



## SELF-MADE PERFORMER

Actor Mrunal Thakur says she has carved a space for herself in the film industry without anybody's recommendation

LEISURE P2



## WAR GAMES BEGIN

Russia starts week-long war games involving forces from China, India and other nations amid tensions with US

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SERENA MAGIC CONTINUES

Serena Williams continues her winning run at the US Open defeating second-seeded Anett Kontaveit

SPORTS P12



**PAYING OBEISANCE:** Devotees flock to the Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur to offer puja on the occasion of Nuakhai, Thursday

# Affordable vax to fight HPV cancer soon: SII

The vaccine at a price range of ₹200-400 will be in the markets by the year-end

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** India's first indigenously developed quadrivalent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer will be launched in a few months and made available to the people in an affordable price range of ₹200-₹400, Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla said Thursday.

Some oncologists however, pointed out that this vaccine is only for the HPV type and there are many others forms cervical cancer.

Speaking at an event held to announce the scientific completion of the vaccine, Union Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said the vaccine will be affordable and the government will ensure that it is accessible to the common man.

Scientific completion implies that R&D activities pertaining to the vaccine are complete. Now the next step of making them available to the public would take place.

Singh said Covid-19 has raised awareness about preventive healthcare leading to the development of vaccines like the one against HPV cervical cancer. "Scientific efforts at times do not get the scale of recognition they deserve. So this event is to celebrate that scientific completion," Singh said.

Poonawalla told reporters on the sidelines of the event that the 'cervical cancer vaccine will be af-



## Omicron vaccine within 6 months

**NEW DELHI:** The SII will try to launch a vaccine for the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the next six months, CEO Adar Poonawalla said Thursday. Speaking to reporters here he said there is good data available for Covavax vaccine. "The original Novovax vaccine 'Covovax' covers Omicron and there is good data for it. We will try to launch Omicron-specific vaccine after six months," he said.

fordable and would be available in the price range of ₹200-₹400. However, the final price will be decided after detailed discussions with the government. "The vaccine would be much less in price as compared to other vaccines for cervical cancer," Poonawalla told reporters here.

Poonawalla informed that the

vaccine will be possibly launched by the end of the year. First the vaccine would be made available through the government channel and from next year onwards some private partners would be involved too, he added.

Poonawalla also said that a plan to make 200 million doses is in place and first the vaccine would be used in India and only after needs of the country are fulfilled it will be exported to other countries.

According to the officials, the 'qHPV' vaccine CERVAVAC has demonstrated robust antibody response that is nearly 1,000 times higher than the baseline against all targeted HPV types and in all dose and age groups. Cervical cancer in India ranks as the second most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Today we'll discuss most important issue on our minds... worsening economy and rising prices... in Pakistan!

# No reason to deny bail to Teesta: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Pulling no punches, the Supreme Court wanted to know Thursday the reason for the delayed listing of activist Teesta Setalvad's bail plea by the Gujarat High Court. It wondered whether 'this lady has been made an exception' and asked the Gujarat government to furnish information about any such precedent. It wondered why the high court listed the bail prayer for hearing September 19, six weeks after it sent a notice to the Gujarat government seeking a

response to her application. The bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also said it may consider granting Setalvad interim-bail.

Setalvad was arrested a couple of days after the verdict was pronounced for allegedly fabricating evidence to frame 'innocent people' in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

The Gujarat HC had August 3 issued a notice to the state government on the bail plea of Setalvad and fixed the matter for hearing September 19. "Give us instances where a lady accused in such cases has got such dates from the high

court. Either this lady has been made an exception... How can the court give this date? Is this standard practice in Gujarat?" an apparently displeased CJI said and added that the matter will come up for hearing Friday at 2.00pm.

The special bench referred to the nature of offences alleged against Setalvad and the period of custody. "One thing, she has been in custody since June 25. So, it has been more than two months... Therefore, what kind of material you have gathered during this period," the bench asked.

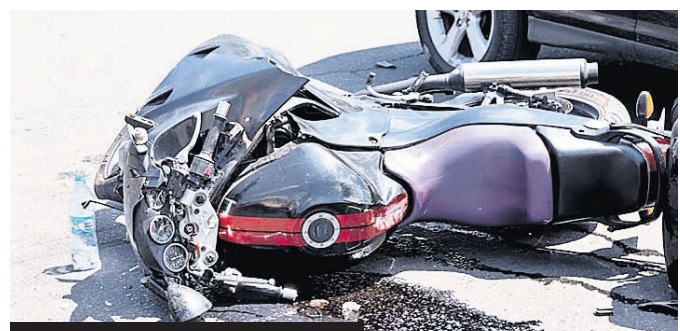
# Tragedy on Nuakhai; 2 bikers killed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada/Dhenkanal, Sept 1:** The Nuakhai festival turned into a day of tragedy for two families of Nuapada and Dhenkanal districts Thursday. Both the families lost a valuable member due to road accidents that seem to be rising every day in Odisha.

In the first case, a trainee police sub-inspector was run over by a truck and died on the spot at Gotma Chhak under Jonk police limits in Nuapada district. The deceased was identified as Sudhanshu Shekhar Pandey of Baira village under Boden police limits.

According to reports, Sudhanshu was on the way to his house to celebrate Nuakhai. While he was proceeding through a crowded market locality a coal-laden truck hit him from the rear. As he fell off his



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

two-wheeler, the truck ran over him killing him on the spot. Police have seized the truck and detained the driver for questioning.

Sudhanshu, who earlier served was working as constable had recently been elevated to the rank of a sub-inspector. He was undergoing training in Angul.

As news of Sudhanshu's demise

on Sankarpur road. The deceased has been identified as Prakash Behera of Gengutia village of Dhenkanal district.

Sources said that Prakash was heading towards his village with his wife Rashmita to celebrate Nuakhai with his family when the accident occurred.

Reportedly, the incident took place while Prakash was heading towards his village Gengutia with wife Rashmita on a motorcycle when a speeding truck hit them from the rear. Both were flung from the motorbike and were severely injured. Locals rushed them to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) where doctors pronounced Prakash dead on arrival. His wife continues to remain critical. Police have launched a probe and are trying to locate the truck which fled the spot after the accident.

In the second accidental death in Dhenkanal district, a man was killed and his wife suffered serious injuries when the two-wheeler they were travelling on, was hit by a truck close to Gajamara locality

# 11 KIDS GO MISSING IN ODISHA DAILY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The recently released National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data on children who have gone missing in Odisha once more portrays how unsafe kids are in the state. The report states that cases of abduction and kidnapping of children have gone up by 42% in 2021 in comparison to 2020.

In 2020, a total of 2,899 children went missing in Odisha. The figure increased to 4,133 in 2021 which shows that at an average 11 children have gone missing daily in the state. The report also states that in the last six years a total of 16,654 kids have gone missing in Odisha.

What is important to note here that girls vastly outnumber the boys

in missing cases. In 2021, the boy-girl missing ratio stood at 477 to 3,656. This is because girls can be used for a variety of illegal jobs including flesh trade. Most times, the missing children remained untraced due to lack of police efforts.

Many activists pointed out that due to the lackadaisical attitude of the police, children remain untraced. They stated that police, after the complaint has been lodged, take too much time to react and this enables the traffickers to carry on abduction and kidnapping with impunity.

The Odisha government has tried its best to bring back the missing kids by launching various programmes like 'Operation Smile', 'Operation Muskan' and 'Pari'. However, these schemes have failed to work.

# Police detain youth in Subhashree death case

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The Subhashree Mohapatra alleged murder case in the City took a new turn Thursday with the police detaining a youth. Sources said that Subhashree had called the youth seven times on the day she was found dead at her residence in Shastri Nagar locality in the state capital under mysterious circumstances. Police are interrogating the detained youth and are hopeful of solving the case soon.

Sources said that the youth and the 25-year-old Subhashree hailed from the same village. They informed that the youth was a frequent visitor to Subhashree's house, a fact well-known by the deceased's husband Ananta Narayan Nath. Police are now trying to ascertain the exact relation between the youth and Subhashree and as to why did

she call her seven times on that fateful day.

The investigating officers came to know about the youth while examining the call detail records of the deceased's mobile phone which they had seized earlier.

Subhashree was found dead Tuesday night under mysterious circumstances. Sources said that she died when her husband was out for some work and her son had gone for tuition and no one else was at the residence. Based on the complaint lodged by Ananta alleging murder, Kharavela Nagar police filed a case (No. 281/22) and started investigation. It was her son who found the lifeless body of Subhashree and informed his dad.

Subhashree had married Ananta, a resident of Tirtol locality in Jagatsinghpur district in 2014. Neighbours said that they enjoyed a very cordial relationship.

## DMF HSC SCHOLARSHIP 2022

### TO MERITORIOUS STUDENTS IN KEONJHAR

- ◆ 11605 Eligible students to receive scholarship
- ◆ Meritorious Students to receive scholarship up to ₹40,000
- ◆ Total Scholarship worth ₹17 Cr to be distributed
- ◆ DMF HSC Scholarship to Govt & aided school in Keonjhar is one of its Kind initiative across the country to boost education





**WHEN SHARON STONE WAS DUMPED BY LOVER**

Hollywood star Sharon Stone revealed that she was dumped by a lover for refusing botox after a stroke. The 64-year-old star had the procedure done in the past but stopped undergoing any cosmetic enhancement after she had a stroke and a nine-day brain haemorrhage in 2001, reports *mirror.co.uk*.

**RUSSELL CROWE TO PLAY DETECTIVE IN CRIME THRILLER**

Actor Russell Crowe will play a former homicide detective tasked with re-examining a brutal murder case from his past in *Sleeping Dogs*. The Nickel City Pictures film marks the directorial debut of Adam Cooper, who wrote the script with Bill Collage, reports *Variety*.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
Ganesh will play Cupid with you today. You will be seized by temptations, and may even forget that your desires are one-sided. If in a troubled relationship, you may get insights into some unresolved matters, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Lady luck is generous with any activity you undertake today, says Ganesh. Generous to such an extent that you will surpass your own expectations in the results you achieve. You will display your ability to be flexible and fit it, no matter how and where.

**GEMINI**  
You have a knack of giving a creative and artistic twist to all your work. As an entrepreneur, you will be no different. You attach great importance to innovation, and all your projects today validate this fact. Your time with your sweetheart will give you immense pleasure. Later in the day, you will have a gala time with your friends.

**CANCER**  
Your partner will be willing to do anything for you today. You ask for the moon, or anything under the Sun, and they will oblige. Even though they won't be able to pluck the moon and stars from the sky, a special gesture from your partner is bound to send you to cloud nine.

**LEO**  
Everything comes with a price tag, and the price of success is hard work. So sweat it out, says Ganesh; it is in your stars today. You may feel as if you are being made to work extremely hard in order to meet your targets, and the dividends you get may not seem to justify the efforts.

**VIRGO**  
You are most likely to hit the mark and accomplish what you set out to do today. Work pressures will have no bearing whatsoever on you. The secret, says Ganesh, is in being patient.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh foretells of unfavourable situations today. But despite that, your endurance will be your winning formula for success. You are likely to keep your colleagues pleased and entertained all day today. You may decide to make your love life your main concern later in the day.

**SCORPIO**  
You are likely to pay maximum attention to family, friends and relatives, predicts Ganesh. On the academic front, children will perform exceptionally well in examinations. You may invest money in land and home. In the evening, you will find time to cool your heels and enjoy the pursuit of pleasure, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
In all probability, your inborn talents will be recognised and rewarded at work, predicts Ganesh. Your colleagues will possibly instigate you in the afternoon. But later in the day, your boss will positively inspire you to scale greater heights. Do not get carried away by your success.

**CAPRICORN**  
The pace and meticulousness with which you deal with work will leave your colleagues and subordinates in awe, says Ganesh. People will look up to you and respect you for your ability to handle efficiently the cumbersome work that seems degrading to most other people. Your boss will be just as impressed and may reward you for your efforts. Fun and entertainment await you in the evening.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today may give you an all-time high! The day will prove important with regard to your future. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, and recognition and rewards at your workplace will make you happy. Ganesh says that you should enjoy it while it lasts.

**PISCES**  
It is a good day for you, since all the projects you take up today will reach a satisfactory conclusion. However, this does not mean that you will not be strung out, a fact you would do well to keep hidden, lest your competitors try to take advantage of it, says Ganesh.

**'Transition from TV to films was tough'**

**Mumbai:** Actress Mrunal Thakur says she is made for Telugu cinema and she is here to stay.

However, reaching where she is today took her eight years of challenge and struggles, added the *Dhamaka* actress on the side lines Hindi trailer release of her Telugu film *Sita Ramam*.

"For me, to be able to make that transition from TV to films was difficult. There were times when I felt like I am only meant to do dishes and laundry at home," she says, citing examples of how people assumed that her transition from TV to film was smooth.

"All that but I know it has taken me eight years to reach where I am today and I take immense pride because this is my journey. It doesn't have anybody's recommendation. I am happy that I am able to break the stereotype where TV actors could only be TV actors. I am here to do something out of the box where I am not just a TV actor but I am representing Indian cinema altogether so I am really proud of that," she concludes.

AGENCIES



**KRITI ON WHY SHE SAID 'NO' TO LUST STORIES**

**'I come from a middle-class family'**

**Mumbai:** On *Koffee With Karan 7*, Karan Johar revealed that Kriti Sanon was his first choice for 2018 Netflix anthology film *Lust Stories*.

Now, Kriti opened up and revealed that she has said no to a few roles because of her mother. Further, talking about why she said no to *Lust Stories*, Kriti said: "My mom said no to your (Karan Johar) role because she was not comfortable with the nature of the script, given the focus of it was only on sensual scenes. She said if it was a 20-minute scene in the whole movie it would have been fine, but it was a 20-minute movie only focusing on orgasm." She added: "I come from a middle-class family and for them, controversial themes like these can be a little shocking."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kriti Sanon was last seen in Bachchan Paandey, opposite Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez and Arshad Warsi. It is an official remake of the 2014 Tamil film *Jigarthanda*, which itself was inspired by the 2006 South Korean film *A Dirty Carnival*.

**Amruta on bifurcation in Hindi film industry**

**Mumbai:** Actress Amruta Khanvilkar, who has worked in Marathi cinema, made her Hindi film debut in 2007 with *Mumbai Salsa* but gained the spotlight in 2009 with the music video *Aye Hip Hopper*, says despite being an established actor in any regional language it is never easy to get a break in Hindi film industry.

"I think Bollywood, in general, is very hard to crack for everybody, be it regional or Hindi-speaking people," said the 37-year-old actress, who gained popularity in 2010 with her Lavani dance performance *Wajale ki bara* in the Marathi film

Natarang. Amruta says Mumbai film industry has a lot of stereotypes. "The thing about Bollywood is that there are a lot of stereotypes. Like, there are actors and then there are stars and superstars, so there is a lot of bifurcation unlike in Marathi industry," she says.

Furthermore, she shares that OTT has equipped every actor with equal opportunities. "Today, because of OTT, because of so much content being produced, every actor from every region has an equal chance" concluded the *Raazi* actress.

IAN S

**NATYADHARA: DAY-1**

**Jeeban Dhara highlights dark sides of Western modernity**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** Artistes of Spandan, a theatre troupe of Rourkela, staged Odia play *Jeeban Dhara* here at Bhanjakala Mandap, Thursday, on the first day of Natyadhara, a monthly drama festival jointly organised by Odisha Natya Sangh(ONS), Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi(OSNA) and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, Government of Odisha. Written and directed by Samar Mudali, the play showcased how people, lured by the culture and lifestyle of western countries, are destroying the age-old Indian moral values. But at the end of the day, the glitz and gloss don't last long and they are left with pain and deception.

Apart from play's director Mudali, others who performed on stage included Satya Narayan Mishra, Narottam Samal, Ramesh Chandra Gouda, Sushmita Jena, Payal Pani,



Madhusmita Rout, Chinmayee Behera and Sonia Nayak.

The dignitaries present on the occasion included OSNA secretary Prabodh Rath,

ONS president Haren Sahoo, drama director Dhira Mallick and former principal of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalay Nabin Kumar Parida.

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

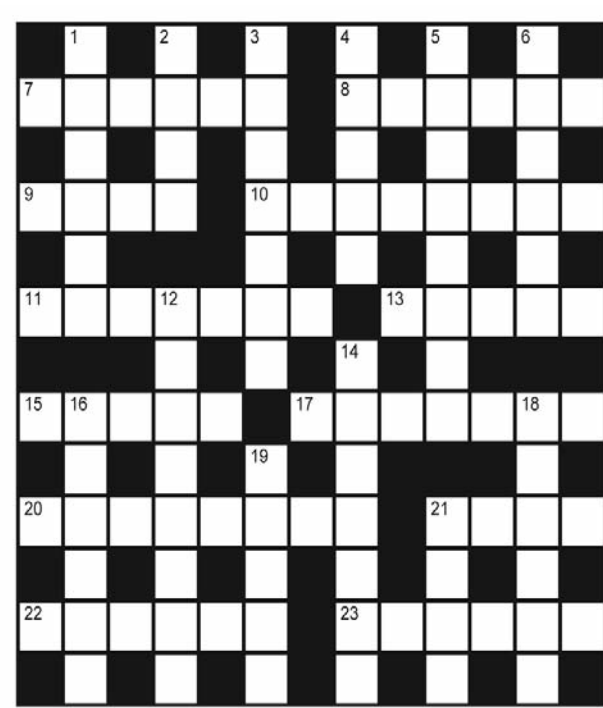


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

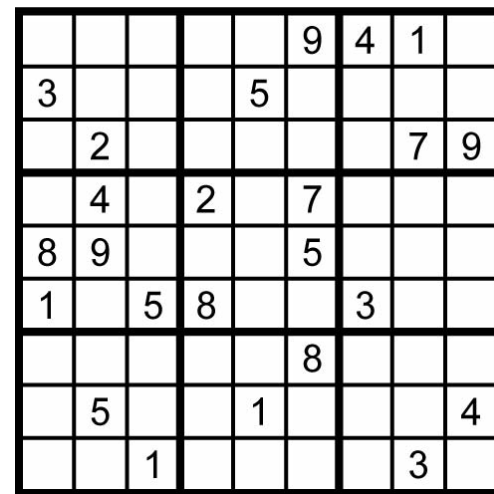
**CROSSWORD**



- Across**
- 7 Seat of power
  - 8 Reach
  - 9 Queen's residence?
  - 10 Word for leftover
  - 11 Leftover
  - 13 Angler's gear
  - 15 Involuntary twitch
  - 17 Swiss export
  - 20 Nonsense
  - 21 Window part
  - 22 Seed beetle
  - 23 Outdoors, usually
  - Down**
  - 1 Like some steaks
  - 2 Eagle: bird of
  - 3 Impassioned
  - 4 Fencing move
  - 5 Game plan
  - 6 Subordinate
  - 12 Sharp descent (4,4)
  - 14 Munster locale
  - 16 Sharpener relative
  - 18 Vacation spot
  - 19 Baleen whale food
  - 21 Paving stone

**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.

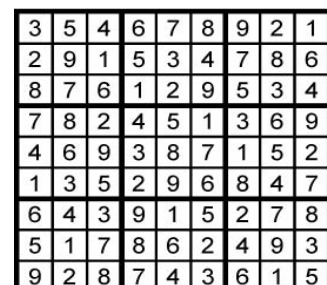


**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**



**SUDOKU**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

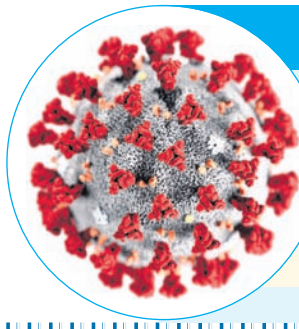


# downtown



## IMMERSED IN WORK

An artisan crafts the face of a Durga idol at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,83,35,040	58,46,00,511	64,96,836
India	4,44,33,762	4,38,45,680	5,27,911
Odisha	13,27,844	13,17,042	9,177

## ALLEGED ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS

# SC asks MHA to seek reports from Odisha, 7 other states

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**New Delhi, Sept 1:** The Supreme Court Thursday directed the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to submit reports on the alleged attacks on the Christian community in Odisha and seven other states and also give details about the action taken on such cases within two months.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli granted two months time to the MHA to get verification reports from Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar, and submit reports. The bench held that "the Chief Secretaries of the eight states to furnish information about the registration of FIR, status of investigation, if any arrest made and in how many cases chargesheet filed". The bench said an attack on individuals does not mean it is an attack on the community but it needs to verify the claims of any such incident if it is made in the public interest litigation (PIL).

The petitioner submitted in the court that more than 700 such incidents occurred in the eight states.



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Churches have been vandalised and Bibles burnt, said the petitioner, adding that 53 FIRs have been registered and only 23 perpetrators have been arrested and released

Churches have been vandalised and Bibles burnt. He contended that 53 FIRs have been registered and only 23 perpetrators were arrested and released.

The bench asked the petitioner to submit the details of attacks on community to the office of solicitor general within four weeks and the exercise of verification of the cases to be carried out within two months thereafter.

It said that the court is only concerned that its earlier verdicts on the appointment of nodal officers for reporting and monitoring of such incidents are complied with by the states.

The court's order came on a PIL

filed by Rev. Dr. Peter Machado of National Solidarity Forum, Rev. Vijayesh Lal of Evangelical Fellowship of India, and others claiming violence against the members of the Christian community in the country tacks on Christian institutions as alleged in a PIL.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that on verification it has been found the majority of the cases mentioned in the petition are false and based on "self-serving articles" published on a web portal. The Solicitor General argued that the apex court should not pass an order in such a plea, otherwise it will open Pandora's box.

## Oppn slams govt over 'rising crimes' against women

POST NEWS NETWORK

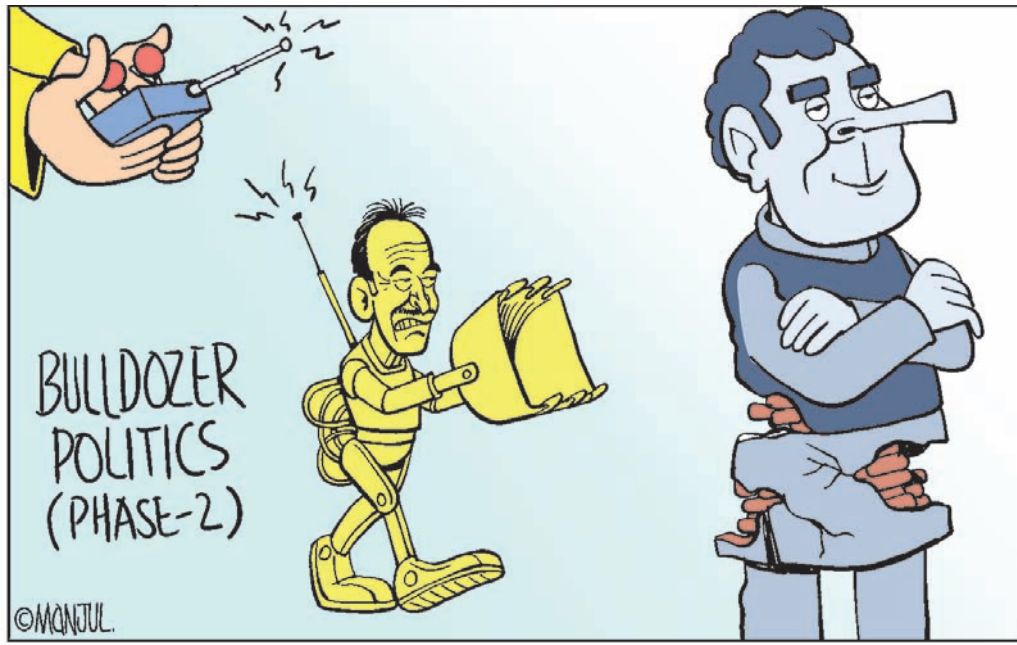
**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The Congress and BJP Thursday slammed the state government over 'rising crimes' against women and blamed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the deteriorating law and order situation in Odisha.

The BJP government only gives slogans like 'Maa Ku Samman' (respect to women) while the latest 'Crime in India 2021' report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) not only gives a contrary picture but puts the state to shame, said Satya Prakash Nayak, media convener of the OPCC.

Nayak said the Odisha Police and the state government should remain accountable before the people of the state for such a situation. He said the Crime Branch's initiatives like Operation Smile and Muskan are a total failure as cases of missing girl children are still on the rise. The CM is receiving awards for women safety and empowerment but in reality women are unsafe under his regime, he said.

Similarly, state BJP Mahila Morcha president Smriti Patnaik said, "As per NCRB report, while violence against women is increasing in Odisha, the rate of conviction is decreasing. The increase in female abduction (37%), abuse (17.8%), rape (20.23%), child abuse (13.35%) as compared to the previous year is worrisome and embarrassing."

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Governance atlas for 4,056 GPs by March

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** Poverty & Human Development Monitoring Agency (PHDMA), the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) body of the state government, is going to initiate an ambitious project of extending its continuous monitoring processes covering 6,794 gram panchayats (GPs) of Odisha by October 2, 2023.

In the first phase, the initiative will bring out panchayat level governance atlas of 4,056 GPs by March 5, 2023 (Panchayati Raj Diwas) through PHDMA's unique methods of on-site deep sensing and immersion.

Governance atlas of all GPs is a systematic tracking of access, availability and utility of priority schemes, projects, programmes and benefits at household, individual, cohort, sectoral and institutional level as well as capturing of people's aspirations from all gram panchayats to trigger a robust redressal mechanism. The governance atlas will be shared with stakeholders for resolution and necessary policy actions and inputs.

The PHDMA teams will be mobile on the field for the next one year to observe what's working,



**Governance atlas will provide a detailed analysis of the progress of governance and help the administration track growth of individuals, households and communities**

what needs to be worked on and what people of Odisha aspire. The project will not only nudge the institutional mechanism to address the existing issues but also keep track of progresses happening on the ground.

"It's our way to participate in processes of poverty eradication towards human development

through listening. Deep listening will not be about hearing words but to embrace, accept and resolve. The compilations of governance realities through narratives, immersive observations and pictures on the ground will be the governance atlas of the state," Roopa Roshan Sahoo, Member Secretary, PHDMA.

PHDMA has a unique way of collecting narratives and visuals from the field which ensures going beyond a structural format and traditional methods of monitoring and evaluation.

These observations as reports known as 'governance atlas' will provide a detailed analysis of the progress of governance in the state and will help the administration track growth of individuals, households and communities.

# Cocaine racket kingpin nabbed from UP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** In a significant development, the state Crime Branch has arrested the prime accused in the seizure of cocaine here April 12 from Uttar Pradesh. The accused was identified as Gulbesh Khan alias Hazarat of Dharmapura under Shishgarh police limits in Bareilly district of UP.

Following a tip-off, a joint team of Special Task Force (STF) of

Crime Branch and UP Police Wednesday conducted a raid at Ghaziabad and arrested Khan. Later, he was produced before the court of Additional Civil Judge, Junior Division, Ghaziabad, that allowed the STF to take Hazarat on transit remand till September 3. The accused will be produced before a local court here Friday, an STF official said.

In a first, the STF sleuths had seized 202 gram cocaine worth

around ₹50 lakh during a raid near Xavier Crossing here April 12. Police also arrested two persons, Ravi Churu and Sunny Kumar of Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan after registering a case (9/2022) under Sections 21(c)/29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985. Sunny used to stay at Tareni Nagar area in Saliasahi under Nayapalli police station and work as the local conduit for the drugs cartel. Similarly,

Ravi used to sell cocaine in different areas of Delhi after procuring it from Hazarat in Ghaziabad. Ravi owns a hotel at his native place in Rajasthan. "Unlike ganja and heroin/brown sugar, cocaine is not produced in India. It is produced from the coca plant which is native to South America. It is mainly produced in Latin American countries like Colombia, Peru and Bolivia and consumed mostly in the USA and Europe," said an STF sleuth.



Inmates of Ramakrishna Mission immersing a Ganesh idol in Puri sea, Thursday

OP PHOTO

# How AI model helps slum dwellers fight heatwaves

Microsoft president and vice chair Brad Smith Thursday visited SEEDS, a disaster response and preparedness non-profit organisation, which is deploying artificial intelligence (AI) to predict the impact of multiple hazards like cyclones, earthquakes or heatwaves in any given area.

In India, that harsher impact is being felt in the nation's slums, which researchers say can be as much as 6 degrees Celsius warmer than other parts of the city.

"In the slums, it is so difficult to step out and find shade on a hot summer day. It is so congested. The houses are often made of tin sheets, which heat up much faster compared to other materials," said Anshu Sharma, co-founder of SEEDS.

Since 2017, SEEDS has been working with communities most vulnerable to heatwaves, to help people come up with solutions to beat the heat.

Now, with the support of Microsoft's AI for Humanitarian Action grant, SEEDS has developed an AI model to predict the impact of multiple hazards. The model, called Sunny Lives, has generated heatwave risk information for around 1,25,000 people living in slums in New Delhi and Nagpur.



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The risk pipeline that leverages the AI model was co-developed with data science company Gramener and provides a risk map for a particular area

Experts say such intense heatwaves are likely to continue. According to a study published in the Weather and Climate Extremes journal last year, India saw more than double the number of heatwaves between 2000 and 2019 than it did between 1980 and 1999.

The 'Sunny Lives' AI model was developed with Microsoft's AI for Good Lab and supported by a grant from the AI for Humanitarian Action programme.

The risk pipeline that leverages the AI model was co-developed with data

science company Gramener and provides a risk map for a particular area.

On the map, each building is color-coded according to its 'risk score'.

Built-up density, vegetation, proximity of the building to a water body, roof-type classification: these are some of the key parameters that comprise the matrix that SEEDS uses to calculate the risk score.

The rooftop material, with its attendant heat-absorbing capacity, is a crucial data point: buildings are identified, classified, and mapped based on this capacity.

The risk map can be overlaid onto a regular map available on a smartphone, which makes it handy for volunteers to access when they go out into the field. The maps help them figure out various action points: where they must go to issue warnings, where water scarcity could be an issue, or where the local authorities will need to direct resources.

Over the last couple of years, SEEDS has reached out to 23 slum communities in East Delhi with this approach.

The organisation is now engaging with various state governments in India to extend its model to middle- and high-income group areas.

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FOUNDATION DAY



Bhubaneswar Development Authority observed its 40th Foundation Day at BDA office, Thursday

# CM provides KALIA aid to 41.85L farmers on Nuakhai

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The state government, on the occasion of Nuakhai, Thursday provided financial assistance of Rs 2000 to 41.85 lakh small and landless farmers of the state under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.



the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. A sum total of Rs. 869 crore distributed to the farmers, "he said. Chief Minister further said that KALIA Yojana is the best scheme in the country. It has created hopes and confidence among the small and marginal farmers. It is also helping to protect the livelihoods of the landless farmers, he said.

stance for crop damage soon". The Odisha government had earlier announced that the eligible farmers will receive financial assistance of Rs 2,000 twice a year during the next three years on the occasions of Akshaya Tritiya and Nuakhai. Through the implementation of KALIA Scheme, the state government aims to lend farmers with an all-inclusive and flexible support system, ensuring accelerated agricultural prosperity.

# BDA to develop City through TPS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Thursday announced 45 new projects aiming infrastructure progress on outskirts of the state capital forming a ring road of around 65kms thereby expanding city while managing growth through Town Planning Schemes (TPS).

bring new infrastructure and amenities across Bhubaneswar forming a ring road of around 9660 acres. The TPS will aim housing for Economically Weaker Section (EWS), capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and generation of revenue through sale of reserved plots.

being developed for slum dwellers, 342 units spread across 1.5 acres are being constructed in informal settlement at Subudhipur," Singh said.

keeping in mind the modern-day needs of a child to ensure healthy overall growth. "I also urge everyone to think about the climate change and take steps for the betterment of our future generations. We at BDA have also shifted from offline to online modes like Online Lease Deed Application, NOC Application and much more in a very short span of time. We have sorted out long pending issues like Lease Deed & will do our best to solve rest," Singh added.

# Hamro Swabhiman observes 'HartalikaTeej'

Bhubaneswar:

To cherish the essence of unity amidst diversity, Hamro Swabhiman Trust - a social wing of Patanjali Yogpeeth - celebrated 'HartalikaTeej' at Siri Fort Auditorium of New Delhi. 'HartalikaTeej' is a pious festival observed mostly by women and girls and is a special occasion for the people of north India and Nepal in the presence of Indian and Nepalese citizens, thereby, glorifying the spirit of brotherhood.

# IT Min Vaishnaw mentions Bali Yatra at G20 summit

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** At the G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting in Bali Thursday, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw mentioned Odisha's Bali Yatra and the state's connection to Indonesia.

# 'Ahimsa Rath' reach Nuapada, Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** The Ahimsa Rath, which were flagged off by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the Independence Day to spread the message of non-violence, reached Nuapada and Jharsuguda Thursday.

The chariots were welcomed by the district administrations. In Nuapada, the chariot toured places like Amalapali, Khariar and other border areas of district where school students and women Self Help Groups (SHGs) welcomed them. Similarly, in Jharsuguda, district officials and locals welcomed the chariot by singing the favourite bhajan of Gandhi. The chariots toured places like Brajarajnagar and Lakhampur.

# 699 with mental illness languish in jails

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** Odisha continues to be in the second position when it comes to number of mentally-ill prisoners lodged in various jails with Uttar Pradesh having the highest such prisoners. This was revealed from the 'Prison Statistics India 2021' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).



The report said that 699 inmates lodged in various jails of the state have been suffering from various types of mental illness. As many as 420 undertrials and 279 convicts in 88 jails of the state are reportedly having mental illness. The state witnessed a marginal increase in the number of

mentally-ill prisoners in 2021 against 696 in 2020. In 2019, the number of mentally-ill prisoners stood at 626 and since then it has

been constantly growing. Among the states, Uttar Pradesh with 1,792 has reported the highest number of prisoners suffering

Against the sanctioned strength of 190, only 102 medical staffers were posted in different jails of the state

The NCRB report claimed that no psychologist or psychiatrist was working in the prisons in 2021

from mental illness while Delhi topped the list among the union territories in the number of maximum inmates suffering from mental illness.

The situation in Odisha is worrisome keeping in view the poor medical facilities and growing prison population in the state. The state's jails are reportedly holding 20,804 inmates till 2021 against the total capacity of 20,987. As many as 18,864

inmates were lodged in different prisons across the state in 2020. The occupancy rate was 90.7 in 2020 which increased to 99.1 per cent. As per the NCRB report, Odisha reported huge vacancy of medical staff in 2021. The prisons have only 36 Resident Medical Officers or Medical Officers against the sanctioned strength of 94. The state has no laboratory staffers in the prisons. Similarly, there are only 64 pharmacists working in the jails against the actual strength of 90.

Against the sanctioned strength of 190, only 102 medical staffers were posted in different jails of the state. The NCRB report claimed that no psychologist or psychiatrist was working in the prisons in 2021.

On the occasion, the Vaishnaw met the ministers of several G20 countries. The Ministry of Communications and Informatics of the Republic of Indonesia is hosting the meet as part of Indonesia's G20 Presidency. In the digital ministerial-level meeting, they are to discuss the implementation of international collaborations and policies in the digital economy sector. Notably, trade relations between the erstwhile Kalinga and Indonesia were strong from the 2nd century BC to the 8th century AD. The Kalinga seafarers (Sadhabas) used to go to Indonesia, particularly Bali, by boats taking advantage of the retreating monsoon. The trading activities led by Kalinga were flourishing in SE Asia, now inhabited by present ASEAN countries.

# Floods in state completely man-made, says BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** Opposition BJP Thursday blamed the BJD government for its alleged inept handling of floods and relief operations and demanded that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tender his apology to the people of Odisha with "folded hands".

The BJP has prepared a chargesheet against the state government which claimed that the recent floods in Mahanadi and Subarnarekha river systems were completely "man-made" and was a result of gross mismanagement by the government.

BJP state general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan told a press conference that the charge sheet was based on the party's report from "ground zero" and alleged that the state government has completely failed to manage the flood both in the upper and lower catchment areas of Mahanadi river which submerged a large portion of the state.

"No government has the right to put people in trouble for no fault of theirs. Therefore, the Chief Minister should tender apology with folded hands to the people for his government's inept handling of flood," he said.

Senior BJD MLA SB Behera rejected BJP's allegation and said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had given clear instruction for relief operation and damage assessment. "If the Opposition ignores all these efforts, we have nothing to say," Behera said.

Keeping up his criticism, Harichandan alleged that the coordination meeting between Odisha and Chhattisgarh governments, which was agreed to be held twice a year during the pre-monsoon period, has not been conducted in the past three to four years.

Holding the government responsible for "lack of sincerity", BJP in its 'chargesheet' said that when the engineer-in-chief of water resources department initially said that there is no possibility of flood in Mahanadi, the minister concerned had said there will be a light to medium flood. Later, the special relief commissioner had said there will be high flood.

"These statements issued by the authorities show the lack of seriousness on the part of the government during flood and subsequent relief operation management," Harichandan said.

# CLASSIFIED LOST

ସୂଚିତ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗଣଙ୍କୁ ସାହୁ, ସାମାଜିକ କର୍ମୀଙ୍କୁ ସାହୁ, ପୁରୁ ନ. ୪୮, ପାଠକ ନଗର, ଚକପାଣି ରୋଡ୍, ବସ୍ତ୍ର, କୁବେନେଶ୍ୱର, ନୋଟାରି ପବ୍ଲିକ୍, କୁବେନେଶ୍ୱର ଡା. ୨୪.୦୬.୨୦୨୧ ରିଖରେ ଏକ ସତ୍ୟପାଠ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜଣାଇଅଛି କି ଗତ ଡା. ୨୩.୦୬.୨୦୨୧ ରିଖ ସକାଳ ୧୧ଟା ସମୟରେ ଲିଙ୍ଗରାଜ ମନ୍ଦିର ସିକା ବାଟରେ ମୋର ପକାର ଖାତା ନଂ. ୨୩୩/୨୦୦, ପୁର ନଂ. ୬/୪୪୮, ୧୦.୨୪୧ ଡି, ଏବଂ ଦଲିଲ ନଂ. ୨୬୯୬/୨୦୦୧ ଦୁଇଟି ଯାକ ବସ୍ତ୍ରବିତ୍ତ କେଉଁଠାରେ ହରିଯାଇଛି । କୌଣସି ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏହାର ଅସର ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତି, ତା' ହେଲେ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ଦଣ୍ଡା ହେବି ନାହିଁ । କିମ୍ବା ଯଦି କୌଣସି ସହଯୋଗ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏହି ପକାର ପାଇଥାନ୍ତି ତେବେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ମୋ ଠିକଣାରେ କିମ୍ବା ମୋର ମୋବାଇଲ ନମ୍ବର ୯୪୩୯୮୦୨୫୫୦ ରେ (9439802550) ସୋପାନରେ କରାଯାଇ ଶୁକ୍ଲଭାଷାରେ ।



Fire personnel during a Mock Drill at Capital Hospital MCH building in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

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Rising above their caste affiliations, people at Shirabahal village under Puntala block in Bolangir district took part in a community feast on the occasion of Nuakhai, Thursday

LAND OF PARADIP PORT GRABBED IN JAJPUR

PPA's Vig wing to probe scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dharmasala, Sept 1: An investigation into the alleged encroachment of Paradip Port Authority (PPA) land under this tehsil in Jajpur district will be conducted after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) directed the port's Vigilance wing to look into the irregularity, a report said Thursday. The matter came to the fore after the authorities of the premier investigating agency wrote to the port's Vigilance department directing it to hold a probe into the land scam.



The state government had allocated 34.46 acre of land in past at Brahmapur Sasan village to Paradip Port Authority to use it as a dumping yard

PPA has a total 34.46 acre of land in khata-222 and plots- 416; 419; 455; 459 and 472

The port gave away 20 acre of land from this patch on 6-year lease to one Sribas Jena, Nov 1, 2007

assist during the probe. Reports said that the state government had provided 34.46 acre of land in past at Brahmapur Sasan village to PPA for use as a dumping yard. Later, the port authorities gave away 20 acre of land from this patch on six year lease to mineral trader Sribas Jena, November 1, 2007. However, Jena violated the agreement for which the PPA had cancelled the lease February 8, 2012. Despite all this, the land is still being occupied by Jena who moved the Supreme Court against the cancellation of the agreement. The matter is still sub-judice. Jena instead of handing over the land to PPA has kept the land in his possession and is using it to further his business interest, the complainant stated.

Miniature Ganesh idols made of ice cream, incense sticks in Ganjam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 1: Two sculptors in Berhampur city of Ganjam district have made miniature Ganesh idols by using matchsticks, ice cream and incense sticks on the occasion of the Ganesh Chaturthi Wednesday.

Hara Gobind Moharana, a garage owner, has made a seven-cm high Ganesh with a kilo of incense sticks, while Satya Moharana, a businessman, crafted seven idols by using 'chumki' or decorative stars, and ice-cream sticks.

Forty-year-old Satya, who has a habit of making miniature idols of gods and goddesses on the major festivals, said he took one day to craft all seven idols.

"I have made these by carefully carving the sticks and woods and then pasted the chumki to make these more attractive, he said.

There was "no iron nail" used to make the idols, he added.

Similarly, Hara Gobind said he took around half-an-hour to give the shape of the Ganesh idol in an incense bundle. Earlier, the 50-year-old man had made the Ganesh idols in Harada and Bahada, crystal, in pencil and soap.

GOVT FUND BUNGLING

Lokayukta's investigation today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Sept 1: Taking a serious note of an allegation on embezzlement of government funds in Danr panchayat under this block of Keonjhar district, Lokayukta has decided to start an investigation into the irregularities.

A team from Lokayukta will carry out a preliminary investigation into it on September 2. The office of the Lokayukta has intimidated the block office about it.

A notice has been issued through the BDO to former panchayat executive officer (PEO) Ramesh Majhi and GRS Binay Mallick. The statements of the two officials will be recorded during the investigation on September 2 and 3. The team will also visit some project sites during the investigation.

The BDO has been told to ensure that the additional block development officer (ABDO) and other officials concerned should be present during the investigation.

Besides, the sarpanch and the PEO of the Danr panchayat have been told to be present and provide necessary information about the alleged irregularities.

The issue of fund embezzlement was raised by former sarpanch



Office of the Lokayukta, Odisha

Hisi Hembram, who alleged that funds worth lakhs of rupees meant for pension, SFC, CFC and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) have been embezzled.

He moved the Lokayukta, making the Collector and other officials as a party. A case (738/2021) was registered.

It was alleged that Hembram was suspended after he was accused of thrashing a GRS. He has been booked.

However, he moved the Orissa High Court against his suspension, but the latter stayed it.

On the other hand, former PEO Ramesh Majhi and GRS Bijay Mallick dismissed the allegation of fund misappropriation against them as baseless and aimed at harassing them.

Sale of MDM rice investigated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jenapur, Sept 1: Rice for mid-day meal (MDM) for schoolchildren was allegedly sold off by teachers at Shyamsundarpur ME School in Anjira panchayat under Dharmasala block in Jajpur district. Acting on an allegation from locals in this regard, a team of officials comprising block education officer (BEO) Nikunja Bihari Mohanty and assistant block education officer (ABEO) Manik Soy started an investigation into the matter. They questioned the headmaster, teachers and members of the school management committee to verify whether rice indeed had been sold illegally.

The BEO said that investigation is underway and if teachers are found guilty, stringent action will be taken against them.

Locals alleged that the MDM rice was sold to a person recently. They said they found the person coming out of the school building carrying two sacks of rice on his bike. When asked, the headmaster of the school said that he had exchanged MDM rice for two sacks of parboiled rice for Ganjesh puja. He also tried to pass the buck on to some members of the school management committee saying that they were responsible for the exchange.

Sanitation workers to get incentives

₹ 20 lakh to family if a worker dies while cleaning septic tanks



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 1: The state government will provide financial assistance of ₹20 lakh to the kin of any sanitation worker who dies during cleaning of a septic tank, a top level official said. Commissioner-cum-Principal Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development department G Mathi Vathanan gave this information while attending a review meeting at the District Collectorate here in Ganjam district.

The state government has launched Garima Yojana in 2020 for the welfare of the sanitation workers working in urban areas. Many sanitation workers have lost their lives while cleaning septic tanks. A decision has also been taken to ban manual cleaning of such tanks and the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) should purchase all necessary equipment required in the cleaning work, Vathanan informed. Moreover, the Housing and Urban Development department will provide assistance to any sanitation worker falling sick or becoming disabled during

work, he added. This apart, order has been issued to the commissioner of Berhampur Municipal Corporation, executive officers of Hinjili Municipality and of 16 NACs to treat the sanitation workers with a grand feast (Badakhana) every month. Vathanan also said that the toilets and latrines under BeMC should remain clean like those found in malls and airports. Instructions have been given that all toilets under BeMC should have exhaust fans and jet faucets, sources informed.

Monkey smuggling racket busted, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patrapur, Sept 1: Forest and police officials seized a monkey laden auto-rickshaw from Nuasahi Square in Jarada of Ganjam district and rescued at least 5 live monkeys who were being smuggled in from Andhra Pradesh in the vehicle. The officials also recovered several dead monkeys from the vehicle, Wednesday night.

The officials also arrested two smugglers hailing from Andhra Pradesh and produced them in court. The accused were identified as Ramesh Singh P Nagaraju from the neighbouring state. The accused had packed the primates in sacks and were on their way to Tumba in Ganjam district in an auto-rickshaw (AP-30-TC-2342). Forest officials said that the monkeys might have been asphyxiated due to being stuffed in sacks. The auto-rickshaw has also been seized, forest ranger Manoj Kumar Patra said. According to sources, the forest officials had intercepted the auto-rickshaw after they got a tip-off that several monkeys were being smuggled into neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in a three-wheeler.

Record hatching of saltwater crocs in Bhitarkanika

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Sept 1: A record number of around 3,700 baby saltwater crocodiles have broken out of eggshells to make their way to the water bodies of the Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, an official said.



They emerged from as many as 122 nesting sites that were spotted in the wildlife sanctuary in Kendrapara district in comparison to 84 the previous year, he said. Hatching of the eggs has commenced since the past two days and will continue for a fortnight, the forest department official said, adding that around 2,500 crocodiles had emerged from the nests last year.

"The sight of baby crocs breaking out of eggshells and loitering aimlessly before hopping into the water bodies and creeks is nothing less than a visual treat," he said.

The estuarine crocodiles typically build nests adjacent to mangrove twigs, leaves and mud on a high ground, where they can get direct sunlight and are free from inundation.

Forest personnel keep a safe distance from the nests as human interference makes the reptiles violent and aggressive, the official said.

Female crocodiles usually lay around 50-60 eggs during the annual nesting season, and the hatchlings emerge after 70-80 days of incubation period, he said.

"However, hardly one out of every 100 baby crocs grows to be-

come adults as their mortality rate is very high. In the wild, babies are also devoured by predatory aquatic species," the official said.

According to herpetologist Sudhakar Kar, the increase in number of nests and saltwater crocodiles highlights better conservation measures by the forest department.

The sanctuary was kept out of bounds for tourists from May 31 to July 31 to ensure noise-free annual nesting.

Spread over a vast area of 672 sq km, the sanctuary, which is essentially a network of creeks and canals, is home to the largest congregation of saltwater crocodiles in the country.

A total of 1,784 crocodiles were counted this year in the water-bodies of the Mahanadi deltaic region, officials said.

Milk production in Jagatsinghpur dented by floods

Over 28K cattle are suffering from various diseases affecting daily supply of milk in the coastal district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Sept 1: With many cattle infected by various diseases during the recent floods and some dying, milk production has declined by 25 per cent in Jagatsinghpur district, sources said.



Jagatsinghpur is predominantly an agriculture-dependent district where majority of the population earn their livelihood through cultivation and by selling milk. The money they earn from selling milk is spent on meeting the expenses of their families. The involvement of people in cattle rearing has brought laurels for the district which has stood first in Odisha in milk production. Now with the supply of milk decreasing substantially, the economy of these farmers has been hit hard.

According to information available from the chief district veterinary officer's (CDVO) headquarters, even a couple of months back, the state-owned Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) Limited used to buy 1,15,000 litres of milk on a daily basis. Now it has come down to less than 75,000 litres.

The low-pressure triggered incessant rainfalls followed by floods severely affected the cattle population. A preliminary assessment said that 28,241 cattle in 82 villages under 32 panchayats of the district have contracted various diseases and milk production has decreased substantially.

A total of 8,008 domestic animals including 6,431 cows, 1,577 goats and sheep in 28 villages under 11 panchayats of Kujang block have been affected.

The CDVO office has also organised 92 camps in flood-hit areas to provide treatment to bovines. 23 medical teams are visiting these localities and treating the sick animals

OMFED buys. District Collector Parul Patwari and CDVO Birakishore Parida are trying their best to provide fodder in the flood-affected areas of the district. So far, 265 metric tonne of fodder including 101 metric tonne in Kujang block and 132 metric tonne in Tirtol block have been supplied to the cattle farmers.

The CDVO office has also organised 92 camps in flood affected areas to provide treatment to the bovines. Twenty-three medical teams are visiting these localities and treating the sick animals.

The situation has improved with floodwaters having receded in many areas. However, milk production has sharply declined to 75,000 litres in the district as a large number of animals are still ill. However, a proper picture will emerge only after the floodwaters recede completely, sources said.

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FOCUS NATION

# BEYOND TOKENISM



**It may not be easy to make space for an agenda of tribal empowerment led by the President. But she will carry tremendous influence and can nudge and create a sense of sensitivity, and in that sense her role can be more than symbolic**

It is over a month since Droupadi Murmu became the 15th President of India. She is the second woman and the first person from a tribal community to occupy the highest office in the land. This is an achievement, no doubt. There is hope that her ascent to the highest office will ensure that tribal voices are heard in New Delhi, that the tribal agenda is placed at the forefront of policy making and that she can leave a mark so that we can end what tribal communities perceive as “centuries of neglect.”

Tribal leaders are pinning hope on her work in the past. They cite the stand she took as Governor of Jharkhand, when it seemed tribal rights would be compromised. This included returning a bill seeking amendments in land laws during the previous BJP government’s term or changes in the Tribal Advisory Council that the present JMM – headed government wanted to make. However, it may have been forgotten that it was difficult for her to continue standing up against the state government. In 2016–2017, the Raghubar Das ministry sought amendments to the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949. The amendments aimed at making available tribal land for commercial use by giving the right to the tribal owners to lease their land. Although she returned the bill with mounting opposition, the state government did finally succeed in making the proposed changes allowing it to acquire tribal land “in public interest for purposes like infrastructure development.”

It is true that a President in the Indian constitutional system has limited powers; she or he must act on the advice of the council of ministers, which is where the real executive power rests under the Parliamentary form of government. It may not be easy to make space for an agenda of tribal empowerment led by the President. But she will carry tremendous influence and can nudge and create a sense of sensitivity, and in that sense her role can be more than symbolic. This will be a good achievement and an admirable goal after her predecessor Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit President, who could not do much in terms of bringing to the forefront and increasing awareness let alone moving to improve the lot of Dalits.

Cynics will say that following a Dalit as President, it was important to have a tribal leader as President keeping in mind the 2024 general elections. After all, the SC and ST reserved Lok Sabha constituencies add up to 130 seats. Thanks to the Ambedkarite vision of political representation of marginalised and discriminated Indian classes through affirmative action, which he agreed to in the absence of separate electorates, SC and ST votes have become a decisive factor for any political party to be in power. This is of course regardless of whether or not, the SC and ST parliamentarians represent the interests of their communities. The present government has been very careful in ensuring caste and tribe-based representation. After having a minister, Renuka Singh Saruta, from the powerful Gond community, Droupadi Murmu has been selected thanks to her identity as a Santhal, the third most significant tribal group in India with a population of over 6.6 million. But ultimately, are symbols and figureheads helping the marginalised classes of India? Is having a tribal or a Dalit as President better, even slightly, the lot of these groups. It cannot be said so.

Looking back, unlike KR Narayanan, the first Dalit President who had an independent mind and committed passion for social justice, Ram Nath Kovind appeared eager to please the government, including signing the papers at midnight to ensure that the BJP candidate could take oath as a Chief Minister in Maharashtra before the world awoke.

Droupadi Murmu has time to prove whether or not she stands for tribal rights as the first tribal President. It may not be comforting that her first address to the nation as a President on the eve of the 76th Indian Independence did not mention tribals or their rights. The issues of deprivation of forest land, the non-implementation of PESA, malnutrition and hunger deaths of tribals did not find a mention in her speech which spoke of the story of the phenomenal rise of India as a great nation. But then, this is only the beginning of her term and she has five years ahead.

We have several examples of leaders who have risen from tribal leadership to create transformation. Few would know that Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was from the

Xhosa-speaking Thembu tribe from Mveza village in South Africa. He rose to be one of the biggest leaders of our time. Closer home, it was the heroic death of Birsa Munda that compelled the British to enact the Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act which protected tribal land from being transferred through unscrupulous means to non-tribal use. We may also not set our expectations too high. Here is someone who has overcome much difficulty and has traversed a painful, hard path to become Governor of a state and now President of India. We can also hope that she will stand by the poor, the marginalised and the downtrodden in her own way, using the enormous influence that she will have as President and even beyond the one term she is elected for.

Should the Indian President represent the interests of her or his own class and caste? I disagree. She is President for all of India – all sections, all groups, all communities, all interests. Yet, there would be little disagreement on the issue that the President should stand by and support the most marginalised citizens of India.

Unfortunately, we are as a nation governed by contradictions. We are disturbed and agitated with the system of caste-based reservations, disregarding the fact that it was a complete dismissal of the marginalised communities from the system and political representation that necessitated the introduction of reservations. The oppression continues to this day. Tribals and other marginalised backward groups too face contradictions. They have assured political representation through reservation but yet feel powerless in the absence of good leadership that can sincerely represent their interests. Today’s situation may spell hope with a President who has the rather special qualification of a lived experience so that she knows what it means to continue to be oppressed in a land we call free.

*The writer is founder of Nausarjan, a grassroots Dalit organisation fighting for human rights. Views are personal.* @THEBILLIONPRESS

## Two Colonisations

As everyone knows, Volodymyr Zelensky played a Ukrainian president in the television series *Servant of the People* before becoming Ukraine’s president in real life, and that irony led many not to take him seriously (as if a president who previously served in the KGB is better). But less well known is the basic plot of the series.

Zelensky played Vasily Petrovich Goloborodko, a schoolteacher whose students record him ranting about corruption, share the video online (where it goes viral), and then sign him up as a candidate in the country’s next presidential election. Having unwittingly tapped into Ukrainians’ widespread frustration over corruption, Goloborodko wins, faces a steep learning curve in office, and eventually starts to confront the country’s oligarchy from his new position of power.

The show’s depiction of Ukraine is apt. Of all the post-communist countries in Eastern Europe, it was the hardest hit by economic “shock therapy” (sweeping market reforms and privatization) in the 1990s. For three decades since independence, Ukrainian incomes have remained below where they were in 1990. Corruption has been rampant, and the courts have proven a farce.

As Luca Celada of *il manifesto* writes, “the ‘conversion’ to capitalism has followed the usual pattern: a class of oligarchs and a narrow elite have enriched themselves disproportionately by despoiling the public sector with the complicity of the political class.” Moreover, financial assistance from the West has always been “strongly tied to reforms that Ukraine was required to implement, all under the banner of fiscal restraint and austerity,” further immiserating much of the population. Such is the legacy of the capitalist West’s engagement with post-independence Ukraine.

Meanwhile, my sources in Russia tell me that President Vladimir Putin has assembled a group of Marxists to counsel him on how to present Russia’s position in the developing world. One can find traces of this influence in the speech he gave on August 16: “The situation in the world is changing dynamically and the outlines of a multipolar world order are taking shape. An increasing number of countries and peoples are choosing a path of free and sovereign development based on their own distinct identity, traditions, and values. These objective processes are being opposed by the Western globalist elites, who provoke chaos, fanning long-standing and new conflicts and pursuing the so-called containment policy, which in fact amounts to the subversion of any alternative, sovereign development options.”

But, of course, two details spoil this “Marxist” critique. First, sovereignty “based on their own distinct identity, traditions, and values” implies that one should tolerate what the state is doing in places like North Korea or Afghanistan. Yet that is completely out of step with true Leftist solidarity, which focuses squarely on antagonisms within each “distinct identity” in order to build bridges between struggling and oppressed groups across countries.

Second, Putin objects to “the subversion of any alternative, sovereign development options,” even though that is exactly what he is doing in Ukraine by seeking to deprive its people of self-determination.

Putin is not alone in pushing this pseudo-Marxist line. In France, the Far-right leader Marine Le Pen now presents herself as the protector of ordinary working people against multinational corporations, which are said to be undermining national identities through the promotion of multiculturalism and sexual depravity. In the United States, the Alt-right succeeds the old radical Left with its calls to overthrow the “deep state.” Donald Trump’s former strategist Steve Bannon is a self-proclaimed “Leninist” who sees a coalition of the Alt-right and the radical Left as the only way to end the reign of financial and digital elites. (And, lest we forget the progenitor of this model, Hitler led the National Socialist German Workers’ Party.)

More is at stake in Ukraine than many commentators seem to appreciate. In a world beset by the effects of climate change, fertile land will be an increasingly valuable asset. And if there is one thing Ukraine has in abundance, it is chernozem (“black earth”), an extraordinarily fertile soil with high concentrations of humus, phosphoric acids, phosphorus, and ammonia. That is why US and Western European agribusiness firms have already bought up millions of hectares of Ukraine’s farmland – with just ten private companies reportedly controlling most of it.

Well aware of the threat of dispossession, the Ukrainian government imposed a moratorium on land sales to foreigners 20 years ago. For years thereafter, the US Department of State, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank repeatedly called for this restriction to be removed. It was only in 2021 that the Zelensky government, under immense pressure, finally started allowing farmers to sell their land. The moratorium on sales to foreigners remains in place, however, and Zelensky has said that lifting it must be put to a national referendum, which would almost certainly fail.

Nonetheless, the cruel irony is that, before Putin launched a war to colonise Ukraine by force, there was some truth to the Russian argument that Ukraine was becoming a Western economic colony. If the conflict has any silver lining, it is that the neoliberal project has been put on hold. Since war demands social mobilisation and a coordination of production, it offers Ukraine a unique chance both to halt its expropriation by foreign corporate and financial entities and to rid itself of oligarchic corruption.

In pursuing this opportunity, Ukrainians must bear in mind that it is not enough simply to join the European Union and catch up to Western living standards. Western democracy itself is now in deep crisis, with the US veering toward ideological civil war, and Europe being challenged by authoritarian spoilers from within its own ranks. More immediately, if Ukraine can achieve a decisive military victory (as we should all hope), it will find itself deeply indebted to the US and the EU. Will it be able to resist even greater pressure to open itself up to economic colonisation by Western multinationals?

This struggle is already playing out beneath the surface of Ukraine’s heroic resistance. It would be tragic if Ukraine defeated Russian neo-imperialism only to yoke itself to Western neoliberalism. To secure genuine freedom and independence, Ukraine must reinvent itself. While being a Western economic colony is certainly better than being absorbed into a new Russian empire, neither outcome is worthy of the suffering Ukrainians are now enduring.

*The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. @PROJECTSYNDICATE*



Martin Macwan

**TODAY’S SITUATION MAY SPELL HOPE WITH A PRESIDENT WHO HAS THE RATHER SPECIAL QUALIFICATION OF A LIVED EXPERIENCE**



Slavoj Žižek

**More is at stake in Ukraine than many commentators seem to appreciate**

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

## Time to rethink on Indo-Pak ties



DK Giri

**STRATEGICALLY, IN ADDITION TO A HUMANITARIAN PROSPECTIVE, INDIA SHOULD STEP IN AT THIS POINT**

Pakistan has just been ravaged by unprecedented floods. They have claimed several lives and rendered many homeless. As per the National Disaster Management Authority, the floods have killed 1136 people and injured 1636 while destroying one million homes. Around 498,000 people are in relief camps having been displaced. Many more displaced are believed to be living with relatives, friends or outside. This is said to be the worst disaster Pakistan has experienced.

From various estimates, the damage caused by the floods is much deeper. It will take years for Pakistan to recover and rebuild. Over 33 million people have been affected and one third of the country has been under water. It is estimated that the damage to houses, roads and infrastructure would amount to 10 billion USD. The floods have also wiped out standing crops. As the waters recede, fears of water-borne disease as well as food shortages are expected to rise.

Responding to this gigantic and dreadful disaster, the international community is coming forth with aid, assistance and immediate relief. India, as the immediate neighbour and the biggest country in the region, also has responded promptly

and positively. Even Pakistan, having had an inimical attitude towards India, especially since 2019, in the wake of reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir, has sought to begin trading with India. The moot question to explore is to whether India and Pakistan should seriously rethink their bilateralism in view of the devastations caused by the floods in the South Asian region. Note that the consequence of climate change should be a continuing worry for all of South Asia, one of the world’s most vulnerable regions to global warming. In view of the current crisis and the impending threats of global warming, can India become the first responder?

The responses in terms of material support so far have come from the US, the UK, China, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey, while others have promised help. The International Monetary Fund has announced a bail-out package of 1.1 billion USD. The package is a part of Pakistan’s ongoing negotiations to save itself from the economic crises it is steeped in. The dramatic shortage of vegetables is posing serious threat to health conditions and even survival. Import of vegetables from Iran was not being viable because of the increase of

the taxes by Iranian government on imports and exports. According to information at hand, tomato and onion were available at around ₹500 and ₹400 per kg respectively. It is simply beyond the reach of the common man. Likewise, apple supply from Baluchistan and other areas had also been stopped due to flooding. Worse, prices of vegetables, the basic necessity as food, will go up because of the disruption of supply from Baluchistan, Sindh and South Punjab. The shortage of food items mainly vegetables like potato, onion and tomato has prompted Pakistan to look at India. However, whichever may be the entry point, there is a scope for normalising relations. Pakistani ministers have hinted at resumption of trade with India. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail August 29 said that government can consider importing vegetables and other edible items from India. The former Security Advisor Moeed Yousuf was working on some proposals regarding trade with India. Former Commerce Advisor Razak Dawood also spoke on several occasions for renewing trade relations with India. The government has posted Trade Secretary in its New Delhi High Commission. Strategically, in addition to a hu-

manitarian prospective, India should step in at this point. Thankfully, there are positive soundings from India, as EAM S Jaishankar said, “Sometimes India, as the biggest country has to step forward.”

Some of us have been arguing to normalise relations with Pakistan with or without a permanent resolution of the Kashmir issue. In the name of Kashmir’s territorial identity, Pakistan cannot go down the road of weakening its economy and compromising its political autonomy. India should help Pakistan steady itself, become self-dependent and self-sufficient in its basic necessities. India should help Pakistan not falling prey to the debt-trap of Chinese foreign policy. Sri Lanka is a case in point. Pakistan seems to be following suit. It is also in the interest of India to decouple Pakistan and China as the latter can poke India using the platform of the former. At the end of the day, Pakistan as a former constituent of India is more manageable than China, which is ever-hungry for more territory, revanchist and expansionist in its approach. This has to be stopped.

*The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC. @INFPA*

WORDSWORTH

Binge-watching

Binge-watching, consuming several or all the episodes of a television programme in quick succession, was announced by the British dictionary publishers Collins on 5 November as its 2015 Word of the Year. Once upon a time, we had to wait for the next episode of our favourite television show and had to be sure to catch it when it was broadcast or it was probably gone for ever. Technology has changed all that, of course, not only providing box sets for easy access to programmes we want to watch again but more recently giving online access to the whole of a new series at once. *My face is unshaven, my eyes are bloodshot and I haven’t showered in days. Such are the ravages of binge-watching. Welcome to the latest addiction affecting America. ... Other than hiding the remote or changing the victim’s Netflix password, there is no known cure (Clearfield Progress (Pennsylvania), 13 Jan. 2014).* The term derives from binge-eating and binge-drinking, terms first found in the US in the 1950s (though binge drinker is a couple of decades older and the noun phrase eating binge is of 1930s vintage). An immediate precursor was binge-reading from the 1990s.

Beggars no choosers

Sir, In ‘A dictionary for self-motivated self-starters’ (*Orissa POST*, August 31), Melvin Durai is at his wittiest best. His humorous dig at the hapless employment scenario in the country is an apt reflection of the limited options available to job seekers, especially in the unorganised sector to get a decent entry into a respectable vocation of their liking. This brings to mind Alfred Lord Tennyson’s immortal poem ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’, singing paeans to the indomitable bravery of the sadly outnumbered and beleaguered British cavalry unit members, who literally courted death while obeying the command from high-on during the ‘Battle of Balaclava’ in 1854. To draw an analogy with some of the iconic lines in this poem: “... Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die...” epitomise the agony and despair of a majority of the working class, who dare not question their employers for better emoluments and improved perks, lest they lose their jobs. There is profound wisdom in the age-old aphorism: ‘Beggars can’t be choosers.’ In an economy largely bedevilled by jobless growth amid swelling multitude of job seekers, every job claimant has to accept his fate with stoic resignation.

*Amit Banerjee, NEW DELHI*

Exploitative nexus

Sir, This refers to the article “The pharma freebies,” *Orissa POST*, August 31. The allegations against Micro Labs about the company bribing doctors to prescribe its branded paracetamol offering, Dolo, as part of the first line of COVID-19 management merely revives an old ailment: an exploitative pharma-medico nexus. The brazen indulgence in unethical practices also brings the functioning of the drug regulatory system under scanner. It is quite clear that the existing regulations have been ineffective when it comes to stricter scrutiny and control of this nexus. The pharmaceutical companies have adopted ‘innovative’ ways of bribing—from e-retail vouchers to car-loan EMIs—there is ‘no hesitation’ from the pharma companies in roping in even ayurveda and homeopathy practitioners to promote their allopathy offerings. But, the rampant bribing of doctors has of course led to patients bearing unduly high costs of treatment, and even facing risks to life/health/efficacy of treatment. India still sees high out-of-pocket health expenditure. The apex court recognising the issue as serious and of great public importance denotes some movement forward in curbing manipulated prescription.

*N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE*

### 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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While the Modi Government ministers are congratulating each other over the 13.5 per cent GDP growth, the real truth is that the Indian economy has grown only 3.3 per cent in last 3 years

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE  
LEADER OF OPINION IN THE RS

## STRICT ACTION

WhatsApp has banned over 23.87 lakh Indian accounts in July, of which over 14 lakh accounts were proactively taken down before any report from users, the messaging platform said



## of the day quote

Since I didn't do anything wrong, I didn't feel scared. My honesty has once again been proved in front of the entire country



MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

When Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, no one stood with the Gandhi family, but I was with them then and I am still standing with the family



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

The housing satisfaction ratio for CAPF personnel will be enhanced to about 74 per cent by late 2024



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Shinde visits Raj Thackeray

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Thursday met MNS chief Raj Thackeray at the latter's residence here. The chief minister also met Shiv Sena veteran Manohar Joshi separately. While an official said that Shinde called on Raj Thackeray at his residence 'Shivirth' in Dadar area on the occasion of Ganesh festival, the meeting between the two led to speculation as it came ahead of the crucial civic polls in Mumbai.

### AAP leaders stage protest near LG office

**New Delhi:** AAP MLAs staged a protest near Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena's office Thursday, decrying the "declining" law and order in the national capital. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators marched from the Assembly to the Raj Niwas to meet Saxena without any prior appointment and sat on a dharna outside his office after the security personnel denied them entry.

### Bizman caught with ₹200 crore gets bail

**Prayagraj (UP):** The Allahabad High Court Thursday granted bail to businessman Piyush Jain, whose premises were raided last year and Rs 200 crore in cash and 23 kg of gold were seized by central agencies. His arrest just before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls had led to a row with the BJP calling the Kanpur-based perfume trader a "friend" of the Samajwadi Party (SP). But the opposition party had alleged that Jain belonged to the BJP.

### Delhi reverts to old excise policy

**New Delhi:** Delhi returned to the old excise policy regime within a year Thursday with the opening of nearly 350 government-run liquor vendors and exit of private players from retail business, even as liquor lovers rued the absence of their favourite brands as well as discounts.

### Risky protest

**Indore:** Seven employees of a private factory consumed a poisonous substance Thursday to protest delay in disbursement of salaries and transfer to another establishment in Indore city of Madhya Pradesh, police said. All of them consumed the unidentified poisonous substance simultaneously and were rushed to the government-run MY Hospital, where their condition is said to be out of danger, Pardeshipura police station sub-inspector (SI) Ajay Singh Kushwaha said. The employees were working in a factory manufacturing products used in modular kitchens, he said.

# Sept may see excess rainfall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** The southwest monsoon is set to make its exit in style, bringing rains to the parched parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, as weather forecasters have picked up signs of formation of a cyclonic circulation over Bay of Bengal.

Addressing a press conference here, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Thursday junked last week's forecast of early withdrawal of southwest monsoon and announced the extended stay of the seasonal showers.

"Even though we expected early withdrawal of the southwest monsoon, a cyclonic circulation over west-central and adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal will shift the monsoon trough southwards around September 7. This will increase rainfall activity over central and north peninsular India," Mohapatra said.

"Hence, conditions are not favourable for early withdrawal of monsoon," he said, adding that the weather office will continue to monitor the situation.

On August 25, the weather office had predicted an early withdrawal of southwest monsoon against the normal date of September 17. India has received six per cent excess rainfall this



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Weather office August 25 had predicted an early withdrawal of southwest monsoon against the normal date of September 17

monsoon but large parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Tripura and West Bengal have reported deficient rains, which has affected the rice crop this kharif season.

Mohapatra said the expected surge in September showers may help compensate for the deficient rainfall in western and southern Uttar Pradesh and parts of north-

northwest Bihar.

Mohapatra said rainfall average for the country as a whole was likely to be above normal, approximately 109 per cent of the long period average of 167.9 mm for the month of September.

"Normal to above normal rainfall probability is likely over most parts of India except many parts of northeast India, and some

## Drought looms over farming in UP, Bihar, WB

**New Delhi:** Over the past 12 weeks, record-breaking rainfall in India has caused unprecedented flooding in several parts, while eastern states have been reporting deficits by a big margin. The result: Bihar, West Bengal and east Uttar Pradesh, the eastern region with the highest intensity of paddy cultivation, have been highly deficit rains despite an active monsoon current in July and August. Agricultural experts told IANS one of the notable impacts of changes in track of monsoon systems can be seen on kharif crops, particularly the rice growing eastern region, where the rice is grown on the basins of Ganga and Mahanadi rivers.

parts of east and northwest India where east normal rainfall is likely," he said.

Mohapatra said most parts of the country were expected to experience below normal day temperatures, except parts of east and northeast India.

Some pockets of central and northwest India too are expected to experience above normal maximum temperatures, he said.

Mohapatra said nights were expected to be warmer over most parts of the country, except some parts of northwest India and south-eastern parts of Peninsular India.

# KEJRIWAL GOVT WINS CONFIDENCE VOTE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** The Delhi Assembly Thursday passed the confidence motion tabled by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, which saw only AAP legislators vote while all eight BJP MLAs were either marshalled out or they voluntarily staged a walkout.

During a discussion on the confidence motion, Kejriwal also touched upon the CBI raids against his deputy Manish Sisodia and claimed after those searches, the AAP's vote share in Gujarat had increased by four per cent and it would rise by another six per cent if the second-in-command gets arrested.

Calling Sisodia "fakkad-kangal" (pauper), Kejriwal said though the probe agency was "under pressure to arrest Sisodia", it could not find anything substantial against him even after searching his official house and bank locker in his village.

After winning the confidence motion, the Chief Minister said he brought it only to prove to the country that the BJP cannot buy his MLAs and the saffron party's 'Operation Lotus' had "failed" in Delhi.

The AAP has 62 MLAs in the 70-member assembly. The remaining eight belong to the BJP.

There was no vote against the confidence motion as all the AAP MLAs present in the House voted in its favour as expected.

The BJP's Vijender Gupta, Abhay Verma and Mohan Singh Bisht were marshalled out following an argument with Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla, who did not heed their demand to take up their calling attention notices before a discussion on the confidence motion. The remaining five walked out in protest.

Birla later adjourned the House sine die. Participating in the discussion on the confidence motion, Kejriwal said,

"We have 62 MLAs, of which the Speaker (Ram Niwas Goel) is in Canada, Naresh Balyan is in Australia and Satyendar Jain is in jail. The rest are here and you can count the numbers." Trying to project the AAP as an alternative to the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kejriwal said there are only two parties at the national level at present - "Kattar imaan dar (hardcore honest) party and kattar be-imaan (hardcore corrupt) party".



## EMOTIONAL MOMENT



Volunteers immerse idols of Lord Ganesha during the ongoing Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra

PTI PHOTO

# One suspect each detained in Kenya, Azerbaijan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Kenya and Azerbaijan have detained one suspect each in connection with the sensational killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and India is in touch with authorities concerned in the two countries on the case. Moosewala was shot dead by a group of assailants in Jawaharke village of Punjab's Mansa district

## MOOSEWALA KILLING

May 29. "One suspect each in Azerbaijan and Kenya have been detained by local authorities there and we are in contact with the concerned authorities in both the countries on further steps," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Thursday. He was replying to a question on the detention at his weekly media

briefing. Moosewala was killed days after his security was withdrawn by the Punjab Police.

The singer had contested the assembly elections from Congress last year and was defeated by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate. Moosewala's murder is being probed Punjab Police and Delhi Police has been extending its support to the investigation.

# Sheikh Hasina to visit India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit India from September 5 to 8, with a focus on strengthening the "multifaceted" bilateral ties.

The two sides are expected to ink an agreement on interim sharing of water of the Kushiyara river during Hasina's visit.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister is also likely to travel to Ajmer in Rajasthan to visit the Dargah of revered Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti. Announcing Hasina's visit, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said she will hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar. Hasina last visited New Delhi in October 2019. "In the recent years, both sides have sustained high level of engagement, including at the highest level," Bagchi said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will call on Hasina. Last month, India and Bangladesh finalised the text of the agreement on interim sharing of the water of the Kushiyara river.



# Murders in MP evoke memories of Raman Raghav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 1:** The murders of three security guards in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar city in a span of 72 hours have once again evoked the memories of 'serial killer' Raman Raghav, who terrorised the streets of Mumbai in 1960s by killing several homeless people, and other such killers.

Forensic psychologist Deepti Puranik from Mumbai told PTI that the three killings in Sagar "seem to be the work of a 'mission oriented serial killer' who is apparently on a mission to get rid of a specific set of people, in this case watchmen."

While there is suspicion of the involvement of a serial killer, the MP police have said it would be too early to jump to any conclusion and they are working to nab the culprit.

The three murders in Madhya Pradesh have reminded many of 'serial killers' like Raman Raghav, who had sent shock waves across



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

the country in 1960s, retired assistant commissioner of police Bharat Shelke said.

He said in cases of serial killing, the important factors include identification of the victim and accused, recovery of the weapon and ascertaining the motive behind the crime.

Raghav, who was also called Psycho Raman, had confessed to at least 41 murders of homeless people on the streets of Mumbai, he said. He was schizophrenic and

had terrorised Mumbai between 1966-68, during which he bludgeoned to death poor men and women with hard and blunt objects like iron rod while they were sleeping, Shelke said.

Late assistant commissioner of police Alex Fialho, who was a sub-inspector at the Dongri police station in Mumbai in 1968, had arrested Raghav from Bhandi Bazar here, he said.

In October last year, Suresh Gauda (40) was arrested for killing two

## Raghav, who was also called Psycho Raman, had confessed to at least 41 murders of homeless people on the streets of Mumbai

persons sleeping on a pavement in Mumbai in a span of 15 minutes.

During the investigation, it was came to light that he was arrested for a similar murder in Kurla area of Mumbai earlier.

In 2017, Mumbai had witnessed murders of five people with their heads smashed in suburban Bandra. A 26-year-old labourer working for a catering firm was arrested in the case, a police official said.

Another serial killer, who went by the name of 'Beer Man' was said to be responsible for the murder of at least six people in south Mumbai between October 2006 and January 2007. In every case, a beer can was found next to the body

A man was arrested in the case but later acquitted by a court.

In 2018, the Madhya Pradesh police had arrested 'serial killer' Aadesh Khamra from Raisen district for allegedly killing 34 truck drivers and cleaners in a decade.

There have been other such incidents also in the past. In 1986, serial killer Charles Sobhraj was arrested by then Mumbai police inspector Madhukar Zende from a Goa hotel.

Sobhraj (78), also known as the 'bikini killer' due to the attire of several of his victims, allegedly murdered 12 people between 1975 and 1976 in various parts of South East Asia.

He is currently serving a sentence in a Nepal prison. In October 1996, two sisters Renuka Shinde and Seema Gavit were arrested by Maharashtra Police for kidnapping 13 children and killing nine of them serially between 1990 and 1996.

The Bombay High Court had later commuted their death sentence into life imprisonment.



# 'Use & throw' consumer culture affecting marital ties: Kerala HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Sept 1:** Matrimonial relationships in Kerala appear to have been influenced by consumer culture of 'use and throw' which is evident from rise in live-in relationships and the prevailing trend to opt for divorce on flimsy or selfish grounds, the High Court here observed recently.

The High Court further observed that the younger generation apparently views marriage as an evil to be avoided for enjoying a free life without any liabilities or obligations.

"They would expand the word 'WIFE' as 'Worry Invited For Ever' substituting the old concept of 'Wise Investment For Ever.' The consumer culture of 'use and throw' seems to have influenced our matrimonial relationships also.

"Live-in-relationships are on the rise, just to say good-bye when they fall apart," a bench of Justices A Muhamed Mustaque and Sophy Thomas said while dismissing a divorce plea of a man who abandoned his wife and three daughters after nine years of marriage subsequent to an alleged affair with another woman.

The high court said that Kerala, known as God's own Country, was once famous for its well knit family bonds. "But the present trend, it seems, is to break the nuptial tie on flimsy or selfish reasons, or for extra-marital relationships, even un-mindful of their children. The wails and screams coming out of disturbed and destroyed families are liable to shake the conscience of the society as a whole.

"When warring couples, deserted children and desperate divorcees occupy the majority of our population, no doubt it will adversely affect the tranquility of our social life, and our society will have a stunted growth," it said.

The bench pointed out that marriages, from time immemorial, were considered as "solemn", a sanctity was attached to it and it was



**THE HIGH COURT SAID THAT KERALA, KNOWN AS GOD'S OWN COUNTRY, WAS ONCE FAMOUS FOR ITS WELL KNIT FAMILY BONDS**

**THE HIGH COURT OBSERVED THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION APPARENTLY VIEWS MARRIAGE AS AN EVIL TO BE AVOIDED FOR ENJOYING A FREE LIFE WITHOUT ANY LIABILITIES OR OBLIGATIONS**

"the very foundation of strong society". "Marriage is not a mere ritual or an empty ceremony for licensing the sexual urge of the parties," it added.

Denying the husband's plea for divorce, the high court said that "courts cannot come to the aid of an erring person to legalise his activities, which are per se illegal".

The bench said if the husband, who was having an affair, wanted to avoid his wife and children, he cannot seek the assistance of the courts to get his "unholy alliance" or present relationship legalised.

"Law and religion consider marriage as an institution by itself and parties to the marriage are not permitted to walk away from that relationship unilaterally, unless and until they satisfy the legal requirements to dissolve their marriage through a court of law or in accordance with the personal law which governs them," the high court said. The husband, whose plea for divorce was rejected by a

Family Court, had moved the high court in appeal claiming cruelty on the part of his wife.

He had said in his plea that their marital relationship from 2009, when they got married, to 2018 was smooth, but thereafter, the wife developed behavioural abnormalities and quarrelled with him alleging that he was having an affair.

The high court rejected his contentions saying that when a "wife had reasonable grounds to suspect the chastity or fidelity of her husband, and if she questions him, or expresses her deep pain and sorrow before him, it cannot be termed as a behavioural abnormality, as it is the natural human conduct of a normal wife".

"The normal human reactions or responses from a wife, on knowing that her husband was having illicit connection with another lady, cannot be termed as behavioural abnormality or cruelty from the part of the wife, so as to dissolve their marriage," the bench said.

# PM to commission INS Vikrant today

**WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF 'VIKRANT', INDIA HAS JOINED A SELECT GROUP OF NATIONS SUCH AS THE US, THE UK, RUSSIA, CHINA AND FRANCE, HAVING THE NICHE CAPABILITY TO INDIGENOUSLY DESIGN AND BUILD AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Sept 1:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission the first indigenous aircraft carrier-INS Vikrant-- the largest ship ever built in India's maritime history, here Friday.

Modi will commission the carrier, housing state-of-the-art automation features and built at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore, at the Cochin Shipyard. During the event, Modi will also unveil the new Naval Ensign (Nishaan), doing away with the colonial past.

The Navy had earlier said the new insignia will be fitting the rich Indian maritime heritage. INS Vikrant will contribute in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral S N Ghormade had said earlier.



He said the aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and they will be completed by mid-2023, adding MiG-29K jets will operate from the warship for the first few years. The commissioning of Vikrant is being seen as a significant step towards India's self-reliance in the defence sector.

With the construction of 'Vikrant', India has joined a select group of nations such as the US, the UK, Russia, China and France, having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an aircraft carrier.

The warship has been built using indigenous equipment and machinery supplied by India's major industrial houses as well as over 100

MSMEs. With the commissioning of Vikrant, India will have two operational aircraft carriers, which will bolster the maritime security of the nation.

Designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB), Indian Navy's in-house organisation and built by public sector undertaking Cochin Shipyard Limited, the carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first aircraft carrier which played a vital role in the 1971 war with Pakistan.

Vikrant means victorious and gallant. The foundation for IAC was established in April 2005 by ceremonial Steel Cutting.

The warship grade steel required for construction of IAC was indigenised through Steel Authority

of India Limited (SAIL) in collaboration with Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) and the Indian Navy. The hull fabrication progressed thereafter and the ship's keel was laid in February 2009.

The first phase of ship construction was completed with its successful launch in August 2013. The 262 m long and 62 m wide Vikrant displaces approximately 43000 tonnes when fully loaded and has a maximum designed speed of 28 knots with endurance of 7500 nautical miles. It has around 2,200 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1,600 that include specialised cabins to accommodate women officers and sailors.

The ship also has a full-fledged medical complex with latest equipment including physiotherapy clinic, ICU, laboratories and isolation ward. It would be capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft, comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 and MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

Using a novel aircraft operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), the IAC is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft. It has a set of three 'arrester wires' for their recovery onboard.

Commissioning of 'Vikrant' would showcase the country's indigenisation capabilities, besides paying tributes to its freedom fighters and soldiers of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, a Defence statement had said.

## Special police team to probe AIADMK headquarters attack



**IN THE CLASH ON JULY 11 BETWEEN THE SUPPORTERS OF EPS AND OPS, 47 PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO POLICEMEN, WERE INJURED**

**SEVERAL BUSES, CARS, AND TWO-WHEELERS WERE DAMAGED AND POLICE HAD TAKEN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION AND SEALED THE OFFICE AFTER ARRESTING A FEW OF THE PROTESTERS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 1:** The Tamil Nadu police have constituted a special police team to investigate into the attack on AIADMK headquarters on July 11.

According to the complaint filed by the Edappadi K. Palaniswami faction of the party, a group led by O. Panneerselvam had ransacked the office and taken away several valuable documents.

The EPS faction also complained that the attack took place precisely when the party general council was meeting at Vangaram to elect the new party office bearers.

The complainant said that the O. Panneerselvam faction was disgruntled that majority of the AIADMK cadres and local level

leaders had migrated to the EPS faction.

The Tamil Nadu DGP has constituted a special CB-CID team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Venkitesan and will have inspectors, Latha, Ramya, Renuka and Selvin Sandhakumar as members.

In the clash on July 11 between the supporters of EPS and OPS, 47 people, including two policemen, were injured. Several buses, cars, and two-wheelers were damaged and police had taken control of the situation and sealed the office after arresting a few of the protesters.

The Madras High Court had in a landmark order hearing the petition of O. Panneerselvam declared the General Council meeting of the AIADMK, null and void.

## Flying squads conduct raids



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 1:** The Tamil Nadu agriculture department has deployed flying squads to check whether fertilisers are being sold at much higher prices than stipulated to farmers.

The agriculture minister in a statement said that inspections have been carried out at shops selling fertilisers following reports

that they were being sold at higher prices. The agriculture department has also received complaints that many fertiliser shops have been forcing farmers to buy unnecessary fertiliser products. According to the department,

374 flying squads inspected 6949 places. Of this, 6258 cooperative and private fertiliser selling centres were checked. The squads also conducted raids at 514 wholesale fertiliser shops and 108 fertiliser godowns. Inspections were also conducted at 38 fertiliser manufacturing units, 17 factories and 16 district check posts.

The squads found that there were huge discrepancies in the availability of fertiliser in these shops. 36 shops were found selling

it without a license. After the inspections, the flying squad officials cancelled the licenses of two shops permanently and suspended ninety two shops' licences.

**The agriculture minister in a statement said that inspections have been carried out at shops selling fertilisers following reports that they were being sold at higher prices**

## Can't obstruct work at Vizhinjam Port: HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, Sept 1:** The Kerala High Court on Thursday held that the right to protest does not grant the right to obstruct a legally permitted project - the upcoming Vizhinjam Port.

Justice Anu Sivaraman while giving an interim order pointed out that "I have no doubt in my mind that the right to agitate or protest any matter, including the apathy or neglect of the government, cannot confer any right to any of the protesters, to contend that they have the right to obstruct the activities which have due permissions or to trespass into the construction site and cause damage to public property...This Court has time and again considered the issue of competing interests in the grant of police protection and has held that a right to protest can only mean a right to protest peacefully and that there can be no right to obstruct a legally permitted project

or activity in the guise of a protest, whatever be the reason for the protest" read the interim judgment.

The Court has ordered police protection for the workers and other officials of Adani Ports engaged in the construction of Vizhinjam port. The Court passed the order on two petitions moved by Adani Ports and by its contracting partner Howe Engineering Projects, seeking police protection in the light of the ongoing protests by fishermen against the construction of the port at Vizhinjam in Kerala.

Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd. was selected as the concessionaire for the Vizhinjam Seaport Project and construction began on December 5, 2015. However, the project has been opposed by the fishermen community which, under the leadership of the Catholic Archdiocese of Trivandrum, are demanding, among other things, proper environmental impact studies, rehabilitation of families and repairing coastal damage.

## TN plans QR codes on PDS rice bags

*Incidents of rice smuggled from Tamil Nadu and caught from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh territories have led the department to take cognisance of the matter and ensure that the rice is reaching the ration shops*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 1:** The Tamil Nadu Food and Civil Supplies Department is planning to introduce QR code on PDS rice bags that are being transported from its godowns to prevent the interstate smuggling of PDS rice to bordering states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

Officers with the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation said that the department will be introducing QR codes on each and every PDS rice bags that are coming out of the godowns.

The Civil Supplies department has been in the dock over several ration shops not receiving the rice being transported from godowns.

Incidents of rice smuggled from Tamil Nadu and caught from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh territories have led the department to take cognisance of the matter and ensure that the rice is reaching the ration shops.

A senior official with the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation said: "The QR codes that would be made available on each PDS rice bag would ensure that the rice bags are reaching the ration shops only and that no middlemen are scouting the bags to be sold in black market."

In addition to this, high-end and technologically superior GPS would be installed in the trucks that are ferrying the PDS rice bags from



the godowns to the ration shops. Rice was being smuggled to Andhra Pradesh in two-wheelers through by-lanes after purchasing rice from ration card holders at low rates. The Tamil Nadu police have already arrested 11,091 persons and seized commodities worth Rs

11.3 crore between May 7, 2021, and August 30, 2022.

While rice is being smuggled to Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, the rice mill owners denied having any involvement in the smuggling and blamed truck drivers and cleaners to be behind this to make fast bucks.

## TN minister gets relief

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 1:** Tamil Nadu Power Minister V. Senthilbalaji got a reprieve after the Madras High Court quashed the summons issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case.

The probe was initiated on the basis of job racketing cases against Senthilbalaji and two others by local police a few years ago.

A division bench, comprising Justices T. Raja and Kumaresh Babu, allowed writ petitions filed by Senthilbalaji and co-accused, B. Shanmugham and R.V. Ashokkumar to quash the summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate against them on April 29.

The petitioners had also requested the court to declare the investigation initiated against them by the ED as illegal and unconstitutional.

The ED had registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against the petitioners on July 29, 2021. The case was registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.



# national

## of the day quote

The West Bengal government decided to raise the upper age limit for recruitment of police constables from 27 years to 30 years

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The world saw the power of Yoga and traditional alternative medicines during the Covid-19 pandemic when the fatalities in India were half of that of the United States of America

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

The monsoon this year has been very good and hence agriculture production is likely to be high as compared to previous years

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM



**Nuakhai Juha! This festival celebrating nature's bounty symbolises our deep bond with mother earth that nourishes us. My profound gratitude to our industrious farmers who are the cornerstone of India's food security**

JAGDEEP THAKKAR | VICE PRESIDENT

## TRAGEDY AVERTED

A SpiceJet plane, carrying 89 passengers, that took off for Nashik from the national capital Thursday returned midway due to an "autopilot" snag and aviation regulator DGCA will probe the incident, according to an official



# Seven children stop dad's fifth wedding

The children were apprehensive that they will not get their monthly expenses if their father married a 7th time

AGENCIES

**Sitapur (UP), Sept 1:** It was not so lucky for the fifth time for Shafi Ahmad who is 55 years old. The man who was about to tie the nuptial knot for the fifth time, was prevented from doing so by his seven children and their mothers. They barged into the venue of the wedding and created a huge ruckus. It led to the cancellation of the marriage and Safi for now is cooling his heels in a prison cell here.

The incident occurred Tuesday here when the ceremony was in full swing with family members of the bride and a few friends of Safi present on the occasion. Little did they realise about the drama which was to unfold soon.

A surprised Safi and the would-be bride watched in surprise as



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

the seven children of Safi along with the four other wives of Safi barged into the venue. They accused Safi of hiding the truth. The lady who was about to tie the knot was completely taken by surprise along with her family members. They never knew that Safi had wives from the past, leave alone children. When the children disclosed their identity to the bride's family, an argument ensued which

soon turned into a fist fight. Within a few minutes all those at the wedding venue were seen exchanging blows. Some of Safi's children also took the opportunity to push and heckle their father. His previous four wives were also engaged in a fist fight with the family members. In the end all the attention turned to Safi.

With the bride's family members and acquaintances far out-

# Leaks from Guv office creating chaos: UPA team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Sept 1:** A delegation of ruling UPA leaders in Jharkhand told Governor Ramesh Bais Thursday that it was shocked over the "selective leaks made" from Raj Bhavan on Election Commission's recommendation, as speculation continued to be rife over Chief Minister Hemant Soren's resignation.

The delegation, in a representation to Bais, said such leaks created chaos and confusion. It also asked the governor to clear the air over the ECI recommendation in the matter.

Earlier in the week, 32 MLAs of the ruling coalition in Jharkhand left for Raipur by a chartered flight from Ranchi in a bid to thwart possible poaching at-

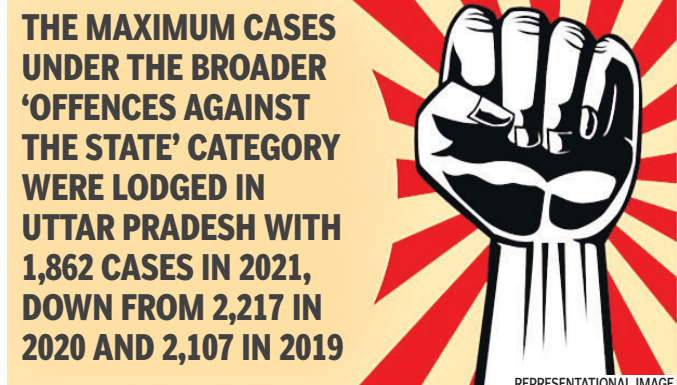
tempts by the BJP amid the deepening political crisis in the state over Soren's fate as an MLA.

The delegation, during its visit to Raj Bhavan, also said that speculations on Soren's fate "encouraged political brinkmanship to destabilize the democratically elected government".

It asserted that disqualification of the CM as MLA will not affect the government, as the ruling JMM-Congress-

RJD coalition enjoys an absolute majority in the 81-member House. Parliamentarian Geeta Kora, after coming out of the meeting, said, "The governor has confirmed that he has received the ECI letter. He has given assurance that the mandate will be declared soon, following consultation with experts."

# 'India lodged more than 5,100 offences against State in '21'



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** India lodged 5,164 cases of offences against the State, including those under sedition, the Official Secrets Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, in 2021 with an average of 14 cases every day, according to latest government data.

The cases showed a decline in 2021 when compared to 2020 and 2019, which saw 5,613 and 7,656 filed, the National Crime Records Bureau's Crime In India - 2021 report showed. The NCRB functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Besides 5,164 new such cases, 8,600 cases pending investigation were carried forward from previous year and three cases were reopened for probe.

This pushed the total number of cases pending investigations in 2021 to 13,767, the NCRB's annual report showed.

Of the total such cases last year, 79.2 per cent were registered under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (4,089 cases) followed by 814 cases (15.8 per cent) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, data showed.

The average charge-sheeting rate across the country stood at 78 per cent in 2021, according to the official data.

The maximum cases under the broader 'offences against the State' category were lodged in Uttar Pradesh with 1,862 cases in 2021, down from 2,217 in 2020 and 2,107 in 2019, the report stated.

UP was followed by Tamil Nadu (654), Assam (327), Jammu and Kashmir (313) and West Bengal (274) among the states that lodged the highest number of offences against the state. Delhi lodged 18 such cases in 2021, the data showed.

In 2021, across India, a total of 76 cases of sedition (under IPC 124A), 814 cases under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and 55 cases under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) were lodged.

The maximum offences against the State were lodged under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (4,078 cases), the NCRB data showed.

The maximum cases of sedition were reported from Andhra Pradesh (29) followed by Manipur and Nagaland (7 each), Haryana (5), Delhi (4), and Uttar Pradesh and Assam (3 each), it added.

The maximum cases of UAPA were reported from Manipur (157) followed by Assam (95), Jharkhand (86), Uttar Pradesh (83), Jammu and Kashmir (289). Delhi lodged five cases of UAPA in 2021, the NCRB report showed.



Vehicles waded through a waterlogged street after heavy monsoon rains in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

# NIA declares ₹25L reward on Dawood

The NIA has said that Dawood is funding terror outfits to carry out terror-related activities across India

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 1:** The National Investigation Agency has announced a cash reward of Rs 25 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, a key accused in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, an official said Thursday.

The probe agency has also announced a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh on Ibrahim's close aide Shakeel Shaikh alias Chhota Shakeel, and Rs 15 lakh each on associates Haji



Anees alias Anees Ibrahim Shaikh, Javed Patel alias Javed Chikna and Ibrahim Mushtaq Abdul Razzak Memon alias Tiger Memon, he said.

All of them are wanted accused in the case of 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts. The official said the NIA has sought information about them which could

lead to their arrest. The agency had in February registered a case against the 'D company'.

Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar is designated a global terrorist by the United Nations runs an international terrorist network, namely D-Company, with his close associates like Anees Ibrahim Shaikh, Chhota Shakeel, Javed Chikna and Tiger Memon, among others, the NIA said in a statement.

They are involved in various terrorism-criminal activities such as arms smuggling, narco terrorism, underworld criminal syndicate, money laundering, circulation of PION, unauthorised possession/ acquisition of key assets for raising terror funds and working in active collaboration with international terrorist organisations including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Al Qaeda (AQ), the statement said.

# K'taka: Shivamurthy Sharanaru held in sexual abuse case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chitradurga (K'taka), Sept 1:** Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, the chief pontiff of Murugha Math booked for alleged sexual abuse of high school girls was arrested Thursday, police sources said.

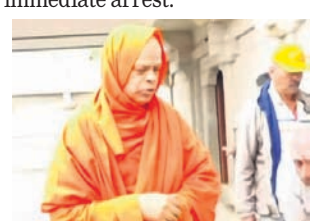
He has been taken into custody by the police following interrogation, sources said, adding due procedures are being followed.

The Mysuru city police Saturday had filed an FIR against the seer under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and certain sections of the Indian Penal Code for the alleged sexual abuse. The FIR was registered against a total of five people, including the warden of the monastery's hostel, based on the complaint by an officer of the District Child Protection Unit. Police questioned the warden earlier in the day.

Two girls had approached a non-governmental organisation in Mysuru and narrated the alleged abuse, following which it approached the authorities and the case was registered by the police. The case was subsequently shifted to Chitradurga, as it was the place of occurrence of the alleged crime. The seer was subsequently booked under its policies.

Similarly in the case of individual complaints on Instagram, Meta provided tools for users to resolve their issues in 945 cases. A total of 705 individuals complaint about their fake profiles on the Instagram and action against 639 of them was taken by Meta.

Also, 715 Instagram users complaint about their account being hacked and action was taken on 167 complaints. "Of the other 88 reports where specialised review was needed, we reviewed content as per our policies, and we took action on 35 reports in total," the report said. Meta did not take action against the remaining 53 reports on Instagram as it may have found non-violative of its policy benchmarks.



# Meta takes action against 2.7Cr posts on FB, Insta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Social media major Meta had taken action against 2.7 crore on Facebook and Instagram in July, the company said in its monthly transparency report.

The company took action against 2.5 crore posts on Facebook and 20 lakh posts on Instagram to comply with Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

On Facebook, action against 1.73 crore spam content was taken. It was followed by 27 lakh post related to "adult nudity and sexual activity" and 23 lakh "violent and graphic content" related content.

Meta on its own identified 9.98 lakh "Dangerous Organisations and Individuals: Terrorism" related content and finally it took action against 99.8 per cent of the



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

posts that were identified.

On Instagram, Meta found most of the content were in violation to its policy on "suicide and self injury" content followed by "adult nudity and sexual activity" and "violent and graphic content" related post, according

to the report. The company received 626 complaints from individuals on Facebook and 1,033 complaint for Instagram posts.

"Between 1st and 31st July, we received 626 reports through the Indian grievance mechanism, and we responded to 100 per cent of

On Facebook, action against 1.73 crore spam content was taken

It was followed by 27 lakh post related to "adult nudity and sexual activity" and 23 lakh "violent and graphic content" related content

On Instagram, Meta found most of the content were in violation to its policy on "suicide and self injury" content followed by "adult nudity and sexual activity" and "violent and graphic content" related post

these 626 reports. Of these incoming reports, we provided tools for users to resolve their issues in 603 cases," the report said.

One hundred and eight-five individuals complained about their accounts being hacked followed by "lost access to a page or group" they used to manage.



# international

## of the day quote

It is only at (the) European level that we will succeed in reducing prices. Only Europe can achieve this

ALEXANDER DE CROO | BELGIAN PM

Regarding lifting sanctions, we recently received the latest text from the American side, and my colleagues are carefully reviewing the text

AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Normalcy in the relations between India and China is key to regional prosperity and stability

GEORGE YEO | SINGAPORE'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Twitter readies edit feature

**New York:** Permanently misspelled tweets might soon be a thing of the past. Twitter said Thursday it's working on allowing users to edit their tweets, which it said is one of the most requested features to date. The social media company said in a blog post that it's testing the "Edit Tweet" feature internally with plans to roll it out later this month to subscribers of its premium Twitter Blue service. The edit function will give users 30 minutes to make changes such as fixing typos or adding hashtags after first publishing a tweet.

### Top Russian oil official dies

**Moscow:** Ravil Maganov, the chairman of Russia's second-largest oil producer Lukoil (LKOH.MM), died Thursday after falling from a hospital window in Moscow, two sources familiar with the situation said, becoming the latest in a series of businessmen to meet with sudden unexplained deaths. The sources confirmed reports by several Russian media that the 67-year-old had plunged to his death, but the circumstances surrounding his fall were unclear. Two people who knew Maganov well said they believed it was highly unlikely he had committed suicide.

### Former Malaysian first lady jailed

**Kuala Lumpur:** Former Malaysian first lady Rosmah Mansor was ordered to serve 10 years in prison after being found guilty Thursday of soliciting and receiving bribes during her husband's corruption-tainted administration, a week after he was imprisoned over the massive looting of the 1MDB state fund. Rosmah was convicted on a charge of soliciting 187.5 million ringgit (USD 42 million) and two charges of receiving 6.5 million ringgit (USD 1.5 million) between 2016 and 2017 to help a company secure a project to provide solar energy panels to schools on Borneo Island.

### IMF to provide \$2.9 bn to Lanka

**Colombo:** The IMF Thursday announced that it will provide Sri Lanka a loan of about USD 2.9 billion over four years under a preliminary agreement to help the bankrupt island nation tide over its worst economic crisis and protect the livelihoods of the people. Sri Lanka is going through its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 which was triggered by a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves.

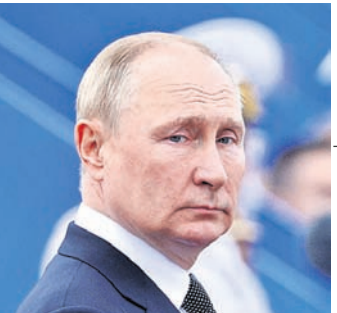


It is necessary to bring the promises of the US administration regarding Palestine into effect and to support the Palestinian approach to request a full UN membership

MOHAMMED ISHTAYE | PALESTINIAN PM

## PUTIN NOT TO ATTEND GORBACHEV FUNERAL

Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday paid tribute to Mikhail Gorbachev but will not attend the late former Soviet leader's funeral, a decision reflecting the Kremlin's ambivalence about Gorbachev's legacy



## SHELLING CAUSES DELAY

# UN inspectors arrive at Ukraine nuclear plant

REUTERS

**Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, Sept 1:** A team of U.N. experts arrived at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant Thursday to assess the risk of a radiation disaster after being delayed several hours by shelling near the site.

Russia and Ukraine accused each other of trying to sabotage the mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the plant in southern central Ukraine, which is controlled by Russian forces but operated by Ukrainian staff.



IAEA director General Rafael Mariano Grossi leaves a hotel as the International Atomic Energy Agency mission departs for a visit to Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

Team was delayed several hours by shelling near plant. Each side accuses other of trying to sabotage IAEA mission. Shelling reported at Enerhodar, site of plant, overnight. Ukraine claims successes in counter-offensive.

Russian soldiers nearby. A Ukrainian source with knowledge of the situation told Reuters the mission "may turn out to be shorter than was planned".

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow was doing everything to ensure that the plant could operate safely, and for the IAEA inspectors to be able to complete their

tasks. "In the event of further attempts by Kyiv to disrupt their work with shelling or sabotage, the entire responsibility for the consequences will fall entirely on the Zelensky regime and its handlers and their "support group" in the West," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement, referring to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.



Nui and her husband have a picnic in a park with their pet parrots in Phuket, Thailand

## HUGE CLAIM

# Poland demands \$1.3 trillion war reparations from Germany

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Warsaw, Sept 1:** Poland's top politician said Thursday that the government will seek equivalent of some USD 1.3 trillion in reparations from Germany for the Nazis' World War II invasion and occupation of his country.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, leader of the Law and Justice party announced the huge claim at the release of a long-awaited report on the cost to the country of years of Nazi German occupation as it marks 83 years since the start of World War II.

"We not only prepared the report but we have also taken the decision as to the further steps,"

Kaczynski said during the report's presentation. "We will turn to Germany to open negotiations on the reparations," Kaczynski said, adding it will be a "long and not an easy path" but "one day will bring success".

He insisted the move would serve "true Polish-German reconciliation" that would be based on "truth". He claimed the German economy is capable of paying the bill. Germany argues compensation was paid to East Bloc nations in the years after the war while territories that Poland lost in the East as borders were redrawn were compensated with some of Germany's pre-war lands. Berlin calls the matter closed.

## FIRST TIME Taiwan shoots down drone off China coast

REUTERS

**Taipei, Sept 1:** Taiwan's military for the first time shot down an unidentified civilian drone that entered its airspace near an islet off the Chinese coast Thursday, after the government vowed to take tough measures to deal with an increase in such intrusions.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own against the strong objections of the Taipei government, has held military exercises around the island since early last month in reaction to a visit to Taipei by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Taiwan's government has said it will not provoke or escalate tensions but has been particularly angered recently by repeated cases of Chinese drones buzzing islands controlled by Taiwan close to China's



coast. The defence command for Kinmen, a group of Taiwan-controlled islands opposite China's Xiamen and Quanzhou cities, said in a statement released by Taiwan's defence ministry that the drone entered restricted air space over Lion Islet just after midday (0400 GMT). Troops on the islet tried warning it away but to no effect, so shot

it down, with the remains landing in the sea, it added. Taiwan fired warning shots at a drone for the first time on Tuesday shortly after President Tsai Ing-wen ordered the military to take "strong countermeasures" against what she termed Chinese provocations.

China's foreign ministry, which on Monday dismissed Taiwan's

complaints about drones as nothing "to make a fuss about", referred questions to the defence ministry, which had yet to comment.

Chiu Chui-cheng, deputy head of Taiwan's China-policy making Mainland Affairs Council, told reporters in Taipei that Taiwan had the legal authority to take "necessary defence measures", as Chinese aircraft were not allowed into Kinmen's air space. Those measures include forcing aircraft to leave or to land, he said.

Speaking to the armed forces earlier on Thursday, Tsai said China was using drones and other "grey zone" tactics to try to intimidate Taiwan, her office cited her as saying in a statement. Tsai again emphasised that Taiwan would not provoke disputes but that did not mean that it would not take countermeasures, the statement added.

## MATTER OF CONCERN

# Marriages in China decline to lowest numbers since 1986

Compared to 2020, the number of couples who got married in 2021 dropped by 6.1 per cent. The data showed that the number of marriages fell for the eighth consecutive year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Sept 1:** The number of marriages in China has hit a 36-year low with registrations of married couples dropped below eight million in 2021, the lowest since 1986, the latest official data revealed, adding to the concerns of the dwindling low birth rates and declining population which may touch negative growth by 2025.

Only 7.64 million couples registered to get married across China, the world's most populous nation, in 2021, the lowest since 1986, according to the latest Statistical Bulletin on the Development of Civil Affairs in 2021.

Compared to 2020, the number of couples who got married in 2021 dropped by 6.1 per cent. The data

showed that the number of marriages fell for the eighth consecutive year. Among the married population last year, people aged between 25 and 29 accounted for 35.3 per cent, up 0.4 percentage points from 2020, making it the group with the highest proportion among all age groups to get married for the ninth year in a row.

Late marriages which have become a trend in China would affect the policy to permit three children which further poses a challenge to the population problem, state-run Global Times quoted Chinese experts as saying. China permitted all couples to have two children in 2016, scrapping the draconian decades-old one-child policy which policymakers blame for the current demographic crisis. Last year



China passed a revised Population and Family Planning Law allowing Chinese couples to have three children in an apparent attempt to address the reluctance of couples to

have more kids due to mounting costs.

The decision to permit the third child came after the once-in-a-decade census in 2020 showed that China's

population grew at its slowest pace to 1.412 billion. Experts have attributed the phenomena of fewer marriages and late marriages to the prolonged schooling years, the increasing pressure of life and work, and young people's changing concepts and attitudes toward marriage.

Yang Jinrui, a senior official at the National Health Commission, said earlier that the post-90s and later generations, who are the main groups at prime marriage age and childbearing age, mostly grew up and worked in cities and towns, and they have more years of education and face greater employment pressure.

In the past decade, marriage, in general, has been delayed for several years, which means more and more people who are marriage-

able pushed back their marriages, said Zhai Zhenwu, chairman of the standing council of the China Population Association. Zhai warned that late marriage would lead to fewer births, thus affecting the third-child policy.

In June this year a senior health official warned that China's dwindling population will touch negative growth by 2025 and may continue to shrink for more than a century. The growth rate of China's total population has slowed significantly and is expected to enter a negative growth during the current 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25). Yang Wenzhuang, head of population and family affairs at the National Health Commission, told the Annual Conference of China Population Association held in June.



## of the day quote

India is going to be the fastest-growing (aviation) market over forecast period of 20 years. I certainly expect more widebody orders and I expect more narrowbody orders from India

The real estate industry is currently going through a momentous cycle, and the increase in housing rentals give a ray of optimism to both developers and homebuyers since this will encourage more housing sales in the upcoming months

Ashok Leyland is one of the fastest growing brands in the Middle East, with a growing market presence in UAE

## SHORT TAKES

### Export tax on diesel, ATF hiked

**New Delhi:** The government Thursday raised the tax on the export of diesel and jet fuel and hiked the windfall profit levy on domestically-produced crude oil in line with rising product margins and oil prices. At the fourth fortnightly review, the government raised the windfall profit tax on the export of diesel to ₹13.5 per litre from ₹7 per litre. The tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) exports too has been hiked to ₹9 from ₹2 per litre with effect from September 1, according to a notification. Alongside, the tax on locally-produced crude oil too has been hiked to ₹13,300 per tonne from ₹13,000.

### Aug mfg growth robust at 56.2

**New Delhi:** India's manufacturing sector activity in August witnessed the second-strongest improvement in operating conditions in nine months, boosted by strengthening demand conditions and softening inflation concerns, a monthly survey said Thursday. Production volumes were also supported by a pick-up in exports and upbeat projections for the year-ahead outlook. Firms were at their most optimistic for six years. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was little changed from July's reading of 56.4, posting 56.2 in August.

### UPI transaction value rises in Aug

**New Delhi:** Digital payment transactions value through UPI rose to ₹10.73 lakh crore in August this year, up marginally from the previous month, data showed Thursday. In July 2022, the UPI-based digital transaction value stood at ₹10.63 lakh crore. The value of UPI transactions during August this year relates to a total of 6.57 billion (657 crore) transactions, up from 6.28 billion (628 crore) in the preceding month, as per the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India.

### Adani to enter NSE's Nifty 50

**New Delhi:** Adani Enterprises Ltd will replace Shree Cement Ltd from National Stock Exchange's benchmark index Nifty 50 from September 30. Adani Enterprises is the flagship company of Adani Group and Shree Cement is the leading cement-making firm, owning brands such as Roofon, Bangur Power, Shree Jung Rodhak, Bangur Cement and Rockstrong.



**In terms of our preparation, readiness wise, technology wise, integration with all the networks, we are ready with all the networks like Visa, Mastercard and RuPay**

**RAMA MOHAN RAO AMARA** | MD & CEO, SBI CARDS AND PAYMENT SERVICES

## HERO ELECTRIC PIPS OKINAWA AGAIN

Hero Electric once again led the Indian electric vehicle (EV) two-wheeler segment in August, selling a record and highest-ever 10,476 vehicles in one month, followed by Okinawa Autotech at 8,554 vehicles, the latest government VAHAN data has revealed. Hero Electric had sold 8,954 EV two-wheelers in July while Okinawa Autotech had sold 8,096 two-wheelers



# Aug GST mop-up rises 28% YoY

The GST collection remained above the Rs 1.4-lakh-crore mark for the sixth straight month in August and the ensuing festive season will help continue the trend

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** India's tax collection from the sale of goods and services soared 28 per cent to ₹1.43 lakh crore in August aided by rising demand, higher rates, and greater compliance.

Better reporting coupled with economic recovery has have a "positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis", the finance ministry said in a statement.

The gross GST revenue collected in August 2022 is ₹1,43,612 crore of which CGST is ₹24,710 crore, SGST is ₹30,951 crore, IGST is ₹77,782 crore (including ₹42,067 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,168 crore (including ₹1,018 crore collected on import of goods), the ministry said.

The revenues for the month of August 2022 are 28 per cent higher than the GST revenues of ₹1,12,020 crore collected in August 2021.

"The growth in GST revenue till August 2022 over the same period last year is 33 per cent, continuing to display very high buoyancy. This is a clear impact of various measures taken by the Council in the past to ensure better compliance," the Ministry said.

The collection in August is, however, lower than ₹1.49 lakh crore collected in July. The mop up was at a record high of ₹1.67 lakh crore in



**The collections reflect the strength of the underlying economic factors. With the onset of the festive season, the GST collections in the coming months would also be expected to be robust**

**MS MANI** | PARTNER, DELOITTE INDIA

- GROSS GST REVENUE COLLECTED IN AUGUST 2022 IS ₹1,43,612 CRORE
- COLLECTION IN AUGUST IS, HOWEVER, LOWER THAN ₹1.49 LAKH CRORE COLLECTED IN JULY
- THE MOP UP WAS AT A RECORD HIGH OF ₹1.67 LAKH CRORE IN APRIL

April. During the month, revenues from import of goods was 57% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 19% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said, "The consistent high collections indicate upward economic trajectory despite fluctuating COVID cases and to some extent attributable to inflation and better compliance being ensured by the government."

NA Shah Associates, Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the

collection increase is due to better compliance and the removal of various exemptions from July 2022. "Further, with the festive season setting in, the collections for the next 2-3 months will also show an upward trajectory," Mehta said.

Nexdigim, Director Indirect Tax, Sanjay Chhabria said higher collections are signs of recovery of trade & economy post the COVID-19 pandemic and we could continue to witness such higher tax buoyancy during the upcoming festivities in the country.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said looking ahead, the YoY growth in GST collections is likely to remain well above 20 per cent in September 2022, before tempering down to 12-15 per cent in December quarter, on a normalising base, trending close to the nominal GDP expansion.

"We continue to foresee a considerable upside in the CGST collections relative to the FY2023 BE, more than offsetting the expected loss in excise collections," Nayar said.

## Sony-Zee merger can hurt competition: CCI

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** A merger between the Indian unit of Japan's Sony and Zee Entertainment to create a \$10 billion TV enterprise will potentially hurt competition by having "unparalleled bargaining power", the country's antitrust watchdog found in an initial review, according to an official notice seen by Reuters.

The Competition Commission of India's (CCI) August 3 notice to the two companies stated the watchdog is of the view that a further investigation is merited. The CCI's findings will delay regulatory approval of the deal and could force the companies to propose changes to its structure.

Sony and Zee in December decided to merge their television channels, film assets and streaming platforms to create a powerhouse in a key media and entertainment growth market of 1.4 billion people, challenging rivals like Walt Disney Co.

In its 21-page notice, the CCI said its initial review shows the proposed deal would place the combined entity in a "strong position" with around 92 channels in India, also citing Sony's global revenue of \$86 billion and assets of \$211 billion.

"Such apparently humongous market position would enable the combined entity to enjoy an unparalleled bargaining power," the CCI said in its notice, adding the combined entity could increase the price of channel packages.

The initial review shows the deal is likely to cause an "appreciable adverse effect on competition", the watchdog said.

# Petrol sales rebound in August, diesel lags



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Petrol sales in India rebounded in August but diesel continued to show a decline over the previous month as rains in several parts chipped away demand in some sectors, preliminary industry data showed.

Petrol sales, which had dipped 5 per cent in July, increased 5.8 per cent to 2.81 million tonne in August when compared with 2.66 million tonne of demand in the previous month.

The consumption was almost 16 per cent higher than August 2021 and 31.7 per cent more than 2.14 million tonne in the same month in 2020. It was 20.6 per cent higher than the pre-pandemic demand of 2.33 million tonne in August 2019.

Diesel, the most widely used fuel in the country, saw consumption drop 4.9 per cent to 6.11 million tonne from 6.42 million tonne in July.

The monsoon rains weigh heavily on diesel demand in the coun-

try and consumption traditionally is lower in July-September than in April-June. Rains restrict mobility and demand from the farm sector, which uses diesel in irrigation pumps and trucking. Diesel demand had dipped 13.1 per cent in July.

Consumption of diesel in August was, however, 23.5 per cent higher year-on-year, supported by strong economic growth and a relatively low baseline for the same period in 2021 when the second wave of Covid-19 had impacted the economy.

Diesel demand was 43.4 per cent higher than the 4.26 million tonne demand during August 2020 and 11.6 per cent more than the pre-Covid sale of 5.48 million tonne in August 2019, the data showed.

The decline in auto fuel sales in July and August came after a surge in June that was supported by increased summer travel to colder areas of the country to escape from the heat and vacations during annual breaks at educational institutions.

## BATTERED RUPEE

A revival in domestic demand in Asia's third-largest economy and a surge in global prices - combined with a depreciating currency and gaping trade deficit - has widened the current account shortfall

REUTERS

**Bangalore, Sept 1:** India's current account deficit (CAD) deteriorated sharply in the last quarter and is expected to end the fiscal year at its widest in a decade as ballooning trade imbalances coincide

# India's CAD set for decade-high this fiscal year

with a decline in foreign investment, a Reuters poll found.

That gap is expected to average 3.1% of gross domestic product this fiscal year, according to an August 22-26 Reuters poll of 26 economists. That would be the widest since hitting almost 5% during the "taper tantrum" crisis nearly a decade ago when the US Federal Reserve cut its government bond purchases. About a decade later, India finds itself in a similar situation.

Since the beginning of the year, the US Federal Reserve has embarked on its most aggressive tightening cycle in decades, tapering more than \$8 trillion of Treasury securities and triggering outflows from emerging markets, including India.

The Reuters poll predicted the



current account gap at a decade-high of 3.9% last quarter, before narrowing to 3.6%, 3.0% and 2.5%, in Q2, Q3 and Q4 of this fiscal year, respectively.

The median forecast for the current account gap was one of the widest among regional peers polled by Reuters, only exceeded by the Philippines which is also facing

**On the one hand, there is a stagnation of exports that we are seeing, which over the past six to seven months is stagnating around \$35-\$36 billion. Whereas if you look at imports, that has been continuing to increase. The external imbalances are possibly at their peak now**

**SUVODDEEP RAKSHIT** | SENIOR ECONOMIST AT KOTAK INSTITUTIONAL EQUITIES

its widest deficit in decades. The rupee has weakened more than 7% since the beginning of the year as foreign investors pulled out \$30 billion from equities over worries that the trade deficit could

worsen, pushing the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to defend the currency with its foreign reserves.

But the worst may be yet to come. Prices of crude oil - India's biggest import - were expected to stay above \$100 a barrel this year as tight supply overshadows demand concerns in a difficult global environment characterized by high recession risk.

With inflation expected to remain above the top end of the target range, the RBI is left with few options other than to raise interest rates by another 60 basis points by end-March, according to another Reuters poll.

However, that will be not enough to stem the rupee's losses as some major central banks were expected to deliver nearly that much in a single meeting.

## Moody's slashes growth forecast to 7.7% for 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Moody's Investors Service Thursday slashed India's economic growth projection for 2022 to 7.7 per cent, citing dampening of economic momentum in coming quarters on rising interest rates, uneven monsoon, and slowing global growth.

This is a sharp 1.1 percentage points cut from the growth projection of 8.8 per cent for current year made in May by Moody's.

The Indian economy grew 8.3 per cent in 2021 after a 6.7 per cent contraction in 2020, the year when the pandemic struck the country.

In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said India's central bank is likely to remain hawkish this year and maintain a reasonably tight policy stance in 2023 to prevent domestic inflationary pressures from building further.

"Our expectation that India's real GDP growth will slow from 8.3 per cent in 2021 to 7.7 per cent in 2022 and to decelerate further to 5.2 per cent in 2023 assumes that rising interest rates, uneven distribution of monsoons, and slowing global growth will dampen economic momentum on a sequential basis," Moody's said.

Moody's projections came a day after India released its GDP estimates for June quarter as per which the economy expanded 13.5 per cent in the three-month period. This was higher than 4.1 per cent GDP growth clocked in January-March. Moody's said high-frequency data for the Indian economy shows strong and broad-based underlying momentum in the first four months (April-July) of fiscal year 2022-23.

As per official GDP estimates, the economy expanded 13.5 per cent in April-June 2022-23, higher than 4.10 per cent growth clocked in previous March quarter.

Moody's said services and manufacturing sectors have seen robust upswings in the economic activity, according to hard and survey data, such as PMI, capacity utilisation, mobility, tax filing and collection, business earnings and credit indicators.

## Markets fall over 1% amid global sell-off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 1:** Equity indices buckled under selling pressure Thursday as a bearish trend in global markets and concerns over aggressive rate hikes by central banks unnerved investors.

Market heavyweight Reliance Industries tumbled after the government raised the tax on export of diesel and jet fuel (ATF) and hiked the windfall profit levy on domestically-produced crude oil.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 770.48 points or 1.29 per cent to settle at 58,766.59. During the day, it tanked 1,014.5 points or 1.70 per cent to close at 58,522.57.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 216.50 points or 1.22 per cent to close at 17,542.80.

Reliance Industries was the biggest laggard among the Sensex components, sliding 2.99 per cent, followed by TCS, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, HUL, Infosys, NTPC and Tata Steel.

In contrast, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Titan, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra and IndusInd Bank were the gainers, climbing up to 2.58 per cent.

The market breadth was negative, with 23 of the 30 Sensex counters posting losses.

"Domestic equities witnessed volatility amid weak global cues... Global markets were negative as concerns heightened over a hawkish Federal Reserve stance on monetary policy tightening and economic slowdown in China. Further data released on Wednesday showed Eurozone inflation rising to record high of 9.1 per cent YoY in August while Japan inflation touched a 24-year high. Indian equities have been witnessing wild swings for the last few days. However, strong macro data, along with positive institutional flows have helped provided support at lower levels," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.



India's economy grew by 13.5 per cent in the April-June period this fiscal - the fastest in the last four quarters - on account of better performance by the agriculture and services sectors, official data showed Wednesday.

Defying the weak trend in the benchmarks, the broader markets ended in the green, with the BSE midcap gauge climbing 0.57 per cent and the smallcap index jumping 0.48 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, energy declined 1.99 per cent, followed by oil & gas (1.77 per cent), IT (1.68 per cent), metal (1.56 per cent), teck (1.41 per cent) and utilities (1 per cent).

Consumer discretionary goods and services, industrials, telecom, auto, capital goods and realty ended higher.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shanghai ended lower. Bourses in Europe were trading in the negative zone in the afternoon session. The US markets had ended in the red Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2 per cent to \$93.73 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought shares worth a net ₹4,165.86 crore Tuesday, as per exchange data. Markets were closed Wednesday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi.

## EASING CHIP CRUNCH BLUES

# Automobile sales in fast lane

Automakers have been observing upward sales momentum since the beginning of this year, a good sign for the Indian automotive market hit by pandemic and severe semiconductor shortage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 1:** Automobile manufacturers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Kia reported robust growth in their vehicle despatches in the domestic market for August buoyed by festive demand and easing of semiconductor shortage woes.

Other manufacturers like Hyundai, Toyota and Skoda also reported growth in wholesales in August as compared with the same month last year.

The country's largest automaker



Maruti Suzuki India said its domestic passenger vehicle despatches increased by 30 per cent to 1,34,166 units in August as compared with 1,03,187 units in the year-ago month.

Hyundai Motor India reported a 6 per cent increase in its domestic wholesales at 49,510 units against 46,866 units in August 2021.

On the other hand, Tata Motors saw its passenger vehicle wholesales in the domestic market increasing by 68 per cent to 47,166 units last month, as against 28,018 units in August 2021.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) reported an 87 per cent year-on-year jump in domestic passenger vehicles sales at 29,852 units in August.

Similarly, Kia India said its despatches to dealers increased by 33 per cent to 22,322 units last month as compared to 16,759 units in August 2021.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported a 17 per cent increase in total wholesales at 14,959 units for August. The automaker had despatched 12,772 units in August 2021.

Skoda Auto India also reported a 10 per cent increase in its wholesales at 4,222 units in August as compared with 3,829 units in August 2021.

Meanwhile, Honda Cars India reported a 30 per cent decline in domestic sales at 7,769 units. The company had sold a total of 11,177 units in the same month last year.



# SERENA SCRIPTS KONTAVEIT EXIT

## Sakkari, Leylah ousted at US Open



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Sept 1:** Serena Williams can call it "evolving" or "retiring" or whatever she wants. And she

knows how long this farewell will last? No matter what happens once her trip to Flushing Meadows is over, here is what is important to know after Wednesday night: The 40-year-old Williams is still around, she's still capable of terrific tennis, she's still winning — and, like the adoring spectators whose roars filled Arthur Ashe Stadium again — she's ready for more.

Williams eliminated No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit 7-6(7-4), 2-6, 6-2 in the US Open's second round to ensure that she will play at least one more singles match at what she's hinted will be the last tournament of her illustrious career.

"There's still a little left in me," Williams said with a smile during her on-court interview, then acknowledged during her post-match news conference. "These moments are clearly fleeting."

After beating 80th-ranked Danka Kovinic in straight sets Monday, then collecting her 23rd victory in her past 25 matches against someone ranked Nos.1 or 2 against Kontaveit Wednesday, the six-time champion at Flushing Meadows will play Friday for a spot in the fourth round.

Her opponent will be Ajla Tomljanovic, a 29-year-old Australian who is ranked 46th. They've never met.

Williams hit serves at up to 119 mph, stayed with Kontaveit during lengthy exchanges of big swings from the baselines and conjured up some of her trademark brilliance when it was needed most.

After pulling out a tight first set, then faltering in the second, Williams headed to the locker room for a bathroom break before the third. Something had to give, someone had to blink.

When they resumed, it was Williams who lifted her level and emerged as the better player. Just as she's done so many times, on so many stages, with so much at stake.

"I'm just Serena. After I lost the second set, I thought, 'Oh, my goodness, I better give my best effort because this could be it,'" Williams said, surely echoing the thoughts

of every one of the people paying any attention.

"I'm super competitive. Honestly, I'm just looking at it as a bonus. I don't have anything to prove," she said, which certainly is true. I never get to play like this — since '98, really. Literally, I've had an 'X' on my back since '99," the year she claimed her first Grand Slam title at the US Open at age 17.

Whatever rust accumulated when Williams missed about a year of action before returning to the tour in late June at Wimbledon appears to have vanished. She lost in the first round at the All England Club to a player ranked outside the top 100 and was 1-3 in 2022 entering the US Open.

Williams also has doubles to play, too. She and her sister, Venus, have won 14 major championships as a team and will begin that event Thursday night.

Kontaveit, a 26-year-old from Estonia, is a powerful hitter in her own right, the sort that spread across women's tennis over the past two decades after a pair of siblings from Compton, California, changed the game.

There's a big caveat attached to Kontaveit's ranking status: She has never won so much as one quarterfinal match at any Grand Slam tournament in 30 career appearances.

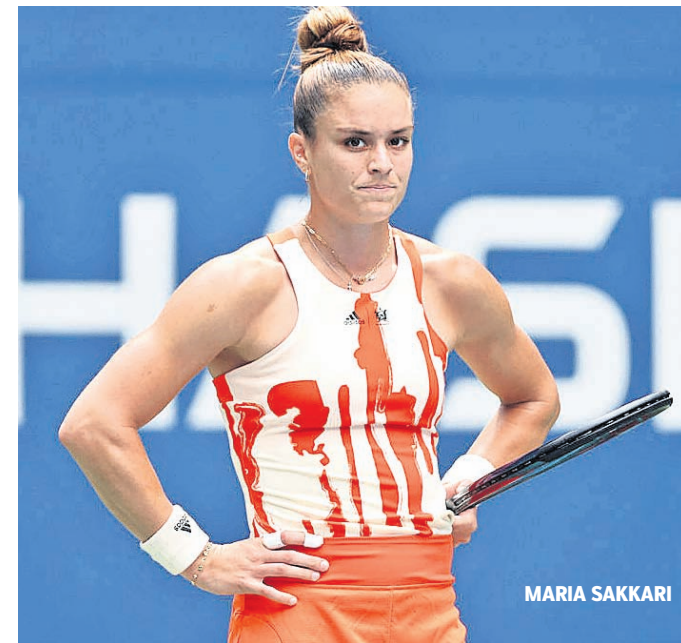
So maybe that's why, much like with Kovinic 48 hours earlier, Williams' opponent was introduced just by her name, and Kontaveit walked out to a smattering of applause. Williams, in contrast, got the full treatment: highlight video, a listing of her many accolades and raucous roars from folks who contributed to the highest US Open attendance ever at a night session, 29,959, eclipsing the record established when she played Monday.

When the players met at the net for the coin toss and pre-match photos, Kontaveit looked over at Williams with a smile. Williams glanced back straight-faced.

As strident a competitor as tennis, or any sport, has seen, as rightly self-confident in her abilities as an athlete, Williams was not about to think of this whole exercise as merely a celebration of her career. She came to New York wanting to win, of course.



LEYLAH FERNANDEZ



MARIA SAKKARI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Sept 1:** The last two women's champions were already out of the US Open and now the 2021 runner-up and another semifinalist are gone. Top players are falling fast in Flushing Meadows, and Serena Williams took care of another one Wednesday night.

Hours before Williams beat No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit, third-seeded Maria Sakkari was ousted 3-6, 7-5, 7-5 by Wang Xiyu of China in the second round.

Then, minutes after Williams' victory, No.14 Leylah Fernandez was knocked off 6-3, 7-6(7-3) by Ludmila Samsonova, a year after the Canadian lost to Emma Raducanu in the final.

Fernandez only recently returned to action after missing much of the summer with a stress fracture in her right foot. She would have played Williams if both reached the fourth

round but knew that would be difficult, estimating her game was only about 30 per cent.

Raducanu and two-time winner Naomi Osaka were eliminated Tuesday night in the first round. That left Bianca Andreescu, who beat Williams in the 2019 final, as the most recent US Open women's champion still in the field. Andreescu was set to face No.15 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia Wednesday night.

Sakkari reached two Grand Slam semifinals last year but has had a difficult time backing up her success in 2022, acknowledging this week that she struggled to handle a higher profile that came with her rise to No.3 in the rankings. She said some days she didn't enjoy tennis and didn't even want to get out of bed.

The Greek said she was happier coming into this tournament but her game just wasn't quite good enough against the 75th-ranked Wang, who advanced past the sec-

ond round of a major for the first time.

No.12 Coco Gauff and 20th-seeded Madison Keys avoided the trouble, setting up a third-round matchup between the Americans. Gauff beat Elena Gabriela Ruse 6-2, 7-6(7-4), while 2017 US Open runner-up Keys ousted Camille Giorgi 6-4, 5-7, 7-6(8-6).

Gauff was two points from dropping the second set at 5-3 before the 18-year-old rallied, something she said demonstrates an aspect of her game that wasn't there early in the season but could make the French Open finalist a threat now.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray rebounded quickly after dropping the first set to power past American Emilio Nava 5-7, 6-3, 6-1, 6-0 and set up a third-round meeting with No.13 seed Matteo Berrettini.

No.23 Nick Kyrgios overcame France's Benjamin Bonzi and the smell of marijuana that bothered him inside Louis Armstrong Stadium. The Wimbledon runner-up already knows the challenge presented by the New York noise, but this time it was by its scent.

Coming off her own run to the Wimbledon finals, No.5 Ons Jabeur matched her best US Open result with a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Elizabeth Mandlik, the daughter of 1985 champion Hana Mandlikova. Jabeur lost in the third round in each of her last three trips to New York. She will play American Shelby Rogers, the No.31 seed who beat Viktoria Kuznetsov 7-5, 6-1.

Defending men's champion Daniil Medvedev followed Williams on Arthur Ashe Stadium. A win over Arthur Rinderknech of France would send him into a third-round matchup against Wu Yibing, the first Chinese man to win a US Open match in the professional era, which began in 1968.

## JAPAN OPEN: PRANNOY IN LAST 8, SRIKANTH LOSES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Osaka, Sept 1:** Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy breezed into the quarterfinals with a stunning straight-game win over former World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore but it was curtains for Kidambi Srikanth at the Japan Open Super 750 tournament here Thursday.

A former World No.8, Prannoy, who had reached the quarterfinals of the World Championships last week, continued his rampaging run as he saw off eighth seeded Loh 22-20, 21-19. This was Prannoy's third win over the World No.7 Singaporean in four meetings.

The 30-year-old Indian will next face Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen, who won the bronze medal at the world championships last week, in the quarterfinal stage. Prannoy, currently ranked World No.18, has beaten Chen in their last two meetings, but overall, he is 3-4 behind.

Srikanth, who had shocked World No.5 Malaysian Lee Zii Jia Wednesday, however, couldn't extend his run going down 10-21, 16-21 to local favourite and World No.17 Kanta Tsuneyama. The Japanese had defeated Srikanth at the Korean Open in 2019 in their only meeting prior to this.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Sept 1:** Architect of India's 40-run over Hong Kong, Suryakumar Yadav was left humbled by the heartwarming gesture from Virat Kohli who doffed his hat to his compatriot following his sensational knock in the Asia Cup here.

Suryakumar smashed six sixes and as many fours in his sizzling

## Surya humbled by Virat gesture



**SHEER SATISFACTION:** Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav walk off the field smiling after the Indian innings, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

28-ball 68-run knock against Hong Kong to help India grab a place in the Super 4 stage of the tournament Wednesday.

His sensational innings overshadowed the 44-ball 59 innings by Kohli, who bowed to Suryakumar in appreciation and also looked towards the dressing room, saying 'kya hai yeh' (what is this man?) after the Indian innings.

"It was a heartwarming gesture

from Virat Kohli. I have never experienced it. I was wondering why he wasn't walking ahead and then when I realised, I asked him to walk together. He is much more experienced than me," Suryakumar said in the post-match press conference.

Suryakumar added 98 runs with Kohli to lift India to 192 for two. "I enjoyed a lot batting with him. We were talking a lot how to go about in the next few balls. He is such an experienced and I haven't played many T20s. So having the experience at that stage in the middle was crucial."

Put in to bat, openers Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul failed to convert their starts but Kohli held the innings together, scoring his first international half-century in more than six months. However, it was Suryakumar, who provided the much-needed impetus in the back-10 as he reached his fifty in just 22 balls.

"The situation was such that I had to go to the crease and play fast. Because the wicket was a little slow in the starting, I talked to Virat Kohli, he said 'just express yourself and do as you bat'. My plan was also very clear on how to bat so it was fun."

With the second successive win, India became the second team to qualify for the Super four.

## Haaland's goal-scoring spree continues in EPL



**SCORING FOR FUN:** Erling Haaland reacts after scoring, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Sept 1:** Erling Haaland is taking English football by storm. Back-to-back hat tricks. Nine goals in five games. No player has ever made as good a start to the Premier League as the Norway striker.

Haaland's latest three-goal haul came in the first half of City's 6-0 thrashing of Nottingham Forest Tuesday, three days after achieving the same feat in the second half against Crystal Palace.

City were banking on Haaland being the heir to long-time striker Sergio Aguero and it's already looking as if that is the case.

Aguero previously held the record for most goals in a player's first five Premier League appearances, with eight along with former Coventry striker Mick Quinn (from the early 1990s). Haaland has bettered that, and surely more scoring records will fall if he continues like this.

Even their back-up striker is scoring, with Julian Alvarez — an off-season arrival from River Plate — marking his first start with two goals in the second half. Joao Cancelo also scored with a blast from outside the box. Still, the champions aren't top. That honour remains with Arsenal.

**PERFECT START**  
Arsenal have matched their best ever start to a Premier League sea-

son after securing a fifth straight win to open the season by beating Aston Villa 2-1.

Gabriel Martinelli's 77th-minute goal clinched victory at Emirates Stadium after Arsenal was pegged back by conceding a goal straight from a corner by Douglas Luiz.

That came against the run of play, with Arsenal dominating the game but only having Gabriel Jesus' 30th-minute goal — his third of the season — to show for it.

**ANOTHER LATE GOAL**  
Liverpool are battling hard to keep up with the fierce pace set by Arsenal and City, needing a goal in the eighth minute of stoppage time by Fabio Carvalho to claim a dramatic 2-1 win over Newcastle.

Alexander Isak gave Newcastle the lead in the 38th on his debut following a move from Real Sociedad Friday for a club-record fee.

Roberto Firmino swept in a finish from Mohamed Salah's cross to equalise before a penalty-box melee following a corner saw the ball pop up off the shoulder of Salah, and Carvalho — a summer signing from Fulham — reacted quickest to smash into the roof of the net.

**SPURS UNBEATEN**  
Tottenham remained unbeaten after a 1-1 draw at West Ham. An own-goal from Thilo Kehrer gave Tottenham the lead before Tomas Soucek equalized.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Messi fashions PSG win

**PARIS:** Lionel Messi's vision was too much for Toulouse as he set up goals for Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in French league leader Paris Saint-Germain's 3-0 win at Toulouse. Four touches were enough for PSG to open up Toulouse's defense for the first goal in the 37th minute, with Messi applying the final pass to give Neymar his league-leading seventh goal in just five games. After being denied four times by goalkeeper Maxime Dupre, Messi grabbed his fourth assist this season when he set up Mbappe's fifth goal. PSG's MNM attack of Messi-Neymar-Mbappe has combined for 15 of PSG's 21 goals in five games. It would have been more but Dupre made nine saves. Left back Juan Bernat wrapped it up after Mbappe's shot hit the post and fell to him.

#### Vlahovic lifts Juventus

**MILAN:** Dusan Vlahovic continued his impressive start to the season as he set Juventus on their way to a 2-0 win over Spezia in Serie A. Vlahovic scored in the ninth minute for his fourth goal in as many matches. New signing Arkadiusz Milik sealed the result in stoppage time with his first goal for the club. The Bianconeri were looking to get back to winning ways after two successive draws in Serie A. Vlahovic had given his side the lead with a free-kick early on in the 1-1 draw against Roma at the weekend and he did so again at the Allianz Stadium in very similar fashion as he curled into the top right corner. Milik made sure of the points when he controlled Fabio Mirretti's cross with his back to goal before turning and firing past Dragowski.

#### Set for new journey

**KOLKATA:** Indian women's national team player Soumya Guguloth and her Gokulam Kerala FC teammate Jyoti Chouhan have signed a year-long contract with Croatian giants Dinamo Zagreb, becoming their first overseas recruits. They were signed up by the club after a successful trial in Croatia. Soumya and Jyoti are the first ever international players for the Dinamo Zagreb women's football team. Dinamo Zagreb is the most successful club in Croatia having won 46 trophies. Their men's team is in the UEFA Champions League 2022-23 group stage, alongside European powerhouses like Chelsea and AC Milan. ZNK Dinamo Zagreb, the women's team, have similar ambitions and hope that the two players from India can help them achieve their goals.

#### Mukesh impresses

**BANGALORE:** Bengal seamer Mukesh Kumar (3/34) bowled to a probing channel in all his spells as India A stifled New Zealand A to 156/5 before bad light stopped play on the opening day of the first 'Unofficial' Test here. Playing for a representative national side (India U-19, India U-23, India A or Senior India) for the first time, the right-arm fast-medium bowler got the ball to move both ways. Two left-arm pacers Yash Dayal (1/35) and Arzan Nagwaswalla (1/34) also got a wicket apiece. Joe Carter (73 batting, 170b, 10x4) was standout among the NZ A batters as he was involved in a couple of 49-run partnerships — first with his skipper Robert O'Donnell (24) and then Cam Fletcher (13). Sean Solia (1 batting) was giving company to Carter at the stumps.