am separated from my hus-

band and have to fend for myself and my two children. Earlier I was ashamed to discuss my menstrual problems with ASHA workers or doctors but after the situation became unbearable I had no option left," she said.

Mondal, who has been witness to 20 years of degradation of the environment and of many lives, said hiding menstrual issues due to the stigma associated with it makes the situation worse.

"In so many cases, these women shy away from telling their problems to doctors. They come to even me only when it turns severe and require much more intensive treatment. Some women have also reported miscarriages due to repeated infections," she said.

Like Soma, Faiza is also suffering with multiple health issues.

The 25-year-old from Basanti village said even freshwater ponds near her home have turned salty due to frequent cyclones.

"These ponds are our primary source of water now. In the absence

of fresh water, we use water from these ponds for washing and cleaning. Even the cloth we use during our period is washed in this water. This leads to all kinds of infections," she said.

Besides vaginal problems, women in the area are also battling skin diseases such as eczema and infected sores due to prolonged exposure to saline water.

Piyali, only 23, said the past 15 years or so have been very difficult.

"I have been fishing since I was eight or nine years old. I would help my mother in fishing. When I got married, I would go for fishing to support my family. Since 2008, frequent cyclones have been hitting us. And this has made things worse.

"It's not just frequent infections. I have been unable to conceive and doctors attribute this to my poor reproductive health," said the woman from Goran Bose.

Recurrent UTIs can have both direct and indirect impact on menstrual health, explained Dr Vinieta

Diwakar, consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, Manipal Hospital, Ghaziabad.

"Directly the infection of urine will contaminate the vaginal flora, the organisms present in the vagina, and it will be altered, and it will lead to vaginal infection which in turn affects ovarian health..." Diwakar told PTI. Recurrent UTIs, she said, may lead to miscarriage or even preterm labour.

Covid has exacerbated an already bad situation, said GGBK's Raptan. "The access to hospitals and doctors was severely impacted during COVID-19 and it worsened the existing health conditions of women here. They continued to go into water for livelihood and for many their infections remained untreated and worsened," Raptan said.

With men migrating in the search of better jobs, women of the area are fighting the climate change battle alone, he added. Tubewells in the area have also become contaminated in the area due to storms and frequent heavy rains.

The low-lying villages get inundated in heavy rains and tubewells get submerged. When the waters recede, impurities enter the tubewells causing other water-related diseases too, he said.

According to census 2011, the total population of South 24 Parganas is 8.16 million, including 3.98 million women.

The Sundarbans has been hit by four major cyclones in the last three years - Fani (2019), Bulbul (2019), Amphan (2020) and Yaas (2021). These cyclones killed nearly 250 people and caused a loss of nearly USD 20 billion.

According to IMD, the return period of cyclonic storms in South 24 Parganas district is 1.67 years on a scale of 1.5 to 60 years. Shorter return periods indicate more frequent cyclones. And more problems for those who live in the marshlands of Sundarbans.

Domestic discords, addiction snowball suicide surge in TN

TAMIL NADU TOPPED THE LIST OF MASS SUICIDES IN THE COUNTRY WITH 33 FAMILIES TAKING THEIR LIVES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 18: With Tamil Nadu recording the second highest number of suicides in the country after Maharashtra, a look at the reasons for the extreme step reveals that family and domestic issues are the single largest reason for people to commit suicide in the state.

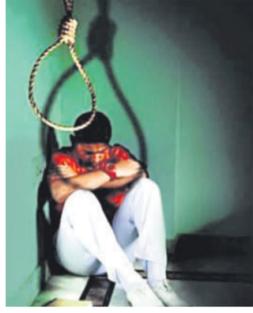
Tamil Nadu topped the list of mass suicides in the country with 33 families taking their lives. The main reasons for mass suicide vary from domestic problems, illness, poverty and alcohol addiction of the family head.

Most of the people who committed suicide did it due to family problems, followed by illness. Drug abuse and alcohol addiction, marriage related issues, failure in love, bankruptcy or indebtedness, unemployment, failure in examination, career problems and poverty were the other main reasons for a person to commit suicide in Tamil Nadu.

Sradha, an NGO which is into counselling people contemplating suicide, in a study in Tamil Nadu said that the number of people taking their lives due to drug abuse and alcohol addiction is on the increase in the state. Around 4,300 people killed themselves due to this in 2021 alone.

Sudhir Krishnan, Coordinator, Sradha told IANS, "Our study on the reasons for suicide revealed that after domestic issues and illness, drug or alcohol addiction takes the maximum number of lives in Tamil Nadu."

"This has to be properly taken care of as there are possibilities of



bringing these people back to leading a normal life. We have done the study so that we can intervene in this matter and with the state government support, many lives can be saved."

Except for hard core alcohol or drug addicts, the rest, according to Sudhir, can be brought back to the mainstream.

He added that while domestic issues can also be cleared in most cases, a person who is taking his life due to illness will be a difficult person to stop.

With the commencement of counselling for NEET students, the number of students who have taken their lives due to failure in NEET has come down. While 12 such cases were reported in 2021, in 2022 the number has come down to 1.

A counsellor with Sneha, a 24x7 helpline, told IANS, There is progress in child behaviour as far as NEET is concerned and compared to 2021 this year it has come down tremendously. The department has contacted almost all the students who have taken NEET and proper counselling has helped the students and the results are there for all to see.

The Tamil Nadu government is also planning to increase the counselling helplines and has already had discussions with NGOs who are into suicide prevention and counselling.

Wildlife trafficking continues across Indo-B'desh border

BSF intercepts parcel with four Golden Eagles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 18: The rich and not so famous in India are maintaining private zoos on their properties and this has promoted the trafficking of wildlife across the India-Bangladesh border.

Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from the 82nd Battalion Friday challenged smugglers attempting to cross over into India from Bangladesh with a heavy crate. The smugglers fled, leaving behind their 'parcel' that contained four Golden Eagles.

Golden Eagles are found around the Himalayas in north India and some parts of the country's north-eastern states. There have also been some sightings in Gujarat in the recent past. Though the species isn't endangered, experts say that there has been a steady decline in their numbers in the wild. Even if sufficient numbers of these majestic raptors do exist in the wild in India, they can't be kept in cages at home or at private zoos without a licence from the Central Zoo Authority.

"This happened at around 4.10 am Friday under the jurisdiction of the Gongra Border Outpost in Nadia district of West Bengal. We were flabbergasted on opening the crate and finding four beautiful eagles stuffed inside. The birds have been handed over to forest department officials in Krishnanagar. Our troops are committed to prevent any sort of wildlife trafficking from across the border," a senior BSF official of the South Bengal Frontier said.

A well-known writer and journalist had noted how he had spotted

a large animal in an alley next to a Babu's large mansion in north Kolkata sometime in the early 1970s. The writer was young at that time and had approached the animal that snarled. Even in the dim light, he could make out that it was a leopard. Fortunately, it was being tended by two of the Babu's servants on its nocturnal round around the compound.

A few years ago, a lion cub was seized by forest department officials from an SUV near Kolkata. The cub had apparently been smuggled from across the Indo-Bangladesh border and was on its way to a private zoo. More recently, a number of kangaroos were rescued next to a highway in north Bengal. These had apparently been bred at a private zoo in Mizoram and were being sent to another one in Madhya Pradesh. There is no private zoo in Myanmar at the location mentioned and the animals were apparently smuggled across the border from Myanmar.

While Myanmar may not have facilities to breed such animals, it does offer a conduit for wildlife trafficking from other countries to India. It is the same with Bangladesh.

A source in the forest department said that illegal wildlife trade is big business. It is probably as big as the narcotics trade. There are rich people in India who are ready to pay a King's ransom for animals, even lions and leopards that they can keep as pets to satiate their ego. Many of them have enclosures next to their luxurious mansions. Some have small zoos on their roofs. This has to be stopped if we are to stop the illegal trade in wildlife, he said.



IN FULL BLOOM

A man sailing a small boat plucks lotus flowers from a pond, in Bengal's Nadia district, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Sparkling bright or a dark Diwali: Sivakasi in suspense

With Diwali this year to be celebrated next month - and virtually without any curbs and the Covid pandemic wanes, the question gains more importance

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 18: Is it going to be a sparkling bright or dark Diwali is the question that is being asked by the fireworks industry for the past couple of years.

With Diwali this year to be celebrated next month - and virtually without any curbs and the Covid pandemic wanes, the question gains more importance.

Production of fireworks in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district is yet to pick up even as there is just a month to go for the festival of lights, industry officials said.

The Supreme Court had banned the use of barium in 2018 in making firecrackers and it was reconfirmed in 2021, putting the fireworks industry in Sivakasi - the

firecrackers hub of the country with around three lakh workers directly employed in around 1,000 organised units there - in a tight spot, they said.

"The case is still pending in the Supreme Court. The court had earlier said the final hearing will be in June 2022. But that has not happened," Sivakasi Fireworks Manufacturers Association (SFMA) Vice President A Murali told IANS.

"The ban of barium is baseless, imposed without any scientific study being conducted on the possible hazardous impact with regards to the pollution."

"We are being targeted because of the hue and cry of the environmentalists in the name of pollution, although other sectors as well are using barium in various production operations. I should say that we are the weaker opponent and are being made scapegoats," Murali contended.

After the SC had reconfirmed the ban in 2021, many of the stakeholders have implored in the case seeking lifting of the ban.

Murali said, barium is one the main oxidisers for most of the fireworks and without it, the simple



sparklers cannot be made.

"After the ban, my factories are running at 50 per cent capacity and reduced production by 50 to 60 per cent which obviously impacted the business. For instance, I have a group of companies which employs 450 to 500 workers and after the ban I could employ 200 people only," he said.

The production value of firecracker factories in Sivakasi is about Rs 2,500 crore and the retail sales value may be about Rs 6,000 crore.

For a long time, the fireworks industry has been a target in different forms. First, the manufacturers were targeted for child labour and it was followed up

with the noise pollution charge. With the noise pollution issue getting resolved with the laying down of the norms, the industry is being charged with polluting the air.

"The next charge may be that the brightness emitted by the firecrackers are injurious to the human eyes," claimed an industry player.

The industry players and common people are of the view that Diwali is being targeted by vested interests. Manufacturers say that Sivakasi would have turned into a ghost city long back if firecrackers were the reason for air pollution in Delhi.

On an average, the industry players daily burst around Rs 1,00,000

worth of crackers for testing purposes, but people breathe good air and there are different kinds of birds in Sivakasi, industry officials had told IANS.

Sivakasi accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the country's firecracker production, and has 1,070 firecracker units located in and around the city. About 300,000 workers are directly employed whereas another 500,000 workers are in the allied sectors.

"The automobile industry was given a long buffer time to shift over to the BS VI emission norms. But the fireworks industry was not given any norms or time to change over," a manufacturer had told IANS.

Industry officials have been questioning the efficacy of the formulation provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to make green crackers.

As per Murali and other industry officials, the NEERI claims that using its formulation in firecracker manufacturing, the emission levels will go down by 30 per cent but this "is not scientific".

of the day quote

There is a need to rethink the collegium system to expedite the process of appointment in higher judiciary as there are concerns about the existing process

KIREN RIJUJI | UNION LAW AND JUSTICE MINISTER

Will the BJP please explain the decision to honour Hari Singh and the decision to dishonour the terms of the Accession

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the BJP has emerged as an organisation working for humanity

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Python rescued

Ranchi: An eight-foot long python was rescued after it swallowed a whole goat in a village in Jharkhand's Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), a forest official said Sunday. The python has been spreading fear at Karwai, a village of about 400 families in Garu (East) forest range of the reserve, for past four-five days. The villagers were scared as their goats and hens were going missing every morning, officials said.

Leopard found dead in Mumbai

Mumbai: A leopard was found dead inside the Film City in Mumbai on Sunday morning, a forest official said. There was no injury mark on the carcass which was sent for an autopsy, he said. The forest control room got a call around 10.30 am about the male leopard lying dead inside the Film City located in suburban Goregaon, the official said. The Sanjay Gandhi National Park, which is home to a number of leopards, is located nearby.

Two killed in elephant attacks

Korba: Two senior citizens were killed in separate incidents of elephant attacks in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district on Sunday, forest officials said. The incidents took place in Premnagar forest range, where a herd of 12 elephants has been roaming around since last week, they said. The first incident took place around 12.30 am near Abhaypur village, where one of the victims Manbodh God (70) and another villager were having dinner after performing rituals at a temple in the forest, said Sanjay Yadav, divisional forest officer of Surajpur forest division.

Woman, daughter found dead

Amroha: Dalit widow and her minor daughter were found murdered in their house in the Gajraula police station area of the district on Sunday morning, police said. According to the police, Dalit widow Manisha (32) was living with her daughter Isha (13) in Kankather under the Gajraula police station area. Her husband Pavan had died a few years ago, and her son Manvik was living at his maternal grandmother's place. Circle officer Arun Kumar said on Sunday morning when the milkman opened the door of the house, he found the mother-daughter duo lying on a cot, their heads bleeding.

Kejriwal attacks PM, BJP

Addressing the first-ever national conclave of his party's elected representatives, Kejriwal alleged that the Modi government has been trying to frame his party ministers and leaders in false corruption cases as the BJP is "not able to digest the growing popularity of the AAP in Gujarat"



Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, AAP National Secretary Pankaj Gupta, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai, Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and others stand for the national anthem during the Rashtriya Jan Pratinidhi Sammelan, at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, accusing them of trying to "crush" the AAP in the name of fighting corruption as they feared a defeat in Gujarat polls. Addressing the first-ever national conclave of his party's elected representatives, Kejriwal also alleged that the Modi government has been trying to frame his party ministers and leaders in false corruption cases as the BJP is "not able to digest the growing popularity of the AAP in Gujarat".

4 PFI men held after NIA raids

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Sunday detained four persons after conducting searches at multiple locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in a case registered against Popular Front of India (PFI) cadres in Nizamabad by Telangana Police.

The names of the four detained have been withheld so far as the probe is ongoing, said source. "Today, we conducted searches at 38 locations in Telangana (23 in Nizamabad, four in Hyderabad, seven in Jagtial, two in Nirmal, one each in Adilabad and Karimnagar districts) and at two locations in Andhra Pradesh (one each in Kurnool and Nellore districts) in the case relating to Abdul Khader of Nizamabad District, Telangana and 26 other persons," the official said.

He said that the accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit terrorist acts and to promote enmity between different groups on the basis of religion. "During the searches conducted today, incriminating materials, including digital devices, documents, two daggers, cash ₹8.31,500 have been seized," the official said.

Further investigation in the matter was on. The case was initially registered on July 4 at Nizamabad police station in Telangana. During investigations by the state police, four accused namely, Abdul Kader, Sheikh Sahadulla, Md Imran and Md Abdul Mobin were arrested by the Telangana Police. Later, the case was re-registered by the NIA on August 26.



Nitish's plan

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is evolving a new formula of Opposition unity as many regional parties are opposed to having any truck with the Congress. He has conveyed to leaders with whom he has interacted so far that without Congress, there can be no unity.

Modi's NCC card most sought after in auction



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's NCC alumni card, multiple models of the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya and a statue of the mascot of the recently-held Chess Olympiad in Chennai are among the items which are highly sought after at an online auction of mementos gifted to the PM.

The online auction of over 1,200 such items, including a model statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and sporting memorabilia of the Commonwealth Games, started on Saturday and will go on till October 2.

The auction is being conducted through web portal pmmementos.GovIn and it has one section that lists items under the head 'Most Participated Auction'. Among these sought after items is a memento given by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in the form of an alumni card displaying Modi's photograph, 'Life Member', year 2021 and Directorate: Guj, DD & DNH'

The alumni card has received

Nitish Kumar's plan is fielding common Opposition candidates against the BJP in 400 Lok Sabha seats. There could be seat adjustments if not an alliance. In the remaining seats there could be "friendly fights". The BJP was able to win 300-plus seats in 2019 polls largely because the Opposition was fragmented. The BJP achieved this feat even when it could not make a mark in many big states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and others.

AAP's no to Congress

The Aam Aadmi Party leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has conveyed to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar that he is not averse to bringing all like-minded parties together to defeat the

show Kejriwal on their channels," Kejriwal claimed.

The AAP national convener claimed that due to "such threats", news channels in Gujarat do not call anyone from his party to participate in TV debates on alleged corruption charges against his deputy Manish Sisodia. "Just those from the Congress and the BJP participate in the TV debates and discuss (the alleged corruption charge against Sisodia)," he said.

Local newspapers in Gujarat also do not publish "anything" about the AAP, he added. "I just want to tell one thing to Hiren Joshi ji that the prime minister and you both would not be in a position to show your faces to the country if anyone takes a screenshot of the messages that you have sent and share it on social media," Kejriwal said.

"You will not remain in a position to show your face to anybody if someone shares the recording of your phone calls. Just stop threatening the media," he said.

Kejriwal said the AAP is being discussed all over Gujarat, despite the mainstream media being threatened against giving any coverage to the party, as social media has provided people with access to information. He defended corruption charges levelled against Sisodia, jailed Delhi minister Satyendar Jain and MLA Amanatullah Khan, alleging that the Modi government has put CBI, ED and other agencies after his leaders to frame them in "false cases" in the name of fighting against corruption just to "crush" the AAP. "It's a conspiracy to crush AAP, not any fight against corruption. They just want to stop AAP," he charged.

The auction had gone live at 10 am Saturday morning, coinciding with Modi's 72nd birthday

over 20 bids till about 11 am on Sunday. The auction had gone live at 10 am Saturday morning, coinciding with Modi's 72nd birthday. Other items in this category include several models of the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya, of varying dimensions and weights. One of these models was presented to the prime minister by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The realistic, small-scaled wooden model shows Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, placed inside a glass case. It is a temple being built at the site of Ram Janmabhoomi, the birthplace of Lord Rama.

The principal construction of the sanctuary is based on a raised platform and has three storeys, reads the description of the item on the auction website.

"It has five 'mandapas' in the 'garbhagriha' which has been diligently designed on the replica model. The model is adorned with several vibrant flowers on all edges and corners of the structure," it says.

Weighing 6 kg, the dimensions of the model are 45 cm x 41 cm x by 36 cm. The base price for this gifted item is ₹10,800. Other Ram temple models include one weighing 2.5 kg spanning 46 cm x 30 cm x 35 cm; another one weighing 3.2 kg and one more model weighing 1.75 kg, according to the auction website.

BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But the AAP will have no truck with the Congress as the party has lost its moorings with no prospects of its revival. Kejriwal is reported to have also expressed the view that senior Congress leaders are switching sides with each passing day. However, Congress workers in states after states are flocking towards the AAP. He explained to Nitish Kumar that AAP has been effectively replacing Congress in states due to its pro-people policies.

Who will be Prasar Bharti CEO?

Ravi Capoor, an IAS officer of 1986 batch of Assam cadre, was relieved of his duties as Sansad TV's CEO after he

Covid jab: 24% of eligible population covered so far



THE SPECIAL 75-DAY CAMPAIGN FOR ADMINISTERING FREE PRECAUTION DOSES WILL END IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS ON SEPTEMBER 30

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: Only 24 per cent of the eligible population has been covered so far (As on September 16) under the precaution doses for Covid-19. This is despite the governments campaign of free doses aimed to increase uptake for the precaution dose among the eligible adult population.

The special 75-day campaign for administering free precaution doses will end in less than two weeks on September 30. Government data revealed that there are many states like Haryana and Jharkhand where only 10 % of the eligible population has been covered for the precaution doses.

As per the government data (As on September 16), states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and many others recorded less than the national average of 24 per cent of precaution dose coverage. States including Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka recorded precaution dose coverage of 13 per cent, 13 per cent, 15 per cent, 17 per cent and 19 per cent of their el-

igible population respectively.

On the other hand states like Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and a few others have performed better than the national average. States like Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha recorded 26 per cent, 37 per cent, 39 per cent, 30 per cent and 38 per cent coverage respectively of their eligible population.

As per the government data, 19.14 crore people have been covered as of September 16 out of the total eligible population of 78.44 crore in the country.

The Covid-19 precaution dose administration for age group 18-59 years also started from 10th April, 2022.

Thereafter, the 'Covid Vaccine Amrit Mahotsav' campaign was launched on July 15, 2022 to give an impetus to precaution dose as part of the national Covid vaccination drive. Under the campaign, free precaution doses at all government Covid vaccination centres for persons aged 18 years and above for 75 days (from July 15 to September 30, 2022) are being provided.

KARNATAKA SHOCKER

In a shocking case, a man shot dead a dog for barking at him in Bangalore's Madagondanahalli Sunday. The Karnataka Police filed a case against the man



6 KILLED AS TRUCK HITS MINIBUS IN TN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 18: Six people were killed in a road accident on the Salem-Chennai highway at Pethanickenpalayam on Sunday morning.

The accident occurred when a truck rammmed into the Omnibus that was parked on the road at 12.30 a.m.

The deceased were identified as Omnibus occupants T. Thirunnavakarasu (61), his wife Vijaya (59), his son Ravikumar (47), relatives T. Senthil Velan (42), Subramani (41), and Dheepan (27), the cleaner of the bus.

Tirunavakarasu and his family members were on way to Chennai to attend the puberty function of his granddaughter.

Another relative Jayaprakash (41) suffered multiple injuries including fractures and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Salem.

Vazhapady Deputy Superintendent of Police, N. Shwetha while speaking to media persons said that Tirunavakarasu was loading all the materials required for the function in the storage area of the Omnibus, and the cleaner, Dheepan was helping him when the truck rammmed into the back side of the Omnibus.

The DSP said that Tirunavakarasu, Deepan, Ravikumar, Subramani and Senthil Velan died on the spot while Vijaya suffered grave head injuries and was taken to the hospital where she was declared brought dead.

Salem district collector, S. Karmegam, Superintendent of Police, Sri Abhinav, and other senior officers visited the accident spot.

Police has launched a manhunt to trace truck driver who is absconding.



Union Minister for Women & Child Development Smriti Irani holds a bow and an arrow during Vishwa Maitri Kshama Diwas 2022 programme, at Red Fort in New Delhi

Extortion case: EOW to quiz Jacqueline again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Actor Jacqueline Fernandez has been summoned for questioning Monday by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing in connection with an extortion case linked to alleged con-man Sukesh Chandrashekar, officials said.

This is the second time that she has been summoned for ques-

tioning by Delhi Police for her alleged role in the case, they said. A senior police officer said Fernandez has been asked to join the probe at 11 am on Monday at the office of Economic Offences Wing in Mandir Marg.

"We need to scrutinise certain documents and also question her further in connection with the case," he said. On Wednesday, Fernandez was quizzed for over eight hours

along with Pinki Irani, who allegedly introduced the actor to Chandrashekar.

Investigation had revealed that Chandrashekar had offered a motorcycle to Fernandez's agent Prashant on his birthday but he declined to take it. However, Chandrashekar left the two-wheeler and its keys at Prashant's place, police had said earlier; adding the motorcycle was seized.

would be bringing a person of his choice as the CEO.

Pawar spreading wings

At a time when the BJP is on a massive poaching mission in Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand and elsewhere, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar is working hard to expand his party's base in Delhi and Haryana and other states these days. If he held a youth conclave to strengthen the party in Delhi's Constitutional club of India, he presided over a large gathering of party workers belonging to Haryana. So much so that he held the party's national convention in Delhi to send a clear signal that he could be Opposition unity's pivot. He plans to hold such conclaves in other states to strengthen the party.

international

of the day quote

The occupation (Israel) violates all the signed peace agreements with disrespect and does not respect the law and international legitimacy

MOHAMMED ISHTAYE | PM, PALESTINE

We have a major challenge in the Union to sustainably increase agricultural production, reduce food waste and ensure that people around the world have access to quality food

ZDENEK NEKULA | AGRICULTURE MINISTER, CZECH

We're planning an export target of 80 billion US dollars by 2024 and 100 billion US dollars in 2026

TIPU MUNSHI | COMMERCE MINISTER, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

Prez Murmu in UK

London: President Droupadi Murmu has arrived here on a three-day visit to attend the state funeral of British Queen Elizabeth II, scheduled at Westminster Abbey Monday, and to offer condolences on behalf of the Indian government. The Indian head of state, who arrived on Saturday evening, will join around 500 world leaders, including US President Joe Biden and royals from across the world, in a congregation of around 2,000 expected at the Abbey for a sombre ceremony starting at 11 am local time and concluding with a two-minute silence around the country an hour later.

Draft cases against Pak PM withdrawn

Islamabad: In a major development, accountability courts have withdrawn 50 major corruption cases against suspects, including cases against Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, local media reported. The relief has been provided in line with the amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. Accordingly, cases against the Prime Minister, former chief minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf, and former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gillani have also been returned to NAB by the accountability courts, Geo News reported.

China bus crash kills 27; hurt 20

Beijing: The victims of a bus crash which killed 27 people and injured a further 20 in southwest China's Guizhou province were in an official government Covid transportation bus and were being transported for Covid reasons, local media reported Sunday. The accident took place in the early hours of Sunday morning in Sandu county, which lies around 170 km (105 miles) southeast of the provincial capital, Guiyang, police said. The bus was carrying 47 people and the 20 injured were being treated in hospital Sunday, police said.

Kyrgyz-Tajik conflict toll rises

Bishkek: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan said Sunday the death toll from their border conflict had risen to 81 people, as a fragile ceasefire held between two Central Asian nations for a second day and their mutual ally Russia urged a de-escalation. The former Soviet republics clashed over a border dispute September 14-16, accusing each other of using tanks, mortars, rocket artillery and assault drones to attack outposts and nearby settlements.



The poison of war is infecting our world, jeopardising the lives of millions, turning people against each other, pitting nation against nation, eroding security and well-being, reversing development

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

QUEEN'S FUNERAL TODAY

London's transport authority says it is preparing for around 1 million people to visit the British capital Monday for Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral. Transport for London chief Andy Byford said Sunday the capital has seen "huge numbers of additional passengers" since the queen died Sept 8



UNGA session: India lists areas of focus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 18: Counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, reformed multilateralism, climate action and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines will be among the key focus areas for India during the high-level UN General Assembly session that begins this week here.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will arrive in New York Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which kicks off September 20 with the opening of the General Debate.

Jaishankar will address world leaders from the UNGA podium September 24, after a packed week of more than 50 official engagements including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral meetings at the high-level session and on the sidelines.

The General Debate, during which world leaders deliver national statements from the UNGA podium, begins September 20.

The US is traditionally the second speaker after Brazil on the opening day of the General Debate but since President Joe Biden is attending the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London September 19, he will address world leaders on the second day of the high-level session September 21.

The session comes after two years of disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

India's Permanent Mission to the UN said in a video posted on Twitter that the five S's - Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samridhi (Prosperity) - set out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be India's "guiding light" in its approach to the 77th session of the General Assembly.

It said India will continue to showcase commitments and achievements in women-led development, particularly women's leadership and political participation at the grassroots level, and attach greater prominence to issues relating to counter-terrorism.

India's current two-year tenure at the UN Security Council ends in December this year, when India will be President of the Council.

ANNIVERSARY OF BAN

UN decries exclusion of Afghan girls from high schools

THE UN ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN A MILLION GIRLS HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL OVER THE PAST YEAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Sept 18: The United Nations Sunday called for Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to reopen schools to girls in grades 7-12, calling the anniversary of their exclusion from high school "shameful."

The UN said it is increasingly concerned that the policy, together with other restrictions on basic freedoms, will contribute to a deepening of the country's economic crisis in the form of greater insecurity, poverty and isolation.

"This is a tragic, shameful, and entirely avoidable anniversary," said Markus Potzel, acting head of the UN



Taliban atrocities

Teenage girls are still barred from school and women are required to cover themselves from head to toe in public

The religious group has failed to deliver on various promises to enable girls' return to the classroom

The ban targets grades 7-12, primarily impacting girls age 12 to 18

mission in Afghanistan. The Taliban re-opened high schools to boys while instructing girls to remain at home.

"The ongoing exclusion of girls from high school has no credible justification and has no parallel

anywhere in the world. It is profoundly damaging to a generation of girls and to the future of Afghanistan itself," said Potzel, UN secretary-general's deputy special representative for Afghanistan.

To mark the Sunday anniversary, 50 girls sent a letter entitled "A Year of Darkness: A Letter from Afghan girls to heads of Muslim countries and other world leaders." The girls hail from the capital Kabul, eastern Nangarhar province and northern Parwan province.

"The past year, we have been denied human rights, such as the right to attain an education, the privilege to work, the liberty to

live with dignity, freedom, mobility and speech, and the right to determine and decide for ourselves," Azadi, an 18-year-old 11th-grade student from Kabul, said in the letter. The girls named in the letter gave only their first names.

The UN said the denial of education violates the most fundamental rights of girls and women. The world body said it increases the risk of marginalization, violence, exploitation and abuse against girls and is part of a broader range of discriminatory policies and practices targeting women and girls since the de facto authorities assumed power in the summer of 2021.

Strong quake shakes Taiwan, derails train

The magnitude 6.8 quake was the largest among dozens that have rattled the island's southeastern coast since Saturday



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, Sept 18: A strong earthquake shook much of Taiwan Sunday, toppling a three-story building and temporarily trapping four people inside, stranding about 400 tourists on a mountainside, and knocking part of a passenger train off its tracks.

One person died and nine people had minor injuries, Taiwan's Emergency Operations Centre said.

The magnitude 6.8 quake was the largest among dozens that have rattled the island's southeastern coast since Saturday evening, when a 6.4 quake struck the same area.

Most of the damage appeared to be north of the epicentre, which Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said was in the town of Chishang at the relatively shallow depth of 7 kilometers (4 miles).

The three-story building, which had a 7-11 convenience store on the ground floor and residences on the upper ones, collapsed in

nearby Yuli town, the island's Central News Agency said.

More than 7,000 households were reported without power in Yuli, and water pipes were also damaged. Shelves and musical instruments fell over at the Mount Carmel Presbyterian Church and a long crack ran down its floor. Outside, the pavement was broken into slabs of concrete.

Police and firefighters rushed to a bridge collapse on a two-lane road in what appeared to be a rural part of the same town where three people and one or more vehicles may have fallen off.

Also in Yuli, a landslide trapped nearly 400 tourists on a mountain famous for the orange day lilies that blanket its slopes this time of year, the Central News Agency said. They had no electricity and a weak cellphone signal.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami advisory for several southern Japanese islands near Taiwan, but later lifted it.

Russia pounds Ukraine

Ukrainians who returned to the northeastern area retaken in Kyiv's lightning advance earlier this month were searching for their dead while Russian artillery and air strikes kept pounding targets across Ukraine's east

REUTERS

Izium, Sept 18: Russia has widened its strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure in the past week following setbacks on the battlefield and is likely to expand its target range further, Britain said Sunday.

Five civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the eastern Donetsk region over the past day and in Nikopol, further west, several dozen residential buildings, gas pipelines and power lines were hit, regional governors said Sunday.

Britain's defence ministry said Russian strikes at civilian infrastructure, including a power grid and a dam, have intensified over the past seven days. "As it faces setbacks on the front lines, Russia has likely extended the locations it is prepared to strike in an attempt to directly undermine the morale of the Ukrainian people and government," it said in an intelligence update.

Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address that authorities had found a mass grave containing the bodies of 17 soldiers in Izium, some of which he said bore signs of torture.

Residents of Izium have been searching for dead relatives at a forest grave site where emergency workers began exhuming bodies last week. The causes of death for those at the grave site have not yet been established, although residents say some died in an air strike.

Ukrainian officials said last week they had found 440 bodies in the



RUSSIA STEPS UP STRIKES AT UKRAINIAN CIVILIAN TARGETS - BRITAIN
UKRAINE SAYS GRAVES FOUND NEAR IZIUM, RELATIVES SEARCH FOR DEAD
MAIN POWER LINE RESTORED AT ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR PLANT - IAEA

woodlands near Izium. They said most of the dead were civilians and the causes of death had not been established.

The Kremlin has not commented on the discovery of the graves, but in the past Moscow had repeatedly denied deliberately attacking civilians or committing atrocities.

Oleksandr Ilienko, the chief of the prosecutor's office for the Kharkiv region, told Reuters: "One of the bodies (found) has evidence of a ligature pattern and a rope around the neck, tied hands," adding that there were signs of violent death causes for other bodies but they would undergo forensic examination.

Putin has warned that Moscow would respond more forcefully if its troops were put under further pressure, raising concerns that he could at some point use unconventional means like small nu-

Biden warns Putin against N-weapons

Washington: US President Joe Biden urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to not use tactical nuclear or chemical weapons in the wake of setbacks in Ukraine, in a CBS News interview to air Sunday. Asked by a "60 Minutes" reporter what he would say to Putin if he was considering using such weapons, Biden said: "Don't. Don't. Don't. It would change the face of war unlike anything since World War Two," in a clip of the interview released by CBS Saturday. "Russia would become more of a pariah in the world than they ever have been. Depending on the extent of what they do will determine what response would occur", Biden said.

clear or chemical weapons.

Typhoon Nanmadol bears down on Japan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Izumi, Sept 18: Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in southwestern Japan Sunday night, as authorities urged millions of people to take shelter from the powerful storm's high winds and torrential rain.

The storm was packing gusts of up to 234 kilometres (146 miles) per hour and had already dumped up to 500 mm of rain in less than 24 hours on parts of southwestern Kyushu region.

At least 20,000 people were spending the night in shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA has issued a rare "special warning" - an alert that

is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

National broadcaster NHK, which collates information from local authorities, said more than seven million people had been told to move to shelters or take refuge in sturdy buildings to ride out the storm.

The evacuation warnings are not mandatory, and authorities have at times struggled to convince people to move to shelters before extreme weather.

They sought to drive home their concerns about the weather system throughout the weekend.

"Please stay away from dangerous places, and please evacuate if you feel even the slightest hint of dan-



ger," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tweeted after convening a government meeting on the storm.

"It will be dangerous to evacuate at night. Please move to safety while it's still light outside."

The JMA has warned the region could face "unprecedented" danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain and called the

storm "very dangerous."

"Areas affected by the storm are seeing the sort of rain that has never been experienced before," Hiro Kato, the head of the Weather Monitoring and Warning Centre, told reporters Sunday.

Trains, flights and ferry runs were cancelled until the passage of the storm, and even some convenience stores - generally open all hours and considered a lifeline in disasters - were shutting their doors.

Scientists say climate change is increasing the severity of storms and causing extreme weather such as heat waves, droughts and flash floods to become more frequent and intense.

DAMAGING DEMOCRACY

In a first, EU moves to cut money for Hungary

The suspension of funds as Hungary PM has subdued courts, media, NGOs and academia, as well as restricting the rights of migrants, gays and women during more than a decade in power

REUTERS

Brussels, Sept 18: The European Union executive recommended Sunday suspending some 7.5 billion euros in funding for Hungary over corruption, the first such case in the 27-nation bloc under a new sanction meant to better protect the rule of law.

The EU introduced the new financial sanction two years ago precisely in response to what it says

amounts to the undermining of democracy in Hungary, where Prime Minister Viktor Orban subdued courts, media, NGOs and academia, as well as restricting the rights of migrants, gays and women during more than a decade in power.

"It's about breaches of the rule of law compromising the use and management of EU funds," said EU Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn. "We cannot conclude that



the EU budget is sufficiently protected."

He highlighted systemic irregularities in Hungary's public procurement laws, insufficient safe-

guards against conflicts of interest, weaknesses in effective prosecution and shortcomings in other anti-graft measures.

Hahn said the Commission was recommending the suspension of about a third of cohesion funds envisaged for Hungary from the bloc's shared budget for 2021-27 worth a total of 1.1 trillion euros.

The 7.5 billion euros in question amounts to 5% of the country's estimated 2022 GDP. EU countries now have up to three months to decide on the proposal.

Hahn said Hungary's latest promise to address EU criticisms was a significant step in the right direction but must still be translated into new laws and practical actions before the bloc would be reassured.

CORRUPTION
Orban's government proposed creating a new anti-graft agency

in recent weeks as Budapest came under pressure to secure money for the ailing economy and forint, the worst-performing currency in the EU's east.

Orban, who calls himself a "freedom fighter" against the world view of the liberal West, denies that Hungary - an ex-communist country of some 10 million people - is any more corrupt than others in the EU.

He has also rubbed many in the bloc the wrong way by cultivating continued close ties with President Vladimir Putin and threatening to deny EU unity needed to impose and preserve sanctions on Russia for waging war against Ukraine.

business

of the day quote

The global markets are looking nervous after the US inflation numbers, which have caused the dollar index to hover around 110

SANTOSH MEENA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART LTD

We believe absolute volume (of small cars) will increase but as a percentage of the total volume (of passenger vehicles), which is 38 per cent at the moment, this may show a decrease, but in absolute volume terms, it will increase

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MARKETING & SALES), MARUTI SUZUKI

We did some restructuring in the last few years and it was a bit of a tough time, but I can now say it is done, the company now has a healthy constitution

TAKUYA TSUMURA | PRESIDENT & CEO, HONDA CARS INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Finance Minister to meet CEOs of PSBs

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of public sector banks and financial institutions later this month to review progress of various government schemes aimed at welfare and upliftment of scheduled castes. Schemes like Stand-Up India, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), and Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and their progress would be discussed during the meeting, sources said. The meeting would review the performance of public sector banks (PSBs) and financial institutions to provide credit to people belonging to the SC community and other welfare measures under implementation, they said.

Specialty steel PLI gets 75 applications

New Delhi: The government has received around 75 applications from domestic players under the PLI Scheme for specialty steel, according to an official. Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior steel ministry official said. "A significant number of applications have been received. There around 75 applications," the official said. However, no proposal has been received from any foreign entity, according to the official. After shortlisting the proposals, the government will come out with a final list which would take around 35-40 days, the official said.

AIPEF to protest Electricity Bill

New Delhi: The All India Power Engineers Federation Sunday gave a call to hold demonstrations in the national capital November 23, to protest against the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022. AIPEF has also threatened that the electricity sector workers will go on strike if the government makes any unilateral effort to pass the bill in Parliament, the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) said in a statement. The Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 which seeks to create competition in the power distribution sector by providing consumers with options to choose between multiple services providers in an area, was introduced in Lok Sabha August 8, this year, and was referred for scrutiny to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy on the same day.



The current policy stance should continue. Developed countries are also taking steep rate hikes. I expect more rate hikes

C RANGARAJAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

BITCOIN ONCE AGAIN SLIPS BELOW \$20K

Bitcoin Sunday dropped 1.54% to \$19,804, slipping from the 20,000 mark after losing \$310 from its previous close. The world's biggest and best-known cryptocurrency is down 58.9% from the year's high of \$48,234 March 28. Ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain network, dropped 3.2% to \$1,422.1 Sunday, losing \$47 from its previous close



Direct tax kitty grows 30%

Gross collection of direct taxes for 2022-23 stands at ₹8,36,225 crore compared to ₹6,42,287 crore in the year-ago period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Gross direct tax collections grew 30 per cent to Rs 8.36 lakh crore till September 17 of current fiscal year on higher advance tax mop-up buoyed by the economic revival post pandemic, the finance ministry said Sunday.

After adjusting for refunds amounting to Rs 1.35 lakh crore, net direct tax kitty grew 23 per cent to Rs 7 lakh crore.

Gross collection of direct taxes for 2022-23 stands at Rs 8,36,225 crore compared to Rs 6,42,287 crore in the year-ago period, registering a growth of 30 per cent, the ministry



said in a statement.

This includes revenue from Corporate Income Tax of Rs 4.36 lakh crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT) of Rs 3.98 lakh crore.

"Direct tax collections continue to grow at a robust pace, a clear in-

dicator of the revival of economic activity post pandemic, as also the result of the stable policies of the government, focusing on simplification and streamlining of processes and plugging of tax leakage through effective use of technology," the ministry said.

nology," the ministry said.

For April-September, advance tax collection grew 17 per cent to Rs 2.95 lakh crore. This includes advance tax payout by corporate taxpayers of Rs 2.29 lakh crore.

After adjusting for refunds, net direct tax collections rose 23 per cent to Rs 7,00,669 crore, compared to Rs 5,68,147 crore in the corresponding period of 2021-22.

Refunds amounting to Rs 1,35,556 crore have been issued in 2022-23 till September 17, a 83 per cent growth over the year-ago period.

"There has been a remarkable increase in the speed of processing of income tax returns filed during current fiscal, with almost 93 per cent of the duly verified ITRs having been processed till 17.09.2022. This has resulted in faster issue of refunds with almost a 468 per cent increase in the number of refunds issued in current financial year," the ministry said.

M-cap of six of top-10 valued firms dip ₹2tn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Six of the top-10 most valued firms suffered a combined erosion of Rs 2,00,280.75 crore from market valuation last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys taking the biggest hit, amid weak trend in equities.

While Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and HDFC suffered erosion from their valuation, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Adani Transmission and Bajaj Finance were the gainers. The market capitalisation (m-cap) of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 46,852.27 crore to Rs 16,90,855.41 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever fell by Rs 14,015.31 crore to Rs 5,94,058.91 crore.

In the ranking of most valued firms, Reliance Industries was leading the pack, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, State Bank of India, Adani Transmission, Bajaj Finance and HDFC.

AFTER STRICT ACTION

Discoms' dues fall sharply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Outstanding dues of power distribution companies towards genscos declined sharply to Rs 713.29 crore Friday from Rs 5,085.30 crore as of August 17 following a strict action against defaulter utilities.

The defaulter utilities were barred from trading at power exchanges under the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and related matters), Rules 2022 notified by the power ministry in June 2022.

Last month, the national grid operator Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO) asked three power exchanges - IEX, PXIL and HPX - to restrict electricity trading by 27 discoms in 13 states having outstanding dues towards genscos.

The latest update regarding late payment surcharge dues on PRAAPTI portal showed that three discoms in Karnataka and one in Jammu & Kashmir have total out-



standing dues of Rs 713.29 crore on September 16, 2022. The outstanding dues were Rs 5,085.30 crore on August 17, 2022.

The PRAAPTI stands for Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power Procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators.

The three discoms in Karnataka are Hubli Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Rs 36.29 crore), Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd (Rs 10.49 crore) and Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Rs 11.24

crore) as per the latest update for September 16, 2022.

Jammu and Kashmir Power Distribution Department owns Rs 655.26 crore as per the latest update on PRAAPTI.

Under the payment security mechanism, state utilities can be barred from trading on electricity exchanges for non-payment of dues and other charges to genscos.

It says, "The supply of power shall only be made if an adequate payment security mechanism is maintained or in the absence thereof, advance payment is made."

The directive from POSOCO to Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), Power Exchange of India (PXIL) and Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) was given last month to restrict trading of electricity by utilities of 13 states, including those in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

ONGC wants Centre to scrap windfall tax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: India's top oil and gas producer ONGC wants the government to scrap windfall profit tax levied on domestically produced crude oil and instead use the dividend route to tap into bumper earnings resulting from surge in global energy prices.

The firm also favours a floor price for natural gas at \$10 per million British thermal unit - the current government-dictated rate - to help bring deposits in challenging areas to production, two sources aware of the matter said.

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) management during discussions with government officials stated that levying windfall profit tax on domestic oil producers, while at the same time reaping rich savings from buying discounted oil from Russia was unfair.

Buying discounted Russian crude



oil, which was shunned by the West since the Ukraine conflict, has helped save Rs 35,000 crore and this savings should be ploughed back by boosting domestic output, they said.

ONGC management has told the government the savings from Russian oil buy should be allowed to be passed on to the company which will invest the same in identified projects.

It feels companies should be allowed to reap higher revenues and profits from elevated oil and gas prices instead of levying windfall profit tax on prices above a threshold.

Execution delay hits hydro, thermal projects

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: As many as 12 out of 13 hydro projects and 30 out of 34 thermal power projects are delayed in their execution, mainly due to issues like land acquisition and contractual inadequacies.

Most significantly, the 12 delayed hydro projects have a cumulative time overrun of 1,205 months or more than 100 years. The cost overrun in these projects has been Rs 31,530 crore, according to sources.

Similarly, due to the delay in execution of 30 thermal power projects out of 34, the time overrun has been 1,776 months or 148 years, while the cost overrun is Rs 41,100 crore.

Apart from delay in land acquisition and contractual shortcomings, the other issues which have contributed to the delay in completion of these hydro and thermal projects are disputes arising due to poor cost estimation of these projects, inadequate cost management, lack of funds and



The 12 delayed hydro projects have a cumulative time overrun of 1,205 months or more than 100 years. The cost overrun in these projects has been Rs 31,530 crore

The delay in execution of 30 thermal power projects out of 34, the time overrun has been 1,776 months or 148 years, while the cost overrun is Rs 41,100 crore

shortage in budget allocation, as well as poor site supervision by the contractors, sources privy to the development said.

Power sector experts point out that contract related disputes lead to delay in such big ticket projects, which can be avoided if proper planning and due diligence is conducted at the preliminary stages itself. Also lack of strict norms and penalty imposition for com-

pleting various levels of activities in contractual agreements, leads to a lax attitude of contractors due to which work on such projects suffers.

The Ministry of Power, on its part, says that it has set up a dispute avoidance mechanism to avoid disputes between public sector undertakings (PSUs) and contractors related to hydro sector contracts at the inception stages.

However, official sources accepted the fact that due to lack of introduction and implementation of these measures earlier, led to the delays in several hydro and thermal projects.

Nevertheless, they informed that to avoid any further delay in such big projects, various corrective measures are being incorporated now. The ministry has notified the November 2019 guidelines to reduce instances of time and cost overruns in hydro projects. These include preparation of realistic project schedule based on past experience.

Also with the help of latest software tools, projects are monitored on regular basis, ministry official said, adding that prior approval of competent authority is also sought if the project is not likely to be commissioned within the prescribed time limit.

NTPC conducts pre-bid conference with prospective bidders for major thermal projects, covering all technical and commercial aspects of the contract's terms and conditions, sources added.

Amid crackdown, Chinese mobile firms drop India plans

INDIA IS NOW BOLSTERING ITS DOMESTIC SMARTPHONE AND CHIP MANUFACTURING SECTOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: Amid India's escalating crackdown on Chinese companies, China-based smartphone brands are now planning to set up manufacturing plants in countries like Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Nigeria, according to a Global Times report.

The report, citing a Chinese executive based in India, claimed that companies will evaluate bilateral ties, market potential, preferential policies and labour costs to set up manufacturing plants elsewhere.

OPPO is going to set up a \$20 million mobile phone plant in Egypt. "OPPO's memorandum of understanding with the Egyptian government to set up a \$20 million

smartphone facility may be a pace-setter," the Chinese executive told Global Times.

The OPPO plant's production capacity is scheduled to reach 4.5 million units annually, according to a statement from the Egypt's Council of Ministers this week.

The investment will contribute to creating 900 job opportunities over the next three to five years.

"The management in Chinese smartphone brands in India felt a palpable sense of being squeezed by the Indian government's crackdown and its (protectionist) actions to improve domestic companies' capability to make sophisticated electronics such as smartphones," the executive was quoted as saying.

India has stepped up its crack-



down on Chinese firms over the years. The Indian government is looking into cases of alleged tax evasion by three Chinese mobile companies - OPPO, Vivo India, and

Xiaomi. The companies were served notices by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) for duty evasion. India has also banned more than 300 Chinese apps, in-

CHINA'S CHIP OUTPUT SHRINKS AS INDIA, US BOOST LOCAL MFG

New Delhi: As India and the US double down on domestic semiconductor manufacturing, China witnessed its biggest-ever monthly decline in chip manufacturing in August owing to Covid restrictions and weakening demand. According to the South China Morning Post, the production of integrated circuits (ICs) slumped 24.7 per cent year on year to 2.7 billion units, marking the largest single-month decrease since 1997. This is also the second consecutive month of decline for chip manufacturing. In July, the output nosedived 16.6 per cent to 27.2 billion units. In August, domestic manufacturing activity contracted for the first time in three months, the report mentioned. A record 3,470 chip-making companies "went out of business in the first eight months of the year", according to statistics from business database platform Qichacha.

cluding Tencent's WeChat and ByteDance's TikTok.

The Gujarat government has partnered Vedanta and Foxconn, aiming an investment of Rs 1.54 lakh crore to achieve self-reliance

in the field of semiconductor manufacturing. Tata Group is also reportedly in talks with Taiwan-based Wistron to ramp up iPhone production capacity by 500 per cent in the country.

Tirkey eyes top HI post

Former India defender exudes confidence ahead of elections October 1



TAKING THE PLUNGE: Olympian Dilip Tirkey filing his nomination papers for the post of Hockey India president in New Delhi, Sunday

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: Former India captain and Olympian Dilip Tirkey filed his nomination Sunday here for the post of Hockey India (HI) president. After submitting his nomination papers, Tirkey said that his intention is to take the sport to greater heights.

"Today I have filed my nomination papers for Hockey India (HI) president's post. I filed my nomination on behalf of Hockey Association of Odisha of which I am currently the president," Tirkey told mediapersons.

"Hockey gave me a lot. As a player I have played hockey for the country for a considerable

HIGHEST-CAPPED INDIA PLAYER WITH 412 GAMES REPRESENTED INDIA IN 3 OLYMPICS, 1996 (ATLANTA), 2000 (SYDNEY) AND 2004 (ATHENS)

Scored over 60 goals for India

Year	Event	Medal
1999	Gold at Bangkok Asian Games	Gold
2003	Gold at Kuala Lumpur Asia Cup	Gold
2007	Gold at Chennai Asia Cup	Gold
2002	Silver at Busan Asian Games	Silver
1999	Bronze at Kuala Lumpur Asia Cup	Bronze

amount of time and after retirement, I have been working for the development of the sport in Odisha. So I felt that if I am in the national hockey body, I can work more for the game, I can take it to

greater heights," the legendary defender added.

Tirkey exuded confidence of coming out with flying colours in the upcoming polls.

"I have been in talks with a lot

of states. The entire northeastern states are with me. Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura all are backing me. Besides, I have held discussions with officials from states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and they have given positive response. So I am confident of getting elected," Tirkey asserted.

Tirkey was asked about his goals if elected as HI chief. "I would like to strengthen the grassroots programme. I would work towards identifying the reasons behind the decline of hockey in those states where it was popular and produced players and take corrective steps and revive the game there," Tirkey said. "We will visit those places and work towards the development and promotion of hockey," the 2004 Padma Shri awardee added.

HI elections are scheduled to be held October 1 and former electoral officer in the Bihar government, Ajay Nayak has been appointed as the returning officer for the polls. Sunday was the last date for filing nomination papers.

It should be stated here that 44-year-old Tirkey was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha as one of the three Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidates. Prior to that, he was working as chairman of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation. Currently, he is the chairman of Odisha Hockey Promotion Council.

Tirkey was a member of the Indian teams that won gold and silver in the 1998 Bangkok and 2002 Busan Asian Games respectively. Besides, he won two gold medals in 2003 Asia Cup in Kuala Lumpur and 2007 in Chennai and also a bronze in 1999. He also played in three Olympics.

Players slam allegations by Marijne, vow legal action

FORMER INDIA COACH ACCUSES MANPREET OF ASKING TEAMMATE TO UNDER-PERFORM



Former coach of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams, Sjoerd Marijne

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 18: The Indian men's and women's hockey teams are set to take former coach Sjoerd Marijne and publishing house 'HarperCollins India' to the court following the Dutchman's accusation that India captain Manpreet Singh asked a young player to under-perform during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

In his upcoming book *Will Power - The Inside Story of the Incredible Turnaround in Indian Women's Hockey*, Marijne wrote that senior

pro Manpreet asked a player 'to stop playing well' so that his friends could get in the team.

It prompted the men's and women's teams to issue a joint statement Sunday. They stated that the former India coach levelled the allegation against Manpreet to publicise his book.

"We have come together to state our deep disappointment in his (Marijne's) exploitation of our personal information and false accusations. He has used his time of coaching us for commercial gain to sell his book at the cost of

our reputations," the players said in a joint statement.

"This is a complete breach of trust and his duty of care as a coach. It also leads to all Indian athletes like us to feel vulnerable in such situations. We are in the process of pursuing legal remedies against Mr Sjoerd Marijne and the publishers of the book in question, HarperCollins," they added.

Both the teams said if such an incident had indeed taken place, Marijne should have reported the matter to either Hockey India (HI) or his erstwhile employer, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which he didn't.

"We would like to collectively question Mr Sjoerd Marijne, that if any of the claimed incidence took place under his watch there should be record of an allegation filed to Hockey India or the Sports Authority of India at the time. On checking with the authorities, we have found no such record of complaint," the statement read.

The teams said, by bringing such false and fabricated allegations, Marijne has questioned the integrity of the players. "The Indian national men's and women's hockey team stand together with each other and will defend our integrity that has been brought to question by him. We cannot just ignore such statements and we have to take preventive measures," the players asserted.

Marijne coached the Indian men's hockey team for nine months before he was ousted following a dismal show at the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast. He later took charge of the women's team and guided them to a historic fourth-place finish at last year's Tokyo Olympics.

SHORT TAKES

Shuttlers shine

Nagpur: Young Indian shuttler Meiraba Luwang Mainsam claimed the men's singles title after beating compatriot Mithun Manjunath in the final of the India Maharashtra International Challenge here Sunday. The 19-year-old Meiraba, seeded fourth, outwitted second seed Manjunath 21-14, 21-16. In the women's singles final, India's Ruvhika Shivani Gadde finished second best losing 11-21, 11-21 to Japan's Miho Kayama. The doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila prevailed 21-17, 20-22, 21-18 over Thailand's Chaloeompon and Nanthakarn to win the title.

Diksha dazzles

Deauville (France): Indian golfer Diksha Dagar produced a sizzling seven-under 64 in the final round to sign off at the third place, her best result of the season, at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France here Sunday. She finished behind Ines Laklache and Meghan MacLaren at the Golf Barriere course here. An elated Diksha thanked her father, Col Naren Dagar, for his guidance as her caddie during the event. "I'm very happy to see the direction that my game is heading in and all that because of dad's advice," Diksha said.

Dijk defends title

Wollongong (Australia): Ellen van Dijk defended her title and claimed a third women's time trial gold medal at the opening event of the World Road Cycling Championships here Sunday. Taking advantage of a technical course the Dutch star maintained a perfectly paced cadence to beat Australia's Grace Brown by 12.79 seconds to defend the time trial gold she won last year. Swiss rival Marlen Reusser took the bronze.

Maiden title

Kolkata: Bengaluru FC (BFC) and their talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri won their maiden Durand Cup football tournament title after beating Mumbai City FC 2-1 in the summit clash at the Salt Lake Stadium here Sunday. Siva Sakthi (10th minute) and Brazilian Alan Costa (61st) scored for the winners while Apuia got the lone goal for the Mumbai side in an entertaining match. BFC capitalised on their chances to win.

Rohit wants players to experiment

SKIPPER WANTS TEAMMATES OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONES, TRY NEW THINGS

AGENCIES

Mohali, Sept 18: With the T20 World Cup squad already picked, India skipper Rohit Sharma wants his players to get out of their comfort zone and explore new things about their game in the six home matches against Australia and South Africa ahead of the ICC showpiece next month. Rohit said Sunday that players can now afford to extend their 'limits' without the pressure of selection.

The management will be giving rest to the likes of Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Arshdeep Singh over the six games but by and large Rohit will have a full squad at his disposal.

Rohit's comments come in the backdrop of India's Asia Cup campaign in which the team management experimented and copped criticism for it.

"I wanted to bring security in the team that is why we announced the squad for both the series before the World Cup (Australia and South Africa). In Asia Cup also we more or less had the same team," Rohit said ahead of the series opener against Australia here Tuesday.

"In these six games we want to



India captain Rohit Sharma interacts with the media Sunday at Mohali

PHOTO: BCCI TWITTER

keep trying what we can achieve with different styles. It is all about going out and trying to find ways of exploring ourselves but there is no limit to trying new things," the skipper added.

Rohit wants even the bowlers to push their limits. "We will keep encouraging people to be more ex-

pressive. For example someone who doesn't play reverse sweep, can play that and see if he can do it right. For bowlers, they can try opening the spell with a yorker or a bouncer," said the skipper.

Rohit also informed that Virat Kohli batting at the top alongside him is a 'definite option' but also

Umesh in place of Covid-hit Shami

New Delhi: The seasoned Umesh Yadav was Sunday drafted into the Indian team as veteran seamer Mohammed Shami's replacement for the three-match T20I series against Australia. Shami was ruled out of the rubber, starting Tuesday, late Saturday night after he tested positive for Covid-19. "Fast bowler Mohd Shami will not be able to take part in the upcoming T20I series against Australia after testing positive for Covid-19. The all-India senior selection committee has named Umesh Yadav as his replacement keeping in mind his experience," the BCCI said in a statement.

clarified that KL Rahul will remain his opening partner at the T20 World Cup in Australia next month.

"Rahul will open for us at the T20 World Cup. We are not going to experiment with that position a lot. His performances often go unnoticed. He is a very important player for India," Rohit added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hove, Sept 18: The graceful Smriti Mandhana once again enhanced her reputation as one of India's biggest match winners with an innings of 91 (99b, 10x4, 1x6) which literally helped India decimate England by seven wickets in the opening WODI, here Sunday.

Harmanpreet Kaur won a good toss and veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami (1/20) was accuracy personified with 42 dot balls in one of her last international games as England managed a sub-par 227 for seven, largely due to efforts



Jhulan Goswami

from the lower middle-order.

India were never in trouble during the chase as Mandhana got going after India had lost Shafali Verma (1) early. Mandhana first put on 96 runs for the second wicket with Yastika Bhatia (50, 47b, 8x4, 1x6) and then 99 runs for the third wicket with Kaur (74 n o, 94b, 7x4, 1x6) to completely take the game away from England. By the time Mandhana was dismissed she had ensured that India go one-up in the three-game series.

Earlier, Goswami, the 39-year-old legend, was parsimonious, giving away only 20 runs in 10 overs. She didn't concede a single boundary or six and also bowled a fine off-cutter to get rid of the seasoned Tammy Beaumont (7). Among the other Indian wicket-takers were Deepti Sharma (2/33), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/40), Meghna Singh (1/42) and Sneha Rana (1/45).

Dani Wyatt (43), Alice Davidson-Richards (50 n o) and Sophie Ecclestone (31) were the notable contributors for England with the bat. **Brief scores:** England 227 for 7 (Alice Davidson-Richards 50 n o, Deepti Sharma 2/33) lost to India 232 for 3 in 44.2 overs (Smriti Mandhana 91, Harmanpreet Kaur 74 n o) by 7 wickets.

'Ekalabya' Award for cyclist Swasti

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: International cyclist Swasti Singh has bagged the 'Ekalabya Award' for 2022. Swasti was selected unanimously by the jury comprising people from all walks of life at a meeting held here Sunday.

Swasti has so far bagged two gold and two silver medals in national-level tournaments while representing Odisha. Her performance has really been brilliant from the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. She has also represented India in various international meets. Swasti will receive a cash award of ₹5,00,000 along with a citation.

Swasti was part of the Indian squad team that won a bronze medal in the women's team pursuit championships at the Asian Track Cycling Championships held in New Delhi in June this year.

Other than Swasti, two other sportspersons of the state will also be felicitated. They are woman foot-



Cyclist Swasti Singh

baller Pyari Xaxa and hockey player Shilananda Lakra. Pyari has been a part of the Indian women's football team for quite some time now. Both Pyari and Shilananda will receive cash awards of ₹50,000 each along with citations.

Announcing the names of the winners Baijayant Panda, chairperson of 'Ekalabya Award' committee said, "Our aim is always to foster excellence in sports. The award has been instituted to encourage and inspire sports talents, so that they win more laurels."

Facile victory for Odisha U-19 eves

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Odisha under-19 women's cricket team defeated their Jharkhand counterparts by four wickets in a warm-up game played Sunday at the Keenan Stadium in Jamshepur. This is the second successive time that the Odisha eves have beaten Jharkhand, their earlier win coming Sunday. The matches are being played by the junior eves to prepare for the upcoming BCCI domestic season 2022-23.

Batting first in this 20 overs a side game, the Jharkhand U-19 team scored 97 for the loss of eight wickets. Khushboo Kumari (30) and Anandita Kishor (20 n o) were the only two batters to offer some resistance to the Odisha bowling.

Laxmi Singh (3/19) bowled an outstanding spell for the Odisha team. Bhabani Dhada (1/19) and Sneha Bacha (1/21) also bowled quite economically to restrict the opposition.

Then Tanmayee Behera (39 n o) held firm as Odisha reached the victory target of 98 for the loss of six wickets with five balls to spare.

Stimac gets extension

AIFF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE HAPPY WITH CROATIAN COACH'S PERFORMANCE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 18: Croatian Igor Stimac is set to continue as Indian football team head coach with the technical committee of All India Football Federation (AIFF) recommending Sunday the extension of his contract till the end of AFC Asian Cup in July next year.

The technical committee, which met here under the chairmanship of IM Vijayan, discussed the performance of the men's team under Stimac and recommended to the

AIFF executive committee, his continuation at the helm of affairs.

This will be Stimac's third contract extension after he took charge of the national men's team in May 2019 on a two-year tenure. In 2021, he was given a contract extension of a few months till September of that year. He was then given another tenure extension of one year which was to end this month.

"In the first agenda of the meeting, the technical committee recommended the extension of senior men's team head coach Igor Stimac's contract till the AFC Asian Cup 2023," the AIFF said in a release.

The 2023 AFC Asian Cup will be held June 16 to July 16 but the venue is yet to be decided after original hosts China pulled out due to Covid-19 situation in that country.

Stimac's continuation was on expected lines after he guided the national team to the 2023 Asian Cup Finals with a dominant show in the qualifiers here in June. Under Stimac India have got some wins in international friendlies.

Bajrang bags bronze to create unique feat at Wrestling Worlds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Belgrade (Serbia), Sept 18: Ace grappler Bajrang Punia became the only Indian to claim four medals at the World Wrestling Championships by clinching a bronze in the current edition, here Sunday. Bajrang, who won a bronze in last year's Tokyo Olympics, eked out a close 11-9 win on points over Sebastian C Rivera of Puerto Rico in one of the bronze medal bouts.

Bajrang, who lost to John Michael Diakomihalis of USA in the quarterfinals, qualified for the bronze medal contest through repechage round where he defeated Vazgen Tevanyan of Armenia 7-6 by points.

This medal incidentally is Bajrang's third bronze at the Worlds. The celebrated Indian wrestler had earlier won a bronze at in 2013, silver in 2018 and bronze in 2019.

India fielded a 30-member team for the ongoing World Championships but produced a below-par performance, securing just two medals, the other coming from Vinesh Phogat.